

The Book Review of “Electoral Dynamics in the State of India”

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Abstract: The election for largest democracy requires huge fund and time. With the nature of campaigning, caste, class and identity politics, electoral issues, poll strategies of different parties in the fray, electoral issues, electoral verdicts, the contestants, the leadership factor, and the formation of government. This book will be an essential reference for scholars and researchers of politics, especially political processes, elections, political participation, governance, and South Asian studies. It will also be of great interest to bureaucrats, think tanks, and policymakers by sandeep shastri, ashutosh kumar and Yatindra Singh Sisodia.

Key words: Election, states of India

Book Name: ELECTORAL DYNAMICS IN THE STATE OF INDIA

Subject: LAW

Author: sandeep shastri, ashutosh kumar and Yatindra Singh Sisodia

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About the Author

1. Sandeep Shastri is the Vice Chancellor of Jagran Lakecity University, India, and the National Coordinator of the Lokniti Network. As a founder member of Lokniti, he has been actively involved in all its activities for the last quarter century. He has been a UNDP Consultant, a World Bank Adviser, and a Senior Adviser to the Forum of Federations.
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SUMMARY OF THE BOOK

Electoral politics is one of the important principles of Indian politics. Through the lens of survey research, Lokniti-CSDS (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies) has been bringing to the global audience a snapshot of peoples’ perceptions of politics, governance, and administration in India. The chapters, which form a part of this volume, appropriately titled ‘Electoral Dynamics in the States of India’.

The present volume on offer prefers to choose a different route. It views a national election verdict from the perspective of the constituent states of the Indian union. As one reads through the chapters in the volume, the state-level specificities, in electoral terms, become clearly apparent. Verily, in India, the ‘states’ continue to remain the ‘centre’ of politics.

The book is having Lokniti as a programme of the CSDS and an All-India network of scholars dedicated to the study of Indian politics has been conducting post-poll surveys around every major parliamentary and assembly election since 1996. Over the last quarter-century, the outcomes of these studies have been published both in the popular media and in academic journals.

In the chapter 1 of introduction author has discussed The 2019 Lok Sabha verdict at the state level. Present volume seeks to approach India’s electoral politics from the unique prism of the states of India.

Choosing the 2019 Lok Sabha elections as the site for a deeper analysis of the emerging trends and patterns in Indian politics, this study draws on the rich data emerging from the Lokniti – Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) National Election Study (NES).

In the part 1 there is 6 sub chapters which are with regards to northern states electoral process and strategy that various governments has followed

1. Explaining the two Delhi verdicts in comparative perspective: Party identification, leadership, and welfare
2. The INC win in Punjab: An outlier in the north
3. Continuity and change in Haryana politics: Lok Sabha and assembly elections, 2019
4. BJP's clean sweep with a record margin left the INC clueless in Himachal Pradesh
5. Bharatiya Janata Party victory in Uttar Pradesh: A shift from caste-based politics
6. Electoral politics in a hill state: 2019 elections in Uttarakhand.

In the part 2 there is 3 sub chapters which are with regards to central states electoral process and strategy that various governments has followed

1. Madhya Pradesh: Continued ascendance of the Bharatiya Janata Party 111
2. Decoding the sweeping BJP victory in Rajasthan
3. What sealed BJP's victory in Chhattisgarh?

In the part 3 there are 3 sub chapters which are with regards to western states electoral process and strategy that various governments has followed

1. Maharashtra: (The pangs of) transitions into a new party system
2. Gujarat: Caste, region, and political leadership
3. Goa: BJP's electoral slide but political triumph.

In the part 4 there are 4 sub chapters which are with regards to eastern states electoral process and strategy that various governments has followed

1. Bihar: A comprehensive victory for the NDA
2. 'Jai Bangla' and 'Bharat Mata ki Jai': Explaining the emerging political dynamics in West Bengal
3. Odisha dual verdict: Leadership, welfare, Hindutva
4. Jharkhand: The ascendance of the BJP as a dominant party.

In the part 5 there are 5 sub chapters which are with regards to southern states electoral process and strategy that various governments has followed

1. Its lone southern comfort: Lotus blooms in Karnataka
2. Andhra Pradesh: Dominant caste cleavages, continuities, and refectations
3. Kerala: Explaining the dominance of UDF 287
4. Verdict 2019: Reinforcing Dravidian identity politics in Tamil Nadu
5. Springing a surprise: Electoral politics in the state of Telangana.

In the part 6 there are 2 sub chapters which are with regards to north eastern states electoral process and strategy that various governments has followed

1. Voting pattern in the North East: Special focus on Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Manipur
2. Assam: Saffron persists in an ethnic setting.

CRITICAL EVALUATION OF BOOK

The BJP strategy of retaining its strongholds and expanding to newer domains contributing to its electoral success. The UPA and the other state-based parties appeared unable to get their collective act together. The INC's glaring failure was not even attempting to remind the electorate about the party's pathbreaking policy/legislative initiatives during the ten years of the UPA regime to enrich democracy and broadening the net of welfare in the form of RTI, RTE, and NREGA, among others.

RESEARCHER'S VIEW

All interviews (Pre-Poll and Post-Poll) were undertaken face-to-face by trained field investigators who attended two-day training workshops. A standardised semi-structured interview schedule was used and each interview took about 30–40 minutes. The interview schedules were translated to the local languages and administered in the same by investigators. The achieved raw sample was weighed by using variables, that is gender, locality, religion, and caste groups based on the Census 2011. This book gave insight about what and how the government played role in various state and what are the dynamics that helped different government. All the aspect of strategy is clearly mentioned for success or failure of parties contesting election.

REFERENCE

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