

3 govt school students create portable voting system

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Chennai: Three students of a government school have created a portable biometric voting system that can help people exercise their fundamental right, anytime and anywhere.

"This year's election recorded the highest voter turnout of 67.11%. We want to ensure that the number is 100% and even those living in remote villages and have trouble accessing polling booths cast their votes using this machine," said 14-year-old Pradeep Kumar, a Class X student at Pathipaga Chemmal K Ganapathy Government Higher Secondary School in Kodambakkam.

Pradeep Kumar created



NEWAGE NOUS: Students display the portable voting system

the system along with his seniors M V Jebin and P Jayachandar. "We were brainstorming on scientific inventions

that can help solve national issues. We thought of child safety, women's safety, preserving water and then when we were

following the elections, we zeroed in on this," said Jebin, a Class XI student.

Unlike the traditional method, where voters have to carry identity documents, in this system they don't have to. The system will be linked with an IOT (internet of things) software, which will in turn be fed with the Aadhaar details of voters. All that a person has to do is get his/her fingerprints and retina scanned in the machine and cast their vote. If they are voting for the first time, the machine will accept; if not, it will show 'already voted'. The machine can be placed outside any public office, in any part of the country and can be acces-

sed by voters who live in far off places, but struggle to get to the booths.

"This is hassle free and would also stop duplication of votes," said Jayachandar, who passed out of the school this year and is awaiting his MBBS counselling.

"Since we began working on this project six months ago, I didn't want to leave it half way. So, I kept coming back even after passing out so we can complete it," he said.

S Rajasekaran, assistant headmaster of the school, praised the students. "It is their hard work and passion, we never knew they had so much capability," he said.