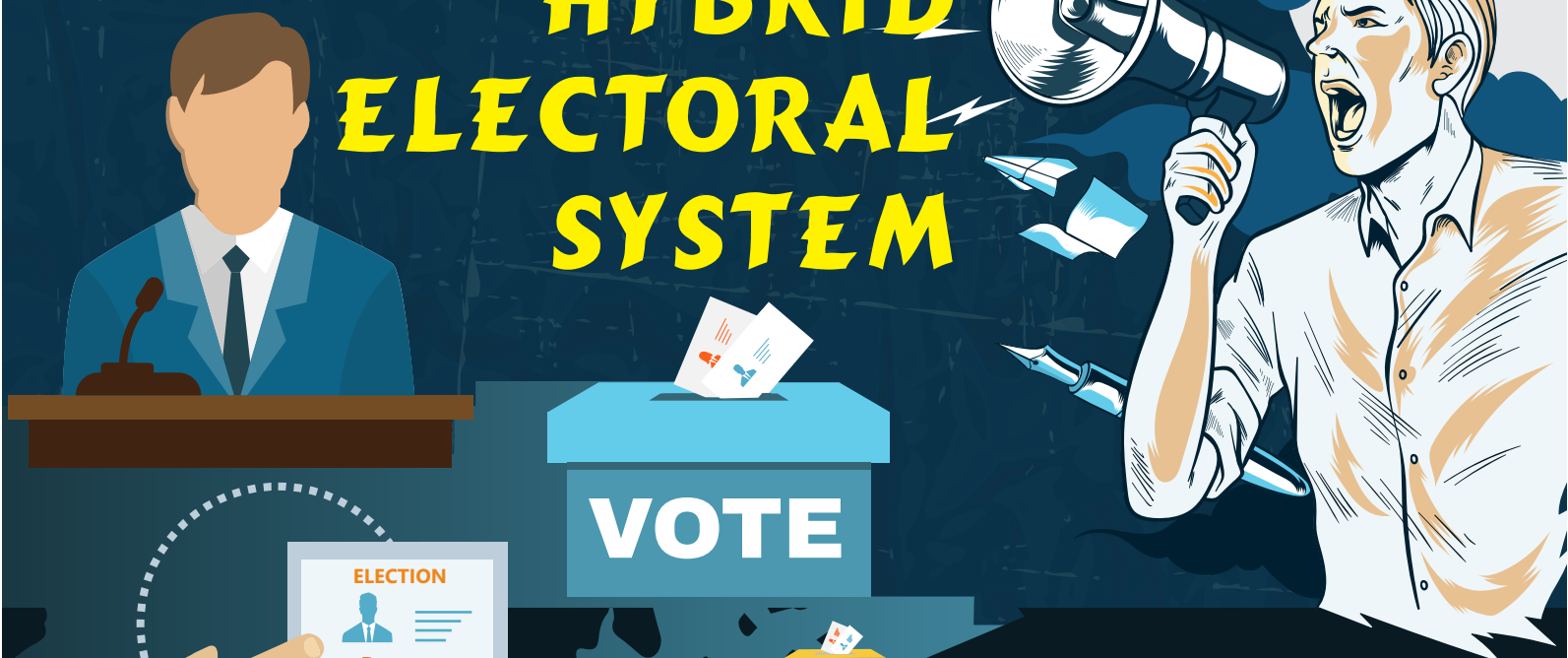


DEMAND

for a HYBRID ELECTORAL SYSTEM



VOTE

WHY IN NEWS?

Various political parties have told a Parliamentary panel that the existing first-past-the-post-system needs to be replaced with a hybrid format.

WHAT IS HYBRID ELECTORAL SYSTEM?

A hybrid/mixed system refers to an electoral system in which two systems are merged into one combining the positive features from more than one electoral system

One of those systems is a plurality/majority system (or occasionally an 'other' system), usually a single-member district system, and the other a List PR system.

In a mixed system, there are two electoral systems using different formulae running alongside each other. The votes are cast by the same voters and contribute to the election of representatives under both systems.

While an MMP system generally results in proportional outcomes, a Parallel system is likely to give results the proportionality of which falls somewhere between that of a plurality/majority and that of a PR system.

THERE ARE TWO FORMS OF MIXED SYSTEM

Where the two sets of elections are detached and distinct and are not dependent on each other for seat allocations, the system is called a **Parallel system**.

When the results of the two types of election are linked, with seat allocations at the PR level being dependent on what happens in the plurality/majority (or other) district seats and compensating for any disproportionality that arises there, the system is called Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system.

VARIOUS TYPE OF ELECTORAL SYSTEM?

First Past The Post System

Proportional Representation

Mixed systems also sometimes referred to as Hybrid System

In India, we follow both FPTP as well as Proportional R representation systems of voting. For example, in the elections for the Lok Sabha we have FPTP and for the Presidential Elections we follow Proportional Representation.

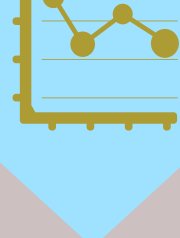
WHY IS THERE A DEMAND FOR HYBRID SYSTEM?



The Law Commission's 170th and 255th report also have suggested that 25% or 136 more seats should be added to the present Lok Sabha and be filled by Proportional Representation.



It is argued that the majority aspirations and the will of the people is not getting reflected in election results with the current electoral system.



The situations have changed since the current system of FPTP was adopted (one party rule). But now because of a division of votes, a party with even 20% share does not get a single seat, while a party with 28% can get disproportionately large number of seats. Example, Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections held in March, 2017.



Many point out that the current system reflects a Minority democracy which has been ruling the country since independence.



This system is followed by various European countries successfully.

WHAT IS FPTP?

The winning candidate is simply the person who wins the most votes; in theory, he or she could be elected with two votes, if every other candidate only secured a single vote.

The voter is presented with the names of the nominated candidates and votes by choosing one, and only one, of them.

It is used in the UK to elect members of the House of Commons, both chambers of the US Congress and the lower houses in India and Canada as well as other place that used to be British colonies.

The First Past the Post system is the simplest form of plurality/majority districts, using single member districts and candidate-centred voting.

WHY WE CHOSE FPTP?

THE COUNTRY CHOSE FPTP FOR OF ELECTION SYSTEM BECAUSE OF FOLLOWING REASONS

SIMPLICITY

Most of the Indian population was not literate at the time of independence, and unable to understand the complexity of the PR SYSTEM.

FAMILIARITY

Before independence several elections were held regularly on the basis of FPTP system which made this process more familiar to the general public of the country.

PR SYSTEM

Establishes party as a major centre of power whereas FPTP gives an individual as a representative of the people of certain specific area. Given India's condition at the time of independence this was a big concern for our leaders as people connected more to their leaders rather than a certain political party.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FPTP & PR

FIRST PAST THE POST

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION



It does not completely translate the number of votes into seat.

1

Faithfully translate votes cast into seats won.



It might not encourage minority parties.

2

Facilitate minority parties' access to representation depending on the or the district magnitude.



The power sharing between various groups is not as visible.

3

Makes power-sharing between groups and interest groups more visible.



It gives rise to single-party governments. It excludes smaller parties from 'fair' representation.

4

The single party dominance is difficult to achieve. This system does not exclude the smaller parties from representation

