Why are EVMs not used for presidential election voting?

Context:
- The electronic voting machines (EVMs), used in four Lok Sabha elections and 127 assembly polls since 2004, **are not deployed in polls to elect the President and Vice President of India**, members of the Rajya Sabha, and members of state legislative councils.

How EVMs work?
- The EVMs are based on a technology where they work as aggregator of votes in direct elections such as the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.
- Voters press the button against the name of the candidate of their choice and the one who bags the maximum number of votes is declared elected.

System of Proportional Representation

The election of the President is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote.	In accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, every elector can mark as many preferences, as there are candidates contesting the election.	These preferences for the candidates are to be marked by the elector, by placing the figures 1,2,3, 4, 5 and so on, against the names of the candidates, in the order of preference, in the space provided in column 2 of the ballot paper.	The EVMs are not designed to register this system of voting. The **EVM is an aggregator of votes** and under the system of proportional representation.	The machine will have to compute votes based on preference and it requires an altogether different technology. In other words, a different type of EVM would be needed.

When EVM was launched in India?
- Since 2004, EVMs have been used in four Lok Sabha and 127 assembly elections.
- **First conceived in 1977** in the Election Commission, the Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL), Hyderabad was assigned the task to design and develop it.
- In 1979 a prototype was developed, which was demonstrated by the Election Commission before the representatives of political parties on August 6, 1980.
- The Bharat Electronic Ltd (BEL), Bangalore, another public-sector undertaking, was co-opted along with ECIL to manufacture EVMs once a broad consensus was reached on its introduction.

EVMs in assembly election:
- The machines were first used in the assembly election in Kerala in May, 1982. However, the absence of a specific law prescribing its use led to the Supreme Court striking down that election.
- Subsequently, in 1989, Parliament amended the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to create a provision for the use of EVMs in elections.
- A general consensus on its introduction could be reached only in 1998 and these were used in 25 legislative assembly constituencies spread across three states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi.
- In the assembly elections held in May 2001 in the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry and West Bengal, the EVMs were used in all the assembly constituencies.
- Since then, for every state assembly election, the Commission has used the EVMs.

- In the 2004 Lok Sabha polls, more than ten lakh EVMs were used in all 543 Parliamentary constituencies of the country.

FRUITS software
(GS Paper 2, Governance)

Why in news?
- Recently, Karnataka government has launched software for Aadhar-based, single-window registration for the schemes.
- The state departments of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, revenue, food, civil supplies and fisheries departments of the state government are covered under the initiative.

What is FRUITS Software?

The **Farmer Registration & Unified Beneficiary Information System or FRUITS software**, facilitates single registration using an Aadhar card and Karnataka's Bhoomi digitised land record system for authenticating ownership.	Through the creation of single digital identification through FRUITS, farmers can **access benefits of hosts of schemes such as Direct Benefit Transfer** under PM Kisan, payment for Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for crops, special financial assistance, caste certificate authentication and ration cards.	The software allows various departments to access information about the farmers under a single platform, which ensures better targeting and effectiveness in the implementation of the schemes.

Bottom of Form:
- Using FRUITS data, the Karnataka government captures **soil health and crop condition** data using a **GIS-based mobile app for three crop seasons**– summer, Kharif and Rabi. This data is generated through local youth who are trained in using mobile applications for more than 2.1 crore agricultural plots in the state.
- This helps in assessing robust assessment of the production of various crops including paddy, ragi, jowar, tur, Bengal gram, ground nut and copra and helps in crop survey for settlements under the crop insurance scheme.

Background:
- The horticulture department of Karnataka started to use the software in 2017-18.
- Currently, all the other departments have adopted the usage of this software for cutting down multiple registration requirements for farmers for various schemes and helped better targeting. Officials said that several states have shown interest in replicating the FRUITS initiative.
- The software was also integrated with Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, from which daily weather and rainfall data were provided to farmers based on their locations.

India, EU hold first-ever security, Defence dialogue
(GS Paper 3, International Relation)

Why in news?
- Signifying the growing ties with the European Union (EU), India held the first-ever Security and Defence Consultations with it.

- The maiden dialogue between India and the EU took place in Brussels pursuant to a decision taken at the India-EU Summit in July 2020.

Key Highlights:
- The two sides reviewed the entire gamut of their defence relations and evolving security situation in Europe, India's neighbourhood and the Indo-Pacific.
- Both sides noted a number of positive developments in the area of security and defence cooperation in recent years, including the establishment of a **regular maritime security dialogue**, which met for the second time in February 2022, the **first-ever joint naval exercises held in June 2021**, and a number of joint workshops on the subject of fostering maritime security.
- Both sides during the consultations also **discussed various means of increasing India-EU cooperation on maritime security, implementation of the European code of conduct** on arms export to India's neighborhood, cooperation in co-development and co-production of defence equipment, including India's participation in Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in the area of security and defence policy.
- Both sides agreed to increase India-EU defence and security cooperation as an important pillar of the bilateral strategic relations.

Way Forward:
- The next consultations will be held in Delhi at a mutually agreed convenient time. The dialogue took place at a time when the Ukraine conflict is raging and many European nations condemning Russia for it.
- India, so far, has abstained from voting against Moscow in the United Nations. However, India has all along called for dialogue to end the conflict at the earliest.

Ending Child Labour by 2025: Uphill Task
(GS Paper 2, Social Justice)

Why in news?
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is celebrating Elimination of Child Labour Week in the honour of World Day Against Child Labour in the 75 places as part of the "75th anniversary celebrations of India's independence – "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" in different districts starting from 12th June to 20thJune, 2022 as a significance to pay attention to the problem of child labour and to find ways to eradicate it.

SDG:
- The UN general assembly in 2015 adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), one of which was to **eliminate all forms of Child labour by 2025**.
- On June 12, the World Day Against Child Labour, there should be introspection, on the one hand, and strategic planning, on the other, so that children receive their inalienable rights; a happy childhood, education and justice in India.

Child labour in India:
- The present situation of child labour in India is distressing. According to the 2011 census of India, the total number of child labourers in the country is **1.01 crore (10 million)**.
- A research report by the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation has estimated that by 2021, the year when a new census was due, the total child labour population in India **would be 81.2 lakh**. This figure is expected to decline further to 74.3 lakh by 2025.
- The top three states which will together have half of the total child labourers by 2025 in the country will be **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra**.

Impact of pandemic:

- The pandemic has compounded the existing situation of child labour, thus making it difficult to achieve the global goal of ending child labour.
- According to an International Labour Organisation (ILO) report, the Covid-19 crisis threatens to reverse the progress made globally in eliminating child labour.
- There would be a rise in child labour, for the first time in the last two decades because of millions of children are being pushed into it. The **children in developing economies and populous countries are more vulnerable**.

Child labour:
- During the pandemic years, the Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), a sister organisation of KSCF founded by Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi in 1980 to liberate and rehabilitate vulnerable and exploited children and prosecute those responsible for the atrocities has rescued more than 10,000 child labourers across 16 States.
- According to the National Crimes Records Bureau (NCRB) 2020, the cases registered under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act in 2018, 2019 and 2020 were 464, 772 and 476, respectively.
- The top five states recording the maximum number of offences were Telangana (147 cases), Karnataka (54 cases), West Bengal (41 cases), Assam (40 cases) and Andhra Pradesh (37 cases).

Holistic approach:
- To formulate a decisive plan for eliminating child labour, urgent measures are required. A holistic approach is needed from **legislative measures to a viable rehabilitation strategy**, from poverty alleviation and socio-economic development to awareness generation and education.
- Alongside, the rescue of child labourers has to become a priority for the law enforcement agencies.
- Powerful targeted intervention models, such as **Bal Mitra Gram (BMG),** a flagship KSCF programme to prevent multiple forms of child exploitation and address such issues of education, **Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Livelihood (WASH)** need to be replicated and adopted in villages across the country.

Implementation of laws:
- Also, the measures initiated by the government require effective implementation. In 2016, the **Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 2016, was amended**, thereby making the offence of employing children cognisable and providing stricter punishment for such offences.
- It also framed the **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Central Rules** along with the model state action plan enumerating action points to be taken by State Governments.
- The union government also implemented the **National Child Labour Project (NCLP) scheme** for the rehabilitation of child labour, which has been subsumed under Samagara Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Eliminating child labour by 2025 remains a colossal task.