



IN BRIEF

Left hits a new high

NEW DELHI, MAY 13. The Left parties hit a new high with 62 seats, their highest tally in the Lok Sabha so far. The previous high was 51 in 1971-72. The Left parties won 35 of the 42 seats in West Bengal. In Kerala, the CPI(M)-led LDF won 18 of the 20 seats on offer.

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Congress gains in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, MAY 13. The Congress erased bitter memories of the 2002 Assembly elections in Gujarat, wresting 12 of the 26 seats. The BJP had to be content with 14.

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BJP does well in 3 States

NEW DELHI, MAY 13. The BJP put up an impressive show in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. The party improved on its 1999 tally of 21 in Madhya Pradesh, bagging 25 seats and relegated the Congress to a poor second with four seats. In Chhattisgarh, the BJP won 10 seats, leaving a lone seat for the Congress. In Rajasthan, it tally stood at 21 and that of the Congress at four.

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BJP tops in Karnataka Assembly

BANGALORE, MAY 13. The Congress was ousted from power in Karnataka in the Assembly polls. The BJP bagged 79 seats, followed by the Congress with 65, the JD(S) with 58 and the JD(U) with five. The BJP also won 18 Lok Sabha seats in the State, leaving only eight for the Congress.

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SP on a roll

LUCKNOW, MAY 13. The ruling Samajwadi Party struck a purple patch in Uttar Pradesh, bagging 34 Lok Sabha seats. The BSP got 20, the BJP 10 and the Congress nine.

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Sweet revenge for Congress

NEW DELHI, MAY 13. In sweet revenge for the 1999 saffron-wash, the Congress trounced the BJP in Delhi winning six of the seven Lok Sabha seats in the national capital, unseating three Union Ministers.

Another blow to TDP

HYDERABAD, MAY 13. The Congress-led alliance continued its winning streak from the Assembly elections by crushing the BJP-TDP combine in the Lok Sabha elections too. Along with the Telangana Rashtra Samithi with five seats and the CPI and the CPI (M) with one each, the Congress-led formation won 36 out of the 42 Lok Sabha seats at stake, leaving the TDP with five seats.

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RJD-led alliance ahead in Bihar

PATNA, MAY 13. In Bihar, the RJD-led secular alliance raced ahead of the NDA. The RJD-led alliance won 25 seats and the NDA 12.

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Majority for BJD-BJP

BHUBANESWAR, MAY 13. The BJD-BJP combine was inching towards securing a majority in the Orissa Assembly. According to results available at midnight, the BJD had won 51 seats and the BJP 29. The Congress won 36 seats.

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TAMIL NADU

• A historic victory

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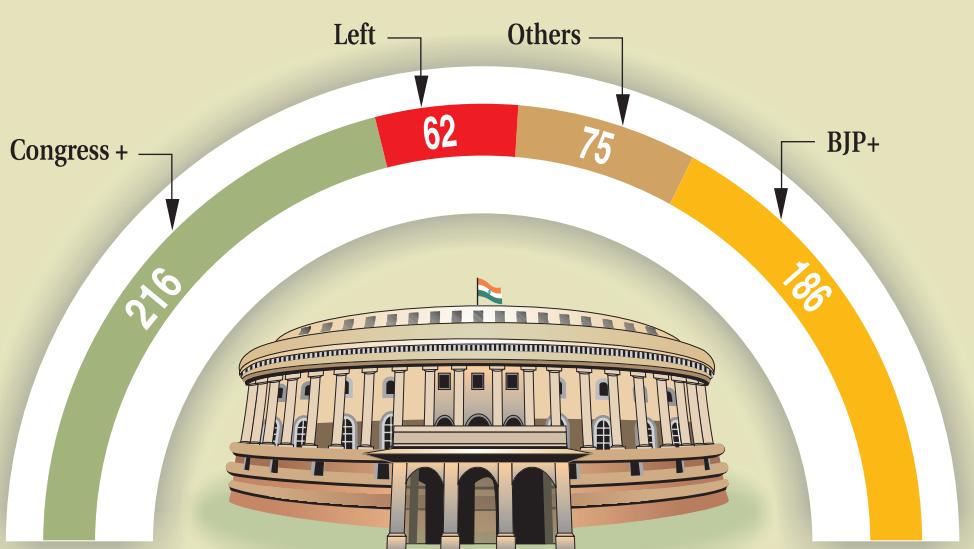
FRIDAY REVIEW

• The one and only

Godfather — FR-I



BEYOND EXPECTATIONS: With the Congress and allies plus the Left winning a majority in the 14th Lok Sabha, Sonia Gandhi has the Prime Ministerial role unless she chooses to turn it down. — Photo: V. Sudershan



The tally is for 539 seats. It includes 4 leads for BJP & allies, 1 lead for Congress, and 1 for BSP.

Graphics by Varghese Kallada

rangements are made."

Later, the Prime Minister addressed the nation and noted that "my party and alliance may have lost, but India has won." Mr. Vajpayee will be the Leader of the Opposition and will not retire from public life, according to Sushma Swaraj, the outgoing Minister for Par-

liamentary Affairs, who briefed reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

The Samajwadi Party, with 35 seats, and the Bahujan Samaj Party, with 19 seats, have emerged as key players. But the Left Front, with a tally of 62, has replaced the Telugu Desam Party as the most influential

bloc. Ms. Mayawati of the BSP has already pledged support to a "secular government" and the Samajwadi Party is also expected to pitch in with its numbers, though the party is likely to name a price for its support and the stability it would bring to the new governing arrangement.

Today's prominent winners include Mr. Vajpayee, Mr. Advani, George Fernandes, Kalyan Singh, Ms. Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Laloo Prasad Yadav, Ram Vilas Paswan, Pranab Mukherjee, Ajit Jogi, Chandra Shekhar, Ajit Singh, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Mayawati, P.A. Sangma, Somnath Chatterjee, Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba

Though a Sonia Gandhi-led coalition looks inevitable, its passage will still have to be negotiated over the next couple of days; all of the Congress' allies are not equally excited about Ms. Gandhi assuming prime ministerial role. The Nationalist Congress Party of Sharad Pawar will have to be given an escape route in the matter.

Mr. Vajpayee referred to the multi-religious, multi-lingual and multi-ethnic nation that was India and said that he had demonstrated that coalition governments could be stable and successfully deal with the challenges before the country. It was for history to judge but he was satisfied that he had left India stronger and more prosperous than it was when he took the reins of government in his hand. He had brought stability to the polity after a period of instability. "It is for you — and history — to judge what we have achieved during this period."

It was not a defeatist attitude

that came through but one that

ram Jhakhar, and C.K. Jaffar Sharief.

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Jubilation in Italy: Page 20

Photographs on celebrations:

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Vajpayee quits, offers cooperation to new government

By Neena Vyas

NEW DELHI, MAY 13. The outgoing Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who submitted his resignation, today extended his "hand of cooperation" to the new government. The defeat of the ruling coalition, the National Democratic Alliance that he was leading, had not affected his determination to proceed forward, he said.

Addressing the nation on Doordarshan, he said that it was always "with the will of the people" that governments were formed and changed. This power of democracy was a matter of pride to the nation that the people must always cherish and preserve. His party and alliance may have lost, but India has won, he said.

He thanked the people for giving him an opportunity to serve the country as Prime Minister since March 1998. "Your goodwill and affection were my greatest assets," and "your support and trust were my greatest sources of strength," he said.

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peace process with its neighbour," he said without mentioning Pakistan.

A shock for the BJP

The Bharatiya Janata Party's crushing defeat — it was not only the loss of government but the fact that the BJP's own finally tally was less than that of the Congress minus its allies — has come as a big shock for the party.

It was expecting that it could be short of a bare majority, but none of the leaders had any idea of the extent of losses the party and its National Democratic Alliance partners would suffer when the counting of votes began at 8 a.m. today.

Tomorrow, the party's parliamentary board will meet at Mr. Vajpayee's residence at 11 a.m., but it was decided today that Mr. Vajpayee would be the Leader of the Opposition.

DMK front sweeps polls

By V. Jayanth

CHENNAI, MAY 13. The seven-party Democratic Progressive Alliance (DPA) swept the polls in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, winning all 40 Lok Sabha seats at stake.

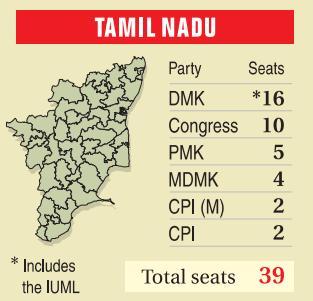
In what the Opposition leaders called "a lesson" to the "autocratic, anti-people AIADMK regime", the electorate voted overwhelmingly in favour of the DPA, with some of the frontline leaders winning by a thumping margin of over two lakhs.

The verdict, described in cricketing parlance as a "white-wash", drew immediate demands for the resignation of the AIADMK. He has called a meeting of the DPA leaders for Saturday morning and a DMK executive meeting for the evening.

From the initial stage of counting, it became obvious that an anti-incumbency wave was sweeping the State and the DPA candidates notched up early leads.

Except in Periyakulam, where it was low, they surged ahead to romp home.

The Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president, G.K. Vaishnav, thanking the people for the "overwhelming mandate", expressed the hope and confidence that he could persuade the DMK leadership to join a Congress-led secular government at the Centre.



* Includes the IUML

Graphic by Varghese Kallada

DMK wins Mangalore seat too

By Our Special Correspondent

CHENNAI, MAY 13. In keeping with the Lok Sabha poll trend, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam won the Mangalore Assembly by-election by a margin of over 13,000 votes.

Its candidate, V. Ganesan, polled 61,956 votes against 48,070 secured by the All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's, K. Ramalingam in the reserved constituency. The Dalit Panthers of India candidate, P. Karuppusamy, contesting on the Janata Dal (United) symbol, got only 26,433 votes.

The CPI leader, Thol. Tirumavalavan, who as a partner of the DMK front won the seat in the 2001 election, resigned it following the DMK's refusal to accommodate his party in the Lok Sabha alliance.

This is the first by-election the AIADMK has lost since it returned to power in May 2001. The party earlier won the Andipatti, Acharapakkam, Saidapet, Vaniyambadi and Sattankulam by-elections.

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