Madhesis: Faith in democracy

Why in news?

Nepal’s Madhesis are seeking both grassroots democracy and state restructuring.

What are the issues with Madhesis?

• A strong political movement seeking enlarged participation of the Terai in Nepal’s politics and policymaking emerged in 2007.
• The Tharus, the largest group of original settlers of the terai region and do not like to get called as Madhesis.
• The Madhes has historically been part of the larger Mithila region and are slightly lesser than tharus population.
• There is a struggle for ethnicity, Identity and political sturdiness by the Madhesis.
• Most of the Madhesis lives in Nepal Bordering Uttar Pradesh.
• On basis of this issue Nepal constitution as been amended many number of times.

What are the demands of the Madhesis?

• Federalisation is a desperate demand for recognition and inclusion.
• The Madhesis are expecting to meet their demands in a democratic way.
They demand for opportunities in the government, the bureaucracy and the security forces.

Few Madhesi parties, demand for amendments to be made to the Constitution before the Lok Sabha polls.

What are the hardships to attain the demands?

The Community party had steadfastly opposed any change to the Constitution finalised in 2015.

Specifically, amendments that would allow a redrawning of the provinces, as demanded by the plains-dwellers, the Madhesis.

Many Madhesi parties are planned for boycotting the Lok Sabha polls.

What can be done?

To meet their demands the Madhesis should contest in elections.

This is why two other Madhesi forces, the Federal Socialist Forum and the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum Loktantrik decided to participate in the elections.

Madhesi faith in democracy must be secured with the promised amendments.

India needs to help in safeguarding the Madhesis democratic interest.