

6 DECISION 2019



VOTING ENDS

7 STATES	59 SEATS
State (seats in Phase-7)	Poll %
Uttar Pradesh (13/80)	57.8%
Punjab (13)	62.5%
West Bengal (9/42)	73.5%
Bihar (8/40)	53.3%
Madhya Pradesh (8/29)	71.4%
Himachal Pradesh (4)	69.7%
Jharkhand (3/14)	71.1%
Chandigarh (1)	63.5%

(All figures till 8.30 pm)

TURNOUT	
PHASE I	PHASE II
69.50%	69.44%
PHASE III	PHASE IV
68.40%	65.51%
PHASE V	PHASE VI
64.16%	64.40%
PHASE VII 64.15%	
RESULT ON MAY 23	



Shyam Saran Negi, 102, India's first voter who has participated in all elections since 1951, is accompanied by polling officials as he leaves to cast his vote, at Kalpa in Himachal Pradesh on Monday. *Reuters*

BALLOTIN

143% vote in world's highest polling booth

Shimla: The world's highest polling station at 15,256 feet in Tashigang village of Himachal Pradesh on Sunday recorded a 142.85 per cent turnout — all of them valid votes. Against 49 registered voters on the village electoral roll, 70 voters cast their votes till 3 pm at the Tashigang polling booth, said said Kaza Sub Divisional Magistrate Jeewan Negi. The spike in voting turnout was attributed to the wish of many poll officials deployed at polling booths in the Tashigang village and nearby areas to cast their votes at the world's highest polling station. They cast their votes after showing election duty certificates issued to them by officials concerned, Negi said. **PTI**

'Photo mismatch' hits Tejashwi's vote plan



Tejashwi Prasad Yadav

Tejashwi or any other RJD leader did not issue any statement, Chief Electoral Officer HR Srinivas said there was a "slight photo mismatch" in the Voter Identity Card and electoral records. "We have asked Patna DM to submit a report," said Srinivas. **ENS**

Patna: Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Prasad Yadav could not cast his vote because of a "photo mismatch". Bihar's Chief Electoral Officer has asked the Patna District Magistrate to look into the matter. While demand repoll in some booths in this parliamentary constituency once complete reports are available after closing of the polls. We demand in-depth scrutiny of today's polls with the help of CCTV footage," reads the letter. TMC leaders, on the other hand, accused

Amid violence, 9 seats in Bengal record over 73% voter turnout

SANTANU CHOWDHURY & SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, MAY 19

AMID ISOLATED incidents of violence, a turnout of 73.5 per cent was recorded in nine constituencies of West Bengal that went to polls in the final phase of Lok Sabha elections. Chief Electoral Officer Aariz Aftab said, "Apart from some stray incidents, overall the election was peaceful. We replaced three presiding officers in three incidents of mismanagement of booths. In minor clashes, two vehicles — one of a candidate and another that was part of his convoy — were damaged. We have received a few complaints and are looking into it," he said.

State ADG, Law and Order, Siddhi Nath Gupta, said, "A total of 346 people have been arrested out of which 22 were arrested as a preventive measure. Six persons were injured."

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee accused the BJP of using central forces to "torture the people". "The way BJP has used central forces to torture people here... I have never seen this. This is unprecedented," she said.

Vehicles of BJP candidates Anupam Hazra and Nilanjan Roy, who are contesting are Jadavpur and Diamond Harbour, respectively, were reportedly attacked during polling.

The BJP alleged that Trinamool Congress (TMC) workers hurled bombs in several places to create panic among voters. "The TMC is nervous and that's why it is resorting to violence," said the BJP's Kolkata North candidate Rahul Sinha.

The BJP has written to the CEO, demanding detailed scrutiny of several booths and repoll in some booths. In the letter, the BJP has said major problems were reported from Falta, Budge Budge and Satgachia areas in Diamond Harbour constituency. The party alleged rigging and booth capturing by the ruling party.

"Widespread violence was reported from Kolkata Uttar seat. At Bhangan in Jadavpur, at least 20 booths were affected. We are going to demand repoll in some booths in this parliamentary constituency once complete reports are available after closing of the polls. We demand in-depth scrutiny of today's polls with the help of CCTV footage," reads the letter.

TMC leaders, on the other hand, accused



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee after casting her vote at Mitra Institution in Kolkata on Sunday. *Partha Paul*

central forces of intimidating voters in various parts of North 24 Parganas district.

Tension was also reported from ward number 24 of Kamarhati Municipality. ATMC camp office was allegedly vandalised by central forces in Udyapalli Basic Primary School. It was alleged that central forces were not allowing TMC agent inside the booth.

"Central forces were creating problems for candidates and voters," alleged Gopal Saha, chairman of the municipality.

TMC candidate from Barasat, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, too, accused central forces of intimidating voters.

Bombs were hurled in several areas, including Kolkata North and Mathurapur constituencies to trigger panic. There were complaints of EVMs being dysfunctional in several booths.

BJP's candidate from Bashirhat constituency, Sayantan Basu, alleged rigging in several areas and said police were doing nothing to stop it. TMC candidate in Kolkata South, Mala Roy, alleged that central forces personnel did

not allow her to enter booth number 72 at a polling station in Mudiali in the constituency. Roy said she will lodge a complaint with the poll watchdog.

In Bashirhat, bombs were hurled at Minakhan and Deganga. Voters alleged that they were prevented from voting at Malancha area of the constituency.

At Bhatpara, where an Assembly bypoll was held, TMC candidate Madan Mitra alleged that the party's polling agents were not allowed inside booth number 106 and even he was not given the permission to go inside. "There was violence last night (Saturday). Cars were torched. A few people were injured. I was scared but huge number of central forces were present which gave me the confidence to come out and vote," said Prasad Shaw, a voter.

In Kolkata North, stones were thrown at BJP candidate Rahul Sinha's vehicle. At Sousthi Prathamik Vidyalaya in Jadavpur seat, violence broke out between TMC and BJP supporters.

Punjab records 62.5% polling, violent clashes reported

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, MAY 19

VIOLENT CLASHES between the Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) workers in several constituencies, including Bathinda and Gurdaspur, marred the otherwise peaceful polling in Punjab on Sunday.

Thirteen Lok Sabha seats of the state went to polls in the last phase of the Lok Sabha elections and recorded a turnout of 62.5 per cent.

A Congress worker was murdered by unidentified people at Hardo Sarli village in the Khadoor Sahib parliamentary constituency when he was going to cast his vote. The local police and his family have, however, denied any political motive behind his killing.

In the afternoon, Bathinda District Congress Committee (Rural) president Khushbaaz Jatana was booked along with nine others under attempt to murder charges after a firing incident at Talwandi Sabo left three SAD workers injured. Jatana allegedly opened fire near a polling booth following a scuffle with former SAD councillor Jaloor Singh. Polling remained suspended for about 40 minutes following the firing.

In another incident, SAD worker Sukhmeen Singh was booked for allegedly opening fire at Congress workers in Bathinda. In the same Lok Sabha constituency, several SAD workers were allegedly attacked at Rampura Phul in Fardikot constituency, leaving one person injured.

In the same city, SAD leader and former minister Sikander Singh Maluka alleged booth capturing at Kangar village. He alleged that two of his polling agents were locked up while Congress workers captured the booth. The police said a probe was on.

Clashes between the ruling Congress and SAD were also reported from several places at Budhlada in Mansa district and Muktsar city in Shri Muktsar Sahib district.

Four people were injured at Kot Mohan area of Gurdaspur following a clash between the two parties. At Ealwal village in Sangrur, rival factions of the Congress clashed, leaving three people injured.



Sukhbir Badal and Harsimrat Kaur Badal with their daughters at a polling booth at Sri Muktsar Sahib in Punjab on Sunday. *Gurmeet Singh*



Punjab CM Amarinder Singh with wife Preneet Kaur after casting their vote (right) and Navjot Singh Sidhu with wife Navjot Kaur Sidhu. *Harmeet Sodhi, Rana Simranjit Singh*



A first-time voter and a yet-to-be voter: Badal clan's joint poll outing

RAAKHI JAGGA
BADAL, MAY 19

AT 10 am on Sunday, two pilot vehicles stopped outside the government primary school at Badal village in Punjab's Sri Muktsar Sahib district and security personnel escorted former chief minister and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) patron Parkash Singh Badal into booth number 118. He was followed by SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal and his wife Harsimrat Kaur Badal, sitting MP from Bathinda who is running for the third time.

Sukhbir and Harsimrat were accompanied by their daughters Harkirat and younger daughter Gurleen, a first-time voter. The 17-year-old son of Harsimrat and Sukhbir, Anantveer Singh Badal, was seen outside the booth with Harsimrat's brother and SAD leader Bikramjit Singh Majithia's children Harchet (12) and Rehmat (11).

Before entering the booth, Harsimrat hugged the three waiting outside. To Anantveer, she said, "Say best of luck to Mamma". The children flashed a thumbs up as the Union Minister entered the booth.

The Badal village is located in the Lambi Assembly segment, currently represented by Parkash Singh Badal. The segment is part of the Bathinda Lok Sabha constituency that Harsimrat represents.

Anantveer told *The Indian Express*, "I am 17 and I have just come to observe. My cousins and I are here on vacation."

This election season, Anantveer has been seen at several rallies with Sukhbir, Majithia and senior SAD leaders. "On some days, I attended campaigns for 4-5 hours. I just observed how poll meetings take place."

Gurleen emerged from the booth with a

certificate of appreciation she got as a first-time voter. Showing her inked finger, she said, "My vote for the development of Bathinda."

Harkirat said, "I was mom's lucky charm in 2014. I was a first-time voter then." Gurleen waved her certificate as said, "This time, I will be."

Keenly observing their cousins, Harchet and Rehmat said, "We will write a note about our experience during the vacation." Soon, the children were escorted to a car by SAD supporters as the SAD patron, Sukhbir and Harsimrat started talking to mediapersons.

Parkash Singh Badal said, "This Lok Sabha election results will surprise you all. Harsimrat will be winning with a comfortable margin. I have surveyed the entire area and she will win easily."

Sukhbir said, "We will win a respectable number of seats in Punjab and the Congress will pay for two years of non-governance."

Harsimrat, too, was confident. "I will win this election as well. Goondas of the Congress tried to disrupt my meetings and even tried to create violence. But despite that, I will win as people have seen vikas (development) during my tenure and *vinash* (destruction) during the Congress government's tenure."

Notice to Sukhbir's daughter for wearing SAD badge

According to a PTI report late on Sunday, SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal's younger daughter Gurleen Kaur, a first-time voter, was issued a notice for allegedly violating the model code of conduct. She was issued the notice for wearing an Akali Dal badge when she reached a booth in Bathinda constituency to cast her vote.

'Sidhu eyeing CM post, harming party with irresponsible actions'

KANCHAN VASDEV & KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
CHANDIGARH, AMRITSAR, MAY 19

ON A day 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab went to the polls, the simmering tension between Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and Local Bodies Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu reached a flashpoint. Amarinder accused Sidhu of harming Congress with his actions, and other Cabinet Ministers threw their weight behind the Chief Minister.

This comes a day after Sidhu, while speaking on sacrilege cases, alleged a nexus between senior Congress leaders and the Badals.

Amarinder responded by accusing Sidhu of eyeing the Chief Minister post.

Replying to a question by *The Indian Express* on Sidhu's remarks, Amarinder said after casting his vote in Patiala, "It does not matter to me. If Sidhu wanted to challenge me and my job, then he should take it up with the high command... It is for the high command to decide on any action against Sidhu, but the Congress, as a party, does not tolerate indiscipline. I do not have any differences with Sidhu, whom I have known since he was a child."

He added: "Perhaps he is ambitious and wants to be chief minister."

While campaigning for party candidate Amrinder Singh Raja Warring who is up against SAD's Harsimrat Kaur Badal in Bathinda on Friday, Sidhu had taken a dig at Amarinder's statement that he would quit if the Congress was wiped out from the state. Sidhu had said, "Some people say they will quit if Congress is wiped out. I say I will quit if action is not taken in the sacrilege case."

Hitting out at Sidhu, the CM said, "If he was

a real Congressman, he should have chosen a better time to air his grievances, instead of just ahead of voting in Punjab. He is harming the party with such irresponsible actions."

As soon as polling got over, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Brahm Mohindra issued a statement saying that "Sidhu's outburst amounted to sabotage" at the time when Congress was working to achieve its Mission 13. He added that all Cabinet Ministers will write to the high command to take action in the matter.

Jails Minister Sukhinder Singh Randhawa too hit out at Sidhu, saying that he will be responsible if SAD MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal won from Bathinda. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Randhawa said, "I always stood by Sidhu when nobody was ready to take a stand for him. But I am not in agreement with the statement he has given in Bathinda."

Sidhu tweeted a video on Sunday evening in which he said: "*Maine jo kuch bhi kaha atman se kaha.... Maine logon ko kaha ke aap hi SIT ho. Aap hi adalat ho.... Nyay aap kar do.... Thok do unn logon ko jinhone milibhug ke sath Congress ki peeth mein chhurra ghompa hai. Kyā galat hai?*"

After casting his vote in Amritsar, he told before mediapersons: "The entire community is still hurt by sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib, pages of which were torn and scattered in streets and drains in 2015. Public is the real court to deliver the justice in this case and it is the Special Investigation Team (SIT) as well. So, I appeal to public to bring the culprits to justice as the time has reached for same."

Amid the brewing storm in the party, former state Congress president Partap Bajwa advised party leaders to exercise restraint. "Better sense should prevail so that the party does not suffer," he said.

SEIZURES THIS ELECTION SEASON



Cash
Rs 839.03 cr



Liquor
Rs 294.41 cr



Drugs
1270.37 cr

Cash, drugs, liquor and precious metals worth Rs 3,449.12 crore were seized by enforcement agencies since the Lok Sabha polls were announced on March 10, the Election Commission said on Sunday.

The seizure is nearly three times the figures of the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, the figures show.

In 2014, the overall seizure was Rs 1,206 crore, Director General (Election Expenditure) in the EC, Dilip Sharma, told mediapersons.

Besides, cash, liquor and drugs, precious metals worth Rs 986.76 crore and "freebies" such as watches and sarees worth Rs 58.56 crore were seized, Sharma said. **PTI**

Voter turnout at 75% in bypoll for Parrikar's seat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, MAY 19

BYPOLL IN Panaji on Sunday recorded a voter turnout of 75 per cent. The bypoll was necessitated by the death of Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar in March.

The election is witnessing a four-cornered fight between BJP's Sidharth Kunciaienkar, Congress' Atanasio Monseratte, Valmiki Naik of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Subhash Velingkar of the Goa Suraksha Manch. The seat has been held by the BJP since 1994.

North Goa Collector R Menaka confirmed that 75.25 per cent voters exercised their franchise. "At one polling station, the EVM, which includes the ballot unit, control unit and VVPAT, was replaced due to malfunctioning. VVPAT machines were also replaced at two other polling stations," said Menaka.

A woman voter's complaint that she was being threatened by BJP workers had been probed, the collector said.

Accusing the BJP of mud slinging, Velingkar said, "The BJP has gone to the lowest levels to defame me. People will pay them back while voting today." BJP nominee Kunciaienkar pitched for development. "It is the only option which can provide development," he told reporters. Congress' Monseratte said, "The Talegoan model where I live is for all to see. Besides my supporters, Congress is also campaigning for me so I have a wider reach."

Over 69% come out to vote in Himachal Pradesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, MAY 19

HIMACHAL PRADESH, where polling was held across all four Lok Sabha seats on Sunday, witnessed a 69.7 per cent turnout.

Spokesperson for the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Mahesh Pathania, said, "Till 5 pm, 66.5 per cent turnout has been witnessed across the 7,723 polling stations and seven auxiliary polling stations in Himachal Pradesh. However, people voted after 5 pm too. The final turnout is expected to reach 70 per cent. The voting was peaceful."

According to the EC, the turnout later climbed to 69.7 per cent.

In 2014, the state recorded a turnout of 64.45 per cent with the polling in the Kangra, Mandi, Hamirpur, and Shimla (reserved) seats being 63.56 per cent, 63.15 per cent, 66.98 per cent, and 63.99 per cent, respectively.

According to figures received by 5 pm, the highest turnout — 70 per cent — was registered in Una district in Hamirpur Lok Sabha constituency where former BCCI chief and three-time BJP MP from Hamirpur, Anurag Thakur, is contesting against Congress candidate Ram Lal Thakur, a five-time MLA who won the Sri Naina Deviji seat in the 2017 Assembly polls. The lowest turnout of 60 per cent was recorded in Lahaul and Spiti, which fall under the Mandi Lok Sabha seat where former Union minister Sukh Ram's grandson Aashray Sharma is contesting against incumbent BJP MP Ram Swaroop Sharma.



Amarinder, Sukhbir dismiss predictions of election results

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL
CHANDIGARH, MAY 19

VARIOUS EXIT polls in Punjab predicted six to 11 seats for Congress out of the total 13, two to six seats for SAD-BJP alliance and zero to one seat for the Aam Aadmi Party.

Both Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh and SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal dismissed the exit polls.

ABP-Nielson predicted eight seats for Congress and five for SAD-BJP alliance. India Today-Axis gave seven to eight seats to Congress, three to five to SAD-BJP and zero to one to others.

Amarinder questioned the accuracy of the exit polls and said he expected Congress to do better. He, however, added that even with 50 years of experience in politics, he cannot predict the outcome with complete accuracy.

"Most opinion polls are giving clear or near-clear majority to BJP-led NDA at the Centre, while projecting 9-10 seats out of 13 for the Congress in Punjab. With so much experience, even if I go around Punjab to gauge the voter swing, I would not be able to do it with complete accuracy. So how can these exit polls be accurate?" he asked.

Meanwhile, Republic-Jan ki Baat-C-Voter exit poll gave 11 seats to Congress and two to SAD-BJP. Today's Chanakya's its Twitter bio reads "The only agency to predict the last two Lok Sabha elections On Dot; Also forecast several state elections along with USA & UK elections 100% correctly - predicted six seats each for Congress and SAD-BJP combine with a margin of three seats for each, one seat for AAP and zero for others.

Times Now-VMR predicted 10 seats for Congress and three for SAD-BJP alliance.

"Absolutely rubbish. We will get much more seats (than predicted in majority of exit polls)," Sukhbir Badal told The Indian Express over phone from Badal village. "I think they are not looking into all the factors. There are a lot of factors in place. Results will show that Punjab exit polls were completely wrong," he added. Earlier, to a question on the issues that would be the deciding factor in Punjab, Amarinder said sacrilege was a big issue, especially in the rural areas, as it had hurt the sentiments of every Sikh. Wheat procurement was another major issue in the rural belt, he said, adding that in urban areas, national issues such as demonetization and GST were more important.

He also exuded confidence that his wife Preneet Kaur will sweep the poll by a margin of over one lakh votes in Patiala. Preneet is pitched against Dharamvira Gandhi, the sitting MP who won on AAP ticket in 2014 and is contesting this time as nominee of Nawana Punjab Party, an outfit he floated after parting ways with AAP. Former cabinet minister, Surjit Singh Rakhra is SAD candidate from Patiala.



Women wait in a queue to cast their votes, during the seventh phase of Lok Sabha elections, in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, on Sunday. PTI

In final phase, 13 seats in UP record over 56% turnout

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, MAY 19

THIRTEEN Lok Sabha seats that went to polls in the final phase of Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday recorded an overall turnout of 56.84 percent. Maharajganj constituency recorded the highest voting percentage with 62.40 percent, while Robertsonganj was the lowest with 54.29 percent.

The overall voting percentage this year for these seats was around 1.88 per cent more than 2014 when the voting percentage on these seats was 54.96 per cent. After an appeal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a record turnout in Varanasi, the seat recorded 58.05 percent voting. In the Vidhan Sabha bypoll held for Agra (north) on Sunday, voting was just 39 per cent.

Gorakhpur and Varanasi were among the two major seats that went to polls in the seventh phase, followed by Chandauli, Ghosi, Mirzapur and Ghazipur. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi is contesting from the Varanasi seat, BJP candidate Ravi Kishan is contesting from CM Yogi Adityanath's home turf, Gorakhpur.

According to the data provided by the of-

Exit polls results vary widely for 3 states that hold key to BJP show

NDA's projected tally swings from 38 to 68 seats in UP, 11 to 23 in West Bengal and 10 to 19 in Odisha

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

WITH 80 Lok Sabha seats, Uttar Pradesh plays a crucial role in determining who forms the government at the Centre. In the 2014 general election, the BJP-led alliance won 73 out of the 80 seats in the state. While most exit polls project that the NDA will comfortably cross the magic mark of 272 seats to form the government, the projections widely vary with regard to the BJP's performance in three key states — Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha — which account for 143 seats.

The projections for the performance of the alliance of SP, BSP and the RLD by different agencies vary considerably.

According to the Republic TV-Cvoter survey, the Mahagathbandhan will win 40 seats in UP, the BJP will bag 38 seats and the Congress will win two. But most of the other pollsters appear to have given BJP a strong edge in the state.

The Times Now-VMR poll predicts a tally of 58 for the BJP and its allies and 20 for the Mahagathbandhan. The exit poll by Today's Chanakya for News 24 gives Mahagathbandhan 13 seats and predicts that the BJP will sweep UP, winning as many as 65 seats. Projections by Aaj Tak-Axis My India data predict that the NDA will win 62-68 seats in UP. None of the pollsters predict more than two seats for the Congress in the state.

In this election, West Bengal is witnessing a fierce fight between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP. Exit poll projections predict that the BJP is set to make significant gains in the state that has 42 seats. Aaj Tak's poll has given both Trinamool and the BJP equal number of seats — 19-22 to Trinamool and 19-23 to BJP.

However, other pollsters don't predict such a close contest. Today's Chankarya has given 18 seats to BJP and 23 to Trinamool, still a major gain for the former. But Times Now-VMR projects a tally of 11 for the BJP and 29

Predictions show gains for YSRCP in Andhra

Hyderabad: Telugu channel TV9 aired poll predictions of Hyderabad-based Centre for Psephology Studies (CPS) and RG Flash Team, on Sunday. CPS predicted 130-140 Assembly seats for YSRCP with 50 per cent vote share, 40-44 seats for TDP with 40 per cent vote share. Andhra Pradesh has 175 Assembly seats. In the 25 Lok Sabha seats, CPS predicted 15-17 seats for YSRCP while the remaining 6 to 8 seats for the TDP. RG Flash Team predicted that in Assembly elections TDP will get 100 plus seats and YSRCP will get over 60. ENS



Preparations in progress for Lok Sabha election results, at the BJP head office in New Delhi on Sunday. Prem Nath Pandey

for the TMC — Cvoter has the same projections. In 2014, the TMC won 34 seats and the BJP won 2 seats in West Bengal.

In Odisha too, exit poll projections by different agencies vary widely. Most pollsters predict that the BJP, which won 1 seat in the state in 2014, will surpass the BJD's tally this time. The BJD won 20 out of the 21 seats in the state in 2014. The Aaj Tak survey gives the BJD zero seats and BJP 15-19 seats in the coastal state.

Times Now-VMR and Republic TV-Cvoter are giving the BJP 12 and 10 seats, respectively, and News 24-Today's Chanakya projects a tally of 14 for the BJP. The three pollsters give BJD 8, 11 and 7 seats, respectively.

In Bihar, the BJP-led NDA alliance is up against a coalition of opposition parties. Most pollsters think the coalition of BJP, Janata Dal (United) and the Lok Janshakti Party will win 30 or more seats out of the 40 seats in the state.



YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy

In Maharashtra, exit polls say NDA unlikely to repeat 2014 performance, but still way ahead

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, MAY 19

EXIT POLLS on Sunday indicated that the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance was unlikely to repeat its 2014 sweep of Maharashtra in hotly-contested Lok Sabha election.

While most of the exit polls predicted that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would lose seats in the state, the Congress and its ally NCP alliance are still seen as finishing far behind.

In terms of Lok Sabha seats, Maharashtra, with 48, is the second largest after Uttar Pradesh, which has 80. In 2014, the NDA had swept the poll, winning 42 out of the 48 seats here. The BJP itself had won 23, the Sena 18 and the Swabhimaani Shetkari Sanghathana (SSS) - now a part of the Congress-led alliance - had won one seat. The Congress had won just two seats, while its ally NCP had won four.

Among the agencies which predicted the election results were TV9-Cvoter, Sakal-Saam, NewsX-Neta, ABP-AC Neilson, India Today-Axis, News 18-Ipsos, Republic-Jan Ki

EXIT POLL PROJECTIONS

UTTAR PRADESH

Channel - Agency	NDA	Mahagathbandhan	Cong
Times Now - VMR	58	20	2
News 24 - Today's Chanakya	65	13	2
Republic TV - Cvoter	38	40	2
Aaj Tak - Axis My India	62-68	0-7	1-2

WEST BENGAL

Channel - Agency	NDA	TMC	Cong
Times Now - VMR	11	29	2
News 24 - Today's Chanakya	18	23	1
Republic TV - Cvoter	11	29	2
Aaj Tak - Axis My India	19-23	19-22	—

ODISHA

Channel - Agency	NDA	BJD	Cong
Times Now - VMR	12	8	1
News 24 - Today's Chanakya	14	7	0
Republic TV - Cvoter	10	11	0
Aaj Tak - Axis My India	15-19	0	0-1

BIHAR

Channel - Agency	NDA	UPA
Times Now - VMR	30	10
News 24 - Today's Chanakya	32	8
Republic TV - Cvoter	33	7
Aaj Tak - Axis My India	38-40	0-2



Devendra Fadnavis

Baat and TimesNow-VMR poll tracker.

The TV9-Cvoter exit poll indicated that the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party would win eight and six seats, respectively. It predicted that Congress's other smaller allies - the SSS, Bahujan Vikas Aghadi (BVA), and Yuva Swabhimaan Party - would not open their account. According to this exit poll, the BJP is set to win 19 seats

and Sena 15, taking the NDA's tally to 34. The Congress-led alliance will improve from 6 seats in 2014 to 14 seats, it said.

The Sakal-Saam predicted that the Congress-led alliance will win 19 seats (Cong 8, NCP 8, others 3). It gave 19 seats to the BJP and 10 to the Sena. News X-Neta exit poll gave 20 seats to the Congress alliance, 28 to the NDA, while the ABP-AC Neilson said that the Congress and its allies will win 14 seats (Cong 4, NCP 9, others 1) and the NDA 34.

India Today-Axis My India exit poll forecast a 2014-like outcome. It said that the Congress alliance would win only 6-10 seats, giving NDA 38-42. News 18-Ipsos poll predicted four-six seats for the Congress alliance, while Republic-Jan Ki Baat also gave the NDA 34-39 seats, and the Congress alliance 8-12. Times Now-VMR poll tracker also predicted 38 seats for the NDA in the state, and 10 for the Congress alliance.

Polling was conducted in four phases in Maharashtra, from April 13 to April 19. With state polls barely a few months away, there is a lot riding on the Lok Sabha election outcome for each political party.

Another saffron sunrise on the cards in the Northeast

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, MAY 19

EXIT POLLS on Sunday indicated a windfall for the BJP and its allies will emerge with majority seats in Assam. The state accounts for 14 of the 25 seats from the Northeast.

In 2014, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had won seven seats and the Congress had won three. The All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) won three seats and the remaining seat went to an independent candidate.

A poll by news channel NDTV gave 9 seats to the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), 4 to the Congress and the remaining seat to 'others'.

Meanwhile, the Times Now-VMR exit poll gave the Congress and AIUDF together

2014 exit polls got trends right, but did not predict BJP sweep

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

AS THE exit poll data on Sunday projected a return of the BJP-led NDA government as a strong possibility, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee dismissed it on Twitter as "Exit Poll gossip". Although as an opposition leader, Banerjee might not like the projection, exit polls weren't particularly accurate in 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

On the last day of polling for the 2014 elections on May 12, several pollsters had projected a result in favour of the NDA alliance. However, few had predicted the sweeping majority the BJP secured when the results were announced on May 16, 2014.

While most agencies projected a downward spiral for the Congress and its allies, most gave them about 100 seats. The pollsters identified the momentum in favour of the NDA and the exit polls predicted that they would comfortably cross the halfway mark of 272.

But the results left almost everyone surprised. While most pollsters had not got the trends wrong, it appeared that their data did not capture the decimation of Congress and a sweep by the BJP.

The BJP managed 282 seats on its own, a number the pollsters had thought the NDA alliance will manage to get. Riding on the wave in favour of the BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi, the NDA secured a total of 336 seats.

On the other side, the incumbent UPA alliance won only 59 constituencies and the Congress managed only 44 seats across the country — its lowest ever tally.

Most pollsters did not predict that the NDA will gain 166 seats, and the UPA will lose 162. All pollsters except one though. News 24 channel had hired an agency, Chanakya, whose numbers were way off the other agencies, but came close enough to the final result. Chanakya had predicted 340 seats for NDA, 70 for UPA and 133 for other parties.

Some exit poll results released on Sunday are predicting that the NDA tally may come down to 242, while others predict that it may climb to 365. The lowest projection for UPA is 77 and the highest is 164.

Naveen back as CM but BJP may make inroads: State projection

SAMPAD PATNAIK
BHUBANESWAR, MAY 19

AN EXIT poll conducted by a major Odisha-based media organisation predicts Naveen Patnaik will return for a fifth term as Chief Minister in Odisha by a comfortable majority, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will make massive gains in Lok Sabha seats in the state.

The channel claims a statewide "split vote or tactical vote", with a preference for Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in the state and the BJP in the Centre. Both parties have disputed the exit poll.

The Sambad Kanak News Exit Poll on Sunday said the BJP is set to win 08-12 Lok Sabha seats in Odisha, from 1 last time. The BJD's tally is expected to crash to 06-09 from 20 it won in the last election. The Congress may win a single seat, while the remaining seats may witness a tight contest.

The exit poll claimed BJD will likely retain its bastion in Kendrapara and a defeat for BJP candidate Baijayant Panda. It also claimed the BJP will win big in western and north Odisha - Bargarh, Sambalpur, Sundergarh, Bolangir, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Dhenkanal. The saffron party is also likely to pick up the coastal LS seat of Bhubaneswar.

BJD is expected to keep in its column of Aska, Berhampur, Balasore, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur and Kandhamal. The Congress seems to be leading in the Nabarangpur Lok Sabha, according to the poll. Six seats, including high profile contests such as Puri and Cuttack, are too close to call, the channel said.

seven seats and reduced the BJP to six, and gave one to 'others'.

Today's Chanakya's poll gave the BJP and allies 10 seats, the Congress three and others, one.

The CNN News 18-IPSONS Exit Poll put the BJP and allies at 8-10, the Congress at 2-4 and the AIUDF 2.

"This vote is for nationalism. For PM Modi and against the politics of appeasement," Assam minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told a television channel.

Congress spokesperson Rihituporna Konwar told The Indian Express, "We are hopeful of performing better than last election. Let's see the results on May 23."

Overall, in the Northeast too, the exit polls by various agencies predicted a BJP dominance.

