



Bihar First State to Introduce e-Voting

Why in News?

Bihar has become the first state in India to introduce an **e-voting system** for **urban local body elections**.

- The Bihar [State Election Commission \(SEC\)](#) will implement this digital voting method through two mobile applications “**e-Voting SECBHR**” developed by C-DAC and another app developed by the Bihar State Election Commission.

Key Points

- **E-Voting System:** Electronic voting systems can involve using e-voting machines or kiosks at polling stations, which record votes instantly and provide receipts without internet connectivity.
- **First-of-its-Kind in India:** Bihar is the country's first state to adopt an e-voting system for municipal and urban body elections.
 - **Estonia** was the first country in the world to use online voting in 2005.
- **Technological Features:**
 - The system ensures **tamper-proof voting** through blockchain security and biometric authentication like liveness detection and face matching.
 - Bihar's SEC has also introduced digital innovations like the [Face Recognition System](#) for voter verification, OCR for vote counting and results, and digital locks for [Electronic Voting Machines \(EVMs\)](#) strong rooms.
- **Significance:**
 - **Inclusive Voting:** E-voting enables migrants, remote voters, disabled, pregnant women, seniors, and the seriously ill to vote from anywhere.
 - **Increased Turnout:** The initiative will raise voter participation by making voting more accessible and convenient.

History of Electronic Voting Machines in India:

- **1977:** Chief Election Commissioner S.L. Shakti proposes the idea of EVMs.
- **1980-81:** EVMs are developed and demonstrated by Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) and Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL).
- **1982-83:** EVMs are used for the first time in 50 polling stations in Parur constituency, Kerala, and later in 11 Assembly constituencies across 8 states and 1 Union Territory.
- **1984:** The Supreme Court halts EVM usage, citing the need for amendments to the Representation of the People (RP) Act 1951.
- **1988:** The RP Act is amended, legally enabling EVM use from 15th March 1989.
- **2018:** The Supreme Court rejects a petition demanding a return to ballot papers.
- **2013:** Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 amended to introduce Voter **Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)** for greater transparency.
 - VVPATs were first deployed in the by-election for 51-Noksen Assembly Constituency in Nagaland.

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