**Explainer for Data Hub**

Data Hub is probably the largest compilation of Indian election results since 1952. While data on elections is available on the Election Commission of India (ECI) website, it is not very user friendly. We have reorganized the ECI data to make it possible for users to view it in easy-to-use charts and tables.

We have provided below some aids and definitions which will make it easier for users to understand the charts and tables. In addition, there is a brief explainer accompanying each chart/table.

Data Hub gives you access to numerous charts and graphs and tables on elections. In case you use any of this information for research purposes or for any other use, you should attribute the information to deKoder.com

Source for Data Hub Election data: The Election Commission of India

Source for Maps (Lok Sabha and Assembly): Maps of India

**Listed below are some points to note**

1. **Delayed Lok Sabha Elections**

In 1984 and in 1991, Lok Sabha elections could not be held in Assam (in 1984) and Punjab (in 1984 and 1991) together with the rest of the country due to political unrest in these states.

Elections to these states were held a few months later. In Assam in 1985 and in Punjab in 1985 and 1992. The data for these states is not included in the all-India charts and tables for Lok Sabha elections of 1984 and 1991 but are shown separately in the election data for the states.

This is as per the Election Commission of India’s practice.

1. **NOTA votes**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) started reporting NOTA\* votes from 2013. We have found that while giving vote percentages of parties, the ECI website sometimes includes NOTA votes and sometimes does not. We have consistently included NOTA in computing votes percentage for a candidate or a party.

\* NOTA: None of the above.

1. **Alliances**

Data Hub reports alliances from 1990 onwards. Before that, data can be analysed only for individual parties and not for alliances.

The NDA was formed in 1998. From 1990 to 1998 we have included BJP+ in NDA to get uninterrupted data for the alliance. Similarly, when BJP contested all the seats in a state on its own without an ally (for example in Gujarat 2019 Lok Sabha Elections), we have shown seats and votes for the BJP in the NDA alliance.

Similarly, the UPA was formed in 2009. Cong+ has been clubbed with UPA from 1990 to 2009. Similarly, when Congress contested all the seats in a state on its own without an ally (for example in Gujarat 2019 Lok Sabha Elections), we have shown the seats and votes for the Congress in the UPA alliance.

1. **Andhra Pradesh 1983 Assembly Elections:** In 1983, there was no concept of a recognised party under the Representation of People Act, 1951. There were registered parties which were registered under the Societies Act.

Under the provisions of the Representation of People Act, 1951 (subsequently altered), a party had to fight at least one election and obtain at least 4% of the votes to be registered as a political party. As the TDP had not done so, it was not a registered political party and could not get the “bicycle” as its symbol.

The TDP approached R. V. S. Peri Sastri, the Chief (and sole) Election Commissioner and requested him to allot the bicycle symbol to all TDP candidates standing as Independents. Mr. Sastri declined to do so saying that “free symbols” were allocated on a “first come first served” basis.

The party asked its candidates to go as early as possible on the filing of nomination day and seek the “bicycle” symbol. Almost all the candidates, bar 10-12, followed this advice and got the “bicycle” symbol.

According to Wikipedia, the TDP formed the government with the support of 201 MLAs.

1. **Assam 1985 Assembly Elections:**

The data is not available, but we can assume that the situation was similar to that in Andhra Pradesh in 1983.

As per the Election Commission’s summary tables report, 92 seats were won by Independents (IND). Our reports suggest that 63 of these were AGP candidates and 13 were UMF candidates. We have changed the party labels of these 76 candidates from IND to AGP (63 candidates) and UMF (13 candidates) to reflect the situation on the ground.

1. **Party Names**

Some parties split and formed two or more factions. For instance, Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJP), which was formed in 2000 by Ram Vilas Paswan, split into LJP(Ram Vilas) and Rashtriya Lok Jan Shakti Party (RLJP) in 2021. The old symbol and the name LJP were frozen. However, we treat LJP and LJP(RV) as the same party because LJP (RV) was the dominant faction, and the party leadership remained the same even though ECI gave it a new name and symbol. The symbol for the original LJP was - Bungalow. Its successor was given a new name LJP(RV) with a new symbol - Helicopter. Rashtriya Lok Jan Shakti (RLJP), the other faction, was given the symbol of a sewing machine.

A somewhat different rule was applied when Apna Dal (APD) spilt. The original name was frozen - but not the symbol. Apna Dal Soneylal (ADAL), the original/dominant successor, retained the old symbol of cup and saucer and the other faction, Apna Dal Kamerawadi (APNDLK), was given a new symbol of an envelope. We treat APD and APD(AL) as the same party because APD(AL) was the dominant faction and the party leadership remained the same even though ECI gave it a new name.

Yet another rule was implemented when the NCP and the Shiv Sena legislature parties split. The Supreme Court decided in the case of the NCP that the Ajit Pawar faction was the original/dominant faction and allowed it to retain both the name NCP and the clock symbol. The other faction was given the name NCP (SharadchandraPawar) and a new symbol (a man blowing the trumpet) by the Election Commission. Similarly, the Election Commission allotted the name Shiv Sena and the bow and arrow symbol to the dominant Shinde faction. The other faction was given the name Shiv Sena (UddhavBalasahebThackeray) and the symbol of the ‘mashal’.