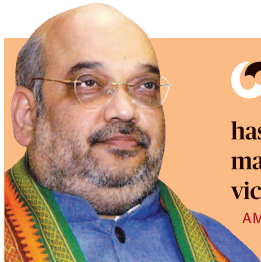





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**Politics of casteism, dynasty and appeasement has been buried in this massive mandate given to BJP. This is a victory of pure nationalism**  
AMIT SHAH, BJP president

**Sensex intraday**



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

**Varanasi**


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

**Amethi**

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

**Wayanad**

**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 (BJD) 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

### In a nail-biting finish, SKM wins in Sikkim

KOLKATA  
After hours of a nail-biting vote count for the Sikkim Assembly election on Thursday, the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) was declared the winner after midnight, with a lead of two seats over the Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF), which has been in power for 25 years.

VERDICT 2019 ► PAGE 7

FRIDAY REVIEW ► 12 PAGES  
(IN TABLOID)  
METROPLUS ► 10 PAGES



**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

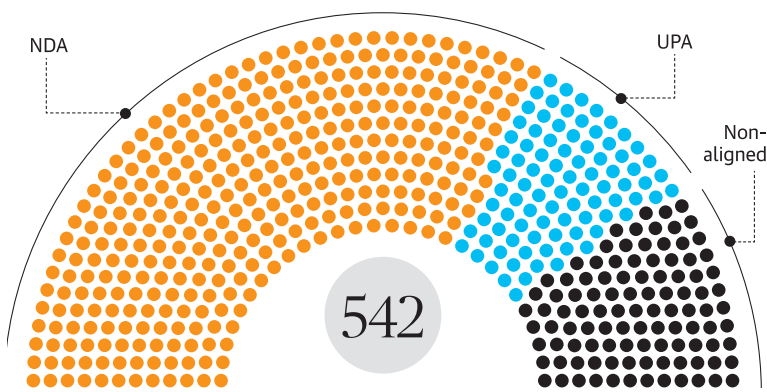
second-term campaign to the hilt. The multi-phase election in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal allowed Mr. Modi to concentrate on these States, which brought rich dividends to the party.

### 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



## Decisive mandate for the Right

Alliance	Party	Wins/Leads	Vote Share
NDA	BJP	303	37.5
	Shiv Sena	18	2.1
	Janata Dal (U)	16	1.46
	AIADMK	1	1.25
TOTAL 350 seats			
UPA	Congress	52	19.6
	DMK	23	2.24
	NCP	5	1.41
	Others	10	2.66
TOTAL 90 seats			
Non-Aligned	Trinamool	22	4.1
	YSRCP	22	2.5
	BJD	13	1.36
	BSP, SP	15	6.3
	TRS	9	1.29
	Left Front	5	2.38
	Others	16	12.4

# DMK-led front heads for landslide, ensures T.N. bucks national trend

Decimated in LS polls, AIADMK puts up a fight in Assembly bypolls

T. RAMAKRISHNAN  
CHENNAI

Bucking the national trend, Tamil Nadu witnessed an anti-Modi wave, with the electorate voting overwhelmingly in favour of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance, which captured/led in 37 of the 38 Lok Sabha constituencies that went to the polls. However, in the Assembly bypolls, the ruling AIADMK put up a strong fight, winning/leading in nine of the 22 seats to secure its government till 2021.

Other players like T.T.V. Dhinakaran's AMMK, actor Kamal Haasan's Makkal Needhi Maiam and Seeman's Naam Annalar Katchi failed to make inroads, though in some constituencies they polled a sizeable percentage of votes.

Going by the scale of the Opposition's victory, the results signalled a strong disapproval of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP, though the party contested



**Leading from the front:** DMK president M.K. Stalin greets the crowd at Anna Arivalayam on Thursday. \*M. KARUNAKARAN

only in five seats as a constituent of the coalition led by the AIADMK.

The DMK-led front's victory and lead margins were massive in all but two constituencies — Dharmapuri and Chidambaram.

The AIADMK managed to establish a lead only in Thenni, where P. Raveendranath Kumar, son of Deputy Chief Minister and the AIADMK's coordinator O. Panneerselvam, made his electoral debut against former TNCC

president E.V.K.S. Elangovan.

In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections too, when the BJP-led NDA scored a thumping victory in other parts of the country, the State remained an exception as the NDA could secure a mere two seats. At that time, the AIADMK, which contested alone and harped on the theme of “Lady [referring to party chief Jayalithaa] vs Modi”, netted 37 seats.


The impressive performance by the DMK and its allies now is almost a repeat of the 2004 Lok Sabha polls, when they registered a landslide victory, securing 39 seats in Tamil Nadu and one in Puducherry.

Predictably, the results stunned the ruling AIADMK, which had, in a worst case scenario, expected to end up with at least eight seats.

AIADMK POISED TO WIN NINE ASSEMBLY SEATS ► PAGE 7  
JUGGERNAUT STOPPED ► PAGE 9

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