



BJP seats down by 21% but enough to form govt in India, Exit polls go wrong

Narendra Modi's third term despite UP jolt to party, Congress emerges stronger



Who will trust pollsters & exit polls?

The Parliamentary election 2024 have eroded the credibility of the exit polls and it will not be easy for people to take them seriously in near future. In fact, the predictions that were made, didn't come true. The final result suggested that most of the Exit polls were totally off the mark.

This does raise a serious question on the process & effectiveness of exit polls along with the methodology behind these surveys. The sample size, the inability to reach all sections of the society, failure to get true reply from the electorate, inability to spot the change in voters' mood and pollsters' complete lack of understanding the many complexities on the ground, are reasons that should alarm the agencies & must improve their methodology, assess real reasons for the failure.

Anchor's who claim to have a deep understanding of the public mood, also ended with egg on their face.

has got 63 seats less compared to last election. The wave that was going strong since 2014 and gave BJP such an edge in the last two elections, weakened. So low was the morale of many in the opposition, due to the exit polls that they got delighted with the result, feeling that they are back in contention and upcoming Assembly polls may see a resurgence of Congress. However, it is true that BJP still has a very high percent of votes polled, despite a minor decrease. Congress' vote percent went up a bit, but it is still far less than the BJP. All eyes are now on PM Modi as to how he goes ahead with the economic policies, deals with unemployment & what will be his stand on contentious issues apart from hate speeches, communalism & other major issues.



CONGRESS 99
INDIA alliance 234

*Out of 543, BJP-led NDA gets 293, much more than the required 272 seats.

By Shams Ur Rehman Alavi

ANALYSIS

The 2024 general elections in India have sent a clear message to the political parties and the leaders as well as the political commentators who were predicting a massive victory for BJP. Indian electorate gave them a shock. While the BJP alliance managed to secure a simple majority, the party could get just 240 seats. In a way, it has been a huge setback for BJP that had given the slogan '400 paar' - party was aiming at more than 400 members in the Lok Sabha. However, the election results have come as a big surprise, as it slipped and could not even touch 250 mark. In 2019, the BJP had 303 seats—much more than the number of MPs needed for majority, has its wings clipped now. Congress almost doubled its number of seats and the INDIA alliance gave a real competition to the BJP. Though BJP has come back to power in Delhi but other

parties' support had to be sought in order to form the government, and for getting past the magic number in the Lok Sabha. This is the third time in succession for BJP at the Centre. No denying the fact that Modi has once again taken his party to success and became the Prime Minister (PM) for yet another tenure. But it is also true that the party's juggernaut has slowed down. Rahul Gandhi has certainly captured the imagination of a section of electorate. The number of seats Samajwadi Party and Congress alliance won in Uttar Pradesh, is a very clear reflection of this change. UP is the heartland of Indian politics, the state with maximum number of seats. It is the state that has Ayodhya, the holy town that has dominated Indian politics for decades. BJP was hoping that it would sweep the state as it had delivered its promise on Ayodhya and under the CM

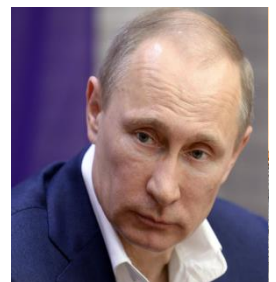
Yogi Adityanath, apparently the Hindutva wave was still strong. However, the Akhilesh Yadav and Rahul Gandhi alliance turned the tide. BJP lost ground in UP. Similarly, in Maharashtra, the electorate was unhappy and the party couldn't read the discontent. One of the reasons was the fear about BJP securing more than 400 seats. Anxious, the backward castes, scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes, turned towards the opposition. BJP gained in certain other states and also managed to win all the 29 seats in Madhya Pradesh. But, the losses in UP and Maharashtra, brought it down. Ultimately, it couldn't reach 300 and went below 250. The final tally was 240. That's nearly 21% decline in number of seats compared to the previous Lok Sabha election. The BJP had then won 303 seats. In 2024, the figure has come down & it

[The author is a senior journalist based in India. The views expressed are his own]

North Korea, Vietnam ready for Russian prez Putin's visit

The Asian Tribune

Eyes are on East Asia as the Russian president Vladimir Putin is all set to visit the region. Putin is first going to North Korea and meet King Jong Un for strengthening the bilateral ties, say highly placed diplomatic sources. North Korea wants that its project to build satellites should get assistance from Russia. The North Korean leader had earlier went to Russia and visited the space facility, there. Russia has promised that it'll offer help. Putin is subsequently going to visit Vietnam. There are multiple reasons for Putin



to go to these countries. Moscow faces sanctions from West due to its war with Ukraine. It has been trying to woo the countries that have not been in Western camp & are keen for cooperation with Russia. Apart from technology, oil, trade, focus is also on to bolster ties for increase in clout and opening channels for more financial activity.



Indonesia trains its guns on X over adult content on social media platform earlier known as Twitter

The Communications minister has said that X could be banned for circulating adult content & a letter has been sent to the company.

Indonesia has said that it was ready to stop the operation of social media platform X in the country, if the latter fails to stop the circulation of pornographic content on the micro-blogging site.

Communications minister has said that the country would not allow adult content, as it violated the laws of Indonesia, and would shut X (formerly known as Twitter).

Indonesia is one of the biggest countries in the world. It has a population of nearly 275 million that makes it the fourth most populous nation in the world, after India, China and United States. As the biggest Muslim country, it is known for strict laws on adult content.

The Asian Tribune



The minister said that government is committed to enforce the laws and ensure that the companies adhere to the norms and laws of the nation. It's not clear how Elon Musk would respond to Indonesian govt stand. The country has huge base of X users.

Jakarta has said that it would send a missive, if needed, once again. Then, it will take the final step and would shut down X if it still fails to comply. There is a strong law against sharing the

any obscene content—it's a punishment of six years in prison for circulation of adult content in the country. X has had several issues with regimes in different countries over the last few years. But, after Elon Musk took over, policies changed & also the style of functioning. X has avoided conflicts. It claims to stand for free speech but it has kept its business interests foremost & content has been brought down as per the official line in certain countries. The social media platform has been focusing on revenue generation and started charging for higher engagement & more reach through verification and premium membership.

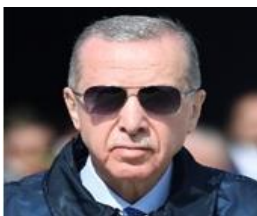
West Asia

Erdogan signs 23 billion dollar deal to buy US' F-16 warplanes

Muted response on killings in Gaza, has hurt his image

The Asian Tribune

Turkey has signed deal for purchase of F-16 warplanes from United States. It is a 23 billion dollar deal that has been okayed, according to highly placed sources. The two countries have inked the contract after a series of meetings and long negotiations. Now, after this deal, Turkey will get 40 new F-16 warplanes from America. As a major power and a NATO ally, Turkey has been in an advantageous position and its strategic location is reason that Erdogan was seen as a man



who could punch above his weight. He was expected to play a major role and was considered a strong leader. But Turkey's dull response and inability to intervene, has hurt its credibility. The rhetoric over the last few years, along with focus on media to spread its soft power in the world, has failed. It couldn't show its clout during the ongoing

Israel Vs Palestine conflict. Meanwhile, these are said to be the most advanced F-16 warplanes. Also, Ankara will get upgrade for its 79 jets that are part of its fleet. In Islamic world that stretches across Southern Europe, Africa, Asia and the Far East, his effort to become a leader in sync with the Muslim street, has come a cropper. Despite the scale of death and destruction in Gaza, no country has been able to persuade Israel and US [or able to use diplomacy] to stop killings. The huge expense and purchase of F-16, is thus questioned.

Central Asia

Kabul aims at relations with most countries



The Asian Tribune

Afghanistan has given clear signal that now it wants to establish its relations with most countries. In order to forge ties with other nations, its supreme leader & government head

Hibatullah Akhundzadah has said that the nation would form economic and political ties with more and more nations. He said that the country faced calamities like the recent floods that affected Afghanistan.