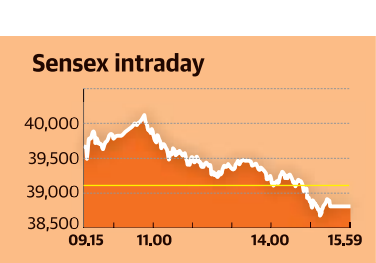



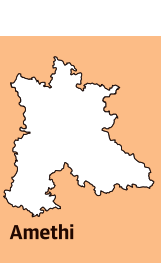
**Politics of casteism, dynasty and appeasement has been buried in this massive mandate given to BJP. This is a victory of pure nationalism**  
AMIT SHAH, BJP president




**Sensex intraday**  
40,000  
39,500  
39,000  
38,500  
09.15 11.00 14.00 15.59




**Varanasi**  
6,74,664 are the votes polled by PM Modi, who defeated Shalini Yadav, his nearest rival from the SP



**Amethi**  
4,68,514 are the votes secured by Smriti Irani who defeated Congress leader Rahul Gandhi



**Wayanad**  
7,06,367 are the votes polled by Rahul Gandhi in a record win, securing **64.67%** of the total votes



**I accept the verdict. Congratulations to the winners, Mr. Modi & the NDA. Thank you to the people of Wayanad for electing me as MP**  
RAHUL GANDHI  
Congress president

# INDIA GIVES MODI A HIGH FIVE

Modi cruises to second term with gains in West Bengal and Odisha, and holding his own in the north

BJP ensures that Congress will not be able to lay claim to the post of Leader of the Opposition

Party sheds its north-centric tag with a near sweep in Karnataka, winning 8 more seats than in 2014

Opposition's efforts to corner government on demonetisation, GST and Rafale make no impact

## IN BRIEF



**Jagan steers YSRCP to landslide win in A.P.**  
AMARAVATI  
Profiting from a strong anti-incumbency wave against the TDP government, YSRCP leader Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy steered his party to a landslide victory in Andhra Pradesh.  
**VERDICT 2019** ► PAGE 7

**BJD retains majority in Odisha Assembly**  
BHUBANESWAR  
With the Biju Janata Dal nominees ahead of their rivals in more than two-thirds of the Assembly seats in Odisha on Thursday, Chief Minister and party president Naveen Patnaik is set to rule the State for a fifth consecutive term.  
**VERDICT 2019** ► PAGE 7

**BJP wins Arunachal Assembly election**  
GUWAHATI  
After two stints in power, the BJP, led by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, won its first Assembly election in Arunachal Pradesh. The BJP approached the day of verdict with an advantage — three of its candidates had won unopposed before the election. The BJP won 11 seats in 2014.  
**VERDICT 2019** ► PAGE 7

**Close contest in Sikkim, as SKM, SDF fight it out**  
KOLKATA  
A close contest unfolded in the Sikkim Assembly election, with the Opposition Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) ahead of the Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF), which has been in power for 25 years. Pawan Chamling's SDF has secured 47.58 % of the votes, against the SKM, which secured 47%.  
**VERDICT 2019** ► PAGE 7  
**FRIDAY REVIEW** ► 12 PAGES (IN TABLOID)



**A day to remember:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah waving to party workers at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

AMIT BARUAH  
VARGHESE K. GEORGE  
NEW DELHI  
Making major gains in West Bengal and Odisha while holding his own in northern India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi cruised to a second term in office, with the BJP alone looking set to win just over 300 seats in the seven-phase Lok Sabha election.

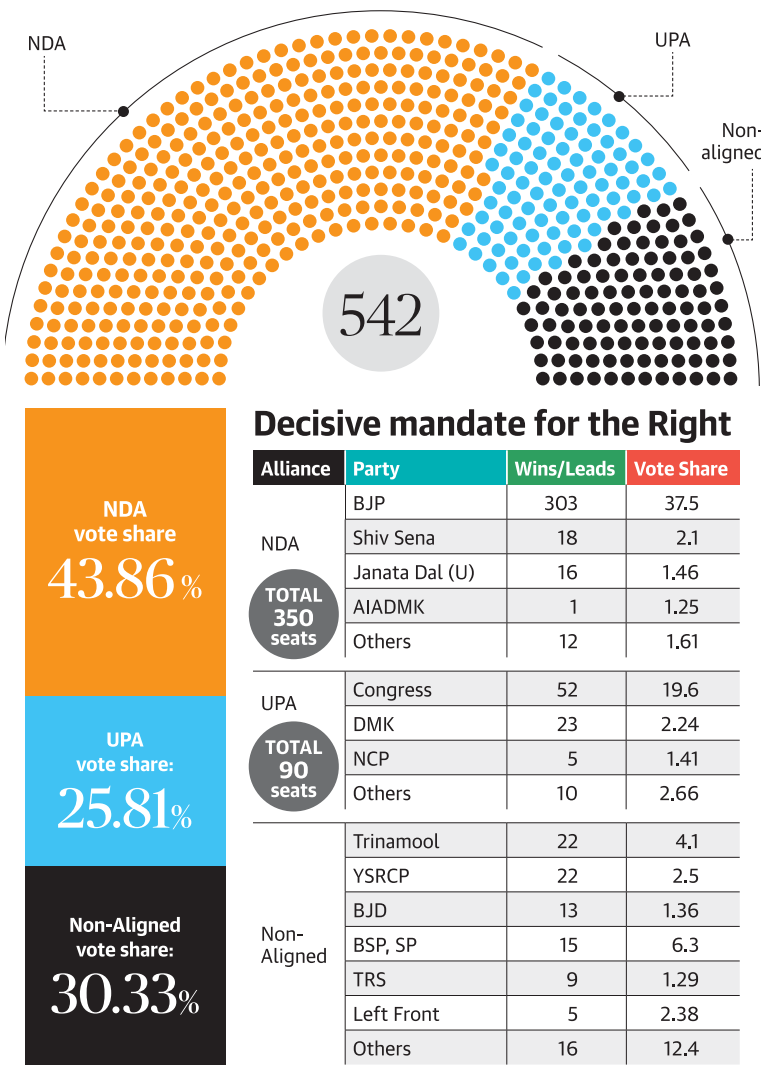
Decimating the Opposition alliances in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the BJP ensured that the Congress, which hovered around a tally of 50, would not be able to claim the official position of Leader of the Opposition for the second time running. The defeat could trigger a major churn in the Opposition ranks, particularly in the Congress.  
The Congress-led UDF notched up impressive numbers at the expense of the Left in Kerala, winning 19 of the 20 seats, while the DMK-led coalition demolished the AIADMK-BJP alliance in Tamil Nadu, winning in 38 out of 39, including the lone seat in Puducherry.  
Shrugging off its north-centric tag, the BJP won eight more seats in Karnataka over 2014, taking its total in the State to 25 out of a possible 28, and also made

further inroads in the north-eastern region.  
Its major NDA allies — the Shiv Sena (18), the JD(U) 16, the LJP 6 and the Akali Dal 2 — took the alliance tally to a staggering 350, making it clear that the voter had come out in support of stability and a projected strong leader like Mr. Modi.

## VERDICT 2019

“Thank you India! The faith placed in our alliance is humbling and gives us strength to work even harder to fulfil people’s aspirations,” Mr. Modi tweeted.  
**Balakot plank**  
The Prime Minister, who campaigned relentlessly on the Balakot plank and repeatedly called the Opposition alliances examples of grand adulteration, dropped just 10 seats in U.P., and took all or nearly all seats in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.  
The Opposition’s efforts to pin down the government on such issues as demonetisation, the GST or the Rafale jet deal seemed to have made no impression on the electorate, which backed his

second-term campaign to the hilt. The multi-phase election in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal allowed Mr. Modi to concentrate on these States, which brought rich dividends to the party.  
**Spectacular success**  
The BJP’s most spectacular success came from West Bengal, where the party was leading in as many as 18 seats, having won just two in the previous Lok Sabha election. Given the bitter exchanges with Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee, the performance comes as a major boost for the BJP.  
Its controversial choice for the Bhopal seat, terror accused Pragya Thakur, defeated senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh by over three lakh votes, sending a signal that any candidate anointed by Mr. Modi could win. After the final results are known and a notification from the Election Commission is issued, a re-empowered Mr. Modi and BJP president Amit Shah will get down to the task of government formation.  
**CASTE CALCULUS GOES FOR A TOSS IN THE NORTH** ► PAGE 5  
**FOR A REDISCOVERY OF INDIA** ► EDITORIAL



## A mandate from a new India: Modi

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi, elected back with a bigger majority than before, termed his victory a mandate from a new India and a victory for democracy and for an aspirational and inclusive country.  
Addressing party workers at the BJP headquarters here, Mr. Modi said the mandate laid the foundation for the 21st century India, where there would be only two castes. “The first of these castes would be the poor, and the second those who want to fight poverty,” he said. The emergence of these two castes in this election was the reason for the defeat of parties that espoused casteism.  
In an impassioned speech, he said that in his second term, he wanted to make three vows to the people. “My first vow is that I will not do anything out of ill-will or bad intentions, I could make mistakes but never do anything out of malice. My second vow is that I shall never do anything for myself in order to garner profit for myself, and my third vow is that every minute of my life and myself I shall devote to the country. Whenever you want to evaluate me, you must do so on these parameters,” he said.

PRICE RISE, NO POLL ISSUE: MODI ► PAGE 12

# BJP sweeps all seven Delhi seats again

Party betters its 2014 vote share, polling over 15% more than AAP, Cong. combined

JATIN ANAND  
JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ  
NEW DELHI  
The BJP won all seven parliamentary seats in Delhi on Thursday, repeating not just its 2014 count but bettering it in terms of vote share with an increase of nearly 10%. It tallied 56.60% of the votes polled, up from 46.63% in the previous general election.  
Party chief Amit Shah, in his victory speech later in the day, said Delhi figures among 17 States where the BJP’s vote share has gone past 50%.  
In terms of numbers, the Aam Aadmi Party and the Congress, which were looking to ally in the Capital, got a combined vote share of approximately 40.63%, which was even lesser than the BJP’s lowest vote share of 52.94% in Chandni Chowk seat.  
While five of the party’s sitting MPs — Harsh Vardhan from Chandni Chowk, Meenakshi Lekhi from New Delhi, Parvesh Verma from West Delhi, Ramesh Bidhuri from



Manoj Tiwari, Delhi BJP chief and candidate from North East Delhi, flashes the victory sign at the party office in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

South Delhi and Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari from North East Delhi — retained their seats, newcomers Gautam Gambhir from the East and Hans Raj Hans from the North West seats registered victories with vote shares of 55.35% and 60.49% respectively.  
Mr. Verma also won with a sizeable vote share of 60.05%, even as the closest electoral contest in Chandni Chowk saw Dr. Vardhan, in whose favour 5,09,465 votes

were polled, sailing through with a margin of more than 2.28 lakh votes over his closest rival, Congress candidate Jai Prakash Agarwal, who bagged 2,90,910 votes.  
**Cong. bounceback**  
Thursday’s results seemed to herald a revival for the Congress in Delhi. The party replaced AAP as runner-up in five seats: Chandni Chowk, East, New Delhi, North East and West.  
From 15.22% in 2014, the

Congress vote share went up to 22.43% in 2019, registering an increase of 7.21%. AAP, which had a vote share of 33.08% in 2014, notched only 18.15% this time — much of its 14.93% drop in vote share seemingly benefiting both the Congress and the BJP.  
Of its seven candidates, AAP’s North East Delhi candidate Dilip Pandey secured the lowest vote share (13.06%) while its South Delhi candidate Raghav Chadha polled 26.35% votes.  
AAP insiders conceded that the Congress, despite “zero representation” in the Delhi Assembly, had resurfaced as a force to reckon with in the Capital. This, they claimed, was due to the party’s success in “winning back” a portion of its original vote share — which had gradually eroded and shifted to AAP when it came to power on the back of an anti-Congress wave — over the last five years and “dissatisfaction” with the AAP government formed in Delhi in 2015.  
**SEE ALSO** ► PAGE 14