

## FOREWORD



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For the largest democracy in the world, for a country with the most advanced electronic voting system in the world, for a country with more micro-data on voting behaviour than on any other sector, for a country where politics and elections occupy primary mind-space, I have always wondered why there has been so little fundamental research on India's elections.

One reason for this is, perhaps, that the enormous quantity and quality of voting data has been difficult to access, dissect and collate. Whatever the reason, it is time for a change. We need more data, more research, more analysis on this, which is, in my view, the most important aspect of India's wonderful democratic framework.

That is a major reason why this book, **India Elects**, is important. Dr. R K Thukral and his team have been doing consistently good work on the data of Indian elections. This compendium is another big step forward. This book will be a most useful data-base for research and analysis and for scholars of Indian elections. I congratulate Datanet India Pvt Ltd on this book and look forward to their continued high quality work in this field.

**Prannoy Roy**