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BelModel

A Better Election Model

for

A Better India



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A Better Election Model for A Better India

A Concept Paper
for the consideration of
the People and Leaders of India

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దేశమును ప్రేమించుమన్నా
మంచి అన్నది పెంచుమన్నా !
వట్టిమాటలు కట్టిపెట్టోయ్
గట్టిమేల్ తలపెట్టవోయ్ !

గురజాడ అప్పారావు

Dear brother,
Love thy country
And promote goodness!
Shun empty talk
And commence good work
At once!

Gurajada Apparao

Vision and Values

1. Leaders with vision and values at the helm of affairs are crucial for the advancement of any society. Those who possess a national spirit and outlook, along with a passion for developing key sectors such as agriculture, education, science and technology, sports, tourism, infrastructure, and the environment, are essential for a nation's progress.

2. But the issue is that such leaders are unable to enter the political system in the current environment. They are turned away right at the entry point, as they fail to secure a major political party ticket. Parties look for leaders who can:

- Be *all things to all people*—since constituencies comprise diverse population segments, and someone with passion for only one particular field or sector cannot gain votes from all groups.
- Win elections *by hook or crook*—distributing money, liquor, and other enticements, working with criminal and corrupt elements, and aligning with local factions—activites that someone bound by values and principles cannot engage in.

3. As a result, the options left for such leaders are to rise within non-political institutions, associations, or organizations. However, in the end, they still have to report to or rely on generic politicians who hold positions of power, to accomplish anything significant. Lacking deep knowledge in any field, these politicians offer lukewarm or no support, frustrating the visionary leaders. Consequently, these leaders either abandon their ideas altogether or resign themselves to contributing as much as possible within their limited purview..

* * *

4. The culprit for this state of affairs is not the people, leaders, or political parties, but the system built around the concept of constituencies, which: a) with mixed population segments, forces every group to settle for a generic politician instead of electing a leader with passion and dedication to their specific concerns and needs, and b) with *direct competition*, drives leaders to outsmart each other with demagoguery and outspend each other with cash and other enticements.

5. If we want to overcome the constraints inherent to constituencies, we should simply retire the very concept of constituencies and allow leaders with passion for various fields, areas, or sectors to attract voters from everywhere whose professions, livelihoods, and interests are tied to those specific fields, areas, and sectors. For example, leaders passionate about agriculture can attract voters involved in that sector—from farmers to agricultural scientists, to pesticide and fertilizer manufacturers, to leaders in organic farming. Similarly, leaders passionate about fields like sports, education, defense, and energy, or causes like the environment, healthy living, simplified tax codes, balanced budgets, corruption-free public life, law and order, and communities like Divyangs, nomadic tribes, Adivasis, retailers, and construction workers can attract voters whose interests align with their passion.

6. However, voters are not monolithic; they can have more than one interest—primary, secondary, tertiary, and so on. A medical doctor, for instance, could be interested not only in healthcare but also in sports and the environment. A farmer might care not only about agriculture but also about education, especially for the sake of their children. Additionally,

people may have an interest in the betterment of their own community, which could be based on caste, sect, or denomination. Given the opportunity, people may want to elect more than one leader who is passionate about their varied interests. We can facilitate this easily by giving multiple votes—say, ten or twelve—to each voter and allowing them to distribute these votes among multiple leaders of their choice.

7. The number of votes leaders receive depends on the number of voters they attract. Some may attractt more voters and some less. We can fill the 543 seats in the Lok Sabha (similar number in Vidhan Sabhas) with the 'top 543' candidates when ranked by their vote counts. In other words, we declare the 'top 543' as elected.

8. Since the vote counts of the leaders varies, their voting power on the floor of legislatures also should vary, to be fair to them and to the voters who elected them. Hence we would use wieghted-voting method on the floor of legislatures. In this method, the speaker would take the aggreate of the vote-counts of the leaders in favor or against any bill, motion or resolution, instead of a simple head count. With weighted voting, it doesn't matter whether voters with a specific interest elect one, two, five, or more leaders to represent their interest. The sum of their vote counts, and hence their voting power in the legislatures, will be exactly the same, in proportion to the number of voters with that specific interest.

9. Political parties, instead of fielding candidates by constituency, would simply publish a list of candidates they would like to field, which we will call 'Endorsed Lists.' Voters who want to support a party can vote for any candidate included in the Endorsed List, or, for that matter, for any leader who belongs to the party but whose name is not on the Endorsed List.

10. We call this model, with no constituencies, multiple votes, top-rankers method and weighted-voting as BelModel, a short form for Better Election Model.

Current System		**BelModel**
Constituencies based		Interests based
One vote per voter		Multiple votes per voter
FPTP[1] Method	→	Top-rankers method
Simple Head Count		Weighed Voting
Party Tickets		Endorsed Lists

11. The BelModel, if adopted, would represent a fundamental shift in our political system. It would transform the political landscape entirely, both in shape and spirit. Many of the problems plaguing the system—from deep-rooted and widespread criminality and corruption to the dominance of the rich and powerful sections, a.k.a. upper castes—will be addressed with this shift, as we shall discuss in detail.

12. *Note*: For the sake of simplicity, we will discuss the BelModel in the context of national elections, but all our observations and analysis apply equally at the state level as well. If and when we need to address specific national and state issues separately, or the relationships between them, we will make a special mention of it.

1 FPTP is a political science term that stands for First Past The Post. It simply means that the candidate with the maximum number of votes gets elected. The downside of this system is that, in a three-way contest, a candidate with just 33% of the vote share can win.

Leadership

13. The key shift with BelModel is from a constituency-based political system to an interest-based political system. The concept of interest-based representation is not entirely new to us; it already exists in a limited manner in the upper houses of legislatures. For example, eminent individuals from various fields are nominated to the Rajya Sabha, and graduate and teacher constituencies elect representatives of their own to the Vidhan Parishads in some states.

14. With BelModel, we take this idea further and implement it on a broader scale. Instead of merely nominating eminent individuals, we challenge them to attract and convince leaders through their vision, values, and dedication. Instead of creating separate constituencies for select groups like graduates and teachers, we extend this concept to people of all professions, interests, and causes—without the complexity of maintaining separate electorates and constituencies.

15. Instead of pre-defining electorates or creating constituencies based on interests, professions, causes, castes, or religions, we leave it open for leaders to pursue their true passions and attract voters who share those interests. We want them to be as dynamic as entrepreneurs who continuously explore technologies to develop new products and identify markets that need them. We want political leaders to do the same—constantly explore new ideas and attract voters who resonate with those ideas. The BelModel elevates leaders with dedication to specific fields, rather than generic politicians, to positions of power at both the national and state levels.

16. In the early days of independence, leaders with meager funds and resources attracted voters over large areas through their values and charisma. Today's leaders with vision and integrity should be able to do the same—winning voters through dedication and ideas rather than cash or other enticements. By leveraging electronic media, social media, and easy transportation, they can run smart, low-budget campaigns to reach voters across large areas. In fact, distributing cash or other incentives to voters spread over a vast region is far less feasible than in a small, concentrated area. Leaders have no choice but to attract voters using alternative and innovative techniques—necessity is the mother of invention.

* * *

17. The majority of political leaders in the early days of independence came from a single field—law. Unsurprisingly, their passion lay in justice rather than development. This is not to say that justice is less important or that they overlooked the need for development. However, lacking the vision, expertise, and distinct mindset required for development, they often looked to other countries for ideas—a habit that persists in our political system to this day. We continue to import ideas and structures from other nations, even in fields like education, hospitality, and entertainment. The spirit of developing our own solutions has remained weak, gaining momentum only recently with achievements like UPI, Chandrayaan and RRR. We need similar groundbreaking and bold initiatives across all sectors.

18. Over the decades, the profile of our leaders has shifted—from lawyers to local strongmen, such as local dadas and businessmen—largely due to constituency-based elections. For them, doing and receiving favors (whether above or below the table) comes more naturally than focusing on social justice or development. In their view, development

often means distributing funds and laying foundation stones, while justice translates to appeasement. We should not blame leaders for what they are; instead, we need to elect leaders with a different profile.

19. One of the main reasons for India's slow progress in many fields—agriculture, education, healthcare, sports, tourism, etc.—is the absence of experts dedicated to those fields at higher levels of power. None of these sectors have ever enjoyed strong leadership since independence. We need to fill this gap, and that is precisely what the BelModel aims to do—by removing entry barriers for such leaders and challenging them to rise to power by attracting pan-India voter bases of their own, without the need or occasion to get entangled in *local* or *party* politics.

20. We need strong leadership not just at the national level but also at the state and local levels. In fact, this is precisely what our Constitution envisions—a three-tier administration: national, state, and local. The BelModel brings us closer than ever to realizing this vision. In this model, leaders with a national outlook, spirit, and appeal can contest national-level elections and get elected to the Lok Sabha, attracting votes from across the nation rather than relying on a locally concentrated electorate. Similarly, leaders with a state-level vision can contest state elections and serve in the Vidhan Sabhas. Meanwhile, those passionate about local development can contest local body elections, where they can make meaningful contributions and truly shine. Currently, local strongmen dominate all three levels of governance. They are ineffective at the national and state levels due to their lack of vision, spirit, and broad appeal, and ineffective at the local level due to their lack of statutory authority over local bodies.

21. Lacking the vision and spirit to contribute anything significant, they bide their time doing what they know best—exchanging favors, either for greater returns or for emotional gratification. In the case of businesses, they first take favors and later return them, while in the case of voters, they first give favors and later seek a return. We get outraged when these dealings happen "under the table," yet we overlook the fact that the favors we request are often just as unsavory. We have reduced our leaders to agents and lobbyists, and they are merely living up to those expectations. Many front doors are broken and won't open easily, so we seek someone to use the backdoor to get us what we want.

22. The fault doesn't lie with them or with us, but with the system that doesn't work—whether due to flawed design or long-term abuse. BelModel, by removing the entry barriers, draws leaders who have the zeal and passion to repair the front doors and spend more time and energy fixing the system than doing favors or seeking favors, into the political system.

Power to People

23. The votes a leader gets, in the current system, can be divided into four categories:

- **Positive votes:** from voters who genuinely like, trust, and believe in the leadership of the candidate.
- **Party votes:** from voters who vote primarily for the party, not necessarily for the specifc candidate.
- **Negative votes:** from voters who are primarily motivated by the desire to prevent another candidate or party from winning.
- **Random votes:** from voters who are undecided until the last minute and randomly pick a candidate in the last minute.

24. Typically, the positive votes a candidate receives range from 15% to 20%. The majority of the votes a candidate obtains are party votes, along with a significant percentage of negative and random votes. Leaders in this system are therefore heavily reliant on political parties for securing party votes, and on gods to garner negative and random votes, which, even at 5% or 10%, can determine the outcome of an election. This is why candidates visit holy shrines and spiritual leaders both before and after the election.

25. Leaders can be confident, perform well, generate independent ideas, voice independent opinions, and give their 100% only when they have a large percentage of strong votes, i.e., positive votes, and when the ‘weak votes,’ such as party, negative, and random votes, are kept to a minimum. This is what happens in the BelModel, where leaders attract voters purely based on their values, vision, passion, and commitment to a particular field, sector, cause, or identity.

26. In the current model, leaders are never sure whether they will receive the ticket in the next election, whether the party will fare strongly, or whether they will win the election at all. In the BelModel, by living up to the expectations of the voters they attracted, leaders can be confident of receiving roughly the same number of votes in the next election, if not more. They do not even have to worry about losing an election to another leader due to a small margin of votes. Their rank among the ‘top 543’ may shift slightly, such as moving from 250 down to 230 or up to 270.

27. No one, except those at the bottom of the ‘top 543,’ needs to worry about falling off the list in the next election unless they commit significant blunders, or unless leaders with even better vision, higher values, and stronger passion emerge. This, in any case, is beneficial for the system, as weaker candidates are consistently replaced by stronger leaders.

28. By attracting voters based on common interests rather than party tickets, leaders can build their own voter bases and establish long-term relationships with them. Voters can also be confident that the leader they support will be in power, without any uncertainty due to their leader not receiving a party ticket or the party not winning.

29. The long-term relationships allow leaders to discuss core issues and lasting solutions with voters, instead of constantly pandering to their immediate fears and concerns, offering freebies, or using appeasement tactics to secure their votes. Which farmer would not prefer a sustainable income over the long term, rather than constantly being at the mercy of banks, moneylenders, and merchants for loans, and relying on subsidies and loan waivers from the government?

30. In the current model, leaders represent not only the people who voted for them but the entire electorate of the constituency, including those who voted for other parties and those who did not vote at all. In a sense, leaders enter into four types of marriages with voters in the current system:

- **Love marriages**, with voters who truly like them, i.e., those who cast positive votes
- **Arranged marriages**, with voters who voted for them because the party nominated them
- **Forced marriages**, with voters who voted for other parties
- **Namesake marriages**, with voters who did not vote at all, or casted negative or random votes

31. Only a minority of voters are in love marriages with their leaders, while the majority are in arranged, forced, or namesake marriages. Arranged and namesake marriages create weak relationships, while forced marriages create antagonistic ones. In these relationships, voters cannot set high expectations for the leaders. Leaders with low expectations do not know what to work for or pursue. Furthermore, population segments with various interests would not have high expectations of generic politicians anyway; they would have already given up hope that these leaders understand their specific problems, let alone solve them in the first place.

32. All of this would change in the BelModel, in which leaders represent only those voters who voted for them, i.e., those with whom they share interests. There would be no forced or namesake marriages at all—only love marriages and, perhaps, a few arranged marriages in this system. This means voters would never be represented by leaders they do not trust, and they would never have to approach a leader they did not vote for with their grievances and needs. Leaders need not serve voters who did not put faith in their leadership.

Party Culture

33. With leaders building their own voter bases based on shared interests, their reliance on party votes diminishes, and political parties become less relevant and less powerful. Parties would simply be associations of multiple leaders, rather than the fiefdoms of party supremos as they are today. Their role would be more like that of Chambers of Commerce, which are helpful for entrepreneurs but do not decide their success or failure in their businesses. The BelModel will change the political landscape from a heavily party-centric culture to a heavily leadership-centric culture.

34. This shift is also good for the ‘super leaders’ who aspire for the top posts of prime minister and chief minister. They no longer have to go through the trouble of starting parties, splitting parties, hijacking parties, or rising through the ranks of parties, and then managing the cadres and leaders in every constituency. In the BelModel, all they have to do is convince the other elected leaders to elect them as the head of the executive.

35. Parties are anyway the source of many evils. They rely on ideologies to create an identity for themselves and get carried away by it. They try to polarize society along the lines of those ideologies. Instead of looking for a collaborative approach and innovative solutions, parties pursue solutions that align with their ideologies. They behave like religions, offering a solution for every problem even before it surfaces and even before it is understood.

36. Parties are neither good for voters, nor for leaders, super leaders, or legislatures. They take away the freedom of voters to elect a leader of their choice by imposing candidates of their own and making a vote for any other candidate a wasted vote. They also take away the freedom of leaders to be themselves, demanding obedience to the party ideology, manifesto, or supreme leader. They even take away the freedom of super leaders by making it necessary for them to pander to the core voting blocks of the party.

37. Through the mechanism of the ‘party whip,’ they make the elected members vote for the positions and policies promoted by the super leaders, without question. They essentially suppress the plurality of opinion, which is vital for democracy. The number of opinions and viewpoints that can exist and survive in a party-dominated political landscape is equal to the number of major political parties, which are often two or three at the most. Essentially, they replace the plurality of opinion with binary thinking, creating polarization in the political space, and to some extent, even in society, among the voters. Parties not only kill the opportunity but also the spirit for issue-based debates and voting in the legislatures, which is vital for a healthy democracy. All this will be a thing of the past with BelModel. Voters who manage to build their own voter bases, and who do not rely on parties for political success or survival, will automatically be able to voice their independent opinions, resulting in issue-based debates and voting, which is ideal in a democracy.

38. Party culture also disrupts the balance of power between the legislature and the executive. The legislature is expected to supervise and hold the executive accountable. However, these checks and balances become completely ineffective when the same party controls both branches. Why would legislators belonging to a party question an executive from their own party, especially under the mechanism of the ‘party whip’?

39. In this system, the loyalty of legislators lies not with the people but with the party, and the party’s loyalty is directed toward its ideology or supreme leader. Ultimately, it is the super

leaders who hold absolute power, leading to the ‘one-man or one-woman’ shows we see today. They rise to the top by constantly promoting their loyalists, purging detractors, and sidelining potential contenders for leadership positions—making the political landscape barren of strong, independent leaders.

40. In the BelModel, leaders who build their own voter bases and have the strength to voice independent opinions would naturally exercise the political power entrusted to them by their voters. This would enable them to push for issue-based debates and hold the executive accountable, as envisioned by the Constitution.

41. BelModel brings the political system, which has veered away from the constitutional vision of checks and balances and the democratic principle of plurality of opinion, back into alignment with them.

Power to the Parties

42. Political parties, too, to the extent they remain relevant, actually enjoy a better time in the BelModel. First of all, there is no ‘wrong candidate’ risk in this model. History is full of instances where parties fielded the wrong candidates due to a lack of ground intelligence, being trapped in echo chambers, or pressure from various internal and external elements, ultimately losing crucial seats and ending up in the opposition rather than in power. In the BelModel, parties can include any candidate they like—or feel obligated to—in their endorsed list without any risk. The voters, who have the freedom to vote for any leader on the list or even outside of it, will ultimately decide who is worthy and who is not.

43. This is beneficial for political parties as well. They secure the votes of all their supporters through one candidate or another, unlike in the current system, where party supporters who dislike the party-nominated candidate may either vote for a candidate from another party or abstain from voting altogether.

44. This means that parties are also guaranteed representation in the legislature in direct proportion to their support base. In the current system, a party that gets 40% of the vote may end up with 80% of the seats, while another party with 35% of the votes may secure only 20% of the seats. This imbalance pushes the fortunes of parties to extremes, making elections highly contentious and turning parties into enemies rather than mere competitors. BelModel guarantees parties voting power in the legislatures exactly in proportion to their vote share through weighted voting,

45. The only scenario in which parties may fail to achieve proportional representation in this BelModel is when they field too many candidates on their endorsed lists, causing the votes of their support bases to be thinly spread among them—resulting in too few of their candidates making it to the ‘top 543’ list. However, political parties would be smart enough to avoid this mistake. They would strategically field fewer candidates and encourage vote concentration around them, ensuring that all of them secure a place in the ‘top 543’ list. Also, in the BelModel, the number of ‘seats’ a party wins doesn’t matter. What matters is the aggregate vote count of the elected leaders, which determines the party’s actual voting power in the legislatures.

46. Parties no longer need to develop manifestos in this model, as they do now, which are anyway riddled with many issues. First, crafting a manifesto is a complex task for parties, as they must balance numerous competing interests, ideologies, and voter expectations. Second, parties often highlight a few popular promises in the manifestos while burying controversial, agenda-driven, or questionable policies in the fine print.

47. Parties turn to ideologies and narratives when drafting their manifestos. They gauge the needs and concerns of various sections of society through these lenses and rely on excessive rhetoric to project and defend their understanding. In an effort to gain the support of five or ten percent of hardcore fanatics from a religion or community that conforms to the narratives, parties resort to appeasements of all sorts, which the majority of that religion or community may not even care for and may even resent.

48. The winning party would never be certain which policies, positions, and promises in the manifesto contributed to their success, and the losing party would never be certain which ones led to their defeat. However, the winning party can claim the support of voters for every

single provision and policy in the manifesto, which, in the first place, may not have even been read by the majority of voters—or, for that matter, even by the party leaders and cadres. Many parties see their popularity decline over time by pursuing policies buried in the fine print of the manifesto, claiming they have the support of the voters.

49. Manifestos are not good for voters either, as they present an 'all or nothing' option. There is no mechanism for voters to specify which policies and positions they like and which they do not. They cannot indicate which promises they value and which they do not care for. By voting for a party, voters end up giving consent to many policies that may not align with their own interests and could actually harm them.

50. In the BelModel, parties can abandon the exercise of drafting a manifesto altogether. There is no need for guesswork, rhetoric, or appeasements. The vision, values, and passion of the candidates on the Endorsed Lists serve as a clear and straightforward indication of what the party stands for. The vote counts of each leader indicate what the voters truly care about and by how much. Neither the candidates nor the parties would have any ambiguity regarding what voters want and care for.

51. Parties, in generaal, like to diversify their candidates, if for no noble reason, than to attract the voters of all sections of the society. But fielding a weak candidate for the saake of diversity is suicidel for a party. What is the point in diversifying the candidates, and then losing the seats? So, they would be cautious and lean towards fielding candidates from the rich and powerful sections who has the clout and money power to put up a stiff fight.

52. In the BelModel, parties can genuinely diversify their candidates across the spectrum of social and interest diversity, including all of them on the endorsed lists and allowing voters to elect whomever they like. This frees parties from the blame of fielding candidates solely from the rich and powerful sections. Parties would never have to sacrifice a candidate with potential from one section for the sake of a strong candidate from another section.

53. Voters, in fact, become partners in the selection of candidates in this system. This means the parties won't need any type of "internal elections" anymore, which they are often accused of not conducting. We do not have to worry about parties showing favoritism to some leaders by including their names on the endorsed lists and sidelining others by excluding their names; they can include or exclude whomever they want, but voters have the ultimate say in deciding who on the endorsed list or outside the list is truly worthy.

54. The question of "dynasty rule" also becomes a moot point in this system. We must first acknowledge that family members and close associates of a leader deserve a fair chance in politics, just as others do. What we do not want is for that association to give them an unfair advantage. We do not want them to dominate parties and later governments by virtue of their association with a leader. The BelModel gives them that fair chance, without any undue advantage. Their names may appear on the endorsed list, but they cannot be "imposed" on a party or on the voters in a constituency as it happens now. Candidates associated with a leader cannot claim any more power than their true following among the voters, which is accurately reflected in their vote counts.

Freedom and Wisdom

55. "Who is your best friend?" is a tougher question to answer than "Who are your best friends?" The first question puts us in a difficult position, as it forces us to eliminate many and select just one. In contrast, the second question is easy to answer. The average person typically has three, four, or half a dozen best friends, and it is rather easy to list them all than to isolate one as the best of the best, excluding all others. Similarly, it's easier to answer "Who are your most favorite movie stars or sports stars?" than "Who is your best movie star or sports star?" The same applies when choosing leaders. It is difficult for voters to pick one leader over all others, but it is easy to list the few leaders they like.

56. The current system, with one vote, forces voters to pick a single leader, whereas the BelModel, with multiple votes, asks voters to identify all their favorite leaders based on their various interests. Multiple votes, especially with the provision of distributing multiples of them in equal or unequal proportions to multiple leaders, enables voters to express their preferences more clearly.

57. The one-vote-per-voter system, in fact, pushes vulnerable people into a psychological trap, which we can call the "loyalty trap." Once voters pick a party, they feel obligated to justify their decision to themselves, if not to anyone else. They begin exaggerating the virtues and achievements of the chosen party and downplaying its vices and failures, while ignoring or undermining the merits and achievements of other parties and exaggerating their issues and failures. People brainwash themselves without the need for anyone else to do it for them.

58. Furthermore, once voters choose a party in one election, they continue to support the same party in the next election to avoid the embarrassment of explaining their defection. They self-congratulate themselves for staying "loyal" to one party, which, in reality, means becoming blind supporters—something that is the opposite of what democracy calls for: to objectively judge candidates and parties. The more voters fall into this loyalty trap, the more society becomes polarized. Voters become accustomed to judging a policy or position based on who proposed it, rather than on its true merit. Everything and anything said or done by one's favorite party seems better than everything and anything said or done by other parties.

59. With their blind support, loyal voters unwittingly pre-approve their party’s positions and policies even before they are outlined. This removes any incentive for the party to change or improve itself. In fact, out of fear of losing the support of their core voter base, parties tend to stick to old ideas and outdated ways of doing things. It becomes impossible to tell whether the core base is genuinely satisfied with the party’s direction or merely supporting it out of loyalty. By embracing "loyalty," supporters essentially give up their right to demand change or improvement from their party. Wittingly or unwittingly, they hold the party back in time. This is a dangerous trap for both the parties and their support base.

60. Once we put multiple votes in the hands of the voter, we invoke better and finer instincts in them. They now know they can support multiple candidates and parties and need not put all their eggs in one basket. Some voters already do this by voting for one party in assembly elections and another in parliamentary elections. With multiple votes, they get to do the same in every election. Instead of completely accepting one party and rejecting the others, as they do now with one vote, they can actually ‘rate’ the parties by giving more of their votes to one party and fewer to another.

Collaboration

61. The BelModel also pushes elected leaders toward positive collaboration rather than negative confrontation in several ways.

62. First, since there is no direct competition between candidates in this model, there is no "opponent" for anyone to attack. This eliminates the breeding grounds for personal rivalries and hostilities between candidates. However, that does not mean candidates can afford to be complacent—they must still work hard and earn their votes through rigorous campaigning.

63. That said, competition may still arise between leaders serving the same community. For example, two leaders advocating for the Divyang community may vie for the attention of the same small block of voters, potentially leading to personal rivalry. However, such competition remains confined within the community itself, allowing its members to resolve it internally. Unlike the current system, this does not escalate into broader inter-group hostility but remains an intra-group rivalry.

64. One may ask, "Aren’t parties still in direct competition with each other at a higher level? Won’t that breed the same hostilities between parties that we see now?" The answer is no, because the BelModel counters confrontational tendencies through what can be called *voter sharing*. In the BelModel, with multiple votes, voters are likely to distribute their votes across multiple parties. As a result, no party can expect to secure all the votes of any voter. Parties would recognize that voters are also supporting other parties, forcing them to share the voter—much like banks share customers. Banks understand that their customers hold accounts with multiple banks, and badmouthing competitors risks alienating them, potentially causing backlash. Instead, banks focus on retaining customers through better services and products. Likewise, *voter sharing* shifts political culture away from bashing and demonizing opponents, fostering more respectful and cordial relationships between parties.

65. However, one might ask, How will leaders passionate about different fields, sectors, identities, and causes collaborate in the legislature? Won’t they try to push their own interests over others’? The answer, again, is no. Every leader understands that their individual voting power alone is not enough to pass any bill, resolution, or motion. They need the support of others to get anything done. Likewise, they also know that others cannot pass legislation without their support. They also understand that nothing can be pushed through by a party whip, as everyone is backed by an independent voter base. Everyone has to work hard to make what is *important* and beneficial to them—whether related to their causes, fields, or identities—*acceptable* and *appealing* to others. This, in fact, is the true and respectable art of politics.

66. Even super leaders cannot push anything through the legislature with their own voting power. The BelModel inherently puts a check on the vote counts of super leaders, preventing them from going too high. Even the most charismatic super leaders—the *Mass Maharajas*—can be expected to get no more than ten percent of the votes. Let’s see how this happens.

67. Mass Maharajas are essentially “generic leaders” because they must secure the votes of all elected leaders in the legislature, whose interests are diverse, in order to be elected as heads of the executive. Voters split their votes between leaders who specifically care for their individual interests and the Mass Maharajas aiming for the top post. While it's difficult to predict exactly how this will turn out, we can assume that voters recognize that Mass Maharajas will receive votes from many voters. As a result, they may allocate only one or two

of their twelve votes to the Mass Maharajas, with the rest going to leaders dedicated to their specific interests. Under this assumption, the maximum votes all Mass Maharajas combined can get may be around ten percent, and the votes a single one of them can get will be much lower. This means that even these super leaders will need to collaborate with others to get anything passed.

68. Furthermore, voter sharing encourages leaders to be cautious about downplaying or criticizing other interests. For example, leaders dedicated to environmental issues cannot dismiss infrastructure or agricultural concerns, and vice versa, because their voters may be interested in other issues as well and may have given some of their votes to other leaders as well. In the web of life, everything is connected to everything else. Life itself is a balancing act between competing priorities, and politics, which deals with widely divergent interests, should be no different. When a conflict arises between two equally worthy causes, such as the environment and infrastructure, leaders dedicated to those causes should collaborate, devise the best feasible solution under the given circumstances, and present it for approval by the legislature at large. This is the ideal process we wish for in a democracy, and BelModel makes it a reality with its voter sharing feature.

69. As already mentioned, BelModel, with every candidate enjoying their own voter base, fosters a culture of issue-based voting. This means there is no need or occasion for party defections and candidate buying, which are major concerns in the current system. These are essentially backdoor techniques to gain power and control and pass bills in the current model. In BelModel, these will not be necessary. Support can be gained, and any bill can be passed through issue-based debates and voting, in a fair and transparent manner, through the front door.

70. In fact, the 52nd Amendment, i.e., the ill-defined and ineffective anti-defection law, itself can be repealed, as it stands out as a jarring note in the Constitution, which otherwise makes no mention of political parties except for this purpose.

71. In BelModel, candidates can seek a genuine mandate from the voters, purely based on their dedication to a cause, interest, or identity, without playing any games. Once elected, they can seek genuine cooperation from other elected leaders on the legislative floor without having to play any games. Every single elected leader, not just the super leaders, can sponsor a piece of legislation and be assured of a fair chance of it getting passed on its own merits, without having to rely on the blessings of a party or a super leader.

72. In the current system, the super leader of a party, who also becomes the head of the executive, is responsible for and has to defend everything that every elected member (and even non-elected members) of the party says. This is why super leaders keep a tight control over the party members, both elected and unelected. This will be a non-issue in BelModel with issue-based voting. Elected leaders of a party can openly agree with the super leader on one issue and differ on another issue. BelModel brings this much-desired cultural shift in politics, by fostering issue-based voting. It grooms politicians to evolve into statesmen, a species that has become almost extinct.

Criminality and Corruption

73. As the reader might have already sensed, BelModel reduces criminality and corruption to a great degree. Let us explore this further. We will first delve into criminality and then turn our attention to corruption.

74. Criminality comes in different shades and colors. Not every politician may have blood on their hands, but they could have strong ties and interdependencies with those who do. Some may not have any background or links with hardcore criminality but may have a background in white-collar crime. Nevertheless, it is important to note that parties do not go searching for candidates with criminal backgrounds to field. In fact, they do field leaders with vision and values, as we witness in the case of elections to the Rajya Sabha, albeit someone who does not challenge the party or its chief, as they have the voters themselves under their control.

75. But it is different in the case of direct elections to the Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabhas. The entire focus of political parties is on finding someone in the constituency who can win the election, by hook or crook. What is the point in fielding candidates with a clean background who have no chances of winning? Isn't it suicidal for the party? So, essentially, parties look for ‘sure to win’ candidates in every given constituency. They do not care whether it is a local dada, an upper-caste leader, or a businessman with lots of money to spend on the election. The parties field candidates with criminal backgrounds only out of necessity, not out of intent.

76. The BelModel frees the parties from this predicament. The seats in the legislatures are no longer tied to local constituencies. Parties do not have to focus on leaders in each locality. Rather, they have to focus on leaders who can attract votes from across the nation (or state, in the case of state elections). Local dadas and local faction leaders do not fit that bill; and hence there would be no need for the parties to court them. This, in itself, eliminates almost all of the leaders with criminal backgrounds. At most, such politicians with questionable backgrounds may pressure the party to include their names on the endorsed lists. But why would voters choose them when they have many other choices on the endorsed lists?

77. Now let us turn our attention to corruption. Corruption comes in two phases, in the context of politics. Phase 1 is the corruption that occurs before elections. It involves raising and distributing funds without getting caught. In this process, both businesses that provide funds and voters who receive funds are dragged into a gray zone between ethical and unethical behavior.

78. Parties too need massive funds in this phase, to run the campaigns in general, and sometimes to fund the candidates in particular. While the candidates approach local businesses, the parties approach large businesses, business houses, and groups across the board, in every part of the country.

79. Businesses that refuse to ‘cooperate’ risk facing harassment or unfavorable treatment from the party that wins. As a result, businesses often give money to all major parties, hedging their bets since they don’t know who will come to power. Some businesses even develop specialized teams or wings with expertise in maintaining relationships with politicians—giving funds before the elections and collecting favors afterward. Voters, on the other hand, having received these gifts during the campaign, also become complicit in the corrupt political game.

80. Then comes Phase 2 after the election, which has two parts—Phase 2a and Phase 2b. Phase 2a begins after winning the election. This is the time for the leaders to recover the money spent during the campaign and profit more if possible, repaying donors with favors. In this process, corruption permeates every government department, institution, and agency as funds are diverted into personal pockets and party coffers, while donors are repaid with favorable contracts, licenses, and policy benefits. The elected leaders, who we expect to tackle and root out corruption in these agencies and institutions, themselves become the very source of corruption, institutionalizing unethical practices and creating a culture where corruption thrives unchecked.

81. Phase 2b, which runs parallel to Phase 2a, begins for those who lose the election. Having raised and distributed funds under the radar, the losing party leaders become vulnerable to harassment by the winning party. Fearing investigations, arrests, or financial ruin, they remain silent and lie low or join the winning party, leading to the infamous post-election defections, where "candidate buying" becomes even more appealing than "vote buying".

82. Basically, one thing leads to another. As a result, the corruption logistics—the art and science of raising, distributing, and recovering funds—has recently evolved into an essential ingredient of politics. For many involved, it has even become a thrilling game. In private conversations—and sometimes even openly—they boast about their mastery of corruption logistics, of managing the money flow without getting caught. They admire those who handle it cleverly as heroes and dismiss those who get caught as amateurs, unfit for politics. They even follow an unwritten code of conduct to protect one another and share the spoils in an "equitable" manner.

83. Corruption today has infested not only the political system but also the entire rank and file of the government, affecting even private businesses and the general public to a great extent. Cleaning up something so widespread and deeply rooted is not an easy task when a large section of the people—even among our own friends, neighbors, and family members—are involved. It is not like catching and killing a few wild animals. It is like dealing with mosquitoes, which are everywhere and difficult to catch. The best way to tackle such a menace is by drying up their breeding grounds. That is what BelModel does, through multiple techniques at multiple levels.

84. First of all, it eliminates direct competition and thus the need for candidates to outspend one another. Second, harassing businesses for donations or distributing cash and other enticements to voters is not easy when potential voter bases are spread all over the country (or state, in the case of state elections). Parties might be able to manage the corruption logistics at a large scale, but BelModel makes the parties themselves weak, as already discussed. Thus, BelModel dries up another major breeding ground of corruption: the parties. Third, in BelModel, leaders attract voters based on interest, not enticements. Voters too, when assured of long-term commitment and a relationship with a dedicated leader, will not fall for cash and other enticements. They may accept the enticements if they arrive at their doorstep, but they will not vote based on those enticements. They do not hesitate to behave disingenuously with leaders who themselves are disingenuous.

Fair Representation

85. Fair representation for all segments of the population is vital for the long-term health of a society in a democracy. However, only leaders from wealthy and powerful sections possess the necessary clout and resources to contest elections. As a result, leaders from other sections of society struggle to enter or sustain themselves in politics.

86. The only solution we currently have for addressing the issue of fair representation is the concept of reserved constituencies. At present, reservation exists only for SCs and STs. Some suggest conducting a caste census and extending the same reserved constituencies solution to all other sections of society, including BCs, OBCs, and other minorities. While this may seem like a logical extension, there are several problems with this line of thinking.

87. First of all, the concept of ‘reserved constituencies’ is not even working for the SC and ST communities as expected. In almost all reserved constituencies, SC and ST candidates are mere facades, while the rich and powerful sections wield the real power from behind the scenes. Furthermore, many castes within the SC and ST classification are complaining that the most ‘forward’ among them are grabbing all the opportunities, leaving them with none. This has led to demands for SC and ST sub-classification, further exposing the flaws in the system.

88. The idea of conducting a caste census is also riddled with issues. How often can we conduct a census? Would people trust the results? Won’t politicians, for their own political gain, cast doubt on the accuracy of the census and allege that their communities are undercounted? Can such allegations ever be satisfactorily addressed, and the issues truly put behind us?

89. Furthermore, reserved constituencies effectively force all communities within a constituency to elect a leader from a specific community. Doesn’t this violate the fundamental principle of democracy, which is to allow people to elect a leader of their choice?

90. More critically, a caste census and caste-based reserved constituencies would freeze our political system forever into a ‘caste framework.’ Is this what we really want? Where does it leave the ideal of decoupling caste from politics and eventually becoming a caste-free society one day? Even many caste-oriented individuals, who take pride in their caste culture and heritage, do not wish to mix caste with politics. Do we want to force them into this caste-based framework?

91. Furthermore, with urbanization, intercaste marriages, and the decline of traditional professions, castes are merging and disappearing faster than anyone anticipated even a half-century ago. This trend will only accelerate in the coming years and decades, with more people becoming casteless or caste-free. Do we want to hold them back by imposing a caste framework on them? Or do we want to create a separate reserved constituency for them?

92. The BelModel provides a clean and simpler solution for achieving fair representation without all these complications. It eliminates the very concept of reserved constituencies, as there are no constituencies to begin with. Instead, it allows voters of every caste, community, and religion to elect leaders of their own if they wish.

93. In fact, with multiple votes, voters gain ultimate flexibility, allowing every section of society to elect leaders of their own while also rising above parochial considerations to choose leaders based on their profession and causes of interest—without sacrificing one for

the other. This system provides freedom not only to caste-oriented individuals but also to those who are caste-free, casteless, caste-averse, or caste-indifferent, whose population anyway is increasing with urbanizatin and intercaste marriages, to elect leaders based on other criteria.

94. Above all, the BelModel, saves us from the looming danger of permanently locking the political system into a caste framework—a path we have already begun to slide down. It achieves this in a fair and straightforward manner. If for no other reason, the BelModel should be adopted urgently for this one reason alone.

95. However, we should aim for a goal beyond fair representation. People should choose leaders based on their vision and values rather than just their identity. By implementing the BelModel, we can enable those who already think this way to select their leaders accordingly. The hope is that, over time, others will follow their example.

Other Benefits

96. There are also several other minor yet significant benefits to switching to the BelModel. We will discuss them now.

97. **Leadership Leak**: One such advantage is the prevention of what we can call "leadership leak." In the current system, when two strong leaders from major parties compete against each other, only one gets elected, while the other is kept out of politics for five years—depriving voters who trust that candidate of their leadership. History bears witness to the loss of great parliamentarians for this reason. This issue does not arise in the BelModel. Two candidates of roughly the same caliber and appeal will both secure a place in the "top 543" list, as a small percentage difference in votes does not disqualify either of them. The BelModel ensures that the nation's top political talent remains within the system rather than being excluded from it, unlike the current system, which, by design, eliminates half of the top political talent.

98. **Delimitation Issues**: The BelModel, by eliminating constituencies, renders delimitation issues moot. The Delimitation Commission itself can be decommissioned. There will no longer be a need to wait for the census, navigate political and administrative challenges, or redraw constituency boundaries—because, in this system, constituencies do not exist in the first place. BelModel automatically adjusts to demographic changes caused by factors such as shifting birth rates, inter-caste and inter-religious marriages, urbanization, and labor migration. In the current system, such changes necessitate redrawing constituency boundaries, but no such adjustments are required under the BelModel. Voters with shared interests, causes, professions, castes, religions, or other affiliations can vote for their preferred leaders regardless of where they live.

99. In recent times, wealthier, less populous states have voiced their resentment over the higher representation of poorer, more populous states in the Lok Sabha. They ask: Why should we, who prioritized economic growth and controlled population growth, be disadvantaged in representation compared to those who failed to achieve either? This concern is legitimate, and the constituency-based system offers no clear answer. However, if left unaddressed, this issue could threaten national unity in its own way.

100. With the BelModel, this concern becomes irrelevant. No national leader is confined to a particular state anymore, as every leader can attract voters from across the country. Leaders from wealthier states can win support from voters in poorer states by sharing best practices and persuading them to adopt more effective policies. The BelModel not only breaks down barriers between rich and poor, upper caste and lower caste, and different religions but also between states themselves. Leaders who are committed to any cause—whether agriculture, education, environment, national security, law and order, or any other field—can appeal to voters across all these boundaries.

101. **Contesting from multiple constituencies**: In the current system, there is a peculiar provision that allows candidates to contest from multiple constituencies, even though they can represent only one in the legislature. As a result, by-elections must be conducted in the vacated constituencies, leading to an unnecessary waste of resources. In the BelModel, this issue does not arise. Any leader with support in multiple parts of the country (or state, in the case of state elections) can attract all those voters and increase their overall vote count without the need for multiple candidacies or by-elections.

102. **By-Elections**: There is also no need to conduct by-elections in the BelModel. In the event of the death, resignation, or disqualification of a sitting member, the 544th candidate can be declared elected, restoring the Lok Sabha's membership to 543. The same approach can be applied at the state level as well.

103. **Majority Representation**: With the BelModel, increasing the number of seats in the legislature becomes extremely simple whenever necessary, for any reason—it's just a matter of declaring the "top that many" leaders as elected. This flexibility is particularly useful in ensuring majority representation. Let's explore what this means in practice.

104. In the current system, the winning candidate typically secures only 30% to 35% of the total electorate's votes. This means that just 30% to 35% of voters see someone they supported in power, while the majority do not. This phenomenon, which severely undermines democratic representation and fosters disillusionment and apathy among voters, is poorly understood—let alone addressed.

105. Can the same happen in the BelModel? Unfortunately, yes. When too many candidates contest the election and votes are spread too thinly among them, the combined votes of the "top 543" candidates might fall below 50% of the total electorate, resulting in a minority representation situation.

106. However, this issue can be easily addressed in the BelModel by increasing the number of elected leaders. We can declare 544, 545, 600, 700, or more leaders elected as needed until their combined vote count exceeds 50% of the total electorate, thus ensuring majority representation in the Lok Sabha. The same approach can be applied at the state level to ensure majority representation in Vidhan Sabhas.

107. In fact, we can take this further and increase majority representation to higher levels, such as 60% or 70%, by electing even more leaders. Taking this one step further, we can eliminate the hard limit of "543" altogether and declare as many leaders as needed in each election to ensure at least 50%, 60%, or even 70% representation.

108. **Leader Dilemma**: The current system, based on local constituencies, creates a dilemma for elected leaders. Are they supposed to work for the development of their constituency or for the development of the nation (or the state, in the case of state elections)? How should they vote on a bill that benefits the nation but requires sacrifices from their constituency? If their primary responsibility is local development, then who takes charge of national or state-level progress—only the executive? And if they are expected to focus on local development, what role do local bodies and local administrations serve?

109. The BelModel makes this entire dilemma a moot point. Leaders elected to the Lok Sabha would have pan-India voter bases and would be expected to focus solely on national development, without any special attention or favoritism toward specific constituencies. The same applies to leaders elected to Vidhan Sabhas at the state level. Local development would be left to local bodies and the administrative departments of state and national governments, as it should be.

Voting Process

110. The BelModel obviously involves certain implementation challenges. We need to include potentially thousands of candidates on every ballot in every polling station across the country (or state, in the case of state elections). Additionally, we must ensure that the voting process is simple, easy, and foolproof, enabling voters to quickly and accurately find their preferred leaders and distribute their multiple votes in any proportion they choose.

111. The current EVMs, with a capacity to handle only a maximum of 384 candidates and allowing only one vote to be cast, do not serve the purpose. Hence, we introduce a new process based on what we call Advanced Voting Machines (AVMs), which leverage modern, ubiquitous digital technologies like QR codes and touchscreens.

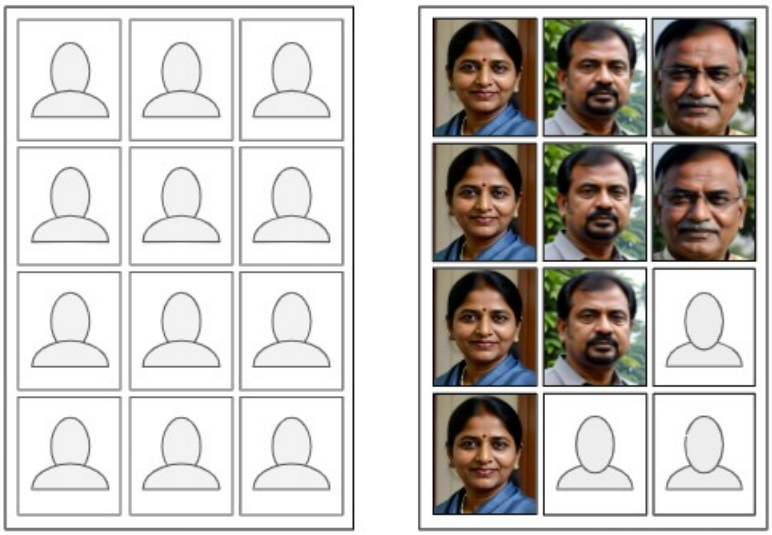
112. In this process, the Election Commission, instead of allocating distinct and unique election symbols for thousands of candidates—which would be a major challenge—would simply assign a unique Leader Identification Number (LIN) to each registered candidate.

113. Candidates would then create their own 'Leader Cards,' featuring their pictures, names, dates of birth, LINs, party affiliations, and other relevant details, along with a QR code. These cards would resemble the example shown in the image below, featuring a fictitious leader with an AI-generated face.



114. Candidates would distribute their Leader Cards to potential voters across the nation (or state, in the case of state elections) in paper form at political events or through volunteers, and in electronic form via social media and websites. Voters could also obtain Leader Cards by sending an SMS, making a phone call to the candidates, or having them printed for free at any e-Seva center. (This is similar to sports fans collecting pictures of their favorite sports stars, movie fans collecting pictures of their favorite movie stars, and devotees collecting pictures of their favorite deities and spiritual leaders, from various sources.)

115. Voters would collect the Leader Cards of all their favorite leaders in the days and weeks leading up to election day and bring them to the polling stations on election day. Polling booths would be equipped with Advanced Voting Machines (AVMs), featuring a touchscreen displaying a 3x4 grid of blank spaces, each representing one of the twelve votes a voter can cast, as shown on the left side of the image below:



116. To begin voting, the voter would touch one of the boxes on the AVM screen, which would then be highlighted (e.g., by blinking or displaying a thick or colorful border) to indicate that it has been selected. The voter would then scan the QR code from a Leader Card into the AVM. The face of the corresponding candidate would appear in the selected box, confirming that the vote has been assigned to that particular candidate. Technically savvy voters could also search for their preferred candidates by name, date of birth, or phone number instead of scanning the QR code if they so prefer.

117. Voters would repeat this process by selecting each box on the screen in turn and scanning the QR codes of the same or different leaders until all twelve votes are cast. If they make a mistake, they can simply re-select the respective box and scan the correct Leader Card again to make the necessary correction.

118. The right side of the above image shows an example of an AVM screen after voting. In this example, the voter chose to give four votes to one leader, three to another leader, two to yet another leader, and left three boxes blank—i.e., ‘un-voted,’ which is also a legitimate option. Finally, the voter would press the ‘SUBMIT’ button on the AVM to confirm their choices.

119. Polling stations would be equipped with ‘dummy AVMs’ on which voters can practice casting their multiple votes before heading to the polling booth. Additionally, the Election Commission could release a mobile app that mimics the AVM. Voters can use the mobile app to practice casting their multiple votes, taking the help of a mobile-savvy youngster or a political party volunteer if needed. This would help voters become familiar and comfortable with the new voting process well ahead of the elections.

120. Using AVMs, which are identical across the country (or state, in the case of state elections), and the voter identification methods developed for RVMs, we can introduce an ‘anywhere voting system’ that allows voters to cast their votes at any polling station in the country (or state, in the case of state elections).

121. Currently, people away from home for business, leisure, family, or work must travel back to their place of voter registration to cast their vote. This reform would be especially beneficial for nomadic tribes and migrant workers, ensuring that no citizen is disenfranchised due to mobility constraints.

122. The 'anywhere voting' provision also enhances the privacy of voting. Voters can cast their vote at a polling station away from their place of residence, where they are relatively more anonymous, minimizing the risk of prying eyes or known political workers trying to influence their vote.

Additional Changes

Nomenclature

123. If we are to implement the BelModel, we should also take the opportunity to revise certain nomenclature. We recommend renaming the Lok Sabha as the "National Leadership Council" and the Vidhan Sabhas as "State Leadership Councils." The rationale for this suggestion is as follows: The responsibilities of legislators extend well beyond mere lawmaking, both officially and unofficially.

124. Officially, these members are responsible for electing the executive and ensuring its accountability. They also serve in the executive as ministers or as members of statutory bodies, committees, and councils. Unofficially, the public expects them to provide general leadership to the community, respond to emergencies, and assist in accessing government benefits and services. In fact, the average voter perceives MPs and MLAs as part of the "government," often unaware of the constitutional distinction between the executive and legislative branches.

125. The term "Leadership Council" underscores the broader leadership role these elected representatives play, both officially and unofficially. The word "leader," in any language, carries a strong connotation and signifies a personal connection between leaders and the people they lead, reflecting the expectations placed upon them. This stands in contrast to terms like MP, MLA, or representative, which are more technical and less human in nature.

Online Debates and Voting

126. With AVMs, QR codes, and touchscreens, the BelModel brings the political system into the modern digital age. Similarly, we should extend this transformation to legislative debates and voting. We should develop an online platform, which could be called *eCouncils*, allowing elected leaders to post bills, add comments in text, audio, and video formats, and vote on them online—much like today’s sophisticated and ubiquitous social media platforms. Leaders should also be able to submit their questions online, with governments responding to them on the same platform.

127. Once upon a time, leaders had to gather physically because, in the pre-electronic era, it was the only way for them to speak, listen, and exchange ideas. However, this approach is highly constrained. Leaders can meet in person only for a limited number of days, as they also need time to engage with their constituents. This necessity led to the concept of legislative "sessions."

128. Moreover, with numerous issues to discuss and many leaders wanting to express their views, the time allotted to each individual is often extremely limited—sometimes just a few minutes. As a result, leaders resort to theatrics, rhetoric, and even disruptive behavior to make their voices heard in that brief window. This setup does not foster meaningful exchanges of ideas.

129. None of these constraints exist with online debates and voting. No one needs to travel to the capital, sit on a bench, wait for their "turn," or condense their message to fit within an allotted time. Instead, they can provide as elaborate a response as they wish, from

anywhere, at any time. Leaders can participate in legislation year-round from wherever they are while also staying engaged with their constituents throughout the year.

130. Further, they can post their comments in any language they prefer. Human translators, supported by increasingly sophisticated and affordable digital translation tools, should translate these comments into all languages as soon as they are posted, making them instantly accessible to everyone.

131. Online debates also enhance transparency. A search feature can be integrated into the eCouncils platform, allowing anyone to instantly search for bills, questions, answers, comments, or votes at any time from anywhere. Voters who want to learn more about a particular leader can easily access their voting records and comments. Leaders and voters should be able to share links to specific bills, questions, answers, comments, or votes with one another at any time. Newspapers and magazines should also be able to embed these links in their articles, making the information readily accessible to everyone.

132. Online debates and voting can be implemented even within the current system and should be given immediate and serious consideration, either alongside or independently of the BelModel implementation.

Implementation

133. One might ask: Is this model, with no constituencies and multiple votes, practiced in any country in the world? The answer is no, as far as we know. All major democracies follow constituency-based elections, which were the only viable mechanism for conducting elections on a large scale in the "paper age," when paper ballots could accommodate only a handful of candidates, not thousands.

134. No country that we know of is actively considering a transition from the "paper age" system to an "electronic age" system. This is due more to political inertia and perceived risk than to any technical or practical barriers. Any politician or party proposing major changes can easily be accused of having ulterior motives. Political parties have long adapted to the constraints of the current system and see no urgent need to change it, even if they recognize the necessity or potential benefits of reform.

135. Hence, if we are to implement the BelModel, we would be the first in the world to do so. As the largest democracy, we should take it upon ourselves to lead the world in modernizing the political system and set an example for other nations. After all, didn’t we pioneer the remarkable UPI payment system before any other country attempted anything like it? Drawing inspiration from our own vision and success, why not build a modernized political system and be the first one to do so?

136. It is essentially a matter of political party leaders coming together and agreeing to free themselves from the shackles of party structures, granting themselves the freedom to connect directly with voters and allowing super leaders to engage directly with elected representatives. This simplifies the political process for everyone and benefits the country as a whole. We should remember how, in the early 1990s, governments relinquished some of their control and power, transforming a floundering economy into a flourishing one.

137. We suggest that the Government of India and the Election Commission of India convene an all-party forum to examine the proposal for implementing the BelModel. Ideally, this forum should consist of leaders from various political parties who have retired from active politics and are, therefore, free from vested political interests. To further enrich the discussions, retired judges and political scientists from diverse universities should be invited to facilitate the forum’s deliberations. This forum should be regarded as a mini-constituent assembly and accorded the seriousness and gravity it deserves.

138. The BelModel can be initially be implemented in three or four states from different parts of the country, with varying sizes, and are ruled by different political parties. The system should be then refined based on the experience before it is implemented in every state and finally at the national level.

Skepticism

139. We need to make a confession. Throughout this paper, we viewed the BelModel through rose-tinted glasses, highlighting the best possible outcomes. But what if things do not unfold as expected? Is the switch to BelModel still worth it? The answer is yes. Even in the worst-case scenario, the BelModel guarantees certain invaluable benefits—ones we could not have even dreamed of—regardless of the others we might be skeptical about.

Leaders	• Guaranteed: No risk of losing an election due to a small margin of votes • Probable: No uncertainties about securing a ticket or winning the next election • Probable: No need to mortgage one's independence to a party or a super leader
Parties	• Guaranteed: No risk of fielding 'wrong candidates' • Guaranteed: Proportional Representation (PR)
Super Leaders	• Probable: No need to dominate or maintain a political party to reach the top post; simply convince other elected leaders
Voters	• Guaranteed: Multiple leaders to choose from • Guaranteed: No forced marriages • Probable: Long-term, trusted relationships with leaders
Social Justice	• Guaranteed: Every section of society can elect leaders of its own, if they so wish • Guaranteed: Every section enjoys voting power in legislatures truly in proportion to its numbers
Social Development	• Guaranteed: Effective three-tier administration • Probable: Leaders with vision and values • Probable: No issue goes unnoticed or undermined
Constitutional Vision	• Probable: Collaborative legislatures • Issue-based debates and voting • Checks and balances between the Legislature and the Executive
Democracy	• Guaranteed: Guaranteed majority representation • Guaranteed: Averting the political system from being locked into a caste framework • Probable: Less demagoguery, less reliance on 'bad money'

140. In summary, BelModel is about eliminating constituencies and introducing multiple votes, and thereby shifting the balance of power from political parties to voters, leaders, and super leaders, wherefrom flows all these guaranteed and probable benefits.

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