

ELECTIONS 2009

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AFGHANISTAN

TAJIKISTAN

PAKISTAN

JAMMU & KASHMIR
Srinagar

HIMACHAL PRADESH
Shimla

Chandigarh
PUNJAB

HARYANA

DELHI

RAJASTHAN
Jaipur

UTTAR PRADESH
Lucknow

Dehradun
UTTARAKHAND

CHINA
TIBET

SIKKIM
Gangtok

BHUTAN

ARUNACHAL PRADESH
Itanagar

ASSAM (Asom)
Dispur
NAGALAND
Kohima

MEGHALAYA
Shillong

MANIPUR
Imphal

MIZORAM
Aizawl

TRIPURA
Agartala

MYANMAR

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Gandhinagar
GUJARAT

Diu
Daman
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI
Silvassa
Mumbai
MAHARASHTRA

Bhopal
MADHYA PRADESH

Raipur
JHARKHAND
ORISSA
Bhubaneswar

Patna
BIHAR

WEST BENGAL
Kolkata

BAY OF BENGAL

ARABIAN SEA

Panaji
GOA

KARNATAKA

Hyderabad
ANDHRA PRADESH

Yanam (Puducherry)

LAKSHADWEEP (INDIA)
Kavaratti

Mahé (Puducherry)

Bengaluru

KERALA

Chennai
Puducherry

Karaikal (Puducherry)

Thiruvananthapuram

SRI LANKA

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS (INDIA)
Port Blair

INDIAN OCEAN



Election issues

- No mega national issue like *Garibi Hatao* Why?
- Near Consensus on Question of Economy
- Question of Poverty-Out of Focus
- Corruption –Non-issue



- Hindutva blurred
- Identity Politics-still the main chess- board

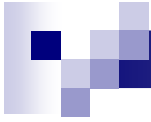


Issues alive at State Level

- **LTTE effects Tamil Nadu**
- **Statehood and Autonomy**
- **Telengana, Gorkha Rajvanshi in W.Bengal**
- **Singur, Nandigram in W.B.**
- **Vijayan V/s Achutanandan in Kerala, Madani connection in Kerala**



- Reservations-Gujjars, Marathas
- Referendum on Functioning of Government – Bihar, M.P., Punjab, Chattisgarh
- Modi Flaunting Development

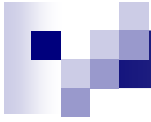


- Navin, Gehlot as honest CMs
- Corruption-Andhra, Karnataka, Punjab, Assam
- Next Phase of Identity Politics-Mayawati



Election Commission

- Excellent Performance, yet betterment needed at micro level
- Expensive Campaigning-Rs. 2 to 5 lac per hour for helicopters and planes used by all except the Left

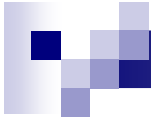


- Maximum number of criminals fielded by Mayawati and Ram Vilas
- Cash and other means of luring Electorate



Regional Upsurge

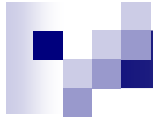
- Caste Upsurge-Assertion- Empowerment
- Youth – No Autonomous category, part of caste and religion
- Women - Ditto



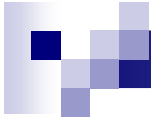
- Congress not yet comfortable with coalition politics
- NDA better placed
- Left more in parliamentary game



- Dalit – near abdication of Ambedkar platform
- Congress near total abdication of Gandhi Nehru perspective
- Violence at a low ebb



- Regional Upsurge; Non-ideological but all pervasive
- Corporatization of Politics
- Assertion of Caste and regionalism



- The Depressed castes & communities are finding their voice-empowerment
- The Panchayat Elections reflect this new qualitative change in the position of the depressed



- The so-called National parties are not aware of this qualitative change at grassroots level
- Their functioning from top remains hackneyed, but caste and regional based polity has pragmatic grip over



- The middle class at some places reacts in a quixotic fashion particularly in Mumbai post Taj incidence and in Karnataka. Independent candidates like Meera Sanyal in fray but this sudden exercise is of no avail.



- Major parties shun BJP for fear of loss of Muslim votes
- Ideological divide line blurred
- Grand narrative over



- Emotional issues not responded by electorate
- Maturer Democracy




- Low voting percentage-Between 44% to 55% with exception of popular states where some local / regional issues
- The voters list is faulty: Multiplication of names showing low voter turn-out.





- Disconnect between the state assembly elections and national parliamentary elections also causes indifference and low percentage.
- The political parties particularly the centrist parties have given up organisation building, mass fronts




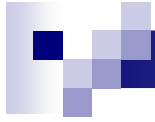
- In the Hindi belt BJP remains the only organised political machine
- Congress better organised in Southern India as well as part of Eastern India

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- The Congress may better show in UP and Bihar not in terms of seat but percentage voting due to availing space to a portion of uppercaste.
 - The large space all over the country is increasingly getting occupied by regional & caste based parties particularly with backward following at places.

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- **The coalition making has a history.**
 - **During freedom struggle & first 2 decades after that Congress itself was a coalition of ideologies, castes, communities, language & religious groups.**
 - **The anti-Congressism started in 1967 was an emerging coalition of backward and non-Brahmin forces.**

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- **The Janata experiment and total revolution of JP was an all-out coalition of social and political forces against Congress.**
 - **1989 to 1994 period of instability & various combinations like National Front, United Front, Minority government supported by Congress from outside.**

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- **These non-Congress & BJP outside supported political fronts collapsed after 6th December 1992.**
 - **Then came primarily Left initiated secular versus non-secular combinations. UPA & NDA came out of it.**
 - **In 2009 elections secular versus non-secular has given place to UPA, NDA & Third Front.**



Thank You!