

## CONTENTS

Editorial	4
Around the World	5
South Asia	7
The Socio-Gender Aspect of Medicine	9
<i>Anjali Mehta</i>	
Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019	14
<i>T H Chowdary</i>	
Should the Monetary Policy be Independent?	19
<i>Sitharam Gurumurthi</i>	
Gandhi: Moral Courage and Conviction	24
<i>Ravindra Kumar</i>	
Regional & Social Parties in General Election	27
<i>M R Biju &amp; M R B Anantha Padmanabha</i>	
Women Liberation: Challenge Before Society	34
<i>Gour Chandra Ghosh</i>	
Bengal's Secular Image in Politics	41
<i>Swapan K Biswas</i>	
JNU: Intriguing & Matter of Shame	48
<i>Amba Charan Vashishth</i>	

Founder Editor  
Dr Subhash C Kashyap

Editor  
Abhaya Kashyap

Magazine Committee  
Rashtriya Jagriti Sansthan

Dr B B Dutta  
U C Agarwal  
Maj Gen Vinod Saighal  
Dr N Bhaskara Rao  
Dr Y C Halan

Production & Circulation  
Ravi K Kaul

Marketing & Development  
Naresh Kohli

Data Processing  
Khyali Ram  
Ayodhya P Yadav

Annual Subscription Rates  
India : Rs 480  
Overseas (By Airmail) : USD 50

Send subscription at  
South Asia Politics  
D-298, Sarvodaya Enclave,  
New Delhi-110017  
Phone : 011-40521168, 26963389  
Fax : 011-26528044  
E-mail : sapolitics@mail.com

Articles on governance, development, economics and politics and books for review are invited.

Opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors.

Boxed features are compiled by our research team.

All rights reserved including the rights to reproduce the contents.

Printed, Published and Owned by  
Abhaya Kashyap, Printed at A K Printers,  
S-217 Bank Street, Munirka, New Delhi  
and published from D-298, Sarvodaya  
Enclave, New Delhi-110017.

Editor Abhaya Kashyap

# Regional & Social Parties in General Election

M R Biju & M R B Anantha Padmanabha

The 2019 Indian general election was held in seven phases from 11 April to 19 May 2019 to constitute the 17th Lok Sabha. The votes were counted and result was declared on 23 May. About 900 million people were eligible to vote and turnout was over 67 per cent - the highest ever as well as the highest participation by women voters. The Bharatiya Janata Party won 303 seats, further increasing its substantial majority and the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance won 353 seats. The Indian National Congress won 52 seats, and the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance won 91. Other parties and their alliances won 98 seats. The Congress again failed to secure the requisite 10% of the seats (54 seats) in the Lok Sabha. Hence, India remains without an official opposition party. Reasons attributed to the victory included the personal popularity of Narendra Modi, effective voter turnout driven by the NDA, a surge in public nationalism following the Pulwama attack, the consolidation of Hindu voters in a multi-caste coalition and the successful implementation of social welfare programmes during the First Modi ministry's term. Keeping this in background an attempt has been made in this paper to evaluate the performance of the non- BJP and



*BJP Leaders with Prime Minister Narendra Modi react after the election results in New Delhi, May 23, 2019*

non-Congress Parties. It includes regional parties, Social Justice Parties and the Left. This study also throws light on other key issues including representation of women, representation of Muslims and performance of NOTA etc.

## Regional Parties

The gigantic saffron wave that swept through the country which smashed the hopes of many regional parties, which tried to punch above their weight. Most of the aspiring parties - NCP, BSP, SP JD(S), AAP, AIADMK and TDP - have been reduced to single digits in the Lok Sabha. West Bengal's Trinamool Congress led by Mamata Banerjee, who was

eyeing the PM's post, suffered a big blow as the BJP made deep inroads into her territory. TMC, which had scored 34 in the 2014 Modi wave, was reduced to 22 after Thursday's results.

Similarly, after winning four seats in 2014, the RJD had registered a remarkable performance in the 2015 Bihar Assembly polls under the leadership of Tejashwi Yadav. However, it could not carry forward as the party, along with allies Congress and RLSP lost most of the seats in the 2019 LS polls. The RJD failed to win even a single seat, making it the worst-ever drubbing since its formation about three decades ago. Similarly, the

## Allegations of Undermining Institutions

The opposition parties have accused the NDA government is destroying democratic institutions and processes. Modi denied and blamed Congress and the communists for undermining institutions including the police, CBI and the CAG, and cited the murder of BJP activists in Kerala and Madhya Pradesh. The Congress party, other opposition parties and a group of retired civil servants have accused the ECI as being compromised and

as endorsing the model code of conduct violations by Narendra Modi and other BJP political leaders during their campaign. Another group of 81 retired civil servants, judges and academics disputed these allegations, made counter-allegations, and stated that the ECI acted fairly and similarly in alleged violations by either side. The group states that such political attacks on the ECI are a "deliberate attempt to denigrate and delegitimise the democratic institutions".