

In a process of electoral reforms, the decision of Election Commission of India to allow postal ballot to migrants in upcoming elections is a way to realise Universal Adult Franchise.

migrants in India constitute 145mn population. and 130mn from them are circular migrants. This makes them non permanent resident - excluded from the electoral machinery, because ECI allows for only IN PERSON VOTING at AT HOME CONSTITUENCY.

This has increased the vulnerability of migrants

(i) non interest group - incapable of voting, their interest hardly matters to political parties.

(ii) unaccountable legislature - AS seen during pandemic & migrant exodus parliament hardly debated on the issue.

(ii) multiplying vulnerabilities - As per Ajeenika Bureau (study) majority of migrant constitute - SC/ST/minority / poor, thus the only power of vote is also taken from them.

As per various judgement of SC - Article 19(1)(a) provides for right to vote, but it is not equivalent to Accessibility of vote.

Section 60CC) of RPA 1951, provides for identification of vulnerable section such as disabled and aged group to caste voting through Electoral Ballot. This also includes 18 lakh security personal and more than 3 crore international migrants from India.

Thus, providing RE-ENFRANCHISEMENT is a best way forward to realise true value of Republic. It can be done through :-

(i) Electoral postal Ballot - where ballot is sent through mails & received through post.

It has dual layer identification system and is in line with Digital India.

(ii) Proxy voting - As done in case of Indian diaspora, it will help migrants to cast vote easily.

(iii) Accessing voting centres at host cities - This will require huge fund and may not be a viable option.

However, challenges like

cyber security, malfunctioing of voting,

documentation are there. Thus

ECI must ensure free & fair election

to empower the neglected section.

This may also require Am-

endment to Interstate migrants Act 1979.

Right to vote can only be realised with accessibility of vote to realise

one-vote-one nation-one value system.