

Opinion polls predict victory for Congress in Rajasthan Assembly polls

NEW DELHI, OCT 7 /-- The Congress is likely to unseat the BJP from power in Rajasthan, two opinion polls have predicted in what could be a continuation of the state's tradition of over two decades of voting out the ruling party. Surveys carried out by ABP News-Cvoter and C fore have given the Congress almost 50 per cent of the vote share and 142 and 124-138 seats respectively in the 200-member Rajasthan Assembly with its state president Sachin Pilot leading Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje as the most preferred candidate for the top post.

While the C fore survey is restricted to Rajasthan, the ABP News-Cvoter opinion poll has also predicted the outcome of the Assembly elections in BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, giving an edge to the Congress in both the states. The BJP is in power in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh for 15 years. The pre-poll survey has, however, added that a minor swing in both the states

can turn the tide in the favour of either of the two main parties due to a very small difference between their predicted vote shares.

It has predicted 122 seats for the Congress in the 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly and 47 seats for the opposition party in the 90-member Chhattisgarh Assembly. The BJP has been projected to bag 106 and 40 seats in these two states respectively. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had on Saturday expressed confidence that it would register a "record victory" in the upcoming state Assembly elections and retain power in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. Senior BJP leader and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had said the saffron party would secure a record victory on the basis of its hard work and development measures, besides the performance of its governments in the three states. In Rajasthan, Pilot leads Raje as the popular choice for the chief minister's post with 36 per cent voters preferring him, while the

latter is the first choice for 27 per cent, according to the ABP News-Cvoter poll, which says former chief minister and Congress leader Ashok Gehlot enjoys the backing of 24 per cent voters. The C fore poll says Pilot, Gehlot and Raje are the first choice of 32, 27 and 23 per cent voters respectively.

However, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and his Chhattisgarh counterpart Raman Singh are the first choice of the voters for the hot seat, despite anti-incumbency sentiments against their governments, the ABP News-Cvoter poll says. The Congress and the BJP have been predicted to bag 42.2 and 41.5 per cent votes in Madhya Pradesh and 33.9 and 33.2 per cent votes in Chhattisgarh respectively. There is, however, a huge gap in the projected vote share of the Congress and the BJP in Rajasthan, with the opposition party being backed by 49.9 per cent voters against the 34.3 per cent share for the ruling dispensation. The vote share predicted by C fore

is 50 and 43 per cent for the Congress and the BJP respectively in Rajasthan. The BJP had secured power in all the three states in 2013 by winning 165, 142 and 49 seats in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh respectively as against the 58, 21 and 39 seats of the Congress. The C fore survey interviewed 5,788 voters in Rajasthan, while the ABP News-Cvoter opinion polls had a sample size of 26,198 voters in the three states.

The Election Commission (EC) Saturday announced that the Assembly polls in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana will be held between November 12 and December 7. While Chhattisgarh will go to the polls in two phases on November 12 and 20, the elections in Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram will be held on November 28. Polling in Rajasthan and Telangana will be held on December 7. Counting of votes will be taken up in all the five states on December 11. (PTI)

Modi should have associated with Amaravati project: Chandrababu

AMARAVATI, OCT 7 /-- Charging the Prime Minister with reneging on promise to financially support building of the new capital of Andhra Pradesh, state Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has said Amaravati project is a national pride and Narendra Modi should have "at least" associated with it. Naidu, a former BJP ally who quit the NDA early this year over the Centre's refusal to grant special category status to Andhra Pradesh, alleged the saffron party was not associating with the greenfield project due to "political reasons". Asserting that the capital city is being developed at a faster pace, the chief minister said that any change of government in the state is unlikely to affect the works as "solid ecosystem" has been put in place. "The Amaravati project is a national pride and I wish the prime minister had associated with it. Why cannot the centre share the pride by getting associated with it? Because of political reasons, they are not able to associate with it," Naidu told PTI. Modi had laid the foundation stone for the capital city of Amaravati in October 2015 amid much fanfare but "he later went back on his promise to provide funds for the project," he said. "I have developed Hyderabad as an IT hub. Former prime ministers always used to praise the city as a national pride... Why cannot Modi do it?" Naidu said. On the progress of new capital, the chief minister said roads, office buildings and courts are coming up at a pace never done

before. About Rs 3,400 crore has been spent on the project so far including Rs 1,500 crore from the Centre and Rs 1,000 crore from the neighbouring Telangana. "There is non-cooperation from the Centre. We are paying them more taxes than what they have given to the capital. We have received only Rs 1,500 crore. Once the capital is made, they will receive Rs 200 crore in taxes," he said. Naidu further said he is underbilled by lack of funds and is confident of arranging finances so that the work is not affected. "I am not comfortable with the finances. But I have the will power. I will develop the city no matter what," he said adding that Amaravati will be developed as a model city that will be benchmarked in the top ten cities of the world.

The Andhra Pradesh government has raised Rs 11,300 crore for the project through different means including bonds against the requirement of Rs 48,116 crore. Asked if any change in government in the state will affect the progress of the project, Naidu said, "An ecosystem has been put in place. The project will continue without hurdles for next ten years." According to the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) Additional Commissioner S Shan Mohan, "We are attracting investments from private. There are 19 projects under PPP mode. This includes schools, marine, commercial malls, and driveways." "We see these 19 projects as test of viability of the city as an economic hub," he added. (PTI)

Sabarimala tantri says no relevance of talks with govt; protests continue

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT 7 /-- The Kerala government's move to hold talks with "Thazhamon tantries", the head priests of the Sabarimala Temple, on the Supreme Court verdict on entry of women into the shrine received a setback Sunday with one of the priests saying there was no relevance in holding discussions. The Pandaram royals, the erstwhile rulers associated with the Lord Ayyappa temple, also said there was no point in holding discussions now as the CPI(M)-led LDF government had already taken a decision to implement the top court order. Meanwhile, protests by devotees of Lord Ayyappa, demanding the retaining of the age-old tradition, rituals and faith of the hill shrine, continued in several parts of the state. There were reports that the

government invited the tantri family and the members of Pandaram royals for a discussion with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan here Monday. Kandararam Mohanaru, one of the three tantries, and Sasikumar Varma, a member of the Pandaram royal family, said there was no relevance of holding talks with the government right now as they were not ready for a review against the apex court order.

On September 28, a five-judge Constitution bench, headed by then Chief Justice Dipak Misra, lifted the ban on the entry of women of menstrual age into the shrine. There had been restrictions imposed on the entry of women belonging to the age group of 10-50 in the hill shrine as part of its centuries-old tradition. "We will go for a review petition. Let us

know the result of the review... We can hold discussion with authorities after knowing views of the Pandaram royal family also in this regard," Mohanaru said in Chengannur. The tantri also took exception to the government's move to deploy women police personnel at 'sannidhanam', the temple complex, and said it would amount to violation of rituals and traditions of the hill shrine. Echoing the same sentiments, Sasikumar Varma said the royal family's stand on the issue was very clear. "The Supreme Court verdict is wrong. It is violation of customs and traditions of the Lord Ayyappa shrine. But the government is for permitting women into the shrine without going for any review. So there is no point in holding talks with them now," he said. (PTI)



Participants at the Cancer Awareness Run, CAnCeR RUN organised by Grace Cancer Foundation, at Jal Vihar, Necklace Road in Hyderabad on Sunday. Over 7000 runners and 200 cancer survivors participated in the Run.

BJP will suffer 'historic' defeat in Rajasthan polls: Ghanshyam Tiwari

JAIPUR, OCT 7 /-- Former BJP leader and Bharat Vahini Party (BVP) president Ghanshyam Tiwari said Sunday the saffron party is set to suffer a "historic" defeat in the Rajasthan assembly elections. Polling in the state will be held on December 7. He also claimed that the BJP's vote bank will be affected as it has "betrayed" the upper castes in Rajasthan. Prominent BJP leaders from the upper castes have quit the party. "The BJP has betrayed the people of upper castes and its base vote bank has slipped," Tiwari said. He claimed that the BVP would contest on all 200 assembly seats and emerge as the third largest party without which forming a government in Rajasthan would not be possible. The Congress is not in a position to form government and the BJP is set to face a historic defeat in the state. Forming government in Rajasthan would not be possible without the BVP, Tiwari said. On the BSP contesting the elections, Tiwari said it would not make a major difference as the vote percentage of the Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has reduced continuously in the state. Citing a study, Tiwari claimed that it was seen that development takes place in states where there is a third political party. States with two political parties have lagged on the development front, he said. The six-time MLA, Tiwari, who has an RSS background, is a prominent face in the Brahmin community in Rajasthan and a strong critic of the Vasundhara Raje led government. He formed the BVP after resigning from the BJP. Tiwari was served notices for indiscipline by the BJP central leadership. On BJP chief Amit Shah's comment that the party was like 'angad's feet' in Rajasthan and cannot be uprooted, Tiwari said neither Shah nor Raje have a feeling of democracy. "Both are dictators," the BVP chief said.

He also alleged that Shah was insulting the people of the state by saying that he will make the chief minister in Rajasthan. Such a statement is an open challenge to the people of Rajasthan and they will accept it, Tiwari said. Polls in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana will be held between November 12 and December 7 in what may be a virtual semi-final to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Counting of votes will be taken up together in all the five states on December 11. (PTI)

Togadia hits out at Modi, Bhagwat on Ram Temple issue

NAGPUR, OCT 7 /-- Former Vishva Hindu Parishad leader Pravin Togadia Sunday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat accusing them of not fulfilling the promise of building Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Togadia also slammed Bhagwat for stating that "Hindu Rashtra does not mean there is no place for Muslims". Bhagwat had made the statement at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's three-day lecture series in September this year. "Hindu Rashtra doesn't mean there's no place for Muslims. The day it is said so, it won't be Hindutva anymore. Hindutva talks about Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," Bhagwat had said. Addressing a press conference here Sunday Togadia said, "I want to ask if there is no Hindutva without gau hatyara (cow killers), love jihadis, stone pelters and Pakistani flag wavers in Kashmir?" "We had

joined the RSS 52 years ago considering it to be a Hindu organisation. But now we feel it is only concerned with the interests of Muslim community," Togadia added. The former VHP leader alleged that the RSS was not interested in pursuing the cause of building a Ram Temple in Ayodhya. He said that instead of demanding a temple be constructed, the RSS chief should "order" Prime Minister Narendra Modi to get the government to enact a law in Parliament to pave the way for a Ram Temple. He also accused PM Modi of 'appeasing' Muslim community and going back on the promise to build a Ram Temple in Ayodhya. "When it comes to the SC/ST Act, Modi says Parliament will decide on the matter and not the courts. But when it comes to building the Ram Temple, Modi backtracks and says the courts will decide on the issue and not Parliament," Togadia said. (PTI)

Security stepped up ahead of local body polls in Kashmir Valley

SRINAGAR, OCT 7 /-- Security forces have intensified checking and area domination as part of an elaborate plan to provide a sense of security for the smooth conduct of local body polls in the Kashmir Valley, officials said Sunday. The first phase of the polls start Monday. "An elaborate security plan has been put in place for the smooth conduct of the polls, a senior police official said. He said security forces have intensified vehicle checking, frisking and area domination in the city as well as in the other areas of the valley in the run up to the polls. Many check-points have been placed in the city where vehicles are being checked. Sniffer dogs are also being used to check vehicles. We are making sure that no untoward incident happens, he said. The official said while providing a secure atmosphere for the polls was a challenge, there is a good synergy between various security agencies and several steps have been taken to provide a general sense of security in the valley. We are providing cluster security. Most of the candidates have been taken to secure locations and some have been given a security cover. The areas are being made safe through operations and increased presence of forces as well as through area domination, the official said. He said deployment of forces has been worked out and sensitive areas have been taken care of. The official said polling booths have been secured and a thick layer of security has been thrown around them. The focus is to keep trouble makers at bay so that there is no toward incident and people come out to vote without any fear, he said. Inspector General of CRPF Kashmir, Ravideep Singh Sahi said the "environment" in the entire Kashmir Valley is under control and the endeavour is to create a sense of security so that the people come out to vote. We have made elaborate arrangements for the security. Whatever force was required for the elections, has come and they are being deployed. They have been taken to secure locations and are adequately familiarised with the area. We have started area domination, check-points have been installed in various areas and we are working in close coordination with the police and army, Singh said. He said operations were being conducted to arrest trouble mongers so that a secure environment is provided to the people.

We have made adequate arrangements for the security of the candidates, their personal security as well as the accommodation arrangements. We have elaborate plan for that. Area domination, checking and operations have been going on so that trouble mongers are arrested and there is a general sense of security, the IG CRPF said. Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik Saturday took a detailed review of the security situation in the state ahead of the first phase of the municipal elections. The meeting was attended by Northern Army Commander, Lt Gen Ranbir Singh, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh, GOC 15 Corps, Lt Gen A K Bhat, and top officials from police, CRPF and civil administration. The meeting discussed security arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the forthcoming elections to urban local bodies and panchayats and the need of a safe environment for the elections. (PTI)

Time for final publication of electoral rolls in Telangana extended

HYDERABAD, OCT 7 /-- The Election Commission of India has extended the date for the final publication of electoral rolls in Telangana from October 8 to October 12, state Chief Electoral Officer Rajat Kumar has said. On September 8, the EC had stopped all activities relating to the Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls with reference to January 1, 2019, and said the final electoral rolls list would be published on October 8. The decision for a revised schedule was taken in the wake of dislocation of the Telangana Assembly on September 6, officials had earlier said. The EC had also ordered the second Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls with reference to January 1, 2018, as the qualifying date in the state. The Election Commission announced Saturday that assembly polls in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana would be held between November 12 and December 7.

Counting of votes in all the states would be taken up on December 11, it said.

Polling in Rajasthan and Telangana will be held on December 7. Rajat Kumar said Saturday that the Telangana Assembly polls would be completed in a single phase. He said in an official release that all sections of the Model Code of Conduct was now in force across the state. "A 24 x 7 control room will be set-up and more lines will be added to the 1950 helpline number. Mobile and static squads will be deployed to monitor MCC violations," Kumar said. The Hyderabad Police commissioner has informed that cash worth Rs 1 crore was seized on Friday. "We are also coordinating with the Income Tax department in monitoring high-value transactions," Kumar said in the release. (PTI)

KIDSCORNER

Cornered

WordWheel

Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or anticlockwise. Solution No. 23: ASBESTOS

5x5

Insert the missing letters to complete ten words - five across the grid and five down.

S	A	A	S	
S	O	O	A	
A	O		A	
A	E			
F	E		H	

OUR SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No. 22 (Other combinations may occasionally be possible.)

Reference: C.O.D. 1995

WORD BUILDER

23

A	P	R
A	T	A

How many words of three or more letters, including plurals, can you make from the letters, using each letter only once? No foreign words or words beginning with a capital are allowed. There's at least one five-letter word.

TODAY'S GOALS: Good - 7 Excellent - 11 Amazing - 14

SOLUTION 22: ale, ales, are, ares, ear, ears, ears, ears, era, eras, ers, lases, laise, laser, lea, leas, lease, rases, reale, reals, sal, sale, sea, seal, sear, sera