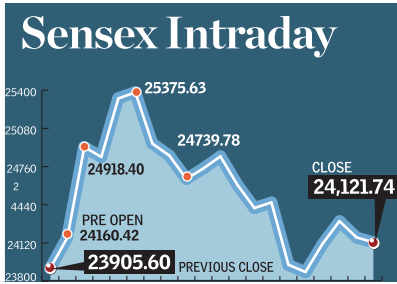




"In this victory, the contribution of Modi's leadership, RSS and other organisations like the BJP, has to be analysed."

L K ADVANI



3,52,713

Sonia Gandhi's winning margin in Rae Bareilly against Ajay Agarwal (BJP)

This mandate is clearly against us, our party. We accept politely this decision of voters and respect it.

1,07,903

Rahul Gandhi's victory margin in Amethi against Smriti Irani (BJP)

There is lot for us to think about. As the Vice President of the party, I hold myself responsible for what has happened"

"We will play a greater constructive role. We are for harmony of all castes, religions and creeds. We are in favour of economic stability."

—Mamata Banerjee



☛ We have majority, but need support to run the country ☛

PRIME MINISTER MODI

IN BRIEF

Obama calls Modi

WASHINGTON DC: U.S. President Barack Obama congratulated Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi on his party's "historic" victory in the general election.

— Narayan Lakshman PAGE 18

Naveen set to be CM again

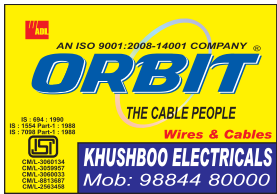


BHUBANESWAR: Biju Janata Dal's Naveen Patnaik is all set to become the Chief Minister for the fourth

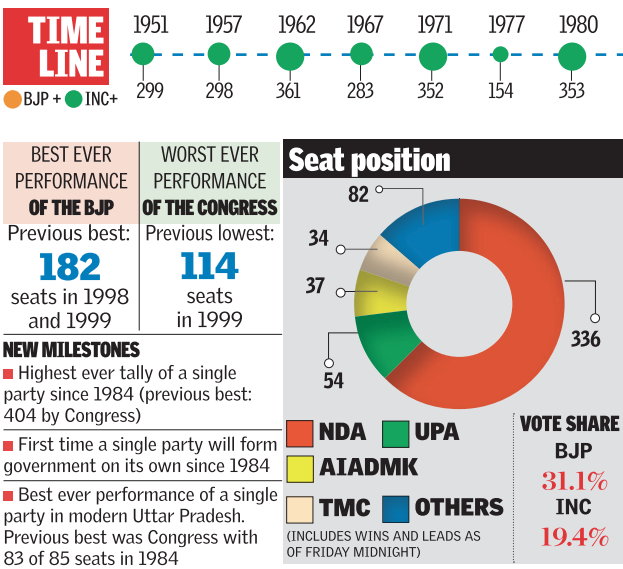
consecutive term even as results of the Assembly polls in Odisha were awaited till late on Friday.

TRS, TDP score

HYDERABAD: Decimating the Congress, the Telangana Rashtra Samiti romped home in the Telangana region in the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. The Telugu Desam Party emerged as the single-largest party in the Seemandhra region, where the Congress failed to open its account. The YSR Congress party could win seats in only three districts.



VICTORIOUS Narendra Modi accepts greetings from supporters in Gandhinagar. — PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE



Top five prominent losers

- 1 ARVIND KEJRIWAL | AAP | MARGIN: 3,36,854***
While the AAP opened its account in the Lok Sabha with four seats, its leader failed to bring down Modi in Varanasi, losing by 3.37 lakh votes
- 2 ARUN JAITLEY | BJP | MARGIN: 1,02,770**
The BJP's ace political strategist could not win in Amritsar, going down to Amarinder Singh (Congress) by 1.02 lakh votes.
- 3 MEIRA KUMAR | CONGRESS | MARGIN: 63,327**
The Speaker in the outgoing Lok Sabha lost in her home turf of Sasaram in Bihar to BJP's Chhedi Paswan by 63,327 votes
- 4 AJIT SINGH | RLD | MARGIN: 2,23,959**
The Rashtriya Lok Dal leader and Congress ally fell victim to the anti-government wave and finished a poor third in Baghat
- 5 NANDAN NILEKANI | CONGRESS | MARGIN: 2,29,190***
The techie-turned-politician lost an interesting contest for the prestigious Bangalore South seat to BJP veteran Ananth Kumar by over two lakh votes

Varghese K. George

NEW DELHI: Riding a nationwide wave created substantially by his campaign, Narendra Modi won an unprecedented victory for the BJP, matched in its intensity and sweep only by the crushing defeat of the Congress in the 16th general election.

The BJP returns to power at the Centre after 10 years. Allies will also be part of the government, though the BJP is not dependent on any of them the numbers.

"Good days are ahead," tweeted Mr. Modi as soon as trends became clear, reiterating the words of his campaign jingle 'Acche din aanevale hain' that had inspired hope among people and created a hype around his persona.

The BJP won a simple majority for the first time, only the second time a non-Congress party has done so. The BJP also became the first party since 1984 to get a majority on its own.

In its worst performance, the Congress won less than one-third of its tally of 154 in 1977, when a massive anti-Congress wave swept India after the Emergency.

The BJP consolidated its hold in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, leaving only a handful of seats to its opponents.

It also engineered a decisive turnaround in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, made inroads into Assam and West Bengal, won the south-

ern-most seat in India, Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu, and came a close second in nearby Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.

The Congress failed to hold its ground in any State except Kerala, where its alliance won a majority of the seats, and Karnataka.

In its unrivalled march, the BJP managed to break barriers of caste, decimating parties such as the BSP, the SP and the RJD in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

While the Left fell to its lowest tally in history, three regional parties outside the BJP alliance, the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu and the Biju Janata Dal in Odisha, held their ground.

With most senior leaders of the Congress routed, and no regional heavy-weight other than the

Mulayam Singh in the new Lok Sabha, the opposition appears weak against the overwhelming numbers of the BJP.

The BJP had put its hardcore Hindutva agenda on the back burner when it began alliance building in 1996, but with absolute numbers on its side, the demand from within to bring these up may rise.

But Mr. Modi sought to reassure the country, stating that he would "take the entire 125 crore people of India along."

In Vadodara, he said, "The NDA has the full majority to form the government, but to run a country, it needs the support of all parties."



Focus now on Ministry formation

Vinay Kumar

NEW DELHI: The BJP's Central Parliamentary Board (CPB) will meet here on Saturday, party president Rajnath Singh said here. After the parliamentary board's meeting, the date for holding a meeting of the BJP Parliamentary Party would be decided.

"This is a mere formality and our prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi will be elected its leader," he said.

On the formation of the Union Cabinet, Mr. Singh said: "Cabinet formation is the prerogative of the Prime Minister and we will discuss all these issues after we sit together."

The Election Commission will present the results and the notification consisting of the list of new Lok Sabha members to President Pranab Mukherjee either on Sunday or Monday.

The term of the 15th Lok Sabha ends on May 31 and the new House has to be constituted before that day.

The President will then invite the leader of the BJP, which has emerged as the single largest party with a clear majority, to form the government.

The swearing-in ceremony of the new Prime Minister will take place next week.



SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2014

Preserve the Idea of India

The sensational sweep and scale of the Bharatiya Janata Party's electoral victory was unquestionably the direct result of the strong upsurge in the popularity of its prime ministerial candidate, Narendra Modi. The Gujarat Chief Minister was clearly the star campaigner and the massive "Modi wave" that has caught the imagination of large sections of India's voters has given the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance an unprecedented and historic mandate. With the BJP winning a majority on its own, a remarkable paradigm shift has taken place in the trajectory of India's parliamentary politics. Breaking the trend of the last few decades in which no party was able to pull off a runaway victory of this kind, the BJP will come to power, free from the pressures of coalition politics, giving it unfettered space and scope to govern. This election marked the entry of 100 million new voters, young Indians impatient for change and extremely aspirational in their focus. The voter turnout — 66.38 per cent — was the highest ever in India's post-Independence electoral history, beating the record of 1984 when 64.01 per cent of Indians voted in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination.

This landmark election has also seen the incumbent United Progressive Alliance crash to an ignominious defeat with the Congress party, already on a downward spiral in several elections, now humiliatingly reduced to a double-digit figure in Parliament, its worst electoral tally since Independence. An indefensibly uninspiring campaign led by Rahul Gandhi failed to rally a young and impatient electorate. The BJP's landslide victory, almost entirely attributable to the sweeping effect of the Modi wave across India, reflects the intensity of the desire for more effective governance. The rising public anger as a result of the UPA's policy paralysis, stalled economic growth and worst of all, the series of corruption scandals, created a hunger for change especially among young Indians who see Mr. Modi as a leader symbolising

their expectations of fast economic growth unhackled from red tape and corruption. It is indeed an ironic twist of history that the Gujarat Chief Minister whose governing record is shadowed by the disquieting facts that have not really gone away — relating to his moral and political responsibility for the Gujarat pogrom of 2002 — has adroitly become the beneficiary of the increasing eagerness for a higher growth trajectory. It is also discomfiting that the election campaign that Mr. Modi conducted in the Hindi heartland States, especially Uttar Pradesh, drew heavily upon Hindu cultural nationalism, invoking as he did Hindu sacred geography in Varanasi and using Hindu cultural idioms, not really imagery suitable to the public space in democratic India.

Mr. Modi emphatically asserts that his agenda is all about governance and economic change. We welcome his assertion and wish him well in his efforts in this regard. But the reality remains that there is a huge trust deficit with the minorities, especially the Muslim community, which must be addressed. He is still regarded as a deeply polarising figure not really reaching out to minorities unlike many of his senior colleagues in the BJP or even the RSS who have made some political attempts to bridge the divide. In order to close the credibility gap that persists as regards his acceptability to govern all Indians, Mr. Modi must ensure that the idea of India as a pluralist and inclusive landscape in which all citizens have equality before the law as constitutionally decreed, is upheld consistently and transparently, while he is in office as Prime Minister. He tweeted exuberantly upon hearing the election results that "India has won!" Indeed the task ahead is to ensure that all Indians share that sense of belonging and participation in the national governing agenda. With these cautionary notes, we offer our congratulations to Narendra Modi, India's next Prime Minister, and wish him all success, for his own sake and India's too.

BLAZING A TRAIL

Emphatic win for AIADMK in T.N.

Tamil Nadu Bureau

CHENNAI: Blazing a trail, the ruling AIADMK scored an emphatic victory in the Lok Sabha election in Tamil Nadu, winning 37 of the 39 seats on its own. The sterling performance has put the party, led by Chief Minister Jayalithaa, on course to becoming the third largest in the Lok Sabha.

While the AIADMK's handsome wins were spread across all regions in a predominantly five-cornered contest in the State, the major opposition party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and its allies have drawn a blank. The resounding numbers showed that the ruling party did not suffer any anti-incumbency reverses, unlike the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance at the Centre.

The DMK's calculations to garner the votes of minorities and Dalits by roping in two Muslim outfits and the two main Dalit parties in the State to offset the break-up of the partnership with the Congress went awry. The votes polled by the Congress in this election were not adequate to make any difference even if it had been part of a DMK-led alliance.

The only solace for the BJP was the victory of its State president, Pon. Radhakrishnan, in the Kanyakumari constituency in the south, where votes were polarised on religious lines. The BJP's "lotus" symbol was in the race in nine con-



Jayalithaa

stituencies, with three of its smaller allies also allotted the symbol. In north Tamil Nadu, the attempted mobilisation of the Vanniyars seems to have benefited only the former Union Minister and PMK candidate, Anbumani Ramadoss, who won from Dharmapuri. Further, neither the DMKM, headed by Vaiko, nor the DMK could win a single seat despite the mega-alliance knitted by the BJP. Mr. Vaiko lost in Virudhunagar, while L.K. Sudhish, Mr. Vijayakanth's brother-in-law, came third in the Salem constituency.

The AIADMK, despite its brilliant performance, is unlikely to play a crucial role as the BJP has won a majority on its own. In a statement here, Ms. Jayalithaa said her appeal to the people of Tamil Nadu to strengthen her hands was not out of any selfish motives but to get justice for the people of the State. She termed her party's massive victory "historic, and unparalleled."

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