POLITICAL JUGGERNAUTS: A QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF CANDIDATES IN THE 2019 LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

INTRODUCTION:

An election is a formal group decision-making process by which a population chooses an individual or multiple individuals to hold public office. Members of Lok Sabha (House of the People) or the lower house of India's Parliament are elected by being voted upon by all adult citizens of India.

The house meets in the Lok Sabha Chamber of the Sansad Bhavan in New Delhi, on matters relating to creation of new laws and rules, removing or improving the existing laws that affect all citizens of India. Elections take place once in five years to elect 543 members for the Lok Sabha.

The Lok Sabha is composed of representatives of people chosen by direct election on the basis of Universal Adult Suffrage. The Constitution of India allows for a maximum of 550 members in the House, with 530 members representing the States and 20 representing the Union Territories. The 17th Lok Sabha was formed by the members elected in the 2019 Indian general election. Elections, all across India, were conducted in seven phases from 11 April 2019 to 19 May 2019 by the Election Commission of India.

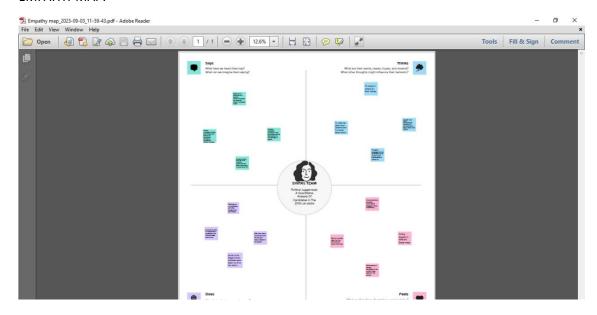
The Bharathi Janata Party received 37.36% of the vote, the highest vote share by a political party since the 1989 general election, and won 303 seats, further increasing its substantial majority. In addition, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won 353 seats.

Elections are regularly held in the democratic form of government. Elections make a fundamental contribution to the democratic governance. The election process is also used in n many private organizations in order to choose any individual for a certain post.

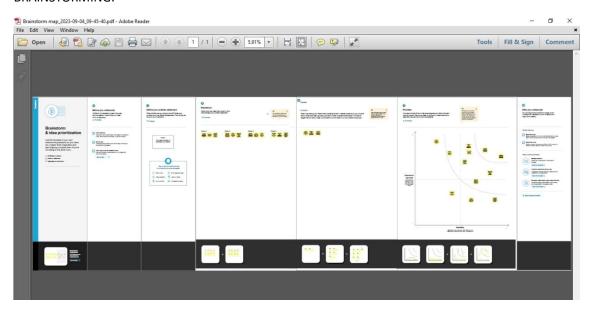
The Lok Sabha has certain powers that make it more powerful than the Rajya Sabha. Motions of no confidence against the government can be introduced and passed in the Lok Sabha. If passed by a majority vote, the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers resign collectively.

PROBLEM DEFINITION & DESIGN THINKING:

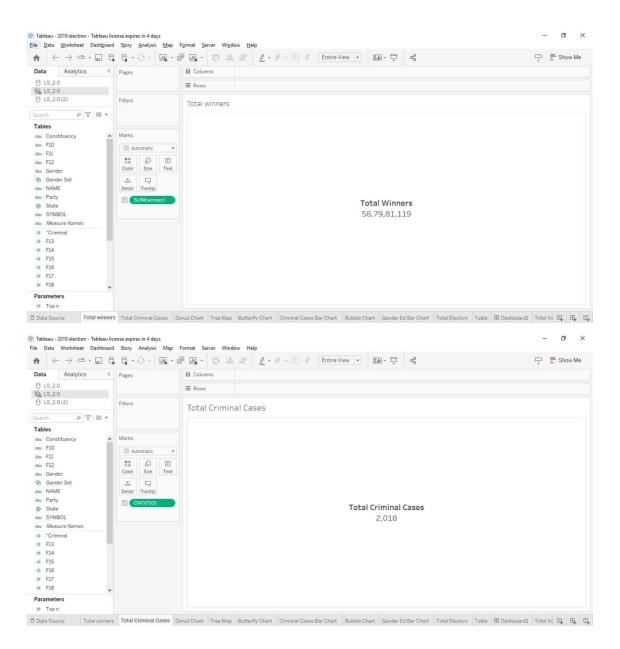
EMPATHY MAP:

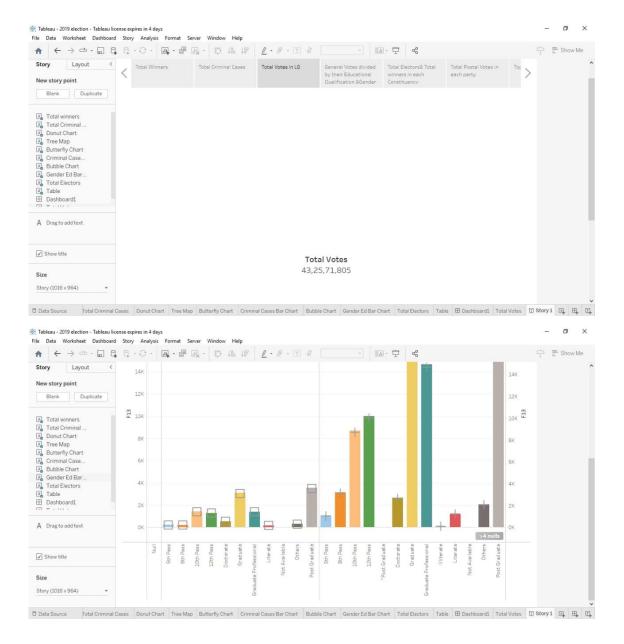


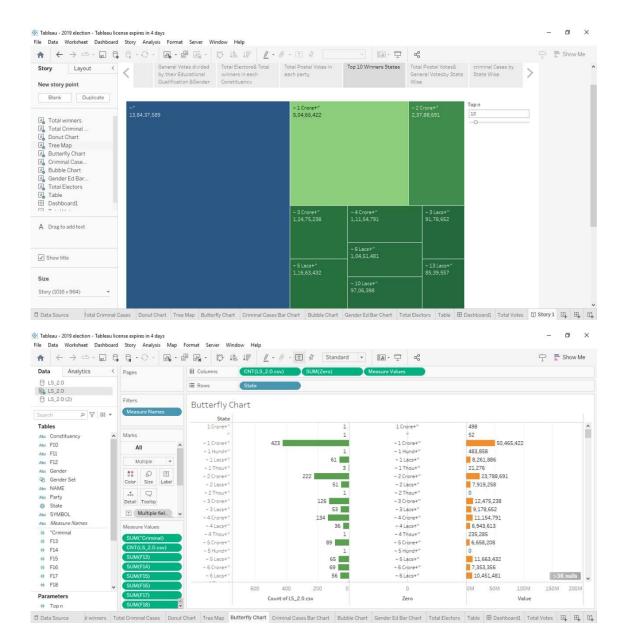
BRAINSTORMING:

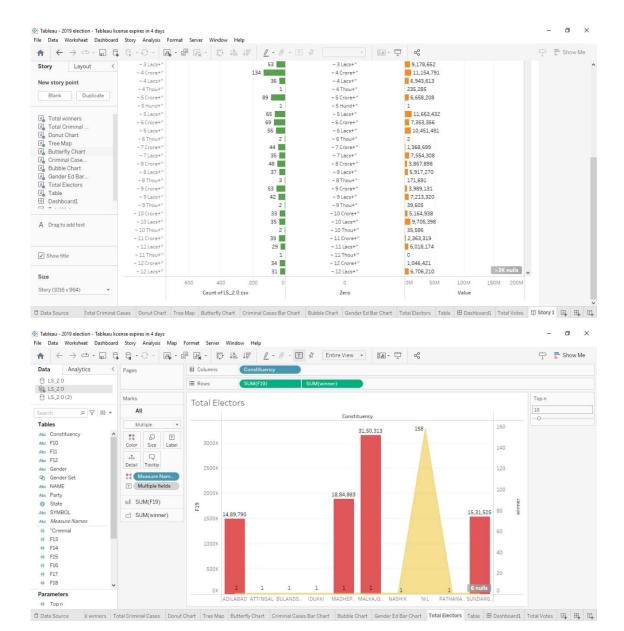


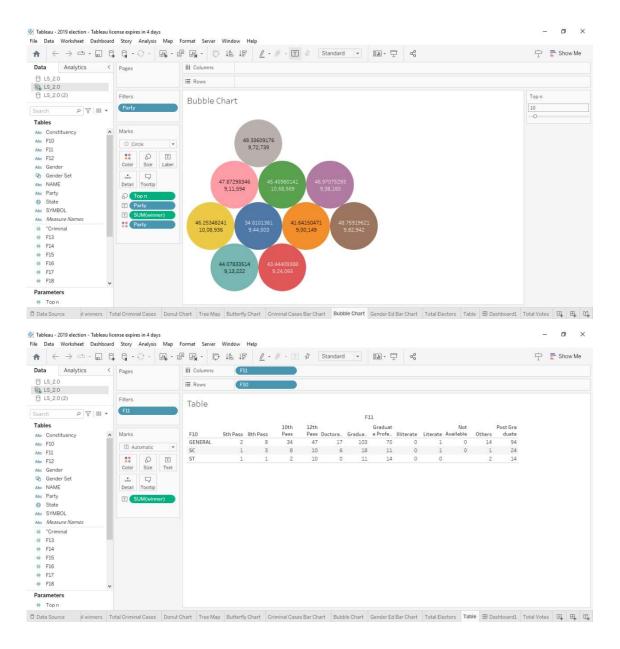
RESULT:

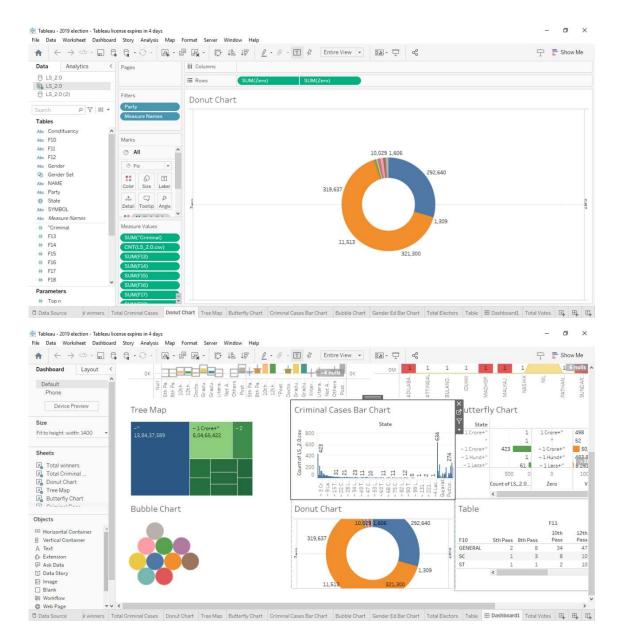


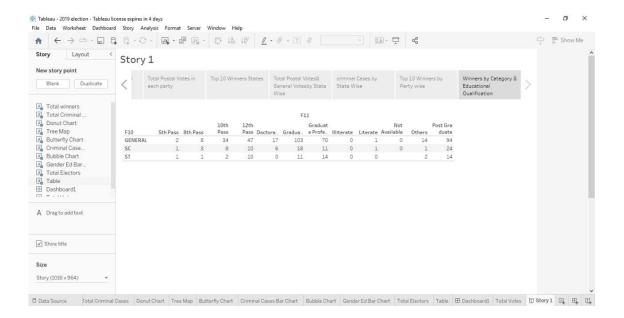












ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES:

ADVANTAGES:

- It helps in proper functioning of democracy through the system of checks and balances.
- No confidence motion can only be introduced and passed in the Lok Sabha. So, it controls the despotism of the government.
- Money bills can be only introduced in the Lok Sabha. The Rajya Sabha can only suggest a money bill. It cannot reject it.
- It formulates laws.
- There is the requirement of the majority in the Lok Sabha to form the government.
- Lok Sabha exercises more powers in money matters too. Once the Lok Sabha has passed a budget hen the Rajya Sabha cannot reject it.

DISADVANTAGES:

- Party Politics and Whip System: Members of the Lok Sabha often vote along party lines due
 to the strong influence of political parties and the whip system. This can lead to reduced
 independent thinking and decision-making, as members might prioritize party interests over
 the interests of their constituents.
- Lack of Meaningful Debate: The Lok Sabha sometimes faces disruptions, walkouts, and adjournments due to the adversarial nature of Indian politics. This can result in a lack of meaningful debates on important issues, preventing comprehensive discussions and thorough examination of policies.
- Shortcomings in Representation: Despite the democratic structure, there can be issues
 related to the accurate representation of various groups, regions, and marginalized
 communities in the Lok Sabha. Some groups may be underrepresented, leading to policy
 decisions that do not adequately address their concerns.
- Dynastic Politics: The prevalence of dynastic politics, where family members of established politicians enter politics and secure positions in the Lok Sabha, can hinder the emergence of new and diverse leadership, potentially limiting fresh ideas and perspectives.

- Populism and Short-Term Focus: Members of the Lok Sabha might be influenced by shortterm populist measures to gain popularity among their constituents, potentially neglecting long-term developmental and strategic decisions.
- Legislative Gridlock: The Lok Sabha can sometimes experience legislative gridlock, where
 political differences between the ruling and opposition parties lead to a lack of consensus
 and delays in passing important bills and policies.
- Ineffectiveness of Question Hour: The Question Hour, a period in which members can
 question government officials, can sometimes be disrupted or manipulated for political
 purposes, limiting its effectiveness as a tool for accountability and oversight.
- Lack of Expertise: The Lok Sabha consists of members from diverse backgrounds, but not all members may have expertise in the wide range of topics they are required to address. This can lead to uninformed decision-making on complex issues.
- Influence of Money and Corruption: There have been instances of money and corruption
 influencing the functioning of the Lok Sabha, such as allegations of bribery and unethical
 practices in lobbying.
- Lack of Participation from Youth: Younger citizens might feel disconnected from the political process, as the Lok Sabha often includes older members who might not adequately represent the interests and concerns of the younger generation.

APPLICATION:

- Motions of no confidence against the government can be introduced and passed in the Lok Sabha.
- Money bills can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha, and upon being passed, are sent to the Rajya Sabha, where it can be deliberated on for up to 14 days.
- Equal Powers with the Rajya Sabha in initiating and passing any Bill for Constitutional
 Amendment (by a majority of the total membership of the House and at least two-thirds
 majority of the members present and voting).
- If the Lok Sabha is dissolved before or after the declaration of a National Emergency, the Rajya Sabha becomes the sole Parliament. It cannot be dissolved.

FUTURE SCOPE:

As the future scope, the government is reportedly considering additional expenditures aimed at boosting public sentiment. And the intricate details of these proposals remain confidential. Due to this election, it gave many optional scopes for many of youth and strong personalities.

CONCLUSION:

Elections for the 17th Lok Sabha concluded successfully. The election for 542 seats was held in seven phases. Over all around 70 percent polling was recorded in all the phases.

With the completion of the polling process, the fate of 8,049 candidates, who were in fray for 542 Lok Sabha seats has been sealed into the EVMs.

This year's general elections were more peaceful as compared to the 2014 edition.