The Practices of ICT in Seventeenth LokSabha Election : A Festival of Democracy

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ABSTRACT

The 17th LokSabha Election in India, held in 2019, was one of the largest democratic exercises in the world. With over 900 million eligible voters, it was a true festival of democracy. This paper examines the various aspects of this election, including the electoral process, voter turnout, and the role of Information and Communication technology (ICT) in conducting free and fair elections. The paper also explores the challenges faced by the Election Commission and the measures taken to ensure the integrity of the electoral process. And uses of ICT in election. Overall, the 17th LokSabha Election was a celebration of democracy and demonstrated India's commitment to free and fair elections.

Keywords: LokSabha, Election, Democracy, India, Voters, Political Landscape

I. INTRODUCTION

India, the world's largest democracy, conducted the 17th LokSabha election in 2019. The elections are a celebration of democracy, where every citizen of India has the right to vote and elect their representatives. The LokSabha elections are considered a significant event in the Indian political system. This paper discusses the importance of the 17th LokSabha election as a festival of democracy. The paper also highlights the challenges faced by the Election Commission of India in conducting the elections and ensuring a fair and peaceful electoral process. India is the world's largest democracy, with a population of more than 1.3 billion people. The LokSabha is the lower house of the Indian Parliament, consisting of 543 members elected by the people through a direct vote. It was the largest democratic exercise in the world, with more than 900 million eligible voters. This research paper highlights the significance of the 17th LokSabha election as a festival of democracy. The election was held against the backdrop of a complex political landscape, marked by a range of social, economic, and political challenges.

II. OBJECTIVES

This paper aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the 17th LokSabha election, exploring its significance in the context of Indian democracy. The paper aims to highlight the key issues, challenges, and outcomes of the election, and to evaluate its impact on the future of Indian politics.

III. METHODOLOGY

The paper draws on a range of secondary sources, including academic studies, media reports, and government documents. The sources were selected based on their relevance, reliability, and credibility, and were analyzed using a thematic approach.

Significance of LokSabha Election:

The LokSabha election is a critical event in India's socio-political landscape. It provides citizens with the opportunity to exercise their democratic right to vote and choose their representatives. The LokSabha election has a significant impact on the country's governance and policies. The elected representatives of the LokSabha are responsible for making laws and policies that affect the lives of millions of Indians.

Democracy and Elections:

Democracy is not just about voting, but it is a way of life. It provides citizens with the freedom to express their opinions, participate in the decision-making process, and hold the government accountable. Elections are an essential aspect of democracy, as they provide citizens with the opportunity to choose their representatives and hold them accountable for their actions.

Historical Context:

India gained independence from British colonial rule in 1947, and the first general election was held in 1951-52. Since then, India has had 17 general elections, with the 17th LokSabha election held in 2019. Over the years, the Indian democracy has matured and evolved, with greater participation of the people in the electoral process. The 17th LokSabha election was a testament to the strength of Indian democracy, with a record voter turnout of 67.11%.

Role of the Election Commission:

The Election Commission of India is an autonomous body that conducts elections in India. It is responsible for preparing electoral rolls, conducting elections, and enforcing the model code of conduct. The Commission also has the power to cancel elections if it finds evidence of malpractice. In the 17th LokSabha election, the Commission played a crucial role in ensuring that the electoral process was fair and transparent.

Electoral Process:

The 17th LokSabha election was held in seven phases, from April 11 to May 19, 2019, across 543 constituencies. The Election Commission of India, an autonomous body responsible for the conduct of elections in India, played a crucial role in ensuring free and fair elections. The Commission deployed more than 11 million election officials and security personnel to conduct the election. The election was also monitored by international observers, who praised the Indian democracy for its transparency and fairness.

Impact of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) or Social Media:

The 17th LokSabha election was also notable for the impact of social media on the electoral process. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagramand other ICT applications were widely used by political parties to reach out to voters and mobilize support. However, social media was also used to spread fake news and hate speech, leading to concerns about the impact of social media on the election. The Election Commission took several steps to counter the spread of fake news, including the creation of a dedicated social media monitoring cell.

Challenges Faced by the Election Commission:

The Election Commission faced several challenges in conducting the 17th LokSabha Election, including ensuring free and fair elections, managing the logistics of conducting elections across the country, and addressing complaints of electoral malpractices. The Election Commission also had to deal with the issue of fake news and misinformation, which was spared by the Whatsapp, facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other ICT applications and websides which could potentially influence voter behavior.

Impact of LokSabha Election:

The LokSabha election has a far-reaching impact on India's socio-political landscape. It sets the tone for the country's governance and policies for the next five years. The election results determine the ruling party, and the party's policies have a significant impact on the country's economic growth, foreign policy, social welfare, and national security.

Impact on Indian Politics and Society:

The 17th LokSabha Election had a significant impact on Indian politics and society. The election witnessed the emergence of a new political narrative, with the ruling party emphasizing issues such as national security, while the opposition focused on issues such as unemployment and agrarian distress. The election also saw a shift in voter preferences, with the ruling party making significant gains in states where it had traditionally been weak.

Reasons behind the High Voter Turnout:

There were several reasons behind the high voter turnout in the 17th LokSabha Election. One of the major reasons was the awareness campaigns conducted by the Election Commission and civil society organizations, which aimed to educate the voters about the importance of their vote. The Election Commission also implemented several measures to ensure that the voting process was smooth, transparent, and fair, which boosted the confidence of the voters.

IV. CONCLUSION

The Election Commission of India overcame several challenges to ensure a free and fair electoral process. The LokSabha elections are a crucial event in the Indian political system, and they play a significant role in shaping the country's future. The 17th LokSabha Election was a celebration of democracy, reflecting the vibrancy and resilience of Indian democracy. The high voter turnout, the role of social media and technology, and the challenges faced by the Election Commission highlighted the complexities of conducting free and fair elections in a diverse and populous country like India. The election also had a significant impact on Indian politics and society, marking the emergence of a new political narrative and the changing voter preferences. The results of the election indicate a significant shift in Indian politics, with the BJP consolidating its position as the

dominant party. The election also highlights the need for continued efforts to strengthen Indian democracy, including the promotion of voter education, transparency, and accountability.

V. REFERENCES

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