

Electoral Democracy?

**An Inquiry into the Fairness
and Integrity of Elections in India**

**Edited by
M.G. Devasahayam**

**PARANJOY
2022**

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>		vii
<i>Abbreviations</i>		ix
<i>Foreword</i>	<i>Justice Madan B. Lokur, Wajahat Habibullah</i>	xi
<i>Preface</i>		xv

SECTION I: Democracy Principles and EVM-VVPAT Voting

'Democracy Principles' and India's Electoral Process	<i>M.G. Devasabayam</i>	3
Report of the Citizens' Commission on Elections	<i>Subhashis Banerjee</i>	36
Is the Indian EVM and VVPAT System Fit for Democratic Elections?	<i>Subhashis Banerjee and Sanjiva Prasad</i>	42
Unsuitability of Internet Voting, and Blockchain Versus Public Bulletin Board for Integrity of Elections and Electoral Rolls	<i>Prashant Agrawal, Subodh Sharma and Subhashis Banerjee</i>	60
Aadhaar-Voter ID Linkage Could Sink Electoral Democracy	<i>M.G. Devasabayam, Subhashis Banerjee and Jagdeep S. Chhokar</i>	71

SECTION II: Free and Fair Elections in India

Are Elections in India Free and Fair?	<i>M.G. Devasabayam</i>	89
The Electoral Roll and Exclusion of Vulnerable Sections from Voting	<i>Harsh Mander and Venkatesan Ramani</i>	94
Criminalisation, Money Power and Elections in India	<i>Anjali Bhardwaj</i>	117

Whither Enforcement of Model Code of Conduct?	<i>Jagdeep S. Chhokar</i>	131
Media Helps Rulers While Election Commission Looks the Other Way	<i>Paranjoy Guha Thakurta</i>	139
Election Commission's Partisan and Controversial Functioning	<i>Sanjay Kumar</i>	148

SECTION III: Special Articles

Assembly Elections in West Bengal, 2021	<i>Jawhar Sircar</i>	173
Major Issues Concerning Free and Fair Elections: The Case of West Bengal	<i>Jawhar Sircar</i>	193
Assembly Elections in Bihar 2020	<i>Poonam Agarwal</i>	213
Assembly Elections in Tamil Nadu, 2021	<i>Thomas Franco and Hari Paranthaman</i>	219
Vulnerabilities in the EVM-VVPAT Process	<i>Kannan Gopinathan</i>	224
Putting the Election Commission and the Elections Back on the Rail	<i>S.Y. Quraishi</i>	239
<i>Annexure I</i>		255
<i>Annexure II</i>		258
<i>Annexure III</i>		263
<i>Annexure IV</i>		265
<i>Annexure V</i>		274
<i>Index</i>		275
<i>Brief Biographical Profiles of Contributors</i>		285