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SC backs EVMs, rules out revival of paper ballots

- Over 118 crore voters have cast their votes since EVMs were introduced in 1982.
- In the 2019 general elections, about 61.4 crore people cast their votes.
- 23.3 lakh ballot units, 16.35 lakh control units, and 17.40 lakh VVPAT units were used.
- For 2024, 97 crore people are registered to vote.
- 21.60 lakh ballot units, 16.80 lakh control units and 17.7 lakh VVPAT units are used.

Tamil Nadu ranks first in patent registration

- According to the report of 'Nasscom' organization, the highest number of patents were registered in Tamil Nadu.
- Tamil Nadu tops the list of states registering the highest number of patents at 9.30 percent.
- Maharashtra is next at 6.80 percent.
- Tamil Nadu's leadership in registering intellectual property rights is due to government grants, high number of PhD holders and high literacy rate.

2 new weather monitoring radars in Tamil Nadu

- "There are already radars at ports and NIOT campuses," said IIT Chennai Director-Chairman Mrityunjeya Mohapatra.
- Karaikal and Sriharikota have two each. Apart from this, the radars at Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram are also forecasting some places in Tamil Nadu.
- Some more indirect weather forecasting radars are also forecasting Tamil Nadu weather through two X-band radars and C-band radars at Bangalore.
- Hence, radars have become important in monitoring weather systems.
- The Government of Tamil Nadu has developed two radars in collaboration with the India Meteorological Department. Through these we can monitor the weather conditions in southern districts.
- These radars also augment nearly 1000 automated weather stations.
- Through these, accurate and advanced weather data can be obtained," he said.
- Balachandran, Southern Regional Director of Chennai Meteorological Center, said that experimental work is currently underway to install radars in Salem and Ramanathapuram areas to monitor the maximum area and to make them work without electromagnetic interference.
- Apart from this, the radars in Chennai Port and Sriharikota, which are due to be removed after long service, are being removed and new radars are being installed.
- The India Meteorological Department also intends to install 4 S-penteradars to monitor storms along India's east coast, according to meteorological sources.
- Ravichandran, secretary of India's Ministry of Earth Sciences, said that when computing power is used, the results of weather models are likely to improve to a certain extent. These will be updated in 5 months.
- Also models and observations are important for weather forecasting.
- Currently there are clear model results for distances of 10 km to 20 km.
- Clearer results for 6 km can be obtained in the next year as the computer speeds up.
- "But our aim is to achieve clear results for 1 km," he said.

What is SLU?

- When the voters press the symbol of the candidate of their choice on the voting machine, the VVPAT machine will print the candidate's name and symbol on the slip.
- For this, candidate names and symbols should be uploaded in the VVPAT machine according to each constituency.
- Symbol Loading Unit (Symbol Loading Unit) will first send the details including names and symbols of the candidates to SLU through the computer.
- Then, they will be uploaded to VVPAT via SLU. This will be uploaded before the polling day.
- Once the upload is complete, the SLU device will be removed from it. Hence, voters cannot see the SLU device while voting.