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## **POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 2019 GENERAL ELECTIONS IN INDIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The 2019 Indian general election was held in seven phases from 11 April to 19 May 2019 to constitute the 17th Lok Sabha. The votes were counted and result was declared on 23 May. About 900 million people were eligible to vote and turnout was over 67 per cent - the highest ever as well as the highest participation by women voters. The Bharatiya Janata Party won 303 seats, further increasing its substantial majority and the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance won 353 seats. The Indian National Congress won 52 seats, and the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance won 91. Other parties and their alliances won 98 seats. The Congress again failed to secure the requisite 10% of the seats (54 seats) in the Lok Sabha. Hence, India remains without an official opposition party. Legislative assembly elections in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim were held simultaneously with the general election, as well as by-elections to twenty two seats of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. The election schedule was announced by Election Commission of India (ECI) on 10 March 2019, and with it the Model Code of Conduct came into effect. The election was scheduled to be held in seven phases. In Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, the election was held in all seven phases. The polling for the Anantnag constituency in the state of Jammu and Kashmir was held in three phases due to violence in the region.

Keeping this in background an attempt has been made in this paper to examine the facets of the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha Polls in India. It has been categorized under seven major heads. Part-I Unfolds the pre-poll scenario, Part-II Examines the content of the poll manifestoes of the BJP and Congress parties, Part-III Evaluates the Political Alliances and Combinations made by various parties, Part-IV Deals with the reasons laid to the overwhelming success of BJP and its allies and Part-V Critically Studies the debacle of the Congress party and the Left, Part-VI Performance of Regional Parties, Social Justice Parties and Muslim League and Part – VII brings together the major findings of the study.

**Key Words : Election, Manifesto, Campaign, Alliances, Results**