

# COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN FIRST-PAST-THE-POST SYSTEM (FPTP) AND PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION (PR) SYSTEM

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research paper is to draw a comparative analysis of the two most contested electoral systems, the ‘First-Past-The-Post’ (FPTP) system and the Proportional Representation (PR) system which predominantly serve as a moot point in many types of governments in many countries, transcending boundaries and continents; to answer questions on electoral legitimacy and governance. The FPTP, a form of plurality voting system, is a type of an electoral system in which people cast their votes to the candidate of their choice and the candidate with the highest number of votes wins. This is a widely adopted system across many polyarchies, democracies and Parliamentary forms of government. On the other hand, the PR system simply put, is a type of a voting mechanism adopted by most countries that seek to put forth their diverse representation of electoral candidates which often result in forming multi-party coalitions, as the number of seats to the elected candidates/ Parties stand in proportion to the number of votes cast to them. Case studies of two countries each from the FPTP or the ‘Simple Majority’ type of voting system and that of the Proportional Representation or the ‘Single Transferable Vote’ electoral system would be critically analysed, following with a thorough comparison of the working of the two systems in the countries under consideration will be done. The paper seeks not only to distinguish between the two systems of voting, but also assess their working across nations and countries of governance to check their viability, efficiency and their effectiveness in the voting of leaders and their accountability to the people therein. The research paper also focuses on trying to gauge the answers to some of the questions that challenge the foundation and functioning of the two systems of voting: “**Is FPTP a myth in a multi-party system or polyarchy?**” and “**Has the PR system been effective in promoting secularism in democratic countries?**” While the former one includes within it

questions pertaining to the fair representation of the minority parties in a country along with the upliftment of the minorities in that nation, the latter addresses questions with respect to some of the basic elements that are crucial to the proper functioning of the governments in power with a PR system of electing leaders; the elements being, the importance of ‘Closed-Party Lists’ and ‘Open-Party Lists’, that also play a part in justifying the three E’s (Effectiveness, Efficiency and Electoral- Efficacy). Thus, the paper looks to join all such dots to give the reader the idea of a ‘bigger picture’ with respect to the two ‘big’ questions that are explained and answered in the research paper. The ending lines of the paper seek to justify the purpose of the topic chosen, thereby giving a brief about the comparative analysis of the two electoral systems under scrutiny and how far they have fared with respect to their functioning in the types and forms of political parties and governments thereof.

**Keywords:** FPTP System, PR System, Electoral Systems, Simple Majority, Closed-Party List, Open-Party Lists.

## **METHODOLOGY**

In preparation of this research paper, secondary sources have been used as guiding principles. Paper comprises statistical data and comparative studies with quantitative analysis. Different online sources, research papers, articles and books have been referred to, for getting diverse points of views on the presented topic.

## **THE FIRST-PAST-THE-POST SYSTEM**

The FPTP electoral system performs better in the context of multi-party politics. According to the general election the voter prefers the candidate, this candidate will depend on the results in other constituencies. If there’s a case for three parties competing in a general election and voters care about national policy, the problem of the polarisation under FPTP is mitigated. FPTP performs better than traditional theory and it suggests the rise of multi-party politics and the coalition governments coming along. To mention an interesting perspective: the Southern African Development Community (SADC) that regards societies, political parties and policies, is most interested to be spent on the countries such as Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique,

Namibia, South Africa and Zambia. There are only a few states in Southern Africa that have continued with democracy since the first wave of democratisation. There is a different and unique historical background with respect to colonialism, post-colonialism and independence, and the transformation to a Polyarchy promotes competition and participation in Botswana, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia. Here, it can be observed that both the dimensions have the competition and participation, and they are constitutionally legitimised and institutionalised within the framework of a voting system and the number of Southern African democracies are also increased. The FPTP is likely to be implemented in rather homogeneous societies, generally resulting in a two-party system. This type of voting system results in the opposite effects and consequences for party systems and governmental constellations. In India, the first-past-the-post system is considered for direct elections of Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly, whereas for indirect elections that are like Rajya Sabha and legislative council elections, or for the election of president and vice president, proportional representation system is adopted. In the first-past-the-post system, the whole country is divided into different small geographical areas. In this the total seats allotted for a political party may or may not be equal to the votes.

## **PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEM**

Proportional representation (PR), an electoral system, in which divisions in an electorate are reflected proportionately in the elected body. For instance, if n% of the electorate backs a particular political party or set of candidates as their favourite, then rough estimation of n% of seats will be won by that party or those candidates. The characteristic of such system is that every vote contributes to the result. Its prevalent forms require the use of multiple members voting districts (also called super-districts), as it is not possible to fill a single seat in a proportional manner. In fact, PR systems that achieve the highest levels of proportionality tend to include districts with large numbers of seats. The most widely used families of PR electoral systems are party-list PR, the single transferable vote (STV), and mixed-member proportional representation.

**Party-list PR:** candidate lists and voters vote for each list determines how many candidates from each list are actually elected.

**Single transferable vote:** Uses multiple member districts, with voters casting only one vote each but ranking individual candidates in order of preference by providing back-up preferences.

**Mixed member proportional representation:** Also called the additional member system is a two-tier mixed electoral system combining local non proportional plurality/majoritarian elections and a compensatory regional or national party list PR election.

## **ELECTIONS IN FINLAND**

Finland has four types of election: The president, the parliament, the MEPs, and the municipal and city councils. It has a presidential election every six years, therein the President of Finland is elected in two rounds on the basis of a **direct popular vote**. It holds parliamentary elections every four year with a system of proportional representation in multiple seat constituencies. Its parliamentary elections use the **D'Hondt method**. The country has a multi-party system wherein it is uncommon for a single party to achieve a majority in **eduskunta**; thus, the governments consist of coalitions mostly. Finland has an allocation of 14 seats in the European Parliament. Municipal elections are held every four years. Municipal elections are conducted in separate manner in the Municipalities of Åland simultaneously the election of the Parliament of Åland.

**Presidential Elections:** The president is elected by popular vote method which is for a six-year term.

**Parliamentary Elections:** In the 2015 parliamentary elections which took place on 19 April 2015, the D'Hondt method of proportional representation, encouraged a multitude of political parties and resulted in many coalition- cabinets. Whilst the D'Hondt method is easy to understand and use, it also tends to favor large established political parties. For example: In record, there were 2,000 candidates representing 18 different parties including independents running for the 200 seats in the 2007 election, and those who were elected came from only 8 parties. The Prime Minister of Finland is appointed by the president, on the basis of the vote in the parliamentary elections.

## **ELECTIONS IN ISRAEL**

Elections in Israel adopt proportional representation nationwide. The electoral threshold currently accounts for 3.25%, with the number of seats a party receives in the **Knesset** being proportional to the number of votes it receives. The Knesset is elected in every four-year term. Israel has a multi-party system on the basis of the coalition governments as no party has ever won a majority of seats in a national election, even though the Alignment briefly held a majority following its formation by an alliance or coalition of multiple different parties prior to the 1969 elections.

**Voting Method:** Israel's voting method has a simplification system as it is supported by the fact that voters vote for a political party and not specific candidates in a **closed list system**.

## **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO ELECTORAL SYSTEMS**

The differences between the two electoral systems namely First Past the Post and Proportional Representation are discussed in terms of its merits, demerits, supportive arguments and against arguments respectively:

### ***First Past the Post System***

Merits of FPTP system:

**Homogeneity:** The foremost boon of the FPTP system is its unsophisticated nature using single member districts and candidate-centred voting. Furthermore, the system provides voters a choice to choose between people and parties as well, with voters having the opportunity to assess the performance of a candidate rather than accepting candidates presented by a party, as happens under the list system.

**Solidity:** The FPTP system has been recognised for consistency and stability in the electoral system. The FPTP system holds the crisp of producing a majority government at a general election by being decisive, simple and familiar to the electorate. To mention, the Supreme Court in *RC Poudyal v. Union of India* (1994) had classified the FPTP system as owning 'the merit of preponderance of decisiveness over representativeness'.

Participatory & Connectedness: FPTP system calls for political parties to have more broad-based participation. Moreover, it also comprehends a linkage between a constituency and its representative in the legislature and incentivises representatives to look upon their constituents well.

Demerits of FPTP system:

Exclusion of minority: The rampant criticism levelled against the FPTP system is that it has limitation and exclusion of small or regional parties from the Parliament. There is commonly a discrepancy in the sharing of results in terms of vote share and seat share, where votes secured by minority parties are 'wasted' since they don't have a voice in the legislature.

Inconsistency: FPTP system by its features, holds the fact that it facilitates a majoritarian (and hence more democratic) government, is itself unable to adequately secure majoritarianism in a multiparty system as the winning candidate wins only about 20-30% of the votes. For example, the INC whopped the margin with 49.10% of the total vote share in the 1984 General Elections to the Lok Sabha, but recorded a sweeping majority which was 405 out of 515 seats in the House.

***Proportional Representation:***

Merits:

Fairness: PR systems cut off some of the more destabilising and 'unfair' results created by plurality-majority electoral systems. 'Seat bonuses' for the larger parties are deducted, and hence small parties can have access to parliament without securing major amounts of votes.

Inclusion of Minority: Any political party with even a few percent electoral support shall gain representation in the legislature. This facilitates the principle of inclusion, which is a crucial factor for the stability in divided societies, and therefore has a share for decision-making in all democracies.

Promotes Wide Participation: The incentive under List PR systems is to maximise the national vote, regardless of area. To deepen, every vote, even from an electorally vulnerable area, goes towards bridging a gap by fulfilling another quota, and thus securing another seat. While this point seems to be basic, the experience of South Africa reckons that List PR gives the political space which enables parties to participate multi-racial, and multi-ethnic, lists of candidates.

Restriction of Regional Fiefdoms: PR systems reward minority parties with a minority of the seats, thus ensuring no situations where a single party holds all the seats in a given province or district.

Leads to more Efficient Government: It has been argued that governments elected by PR method natures are comparatively more effective than those elected by First Past the Post (FPTP). The Western European experience suggests that parliamentary-PR systems perform better with regard to governmental longevity, voter participation and economic performance. The rationality behind this statement is that regular shifts or switches in government between two ideologically polarised parties, which may happen in FPTP systems, makes long-term economic planning more unfeasible, while broad PR coalition governments help engineer a stable and coherent decision-making that allows for national development.

Demerits:

The most cited arguments against of PR system are the following:

Coalition Government: Coalition type of governments in turn leads to legislative gridlock and the insufficiency to draw coherent policies at a time of most pressing need. Coherent decision-making can be impeded by coalition cabinets which are split by factions.

Fragmentation: PR facilitates a fragmentation of the party system. It is risky that a polarised pluralism may allow faction minority parties to hold larger parties to ransom in coalition negotiations. In this regard, the inclusiveness of PR is cited as a drawback of the system. For example, In Israel, extremist religious parties do take roles in forming a government.

Criticism:

The major of criticisms of Proportional Representation (PR) are targeted at two broad themes:

- the tendency for possible rise in biases to coalition governments with their intended disadvantages; and
- the failure of the system to facilitate a strong geographical connectedness between MP and the MP's electorate.

In addition, closed list(national) PR has been criticised for equipping surplus power embedded within party and senior party leadership. A candidate's position, and therefore chance of his/her success, is dependent on bias/favour of party leaders, whose bonding with the electorate should be of secondary importance.

## **CASE STUDY OF COUNTRIES WITH FPTP SYSTEM:**

### ***First Past the Post System in India:***

India is the largest democracy in the world, with estimably 600 million voters. The adoption of parliamentary government and First Past the Post (FPTP) electoral system, is a legacy left behind by the colonialism of Britishers, which ended in 1947. India adopted the First Past the Post (FPTP) system as a voting method for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies elections after immediate Independence which still continues to be practiced till date.

The Paradox: In 2014, the National Democratic Alliance secured 336 seats (38.5%). In contrast, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) recorded the 3rd major share of votes with 4.2% across the country but ended without winning a single seat.

- Sometimes this system is regarded as useless, as votes in a constituency for unsuccessful candidates, counts null or of no use.
- This system enumerates parties with so called ‘bulging’ support; in other words, with just securing the highest votes to win in each constituency, rather than actually allowing seats with actual people’s support.
- As this system revokes an actual constituency’s choice of candidates, the representation of minorities and women most likely not to happen.

The FPTP system wholly can’t be dependent on to offer a legislature reflecting the various needs, aspirations and opinions expressed at the election procedure and its conduct; and it doesn’t necessarily claim or direct in power a government supported by the majority of the cabinet.



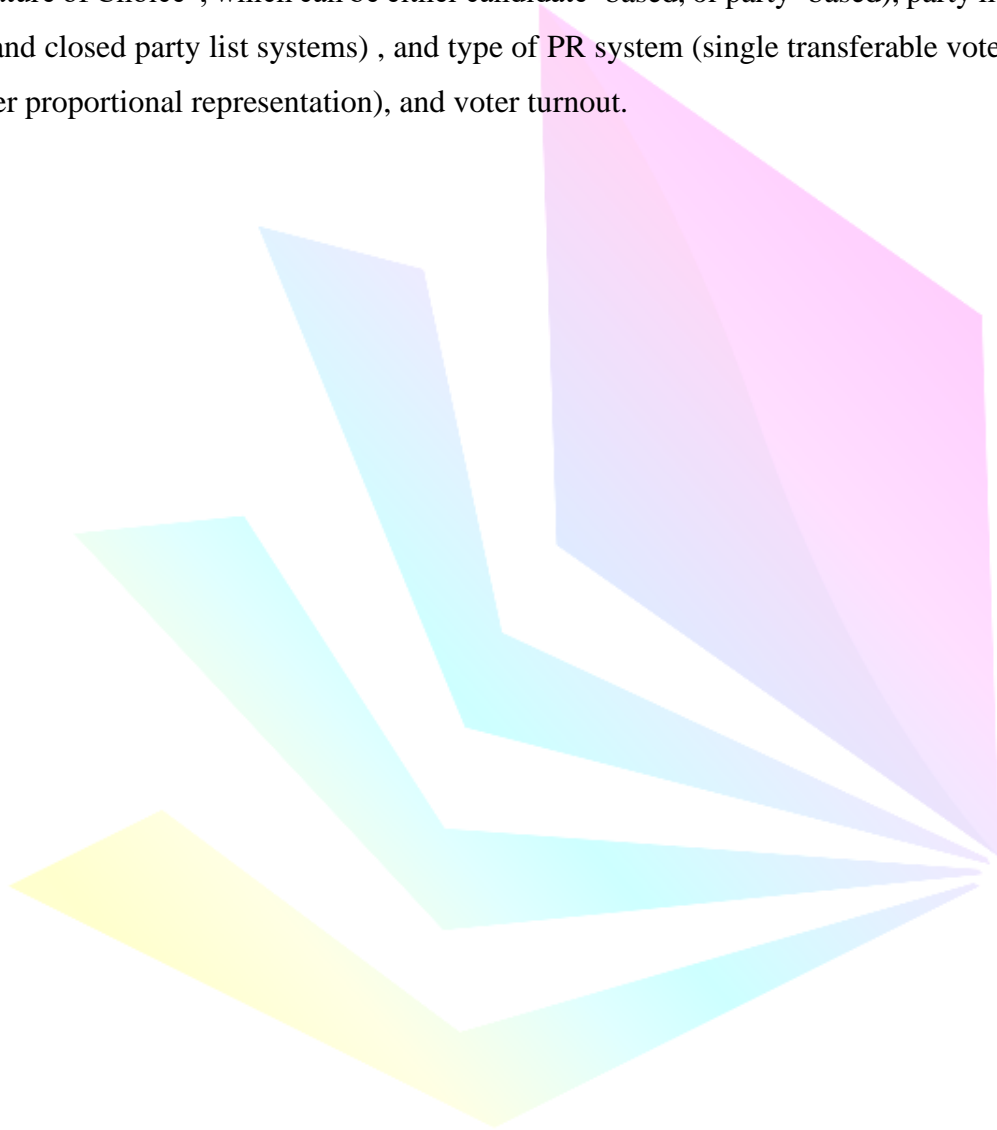
## **IS FPTP A MYTH IN A MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM OR POLYARCHY?**

The FPTP electoral system performs comparatively better in the context of multi-party politics. In a general election, a voter's preferred candidate depends on the results in other constituencies. When there's a case wherein three parties compete in a general election, and voters consider national policy, the serious problem of polarisation under FPTP is mitigated. FPTP as an electoral system performs relatively better than traditional theory suggests because of the height of multi-party politics and the coalition governments that come along. In the system, both the dimensions have the dynamic competition and participation, and they are constitutionally legitimised and institutionalised within the framework of a voting system. FPTP has a probability to be implemented in rather homogeneous societies, generally resulting in a two-party system. This voting system has predominant opposite effects and consequences for party systems and governmental constellations. In India, first past the post system is opted for direct elections of Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly, but for indirect elections that is like Rajya Sabha and legislative council elections, or for the election of president and vice president, proportional representation system is adopted. In FPTP the whole country is divided into different small geographical areas. In this the total seats allotted to a political party may or may not be equal to the votes.

## **HAS THE PR SYSTEM BEEN EFFECTIVE IN PROMOTING SECULARISM IN DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES?**

A number of factors come to play when deciding the efficiency and effectiveness of the type of electoral system, in countries around the globe. The 'type of elections' is one of the most common differentiators when it comes to the working of a government. Elections can be direct or indirect. In the case of democratic countries, elections take place by electing their leaders (presidents, prime ministers'. Etc) directly, as in the case of France, India. Etc, have an edge over the ones that elect their leaders indirectly (Germany, the U.S ). The second common differentiator is the type of electoral system that a country adopts, be it the simple majority system or the single transferable vote one. Let us critically analyse a couple of democratic countries having a PR type of electoral system and a few parameters that describe their religious freedom, equality, discrimination , minority representation, district magnitude (the number of

candidates who will be elected to a legislature from any given constituency, depending on whether it is a single- member or a multi-member district), ballot structure (One characteristic is the “Extent of Choice” comprising of categorical- allowing voters to vote for a single candidate or party, and ordinal- voters are allowed to vote for multiple candidates or parties by ranking them according to their preferences. The other characteristic of ballot structure is the “Nature of Choice”, which can be either candidate- based, or party- based), party list system (open and closed party list systems) , and type of PR system (single transferable vote, Mixed-Member proportional representation), and voter turnout.



Countries	Religious Freedom	Equality and discrimination	Minority Representation in Parliament	District Magnitude (DM) and Voter Turnout Ratio (VTR)	Ballot Structure	Party-List PR - system and Electoral Thresh-holds	Type of PR system
U.S	The 1 <sup>st</sup> amendment to the constitution allows the freedom to practice any religion or no religion at all.	About 75% of the women face gender discrimination and sexual harassment. 40% US citizens are averse to Muslims.	22% of U.S House of Representatives and Senate are racial and ethnic minorities, with 39% making up the national population. Hispanics, blacks, Asians, and Native Americans are the highest number of minorities, respectively.	Single member districts (total 435 congressional districts), with a DM of 1/district. VTR- 55.5% in 2016.	Categorical Ballot structure in single-member districts, with the nature of choice being a candidate-centred approach.	Open party list system. A minimum of 270 votes are needed to win the presidential elections out of the 538 electoral votes.	Party list PR system, the US House of Representatives uses it, where seats are apportioned based on the state population.
Australia	Section 116 of the const. claims that the Commonwealth shall not make any law for establishing or promoting any religion.	Australia was one of the first countries to implement gender budgeting in the 1970s. In 2018-19, complaints registered in Australia, mainly related to Disability Discrimination Act -44%, Sex and Racial Discrimination Acts at 25% and 16% respectively.	Aboriginal people, Torres Strait Islanders, and South sea Islanders constitute about 2.8% of Australian population. Representation in Parliament: Women- 37% in lower house, Indigenous people -Less than 2% in major parties, Disability candidates 1% out of 18% population, Cultural backgrounds- 1 in 10 candidates.	DM > 3 as it is a multi-member constituency, with South Australia and New South Wales electing members to the upper house on a state-wide basis, forming a single-constituency As per 2016 data, the VTR was 91% for House of Representatives and 91.9% for the Senate elections.	Ordinal Ballot structure, Upper House- Multi-member districts Lower House- single-member districts, through the 'Australian Ballot'. The nature of choice being a candidate-centred approach.	Closed party list system, choosing multiple candidates from a party, whose votes would be proportional to the seats in the parliament.	Single Transferable Vote system (STV) for upper houses and Senate elections, the voters, transferring the votes from one candidate to another (by using Gregory Method and Inclusive Gregory method) Hare-Clark system for the lower house, where there is no provision for group ticket voting as in the upper house, with preferential voting, allowing a person to rank

							a minimum of 5 candidates.
Germany	<p>Articles 3 and 4 promote religious freedom and non-discrimination of religious groups under the German laws.</p> <p>However, racial and gender-based discrimination is rampant.</p>	<p>According to the EU report of 2019, Germany ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in Gender-Equality Index.</p> <p>The largest ethnic, non-German migrants-groups are the Turkish Germans, about 4 million in population (1.8%), and Muslims/Islam people 5 million in population (5%), are the most discriminated.</p> <p>Other discriminated ethnic groups include: Polish(1%), Muslims(5%), Syrians(1%), and others (9%).</p>	<p>Only 1/3<sup>rd</sup> seats in the German Parliament are allotted to women (29%), 1.8% of them are migrants (foreign migrants make up national population of 19.5%),</p>	<p>There are 16 multi-member districts with a DM of 3 to 6.</p> <p>VTR- 76.2% as of 2017 elections.</p>	<p>Both categorical for single-member districts, and Ordinal for electing seats to the parties to (party lists) form coalition governments (almost always), are adopted.</p>	<p>Both open party lists (FPTP, single-member constituency), and closed-party lists (apart from the seats of the leading party, for remaining seats) are used.</p> <p>Two electoral thresholds- the party has to win at least 5% of the (second vote) nationwide party list, (or) win at least three seats of the 299 constituencies (first vote).</p> <p>Overhang seats: If a party wins more seats through the first vote, these increase the number of seats in the Parliament (from 598-631 currently)</p>	<p>Mixed Member Proportional Representation MMP, wherein the voter votes for a candidate through FPTP as the 1<sup>st</sup> vote, and chooses a party as a second vote, where the votes of the proportional to the number of seats in the Bundestag. (PR system).</p>
New Zealand	<p>New Zealand has no state religion, and the constitution lays several basic laws that allow practice of any religion while prohibiting discrimination on any ground and teaching to be made secular.</p> <p>New Zealand Bill</p>	<p>The largest discriminated minority groups include Maori indigenous people (14.9%), Pacific Islanders(7.4%), Hindus (1.5%), Muslims(1.3%), and Buddhists (1.1%). Pay gap between males and females in 2019, accounted for 9.3%.</p>	<p>The government has been diverse in including a variety of candidates to contest elections: Maori electors or any ethnic group voters can choose to be either on the national electoral roll (general electorates, 65), or the Maori roll which elects 5 Maori MPs to the Parliament (as of 2020, there are 7 Maori electorates)</p>	<p>VTR as of 2017 elections:</p> <p>General electorate- 80.83%, Maori electorate – 79.75%.</p> <p>DM= 1, under single-member districts to elect local MPs to the Parliament.</p>	<p>Ordinal (for electing multiple candidates according to the ranked parties) and categorical (for electing local MPs through the FPTP system under single-member electorates) ballot structures used, as it is a mix of FPTP and</p>	<p>Electoral Thresholds- 5% or more votes for party elections to 120 member-the House of Representatives, (or) win at least 1 electorate seat to the Parliament, all to qualify for list seats.</p> <p>The number of parliament seats is 120, and electorate seats from single member constituencies (FPTP) through</p>	<p>Multi-Member PR system. The switch from FPTP to MMP has diversified the composition of the parliament, with women MPs representing about 21% in the last FPTP House of Representatives election to 29% in the first MMP election (1996),</p>

	of Right Act 1990 provides for freedom of thought, conscience ,and religion.				PR electoral systems.	open party lists increased to 72, due to increase in Maori and other minority representations, while the remaining seats (48) are filled through order of preference from votes gathered under closed party- list. Saint Laguë formula is used to allocate seats.	whereas during the same time period, Maori MPs jumped from 7 to 13%. Now, there exists greater Asian and Pacific Islanders representation, comprising about 10% of the Parliament.
Israel	<p>The Basic Law on Human Dignity and Liberty, 1992; The Protection of Holy Places Law, 1967; The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel (1948), all guarantee civil and human liberties, right to visit all holy places regardless of religious affiliation, and freedom of religion respectively.</p> <p>However, all such laws have proven to be inefficient in protecting religious</p>	<p>The main minority groups of Israel according to the 2018 data of the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS) are:</p> <p>Palestine citizens(21%), Arabs (20.95%), Muslims(18%), Christians(2%), and Druze(1.6%).</p> <p>Women on an average, earn 31.6% less than men.</p> <p>The 2003 Law of Citizenship and Entry prohibits resident- status to all Syrians, Lebanese, Iraqis, Iranians, Palestinians of West Bank and Gaza Strip, including those who are spouses of Israeli residents. This makes it obvious for coalition</p>	<p>The Nation-State Law, 2018 states that</p> <p>Political parties that deny that Israel is a ‘Jewish State’ , are banned by law, which is one of the problems of Palestinian Israeli under- representation. It also removes Arab as it’s official language and replaces it Hebrew. New Laws also declare Christian Arabs as a separate minority, thus downgrading it’s equal status from Muslim Arabs, which constitute over 80% of the 1,60,000 Christians in Israel.</p>	<p>DM=Total number of members in the legislature= 120.</p> <p>VTR as of 2020 elections- 71.32%.</p> <p>However, in the April 2019 snap elections, there was a markedly low turnout by Palestinian citizens, less than 50%. The Palestinians wanted to continue fighting for their representation , and so, their VTR in the 2020 elections rose by 10%.</p>	<p>Categorical ballot structure, with the whole country as a single constituency , wherein each voter has one vote to choose a party. The nature of choice is a Party- Centred approach to gathering votes and winning elections.</p>	<p>Electoral Threshold- 3.25% of votes, to be able to get a seat in the Knesset , which means the smallest possible list of a Knesset party is 4 seats.</p> <p>There can also be ‘Surplus vote agreements’ between coalition parties that share the reaming seats in the legislature.</p> <p>Israel follows a closed-party list system, wherein, voters vote only for a political party and not for any individual candidates.</p>	<p>PR list system, wherein leaders are elected directly, and the number of seats is proportional to the number of votes each party receives. Till date, no party has gained a single majority (61+ seats) forming only coalition parties at the centre.</p> <p>Bader-Ofer Method is used to allocate seats.</p>

## CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Carey and Shugart (1995), studied how a country's electoral system resorts to either a candidate-centred approach or a party-based approach to gaining votes and winning elections. They found out three important factors that could influence such approaches of the candidates or parties in countries. These are: Ballot Structure- comprising the "Extent of Choice", and the "Nature of Choice", and the district magnitude, all of which are defined above the chart.

They differentiated between 'single-vote list'/ categorical/nominal systems, with systems of 'multiple votes' (i.e. ordinal systems). According to their theory, the "Personal Reputation" of a candidate is highest in nominal systems. According to them, "When multiple votes are cast (as under an ordinal ballot structure), the personal reputation is not as significantly important as when all candidates are simultaneously competing for an undivided support of each voter (as under a categorical ballot structure)." That is, the lower the ballot control, the greater the chances for candidates to place emphasis on their personal reputation. The District Magnitude (DM) can vary depending upon the "Nature of Choice" (i.e. Party-based or candidate-based) of the Ballot structure.

In systems where voters cast party-based votes, the personal reputation of the candidates decreases as the DM increases. Whereas, in systems where voters cast candidate-based votes, with a nominal structure of voting, as the DM rises; and the candidates face more inter-party and intra-party competitors, the drive for personal vote-chasing increases. According to George Hallett, STV, a principal strength, is the maximisation of voter choice., wherein the voter is saved from any worry of wasting his vote. STV is an intermediate category, wherein voters can designate to whom their votes should be transferred if they are not needed to elect their first choice, or if their first choice is too unpredictable to be considered'. Whereas the list systems (of PR type), in terms of their ordinality, are taken to be under the category of 'Pooling across the whole country' and are placed on the opposite extreme (Carey and Shugart 1995: 422).

➤ As under the U.S electoral system using PR list system, with the DM=1, and the ballot structure (Ballot)= categorical or 1 vote/person, the personal reputation of the candidate is of prior importance, and so the system in U.S becomes a candidate-centred electoral system.

➤ As under the Australian electoral system using STV, the DM= 3 or more, and the Ballot= ordinal or multiple votes/candidates. Since the Tasmanian and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), have rejected 'Above the Line Voting or Group Voting by groups of a certain religion or ethnic minorities, women ..etc, stating that it reduces the discretion and independence of the elector to cast a vote according to his or her conscience; each vote cast by the voter makes it of personal importance to the candidate being elected, hence, following a candidate-based electoral system. The Australian Government also resorted to "Robson Rotation", ensuring that the listing of candidates belonging to a party grouping varies on ballot papers. This in turn curbs what is known as "Donkey Voting", wherein the voter simply allocates votes from top to bottom of the list.

➤ Germany has a Mixed- member PR system, with a DM= 3 to 6 in the 16 multi-member constituencies, and a Ballot= both categorical in the single member districts and ordinal in the multi-member ones. Thus, it falls in between a candidate and a party-based ballot structure.

➤ New Zealand also is more or less the same as Germany and falls between a candidate and a party-based ballot structure.

➤ Israel has a list type of PR system, with a high DM=120, and with a Ballot=Categorical with the whole country as a single constituency, thus diminishing the drive to gain more personal reputation by the candidates and adopt a party-based electoral system. When multiple votes are cast, the candidates from one party, run as a bloc (thus, forming a coalition as in the case of Israel's parties at the centre till date) , rather than running against each other.

The Ballot Structures of an electoral system have a direct bearing on the type of constituencies/electorates/ districts a county is based on, which are of two types: Single-member constituencies and multi-member constituencies. If the number of candidates to be returned in a district rises, the thresholds required for elections decrease, and in doing so there is greater proportionality of outcomes (Rae 1971). As a result, in multi-member districts, upon increasing the number of candidates to be returned, in which case the DM decreases, thus leading the threshold to decrease, allowing greater chances of candidates preferred by the people getting elected, ensuring greater proportionality of outcomes.

According to Arend Lijphart 1999 and others, candidate-based systems have greater voter-satisfaction than party-based ones. Thus, countries like Australia and Ireland would have a higher number of happy voters.

Therefore, the characteristics of a good electoral system, such as DM, VTR, type of electoral systems, Ballot Structure, Religious Freedom, Equality and discrimination, Minority Representation in Parliament, all of which are analysed above, have a direct influence on the wellbeing of a country in terms of its voter satisfaction, political stability, economic growth, in short the holistic development of a country. With all of these parameters required to gain a government functioning at an optimal level, In the democratic countries that we've analysed, the PR system came to be seen as effective in Australia, New Zealand, and Germany to an extent. U.S plays an intermediate role here, as though it is a candidate-based electoral system, the majority parties, that is, the Republicans may resort to practices such as using Gerrymandering (manipulating the district boundaries, in order to gain more votes), Nuclear Option (used to predominantly break a legislative law, often used by Republicans to reduce the number of votes required to achieve a 'Super Majority- 60 votes, to a simple majority- 51 votes in order to stop the Filibuster rule; a practice often used by minorities, that is the Democrats to stop or postpone the passing of a law.)..etc to be in power and suppress the minority parties. Israel, with its biased electoral rules against minorities such as Muslims, Palestinians, Christians, Arabs. etc, has maintained coalition parties at the centre, most of which are only of majority groups (Such as Jews, and to a slight extent, Arab).

## **CONCLUSION**

It is conclusive that the purpose of the research topic has sought to facilitate and elucidate on the concepts of the First Past-the-Post and the PR systems of elections. The case study of India for FPTP, further gives a brief about how the world's largest democracy has fared by adopting the FPTP form of electoral system. The answer to the first of the two questions, "FPTP being a myth in a multi-party system or polyarchy," holds water to the fact that FPTP, though not as good as a Mixed-Member-Proportional Representation system, has proven to work effectively, resulting in the formation of coalition parties that could be 'inclusive' in countries like India, and Canada. The answer to the latter question, "The PR system's credibility in being effective



in promoting secularism in democratic countries,” has been successful in critically analysing the three E’s (Effectiveness, Efficiency and Electoral-Efficacy) for a few democratic countries with some or the other type of PR systems like Germany, the U.S, New Zealand, Israel, and Australia., by taking into account crucial parameters like VTR, DM, Ballot Structure. Etc. It therefore becomes important for countries to amend the values of such parameters according to their political regimes and experiences, in order to achieve a cornucopia of developmental gains such as voter satisfaction, higher overall happiness of the country, more inclusivity of minority groups, thereby ameliorating the holistic growth of countries in every way possible.

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