Open Elections

To Strengthen

the Two Pillars of

Our Democracy

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www.openel.in

Author's Profile

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Passion:	Psychology, Sociology and Philosophy Developed **Foaum**, a framework of psychology, sociology and philosophy; and conducted many workshops based on Foaum in the USA and India.	○ Personality Development workshops ○ Organizational management and team building workshops ○ Family management and parenting workshops ○ Parent-Teacher joint workshops
Books and Papers:	Three Books	○ Sapien Architecture: Human Nature & Diversity ○ Time to replace the Education System with Growth System ○ Translation of Valmiki Ramayana from Sanskrit to English
	Two concept papers	○ **Open Elections: To Strengthen the Two Pillars of Democracy** ○ Common 'lipi' and 'code' for Indian languages
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Open Elections

is designed by the author based on decades of observations and years of research into:

Indian Political System, Indian Mindset, Constitution of India, Political Science Concepts, Principles of Democracy, and Democratic systems in other countries.

Inspiration

Passion + Ecosystem => Excellence

Our Success Stories

Cricket, Apparel Industry, Movies, Airports
Space Exploration, Eateries and Catering, Dairy,
UPI, Aadhaar Cards, National Highways, etc.

Our Struggling Stories

Education, Agriculture, Olympics,
Science & Technology, Tourism,
Waste Management, Political System, etc.

Let us tackle

The Political System,
which also makes everything else better.

Overview

Objectives

- Social Values
- **Social Development**
- Social Harmony
- Social Justice
- National Integrity

To achieve the five objectives above, we need to strengthen the two pillars below:

The System

Three Levels

- Executive
- Legislature
- Electorate

Three Tiers

- National
- State
- Local

Three Branches

- Executive
- Legislature
- Judiciary

Are these working as expected?

The People

How many great leaders and how many average ones do we have?

Great Leaders
With Vision, Values and Voice (V3)

Average Leaders
Driven by Power, Profit and Prestige (P3)

Communities, Causes, Fields, Sectors, etc.

- Dedication
- Collaboration → Fellow Leaders
- Relationship

Engaged and Judicious Voters

Objectives

Social Values	Pursuit of excellence. Trikarana Suddhi - say what you do, do what you say; Antah Suddhi - corruption free public life, not exploiting/cheating others, etc. Bahih Suddhi - clean surroundings, streets, roads, rivers, mountains, public places; Family values: treating elderly and women with respect and kindness, helping each other; Spending time with children, imbibing values and passing on the culture; Care and share, Oneness with nature - protecting environment, mountains, rivers, animals, trees, etc. Staying healthy and fit.
Social Development	Progress in every field - from agriculture to education, science and technology to the upliftment of the underprivileged, infrastructure to environment, defence to law & order, sports to tourism, and so on.
Social Justice	Every section of society should be empowered, should feel included and fairly represented, and have equal opportunities and support. Every section should feel that their voices and grievances are heard.
Social Harmony	World is one family and live and let live. People of different socioeconomic segments, different castes and creeds live in harmony. Everyone should take pride in their own customs, culture and values and respect those of the others.
National Integrity	Everyone should feel that this country is theirs. They should be optimistic about its future, They should safeguard it from external and internal threats.

We need to make progress in all these areas.
We may give ourselves C or D grade in each one of them, but not A or B.
There is a lot that needs to be done in each one of them.

We need to strengthen the two pillars, the system and the people, to make progress.

The Pillars: System and People

System	**Three Levels**	In our system, decisions on **what** needs to be done and **who** is best suited to do it occur at three levels: Voters should know what they want and should vote for leaders whom they trust will work on it. The Legislature should determine which laws they should enact in alignment with people's expectations, and elects an executive best suited to implement them. The Executive should understand its responsibilities and recruit individuals at various levels who are competent to execute them.
	Three Tiers	The Constitution established a three-tier administrative structure. To make it work as envisioned, we need leaders with: national spirit, outlook, and appeal at the national level, state-level spirit, outlook, and appeal at the state level, and local spirit, outlook, and appeal at the local level.
	Three Branches	Constitution has set up three branches of government: the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary. The legislature is responsible for holding the executive accountable.
Leaders	**Great Leaders**	We need leaders with vision, values, and passion for a specific field, issue, cause, or problem at all three levels—rather than those driven by power, profit and prestige.
	Organic Relationships	We want leaders to develop an organic, trusted, and long-lasting connection with voters based on their dedication to a cause, community, field, profession, or sector. They should win the hearts of the people with their vision and leadership, rather than wooing them with enticements, appeasements, and favors.
	Genuine Collaboration	We want leaders to convince other leaders—across all parties and independents—and gain support for their vision and solutions, rather than relying on political equations and obligations.
Voters	**Engaged and Judicious Voters**	We want voters to avoid blindly supporting any leader, party, or ideology. Instead, they should objectively assess the worth of each leader and judiciously choose the best among them.

We are certainly not close to these ideals.
However, we can move a lot closer to the ideal in each of them
by removing systemic constraints and opening up the political system.
Open Elections is designed precisely for this purpose.

The Vision

What are the issues with the current system?

1. The current system is based on territorial constituencies. It reduces elections to national and state legislatures into local contests. As a result, it inadvertently promotes local-level leaders to national and state legislatures.
2. Constituencies have mixed-segment electorates, and hence favor leaders who can be “all things to all people” and inadvertently deny entry to leaders dedicated to the betterment of a community, cause, field, or sector into the system
3. Reserved constituencies are not functioning effectively, as seats are often taken either by the "creamy layer" or by candidates who serve as mere façades for the rich and powerful.
4. Constituency-based representation and the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system force the majority of voters to accept a winning candidate they did not vote for, resulting in weak voter-leader relationships, and apathy among voters.
5. The single-vote-per-voter system fosters binary thinking, lifetime loyalty, and polarization, rather than encouraging objectivity.

Open Elections

1. With Open Elections, we retire the concept of constituencies, give multiple votes to each voter
2. Leaders can attract the votes of voters from everywhere across the nation (or state in the case of state elections) based on their dedication to a field, cause, issue, community or sector
3. Voters can choose leaders of their choice from anywhere, who are dedicated to their community, field, profession or causes and issues of their interest

Where can we find great leaders?

1. Great leaders who want to develop and serve the society, rather than grow themselves at the cost of society, are everywhere
2. However, unwilling to participate, let alone compete successfully, in the unfair gamble called elections, leaders with vision, values, and voice have gone into exile and hiding, like the Pandavas
3. Others, who are merely after power, profit and prestige are in charge now, like the Kauravas
4. Great leaders with vision and values, like Bhishma and Vidura, do exist in power today, but they have to compromise their vision and values for the sake of political survival; they are challenged with the irony of having to use wrong ropes to climb to the right heights

Open Elections

1. With Open Elections, we create a fair field (*Dharma Kshetra*) for them to contest elections
2. Their supporters—like the seven Akshauhinis—who are currently invisible, will surface once a *Dharma Kshetra* is established

Current System and Open Elections

Current System

1. Constituencies
   a. Reduce elections to national and state legislatures to local contests
   b. Mixed segment electorates
   c. Reserved constituencies
2. FPTP (First Past The Post)
   a. The candidate with maximum number of votes wins, even if it is only 35% of polled votes and 25% of the total electorate
   b. Represents the entire electorate, including those who voted for other parties and who did not vote at all
3. Single vote per voter
   a. The vote will be interpreted as complete endorsement of one party and manifesto, and complete rejection of the other

Entry criteria:
Local clout, Party clout, Money Power,
'All things to all people'

Open Elections[1]

1. Top Rankers
   a. There will be no constituencies; Parties declare a nationwide 'endorsed list' of candidates instead of fielding candidates by constituency;
   b. Leaders, party-affiliated or independent, attract voters from anywhere in the country *based on their dedication* to a community, cause, field, sector, issue, etc.
   c. Voters vote for any national level (or state level, in the case of state elections) leader from anywhere
   d. Leaders are ranked based on the votes they receive, i.e., their vote-counts; 'top 543' (or appropriate number in states) declared elected
2. Multiple[2] votes per voter
   a. Voters will have multiple votes, which they can distribute to multiple leaders of their choice, in equal or unequal proportions
   b. Parties and leaders 'share the voter' with other parties and leaders
3. Proportional Voting Power (PVP)
   a. Elected leaders represent only those who voted for them
   b. Voting power of the leaders in legislatures is in proportion to the leader's vote counts - Proportional Voting Power (PVP)

Entry criteria:
Vision, Values and Voice

[1] Applies to national as well as state level elections
[2] Say twelve or twenty

Electoral Systems

Various kinds of electoral systems are in use across different countries, each designed according to its social structure.

The book* **Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook** describes the systems in use around the world.

The chart below shows the electoral system families as described in the book and where 'Open Elections' fits within this framework.

The Electoral System Families

- **Plurality/Majority**
  - FPTP (First Past the Post)
  - TRS (Two-Round System)
  - AV (Alternative Vote)
  - BV (Block Vote)
  - PBV (Party Block Vote)
- **Mixed**
  - Parallel
  - MMP (Mixed-Member Proportional)
- **Proportional Representation**
  - LIST PR (List Proportional Representation)
    - Closed
    - Open
    - Free
      - **Open Elections**
  - STV (Single Transferable Vote)
- **Other**
  - SNTV (Single Non-Transferable Vote)
  - LV (Limited Vote)
  - BC (Borda Count)

*Available at: https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/electoral-system-design-new-international-idea-handbook?lang=en

Great Leaders from All Sections

Current System	Open Elections
Leaders with money power, local influence, and party clout, and can be 'all things to all people' only get nominated for obvious reason. Leaders who are passionate about a particular cause, community, field or sector such as agriculture, education, or the upliftment of underprivileged sections cannot fit the bill, as a mixed-segment electorate demands "all things to all people" type of leaders.	Open Elections opens the political system to the leaders who are focused on national and state level issues, and are not confined to or concentrated in a small geographic area called constituency. Those already known in a particular field and who speak about specific issues and causes would likely have their own fan base. They can file nominations independently or on behalf of a party, as they wish, and convert their fan base into a voter base.
This system favors rich and powerful (upper-caste) leaders, who have the local clout and money power to contest elections, leaving most sections of society without fair representation. Reserved constituencies are not working effectively, as the seats are taken either by the "creamy layer" or by candidates who are mere façades for the rich and powerful sections. Reserved constituencies freeze political system into a caste framework for eternity. This contradicts and constrains our vision of creating a caste-free politics some day.	Every section of society would be free to elect leaders from their own community or anyone they trust to address their concerns, needs, and issues. As a result, every section would automatically be represented in proportion to their numbers, without caste-based census, caste-based reservations and without freezing political system into caste-framework. Voters could distribute their votes as they wish—some to a leader dedicated to their community, some to leaders focused on their profession, and some to leaders addressing general issues and causes.
Even strong leaders can lose an election in this system by a mere fraction of votes, preventing the losing candidates from representing and serving all those who voted for them. History bears witness to the country deprived of the many good parliamentarians, many a time.	Leaders would not lose an election due to small fluctuations in their support base. Candidates who receive approximately the same number of votes would all either get elected or not get elected. Nation would never lose the services of great leaders.
Even after getting elected to national and state legislatures, the leaders are made to feel like local leaders. That is why they clamour for ministerial berths, to elevate themselves from local level to national or state level.	By dedicating themselves to causes, communities, issues, fields, and sectors at the national level (or the state level in state elections), leaders will gain national recognition from the outset, regardless of weather they get ministerial berth or not.

Organic Relationships

Current System	Open Elections
Leaders receive only a small percentage of *positive votes*; the rest are party votes, negative votes, and random votes, resulting in a weak relationship with voters.	Leaders develop an organic bond with voters based on their dedication to a community, cause, field or sector. They would receive more positive votes than party votes, and there would be no negative votes since there is no direct competition.
Leaders are uncertain about securing a party ticket and winning the next election, resulting in their voices muffled in many ways. Leaders cannot hope for long-term relationship with the voters, tend to focus on making the hay while the sun shines.	Leaders who maintain consistent dedication to their chosen community, cause, field or sector would retain their fan base—unless they commit serious mistakes or are superseded by someone with a more compelling vision and appeal.
Voters are also unsure whether a leader they truly support will get the ticket and win the next election. They cannot count on any leader who works on their issues on a long term basis.	Voters can always vote for the same leader in the next election, regardless of whether a party includes them on the *endorsed list* or not, if they have trust in the leader.
Leaders represent not only those who voted for them but also those who voted for other parties and those who did not vote at all. In other words, they are in a "love marriage" with some voters and in an "arranged marriage," "forced marriage," or "namesake marriage" with many others, weakening their commitment to and trust among voters	Leaders represent only those who voted for them, creating an ideal scenario of 100% love marriages. Leaders would know exactly what their voter base wants, and voters would know exactly what to expect from them.
Only a minority of the electorate sees a leader of their choice in power, while the majority of the electorate is represented by a leader they did not choose, leading to disillusionment and apathy.	The majority of voters are likely to see at least one or two of their chosen leaders in power. If the combined vote count of the "top 543" falls below 50% of the total electorate, additional candidates—such as the top 550, 600, or 650—can be declared elected to ensure that the majority of voters are represented by a leader of their choice.
Leaders, by relying on party votes, tend to stay more loyal to the party than to the voters themselves. Their job is to deliver the party's programs, policies, and services to the voters, but not necessarily to convey the voters' true grievances, needs, and preferences back to the party. As a result, parties too get disconnected from ground realities.	Leaders, known for their expertise in their respective fields, would be recognized by parties as true representatives of the voters who elected them. As a result, parties would rely on these leaders for vision and ideas in their particular fields. This ensures that parties remain connected with ground realities.

Genuine Collaboration

Current System	Open Elections
Competition among political parties escalates into rivalry and even full-blown hostility due to ideological differences, direct competition, fear of harassment by the winning party, and the involvement of bickering local factions.	In this system, parties have to share voters with other parties, as voters are likely to give some of their votes to other parties as well. It is similar to banks sharing customers with other banks—they try to win the customer not by attacking other banks but by offering better services. In this system, political parties would have to adopt a similar approach. Demonization of other parties would backfire, as voters may get annoyed by unfair targeting of other parties, which also they like.
Substantial portion of candidates' votes tend to be party votes. As a result, leaders must support their party's policies and positions both inside and outside the legislatures, and vote according to the party whip. They cannot speak their mind on any issue.	By relying less on party votes and more on positive votes, leaders would be able to express independent opinions without fear or favor, both inside and outside the legislatures. This would foster issue-based debates and voting in the legislatures, the ideal in a democracy.
Not all leaders are equal. Some are admired and respected beyond their constituency, while others may not be known even in the next constituency. However, the system gives them equal voting power on the floor of the legislatures, which is unfair.	With Proportional Voting Power (PVP), leaders would have voting power exactly in proportion to their vote counts. This would give them an incentive to work toward broad-based support for their vision, as it gives them greater voting power in the legislature. This, of course, is fair not only for the leader but also for the voters who supported him or her.
In this system, the true support a leader enjoys across the nation—beyond their own constituency—is never known. A leader does not know their true worth or how it compares to the true worth of others.	Leaders' true worth—measured by their support among voters—would be transparently known to themselves and others. This would make them both humble and confident.
Party hostilities spill into legislatures. Whatever one party proposes, the other opposes—regardless of merit. The opposition tries to embarrass the ruling party, and the ruling party tries to harass opposition party leaders. Legislative debates are merely a drama, and voting is merely a farce. With party-line voting, the support that a bill, resolution, or motion receives depends more on who sponsors it than on its actual merit. The ruling party knows it can pass anything through its brute seat-based majority.	Legislative debates and voting would become issue-based, as described above. Leaders who can make their proposals acceptable to other leaders would gain the necessary support to execute their vision. Leaders who seek support for bills and resolutions related to their field of passion would, in turn, have to support bills and resolutions related to the fields of other leaders' passion—this is the true art of politics. Leaders would also have to respect the passion of other leaders and recognize the importance of other causes, communities, fields and sectors, as they may be sharing a voter base with those other leaders.

Engaged and Judicious Voters

Everyone prefers long-term solutions over short-term benefits, if they are credible and achievable.

Current System	Open Elections
The majority of voters, constrained to parties and their nominated candidates, feel that they are caught between two evils. Only a few voters are fully convinced about the candidate or party they vote for. Moreover, they are forced to accept the winning candidate even if they voted against them. Voters feel that their vote is not as powerful as it should be, no matter how sacred it is.	In this system, voters can choose leaders who are already dedicated to a community, cause, field or sector of their interest. This is true empowerment of the voters. Their choices are no longer limited to two ‘all things for all people’ candidates.
Voters realistically have only two choices; a vote for anyone else is considered wasted. This promotes binary thinking, party loyalty, and polarization. Voters who choose a party once often fall into a loyalty trap—they constantly glorify the positives of their chosen party and highlight the negatives of the opposing party. They find it difficult to switch to the another party in the next election, even if their chosen party is underperforming or its candidate is not to one’s liking. Over time, these voters become blind, lifelong supporters of the political parties, essentially pre-approving the policies and positions of party even before they are framed. This removes any incentive for the party to change or improve; instead, the party may stick to the old ways to retain the support of its loyal base. While a loyal voter base and blind support may seem beneficial to the parties, it is detrimental to democracy. Democracy thrives when voters exercise independent judgment and vote thoughtfully in every election.	Multiple votes would wean voters away from binary thinking. A good majority of voters, even today, are party-neutral. They can express their neutrality by distributing some votes to one party and some to another rather than to choose a single leader or party. A single vote is like asking someone, “who is your best friend?”—a difficult question to answer. Multiple votes are like asking, “who are your best friends?”—a much easier question to answer since voters are not forced to pick just one.
Manifestos are an "all or nothing" option for voters. As a result, voters often end up voting for many policies and provisions they do not agree with. The winning party does not know which provisions contributed to its success, and the losing party does not know which provisions led to its failure. The winning party claims the mandate as support for all provisions.	There is no need to develop manifestos in this system. The vision, background of the nominated leaders and the community or cause, field or sector they are dedicated to would reflect what the party stands for. By voting for particular leaders, voters can clearly indicate what matters to them and by how much.

Constitutional Vision

	Current System	Open Elections
Three-tier governance	This system reduces elections to national and state legislatures to local contests. Leaders with local clout, outlook, and appeal get elected to national and state legislatures rather than those with national or state-level clout, outlook, and appeal. Lacking the necessary vision and passion for national-level issues, they weaken national policy-making and governance. Many fields—from education to science and technology to sports and tourism—have experienced slow growth since independence for this reason. There are no champions or tall figures in many fields at the national and state levels.	Leaders contesting for the Lok Sabha would already be well-known at the national level, with their fan base spread across multiple states. Similarly, leaders contesting for the Vidhan Sabhas would be well-known at the state level, with their fan base spread across the state. Thus, leaders with a national vision, outlook, and appeal would get elected to the Lok Sabha, while those with a state-level vision, outlook, and appeal would get elected to state legislatures. Every field would receive the focus and attention it needs at both the national and state levels, making a significant difference in the development of the country and the states in every field.
Center State Relationships	The current system puts elected leaders in a conflict of interest. Are they supposed to work for national development or constituency development? Are they supposed to work for national development or represent state interests?	With potential pan-India voter bases, the members of the Lok Sabha would have only one responsibility—concern themselves with national development, not state-level or constituency-level issues, which the state and local bodies would handle. Similarly, members elected to the Vidhan Sabhas would have only one responsibility—concern themselves with state development, not constituency development, which local bodies would handle.
National and Regional parties	National parties in power in states weaken state governments unless a strong state-level leader emerges within the party. Similarly, regional party coalitions in power at the center weaken the central government.	As truly national-level leaders get elected to the Lok Sabha and truly state-level leaders get elected to the Vidhan Sabhas, both institutions would grow stronger. Regional party candidates, when contesting for the Lok Sabha, would naturally try to build a pan-India voter base for themselves, transforming them into true national leaders.
Executive and Legislatures	The Constitution envisions that the executive is held accountable by the legislature. However, since both are controlled by the same political party, the legislature rarely holds the executive accountable in this system.	Leaders, by relying mostly on positive votes, would feel more empowered to hold the executive accountable, regardless of the party they belong to. This increases the chances of realizing the true vision of the Constitution, potentially transforming the entire political culture.

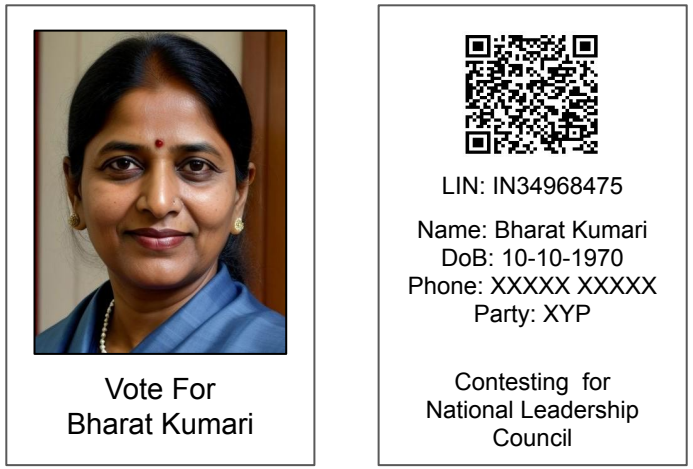
Other Benefits

	Current System	Open Elections
Proportional Representation	A small change in vote share can lead to a significant change in seat share in the current system, resulting not only in an undue advantage (or disadvantage) for political parties but also in a misrepresentation of the people's will in the legislatures.	This system guarantees Proportional Representation (PR) for all parties, as the voting power a party enjoys in the legislature would be exactly in proportion to the aggregate votes its leaders receive, because of PVP. (Note: If a party fields too many candidates and its votes get spread too thin among them, only a few of its leaders would secure a place in the 'top 543.' However, political parties would be smart enough not to commit this mistake).
Leadership Leak	In a contest between two strong leaders, one is bound to lose the election, depriving the nation of that leader's service. History bears witness to many capable parliamentarians losing elections and thus being unable to serve the nation for at least the next five years.	In Open Elections, as already noted, no leader with sizable support among voters will lose to another leader with sizable support. Instead, both will get elected. The nation (or state) will never lose a leader with vision and voice under this system.
Delimitation	Delimitation issues pose a significant challenge today due to uneven population growth. States that have managed to control population growth are at a disadvantage in terms of Lok Sabha representation compared to states that have not controlled population growth.	Delimitation becomes moot in this system, as there are no constituencies in the first place. Lok Sabha will focus strictly on national issues, and members will not represent state interests, as already noted. Moreover, leaders from less populous states can attract votes from more populous states. The focus would shift from 'share' of the states to the 'development' of every state.
One-man Shows	Power in the current system tends to concentrate around the chief of the political party, unless the party has internal discipline and conducts regular internal elections to prevent such concentration. This often results in "one-man" shows, leading to hero-worship and edging on the possibility of dictatorship in the guise of democracy.	his system prevents "one-man" shows in two ways: One, with every leader able to voice their independent opinion, a party chief cannot exercise unlimited power. Two, the vote count of a party chief is unlikely to exceed 10% of the total electoral votes because the chief, being a 'general' leader, may secure only one or two votes from each voter and as these votes would naturally get split among multiple party chiefs.

Voting Process

We enable voters to choose from <u>thousands</u> of candidates from across the nation or state with a simple voting process:
Take the Leader Cards of the leaders to the polling booth and scan them into the AVM.

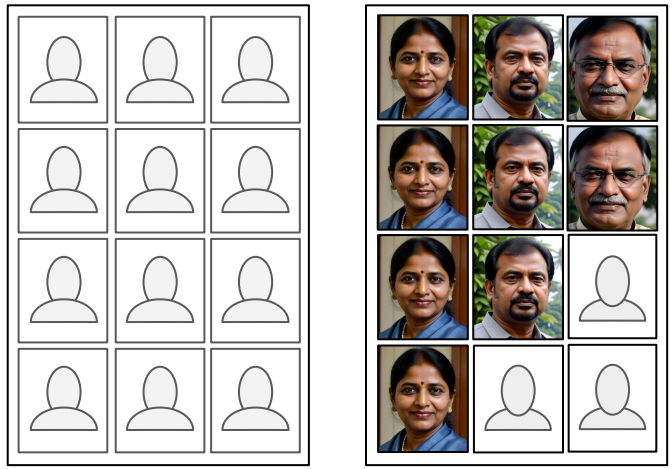
Leader Cards



Front **Back**

- Election Commission issues LIN (Leadership Identification Number) instead of election symbols to leaders
- Leaders create their own ‘Leader Cards’ and distribute to voters in paper and electronic form
- Voters obtain Leaders Cards of their chosen leaders well before the polling date, from websites, social media, eSeva centers, sending SMS or missed call to leaders, etc.

Advanced Voting Machines (AVMs)



Before Voting **After Voting**

- Polling booths equipped with AVMs with touchscreens instead of EVMs
  - With the same security and VVPAT
  - RVM features can be integrated to AVMs, enabling voters to vote at any polling station anywhere
- Voters take Leader Cards to the polling booth and scan them into the AVM, after selecting one of the twelve boxes on the touchscreen
  - Dummy AVMs at polling stations for practice

Additional Recommended Changes

1.
Nomenclature:

Rename:
Lok Sabha as National Leadership Council
Vidhan Sabha as State Leadership Council

Rationale:

The terms like Lok Sabhas, Vidhan Sabhas, MPs, MLAs do not capture the breadth and depth of the role the elected leaders play; the roles and responsibilities of legislators extend beyond legislating, both officially and unofficially

Official:
- Legislators become the part of the executive as ministers
- They serve on various committees
- The hold the executive accountable

Unofficial:
- People expect leaders to provide solutions for various issues, isolated and systemic
- Serve as social leaders - to provide guidance, moral and material support in good times as well as bad times, beyond the constitutional role
- Serve as access points to government institutions and services

2.
Online Debates and Voting:

Build an eCouncil online platform for legislators to post bills and resolutions, comments on them, and vote online

Benefits:

- No need for the leaders to travel to capital cities, physically assemble in the halls of legislatures, wait for their turn to talk, and compress their message into few minutes allotted
- Legislation can be done throughout the year; and leaders can spend time with constituents throughout the year
- Leaders can post comments at any time from anywhere, of any length in any language, and any format - text, audio and video, and; can be instantly translated to all other languages by human translators assisted with digital translators
- Legislatures can hold conferences and talks now and then, giving opportunities for leaders to meet in person with each other

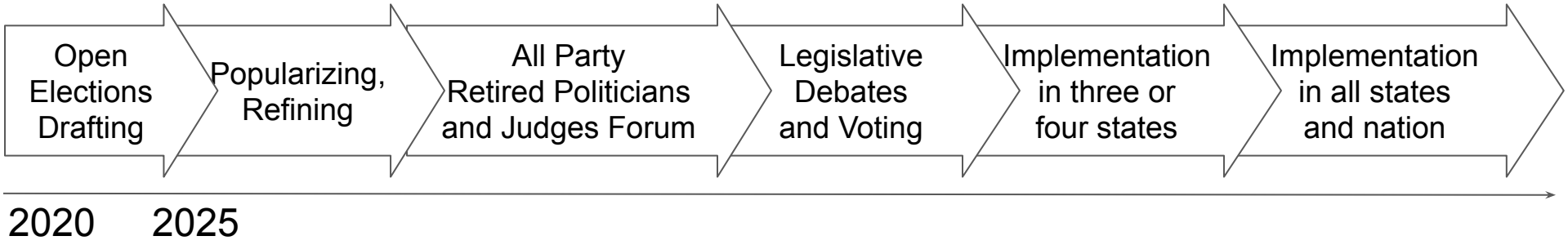
3.
Three & Five Year Terms:

Change the term of the legislatures (leadership councils) to three years, while continuing the executive with the current five year term and the provision of no-confidence motion

Rationale:

- Five year term for the Executive gives the stability needed for governance
- Three year term for legislators gives frequent opportunity for the leaders to present their improved vision to the voters, and course-correct as needed,
- Three year elections gives voters the opportunity to remove low performing leaders from the system sooner and retain the high performing leaders

Implementation Roadmap



- Elders (retired politicians, judges, political scientists, etc.) should come together
  - Discuss the model, refine it as needed, and recommend it to the governments and legislatures
  - Elders forum should be accorded the same significance as constituent assembly
- It should be implemented in three or four states to begin with
  - Of different sizes, in different parts of the country, governed by different political parties
  - And then adopted in other states and at the centre
- Open Elections Model does not exist anywhere in the world
  - Primarily because every major democracy remains stuck in the "paper-age" political system based on constituencies, FPTP, and a single-vote
  - Open Elections model is a variant of 'List PR' model, which is use in 70 countries*
  - It is close to one such variant called the Panachage model
- We will be the first in the world to implement it
  - Just as we were the first to implement UPI
  - As the largest democracy, we should lead the others rather than follow

* Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook, page 31
https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/electoral-system-design-new-international-idea-handbook?lang=en

The End!

Latest version of this presentation is available at:
https://openel.in/overview

The paper with full details of Open Elections is available at:
https://openel.in/paper