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ECI needs to extend the facility of voting to shorter term overseas migrants. Do you agree? Explain.

The Indian diaspora of 1-3 million are spread across the globe. The process of extension of voting rights to the non-residents Indians can give a filip to the state and parliamentary elections.

Voting rights to non-residents

The Section 20 of the Representation of people act (amended) 1950 requires the overseas citizen to vote in person at the constituency where that person is registered. This burdens the voters who need to spend and travel to exercise their franchise.

In a ~~set~~ slew of reform measures the extension of proxy voting was suggested by amending section 60 of Representation of People act 1951 but it got lapsed in the Rajya Sabha.

In 2020, Election Commission suggested to permit Electronically transmitted postal ballot system of voting to the non residents on the lines of service voter.

This can curtail the physical movement of people. The Non residents contribute around 18,000 voters / constituency and can cause big difference in choosing the governments.

Challenges

There voter turnout was minuscule in 2019 election out of 1 lakh registered voters only 25,000 casted their votes. The postal ballot system can reverse this trend and increase non resident voters footfall.

The Election Commission and the governments can expand migrant voting by considering internet voting and casting votes at diplomatic missions abroad.