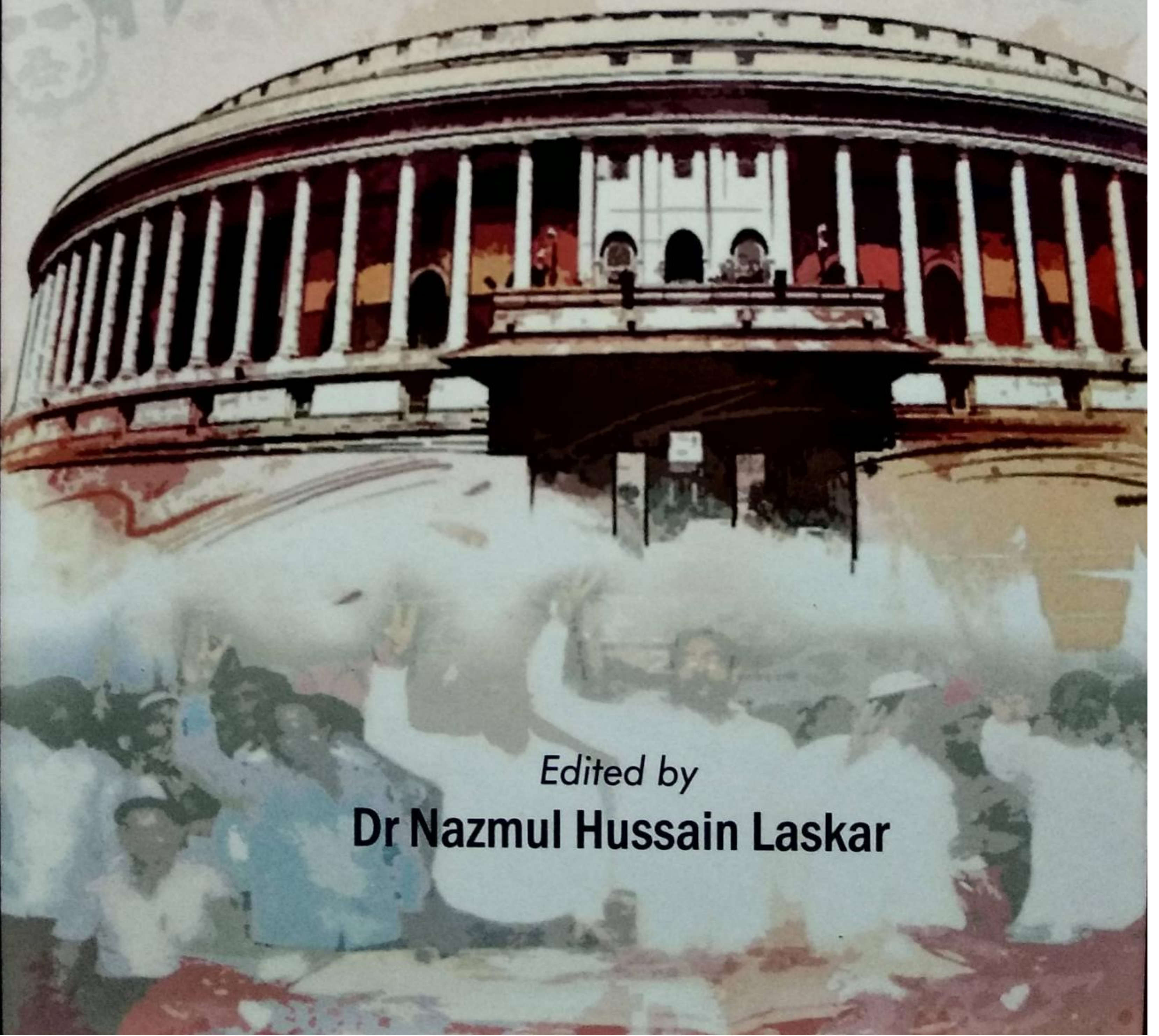




# **WORKING OF DEMOCRACY IN INDIA**

## **Major Issues**



*Edited by*  
**Dr Nazmul Hussain Laskar**



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## Plight of Women in the Indian Sundarbans

Mitrajit Chatterjee

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### Introduction

The Sundarbans is the largest prograding deltaic region of the world. It extends through India to Bangladesh, covering a total area of about 26,000 sq. km – the largest single stretch of mangrove vegetation. About two-thirds of the Sundarbans falls in Bangladesh. The Indian Sundarbans is situated in a coastal delta at the confluence of major river systems on the Bay of Bengal, and is prone to natural disasters such as cyclones and floods (Das, 2011). The region is comprised of isolated, low-lying islands densely populated by 4.4 million people, the majority of whom face severe impoverishment and insecurity. Low human development characterises the region, with wide gender inequities in multiple arenas including educational attainment, work participation, and gender-based violence. The combined effects of climate change and extreme poverty make this area a hub for human trafficking.

### Objective and Methodology

The present paper aims to assess the women-environment relationship in the Sundarbans of West Bengal by highlighting the issues and challenges of livelihood and sufferings of the women, probing into the changes in the *Aila*-ravaged society and finally suggesting some remedies to their problems.