

CERSSE ELECTION TRACKER

KARNATAKA STATE ELECTIONS -2018



Dr. Sandeep Shastri

Message from the Pro Vice Chancellor

It gives me immense pleasure to introduce the fortnightly Election Tracker that the Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CERSSE) of Jain University is bringing out. As Karnataka heads towards a State Assembly poll in a few months from now, it was felt that a fortnightly tracker that provides a gist of political developments in the state and important articles in the media would be essential to highlight the mood of the state. We hope you find this Election Tracker useful and look forward to your feedback on any improvements or additional features we could add to the issue.

Terror Slur Displays A Bankruptcy Of +Ve Ideas

*-Dr. Sandeep Shastri,
Pro Vice Chancellor,
Jain University*

January 12, 2018

The political temperature in Karnataka is rising as the State Elections are due in a few months. The key players are getting into a pool of controversies. The latest controversy is that of the Chief Minister's comment on RSS and Bajrag Dal labeling them as extremist organizations. Despite the attacks on this statement, the CM, Mr. Siddaramiah has defended it strongly. The controversial spate of statements started when the CM of UP, Yogi Adityanath questioned the 'Hindu credentials' of Mr. Siddaramiah.

Read more at:

<http://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/others/terror-slur-displays-a-bankruptcy-of-ve-ideas/articleshow/62464728.cms>

Battleground Karnataka

*-Valerian Rodrigues
Ambedkar Chair,
Ambedkar University,
New Delhi*

January 24, 2018

The author here is of the opinion that the first round in the 'ring' of elections may have been won by the Congress, and in particular the Mr. Siddaramiah, Chief Minister of the State as he has already addressed the crucial Hindutva controversies and has also managed to have a significant section of certain caste groups and communities to stay with the Congress. The Article gives a historical account of Karnataka State Politics and the significant role played by caste.

Read more at:

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/battleground-karnataka/article22500308.ece>

Karnataka polls: No hung verdict as politics is not in transition

- Vicky Nanjappa

January 13, 2018

The article takes the help of Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Pro Vice Chancellor, Jain University and an eminent political scientist, to understand the prospects of a hung verdict in the Karnataka State Assemble Elections. However, Dr. Shastri argues that the verdict would be a clear one and the chances of a hung assembly are very low. He states that as the State is not going through a phase of political transition, it is highly unlikely to have a hung verdict in the upcoming elections.

Read more at:

<https://www.oneindia.com/india/karnataka-polls-no-hung-verdict-as-politics-is-not-in-transition-2619331.html>

Mystery Karnataka Poll Survey, Badly Fractured Mandate, Dalit CM and Worried Congress, BJP

-D P Satish,
CNN News 18

January 16, 2018

A less-popular pre-poll agency called CHS has come up with a pre-poll survey that 'strongly predicts' the possibility of a hung assembly in the forthcoming Karnataka State Elections. The Survey was leaked through various WhatsApp groups. KPCC representatives filed a complaint against the people behind the leaked survey with the cyber cell of police. The BJP also trashed the survey.

Read more at:

<http://www.news18.com/news/politics/mystery-karnataka-poll-survey-badly-fractured-mandate-dalit-cm-and-worried-congress-bjp-1633851.html>

Karnataka 2018 election: Voters rush to meet poll roll revision deadline

-The Hindu

January 23, 2018

The BBMP officials and booth-level officers are having a tough time managing the huge number of applications that they have received. Around 15 lakh applications have been received across the state for Electoral Roll Revision. The applications will be reviewed by 12th February. The BJP has filed a petition to the office of the Chief Electoral Officer seeking improvement in the electoral roll as the draft roll that they had received had many errors.

Read more at:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/voters-rush-to-meet-poll-roll-revision-deadline/article22492612.ece>

Pre-poll gift: Karnataka staff set for 24-30% hike, one more day off

-ManuAiyappa Kanathanda
Times of India

January 27, 2018

A few months ahead of the State Elections, the Government is likely to announce a 24-30% hike in salary for Government employees and pensioners, and also introduce holidays on alternate Saturdays. This is in response to the employees' demand for 30-35% hike and a five-day week on par with that of Central Government employees. The decision is based on a committee report, the committee being led by Mr. Srinivasa Murthy (IAS Retd.)

Read more at:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/pre-poll-gift-kataka-staff-set-for-24-30-hike-one-more-day-off/articleshow/62666977.cms>

Siddaramaiah best CM, Congress ahead of rivals: Karnataka survey

- Bhaskar Hegde

January 26, 2018

A survey conducted by Lokniti- CSDS states that 49 per cent would choose Congress in the upcoming elections, followed by the BJP (27 per cent) and JD(S) (20 per cent). The survey was conducted as part of the Mood of the Nation Survey under the overall guidance of Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Pro Vice Chancellor, Jain University and it concentrated mainly on the performance of the government, who was preferred to be the next CM by the respondents, the important issues to be kept in mind while voting and which party would be chosen by them. The Survey suggests that the Congress has a better image in smaller towns and the level of satisfaction higher among non- dominant backward castes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The Survey was conducted between January 10 and January 15, with a total of 878 interviews.

Read more at:

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/politics/260118/siddaramaiah-best-cm-congress-ahead-of-rivals-karnataka-survey.html>

Karnataka Assembly Election 2018: Rahul Gandhi asks Congress leaders to prepare 'people's manifesto'

-FirstPost

January 27, 2018

Rahul Gandhi, Congress President has asked party leaders to formulate a 'people's manifesto' just as what was done in Gujarat. The Manifesto should truly reflect the expectations of the people of Karnataka. The Manifesto prepared in Gujarat had focused on issues of education, health, employment generation, environment protection and small & medium enterprises. The proposed Manifesto for Karnataka is likely to concentrate on socio-economic aspects of development.

Read more at:

<http://www.firstpost.com/politics/karnataka-assembly-election-2018-rahul-gandhi-asks-congress-leaders-to-prepare-peoples-manifesto-4322137.html>

Karnataka polls: EC panel to visit Bengaluru tomorrow

- Indian Today

January 30, 2018

A panel led by the Chief Election Commissioner O. P. Rawat will visit the State on 31st January to review the poll preparedness in the State. The CEC will be accompanied by the Election Commissioners Sunil Arora and Ashok Lavasa. The Panel will meet the election, administrative and police authorities in the State. The panel will review poll arrangements and implementation of anti-black money measures.

Read more at:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/pti-feed/story/karnataka-polls-ec-panel-to-visit-bengaluru-tomorrow-1157802-2018-01-30>

Karnataka Assembly Election 2018: CM Siddaramaiah may withdraw cases against minorities, farmers, Kannada activists; BJP slam Police communiqué

-Financial Express

January 27, 2018

On Republic Day, the CM, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the Government is considering the withdrawal of cases filed against minority communities, farmers and pro-Kannada activists in the last five years. A circular regarding this was sent to all Police Stations seeking details of such cases. The proposal is pending with the Home Department. This move by the Congress- led Government has led to controversies with its opposition.

Read more at:

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/karnataka-assembly-election-2018-cm-siddaramaiah-may-withdraw-cases-against-minorities-farmers-kannada-activists-bjp-slams-police-communiqué/1031991/>

Parties Go Slow on Candidate Selection

-The Economic Times

January 30, 2018

The Congress, BJP and JD(S) have not released their list of candidates yet unlike what they had promised earlier. Last year, the Congress had announced that it would release the list six months ahead of the election. However, the Chief Minister has recently stated that the list of candidates of Congress would not be released before March. The BJP also has not released the list yet as the decision has to be made by the Party's Central leadership. The JD(S) also has not released the list yet. The article refers to Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Pro Vice Chancellor of Jain University who said that last minute candidatures would give less time for rebels to work out their strategy, however, having candidates from outside the constituency is likely to intensify rebel activity, and it would be interesting to see how each party would manage the rebels

Read more at:

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TheEconomicTimes/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=ETBG%2F2018%2F01%2F30&entity=Ar00201&sk=1B1C83CC&mode=text>

'VAKYARTHAM', a platform where the students interact with thinkers and experts on subjects of current relevance was held at School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Jain University on 27th January, 2018 on the topic **'Karnataka Elections: Challenges and Possibilities'**. The event featured **Mr. Sanjay Jha**, Executive Director, Dale Carnegie Training India & Congress Spokesperson, **Mr. Krishna Sagar Rao**, Spokesperson, Bharatiya Janata Party and **Ms. Shanthala Damle**, Spokesperson of Aam Aadmi Party. The session was moderated by **Dr. Sandeep Shastri**, Pro VC, Jain University

The session opened as Dr. Shastri raised four main issues for discussion. They were:

1. Why are Karnataka and Karnataka Elections critical for the parties?
2. What are the issues that the parties want to project to the voters?
3. Is the political campaign going to highlight the strength of the party or the opponent's weakness?
4. As a political party what do you have to offer to the youth?

The speakers highlighted that the campaigns would focus on the agenda of development. The Congress Spokesperson stated that the BJP had failed in their promises on black money and loan waivers made during the 2014 national elections. The initiatives of the current Government of Karnataka on development, especially that of rural development was highlighted by him. The BJP spokesperson said that the party wants to look into developmental concerns of the State and also draw strength from the party's strong hold at the Centre and in most of the other States. The audience asked various questions regarding the parties' stand on issues such as defection, the recent Mahadayi river water dispute, the non-availability of MPs and MLAs to interact with the citizens and the long term vision of policy that the parties have.

Diary of Political Developments

KARNATAKA STATE ELECTIONS -2018



Karnataka Bandh

The Pro-Kannada outfits had called for a State-wide Bandh on 25th January, 2018 demanding the intervention of the Prime Minister in Mahadayi water dispute. Another Bandh will also be organized in Bengaluru on 4th February, 2018.

Modi's Bengaluru Rally on 4th February

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has postponed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bengaluru visit to 4th February, 2018 which was originally scheduled for 8th January to address a rally to mark the conclusion of the party's Parivarthana rally.

Rahul Gandhi to begin first leg of poll campaign from 10th February

Congress President Rahul Gandhi will launch the party's first set of campaign on 10th February, 2018. The agenda for Mr. Gandhi's visit includes addressing farmers, students, intellectuals, among others.

BJP Chief Amit Shah at Mysuru

BJP President Amit Shah addressed the Parivarthana rally at Mysuru on 25th January, 2018 despite the day being a bandh, called by the pro-Kannada outfits