

INDIAN DEMOCRACY

Problems and Prospects

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The twentieth century witnessed a tremendous reinforcement of the concept of democracy. In a period of about 100 years, the virtues of democracy were greatly extolled and the world witnessed a process of democratization. In the 60 years since its inception, Indian democracy too has developed indigenous roots and is emerging as a unique example of parliamentary democracy. The important question today is not the survival of Indian democracy, but the nature of India's democratic politics.

The present volume is an attempt to understand the development of democratic polity in India. It covers a wide range of issues – theoretical concepts, political institutions, federalism, electoral processes, individual and group rights and mass media – drawing attention to the significant broadening of Indian democracy. But the benefits of political democracy are yet to reach the masses – political institutions are dominated by the elite, civil society has been politicized and the interventionist state has become an arm of the elite. The solution to these problems lies in further democratization of the political process.

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