# Polity & Governance · GS - II

**In the light of recent controversy regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), what are the challenges before the Election Commission of India to ensure the trustworthiness of elections in India?**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
|---|---|---|
| 2018 | GS - II | Polity & Governance |

| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 10 | ~150 words |

## Answer Hint

**Electoral integrity; EVM reliability; voter confidence; VVPAT verification; transparency; cybersecurity; independent audits; electoral accountability**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

Free and fair elections are the foundation of Indian democracy. The Election Commission of India (ECI) must ensure that electronic voting is secure, transparent and trusted by political parties and voters.

### Challenges Before the ECI

1. **Technological reliability:** Ensuring that EVMs function accurately and remain protected against tampering or malfunction.
2. **Public confidence:** Addressing doubts raised by political parties and voters through credible evidence and transparent procedures.
3. **VVPAT verification:** Ensuring effective verification of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail slips and addressing discrepancies.
4. **Supply-chain security:** Maintaining secure manufacturing, storage, transportation and handling of voting machines.

5. **Transparency and accountability:** Providing accessible information about safeguards while protecting sensitive security details.
6. **Political consensus:** Building confidence across parties without allowing unsupported allegations to undermine electoral institutions.

**Measures to Strengthen Trust**

The ECI should ensure independent technical audits, transparent mock polls, secure storage protocols, effective VVPAT verification, prompt grievance redressal and public voter education.

**Conclusion**

Electoral trust requires both technological safeguards and institutional credibility. A transparent, impartial and evidence-based electoral process is essential to protect democratic legitimacy.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP