

CERSSE ELECTION TRACKER

KARNATAKA STATE ELECTIONS — 2018

18th May | Issue No. 7



JAIN UNIVERSITY

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It is a delight to bring you the Final Issue of the Karnataka Election Tracker. What an election this has been and one has not yet heard the last on the government formation. Every day is producing new developments and trends. We are including a final set of articles written by colleagues from CERSSE based on our surveys as also the articles of a few other experts.

Given the positive response to the Tracker, we are planning to bring out a Monthly Bulletin on Karnataka Politics. This will be out on the first Thursday of every month and will track major political developments in the state. The first Issue of the Karnataka Politics Bulletin will come out on 7 June 2018.

Supreme Court directs that floor test be held at 4pm on 19th May 2018

A three judge bench of the Supreme Court has directed that the floor test to prove whether Chief Minister Yeddyurappa has a majority be held at 4pm on 19th May 2018. The Supreme Court said that no policy decisions to be taken by the caretaker government until floor test is conducted. Protem Speaker RV Deshpande to oversee the floor test in Karnataka Assembly at 4 pm.

Read more at https://www.news18.com/news/politics/karnataka-live-supreme-court-orders-floor-test-tomorrow-1750091.html?ref=hp_top_pos_1

That's all, folks. The Slugfest is over; the potholes here to stay

- Dr. Sandeep Shastri

11th May, 2018

Bangalore Mirror

As the dust and din of a gruelling, often volatile and intensely high-pitch two-week election campaign in Karnataka finally dies down, what are the key takeaways? Given the close nature of the fight and the national attention it attracted, the key political players unleashed all their available arsenal and tried to place their best foot forward. One had hoped that the leadership across parties would set an example but this unfortunately was not to be. In the emotional excitement of the moment, a lot was said that could, in retrospect, have been avoided and the negativism that emanated from all sides has indeed left a lot of bitterness.

Read more at <https://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/cover-story/thats-all-folks-the-slugfest-is-over-the-potholes-here-to-stay/articleshow/64115875.cms>

Manufacturing electoral Choice

- Sudhir Krishnaswamy

16th May, 2018

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has emerged as the single largest party in the three-cornered election in Karnataka, though the Janata Dal (Secular) may well form the government. By bringing back B.S. Yeddyurappa and the Reddy brothers into the fold, the BJP has consolidated the vote share that had split in 2013. Despite only a marginal increase in BJP vote share, the improved performance of the JD(S) and a primed party machine that converts minority vote shares into majority seat shares has delivered it status of the single largest party

Read more at <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/LSZz0I3VPKwDSuBLDDu5eL/Manufacturing-electoral-choice.html>

Such a shame that Bangalore's young voters gave the polls a go-by

- Dr. Sandeep Shastri

13th May, 2018

Deccan Chronicle

The tentative figures of voter turnout in Karnataka indicate that there is no significant shift in voting figures as compared to the last Assembly elections. Trends also indicate that the Bengaluru voter has not come out in significantly larger numbers and continues to remain apathetic.

If one saw the long queues at the airport on Friday evening it was evident that for a lot of people a long weekend break was sadly more important than exercising your franchise to decide and define the winner in one's constituency. That have being said, there is one important dimension to the voter turnout. If there has been a rise in the voter turnout among the poorer segments of society, it would help the Congress. On the other hand, if the upper middle class and the more affluent segment of society were to come out in larger numbers, it would be good news for the BJP.

Read more at <https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/130518/such-a-shame-that-bengalurus-young-voters-gave-the-polls-a-go-by.html>

In a several constituencies, the BJP, JD(S) and the Congress are engaged in a three way fight

- Dr. Sandeep Shastri

11th May, 2018

The Hindu

For the last three decades, Karnataka has never given a clear majority to the ruling party. This should make it easier to make predictions. The BJP could argue that it is the natural alternative to the Congress. Yet politics often defies logic. Karnataka was also witness to another trend during the same period: it has almost always gone against the national trend during Assembly elections. Karnataka seems set to negate one of these two trends, but the question is which one.

Read more at <https://epaper.thehindu.com/Home/ShareArticle?OrgId=GQ73VAMFU.1>

Political Nataka is Constant in Karnataka, Only Players Change

-DP Satish

17th May, 2018

Political Nataka in Karnataka has been a regular feature for the past few decades. The main characters at different times play many parts — making and breaking alliances at regular intervals to suit their own immediate interests. After a nightlong hearing on the legality of his swearing in as the Chief Minister, the Supreme Court has allowed B S Yeddyurappa to take oath as CM subject to its final order. He will take oath in a hurriedly arranged, low key function at the Raj Bhawan in Bengaluru.

Read more at <https://www.news18.com/news/politics/political-nataka-is-constant-in-karnataka-only-players-change-1751137.html>

Karnataka Elections 2018: Modi's Campaign Wizardry

—Dr. Sandeep Shastri

4th May, 2018

Bangalore Mirror

With six rallies in two days, PM Modi is casting a spell on the state with his 'Communication magic'. Prime Minister Modi, the star campaigner of the BJP, spent two days addressing six election rallies across Karnataka. He is expected to invest three more days in the Karnataka campaign. The BJP is banking quite heavily on the Prime Minister to swing the electoral mood in their favour. Two questions immediately emerge. First, will the 'communication magic' of the Prime Minister be effective south of the Vindhyas.

Read more at <https://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/karnataka-assembly-election/karnataka-elections-2018-modis-campaign-wizardry/articleshow/64021614.cms>

Lingayat move fails, BJP ahead in small towns

- Veena Devi and KC Nagesh

8th May, 2018

Deccan Chronicle

Analysts of the state's politics have always asserted that the real battle of Karnataka is in its many distinct regions. The Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Poll once again stresses this point. If the Congress is ahead of its principal rival the BJP it is on account of the big lead that it appears to have established over it in Hyderabad-Karnataka and the slight advantage it has in the Mumbai-Karnataka, Central – Karnataka, Bengaluru (urban and rural) and Coastal Karnataka regions

Read more at <https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/politics/080518/lingayat-move-fails-bjp-ahead-in-small-towns.html>

PM Modi still popular but Siddu catching up fast

- Shreyas Sardesai and Ankita Barthwal

8th May, 2018

Deccan Chronicle

The final round of the Lokniti-CSDS pre-poll survey in Karnataka promises an increasingly interesting electoral scenario. In the middle of April when Jain University-Lokniti-CSDS had conducted the first round of the survey, the incumbent Congress and its main opponent the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) were found to be running almost neck-and-neck. The vote difference between the ruling party and its challenger was just two percentage points and it had seemed that the State was heading for a badly fractured electoral verdict.

Read more at <https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/politics/080518/pm-modi-still-popular-but-siddu-catching-up-fast.html>

The Karnataka 'Nataka' :Ten takeaways

-Rajdeep Sardesai

16th May, 2018

15th May 2018 will go down in history as a day when Indian politics rewrote the Harold Wilson oft-used quote that a week is a long time in politics. In India, clearly four hours is enough. At 12 noon, the BJP was celebrating a big victory in Karnataka; by 4 pm, HD Kumaraswamy of the JDS was waving to his supporters as a potential king of Karnataka.

Read more at <http://www.rajdeepsardesai.net/blog-views/karnataka-nataka-ten-takeaways>

3 tough polls coming up, BJP will bank on Karnataka moral booster

16th May, 2018

Economic Times

Though it fell just short of a majority, the Karnataka result will come as a boost for BJP ahead of key polls in major states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh where it is in office and will make Congress's task more challenging in the absence of a third player who can be a pre or post poll ally.

The next round of state polls will be a direct BJP versus Congress faceoff. Even in Mizoram, given BJP's inroads in the north-east, the party could be in the ring even if as a lesser force. The alacrity with which Congress reached out to Janata Dal (S), and offered the chief minister ship, may stall BJP for now but raises questions over the coming elections that promise to be thrillers as well.

Read more at <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/3-tough-polls-coming-up-bjp-will-bank-on-karnataka-morale-booster/articleshow/64185519.cms>

Diary of Political Developments

KARNATAKA STATE ELECTIONS -2018

K'Taka's Dilemma: Strong BJP Govt or Unstable Cong-JDS Coalition?

The Karnataka elections have gone down to the wire and the final numbers are still not clear. The BJP has clearly emerged as the single largest party but is 6 to 9 seats short of the majority mark.

This is a clear victory for the party, but the fact that there is no clear majority has led to the Congress reaching out to the Janata Dal (Secular) to form a government, and hence thwart the BJP's attempt to come to power. This is an ideal situation for the JD(S), which has now got a desperate Congress' unconditional support to form the government. The Congress had earlier run a campaign attacking the JD(S), and even Deve Gowda and Kumaraswamy. Siddaramiah, who left the JD(S) to join the Congress in 2006, has a long personal rivalry with Deve Gowda. This is why the offer from the Congress is a sweet victory for the JD(S).

Karnataka poll results: BS Yeddyurappa is chief minister, but history has lessons for leaders without numbers

BS Yeddyurappa has taken oath as the 23rd Chief Minister of Karnataka, after the Supreme Court said it will not intervene in the decision of the governor to invite the BJP to form government.

In a midnight meeting on Wednesday night, the apex court decided that Yeddyurappa swearing-in ceremony will go ahead as planned, but it will hear the case again on Friday. A bench of Justices AK Sikri, SA Bobde and Ashok Bhushan also asked that the letter given by Yeddyurappa and senior BJP leaders to the governor, in which it was stated that the party has the requisite number of MLAs to form government, be produced before the court.

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