

TAMED VICTORS**As the BJP found out, hyper nationalism has its limits in Assembly polls**

The alliance of the BJP and the Shiv Sena retained power in Maharashtra and the BJP emerged as the single largest party in Haryana, substantially beating anti-incumbency in both States, but also falling short of their claims and rhetoric. In Haryana, the BJP will require the support of at least six MLAs outside its fold for a majority. The Opposition, despite their sluggish campaign and scattered thinking, exceeded expectation in both States. Results of by-elections in 51 Assembly seats and two Lok Sabha constituencies across 18 States were also announced on Thursday. Drawing any political trend lines based on these outcomes would be premature, but certain pointers are noteworthy. The BJP had front-loaded its campaign with nationalist topics such as the status of Kashmir and the National Register of Citizens, deliberately avoiding any serious discussion on the economy and livelihood issues. It is possible that the BJP and allies got what they got because of this campaign, but these issues did not evidently overwhelm other voter concerns such as unemployment and farm crisis. The BJP and the Sena are winners, but tamed and curtailed compared to the Assembly results of 2014 and the Lok Sabha election earlier this year. The rout of many turncoats from other parties that the BJP had recruited recently is an evident expression of public disapproval of such tactics. The results also indicate that the BJP's current arsenal is more effective in national elections. The results from Tamil Nadu where the AIADMK did well and Kerala where the Left appeared to regain some lost ground are also indicative of the differentiation that the voters tend to make between Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. The Haryana Governor must now ensure that the formation of a new coalition government is transparent as there could be attempts to influence legislators and parties.

The Congress-NCP alliance in Maharashtra improved its tally considerably and in Haryana, the Congress doubled its 2014 tally. In Haryana, the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) emerged as a formidable regional outfit. These are indicators of a yearning among the electorate for an alternative to the BJP that has amassed political power but also alienated many social groups. That this growth of the Opposition has happened despite the absence of any coherence or coordination at the top is remarkable. Faced with brazen harassment by state agencies, and dispirited by serial electoral setbacks, the Opposition had become lifeless but these results indicate that prospects of an alternative are not entirely dark, particularly when it comes to State polls. The BJP might be tempted to intensify its hyper-nationalist agenda to boost its performance, while the Opposition might slip back into a comatose state, counting inaction itself as a strategy. Both would be disastrous, for the respective camps and the country.

WordsTame
Victors**Kind**Adj.
Noun**Meaning**Domesticated tamed, docile
Winner, champion, conqueror, vanquisher

Hyper	Adj.	Exaggerated, embroidered, embellished
Incumbent	Adj.	Necessary, essential / current, present, in polar
Rhetoric	Noun	Eloquence, turgidity, grandiloquence
Sluggish	Verb	Lethargic, sluggard, laggard, languid, slow
Scatter	Verb	Disperse, break up, disband, separate, disintegrate dissolve
Exceed	Verb	Surpass, out do, outshine, out class, out strip
Announce	Verb	Pronounce, declare, herald, profess, assert
Out come	Noun	Results, repercussions, consequences, up shorts aftermaths, after effects
Pre-mature	Adj.	Untimely, early, unreasonable, impetuous
Deliberately	Adv.	Intentionally, on purpose, consciously, want only, wilfully, knowingly
Campaign	Noun	Crusade, fight, battle, struggle, propagandize
Evidently	Adv.	Obviously, clearly, plainly, apparently
Overwhelm	Verb	Over come, move, stir, affect, make emotional
Curtail	Verb	Reduce, cut, cut down, decrease, lessen
Turn coat	Noun	Traitor, renegade, defector, deserter
Tactics	Noun	Strategy, scheme, stratagem, manoeuvre, Expedient, gambit, dodge, wangle
Arsenal	Noun	Weapons, weaponry, arms, armaments
Coalition	Noun	Alliance, union, partnership, federation
Transparent	Adj.	Clear, lucid, pellucid, limpid, coherent
Formidable	Adj.	Intimidating, forbidding, daunting, redoubtable, chilling
Outfit	Noun	Costume, suit, uniform, ensemble, regiment
Yearn	Verb	Long, pine, crave, desire, want badly, covet
Amass	Verb	Gather, collect, assemble, accumulate, pile up
Alienate	Verb	Estrange, set apart, isolate, detach, separate
Coherence	Noun	Consistency, logicity, soundness, organization
Co-ordination	Noun	Collegiality, mutualism, reciprocity, symbiosis
Brazen	Adj.	Bold, shameless, presumptuous, unashamed
Harassment	Noun	Persecution, harriving, badgering
Dispirit	Verb	Dishearten, discourage, put off, deter
Setbacks	Noun	Problem, drawback, down side, difficulty
Intensify	Verb	Escalate, step, boost, raise, sharpen
Boost	Verb	Enhance, raise, elevate, escalate, augment
Comatose	Adj.	Unconscious, in a coma, soporous, insensate
Disastrous	Adj.	Perilous, catastrophic, cataclysm
Abrogate	Verb	Repudiate, revoke, repeal, rescind, override annul , abolish, do away with

GOOD REPORT CARD

The States must do their bit in improving the ease of doing business in India

For an economy starved of good news, the news of a rise in India's ranking by 14 places to 63 in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2020 survey is a positive development. India also figures in the top ten most improved countries in the world for the third consecutive year. From being ranked 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2020, it has been a significant upward journey for the country in a rank list that is an

important input in the plans of global investors. The latest improvement has come on the back of the implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). India's rank has improved from 108 to 52 in the "resolving insolvency" category with the overall recovery rate for lenders moving up from 26.5 cents to 71.6 cents to the dollar according to the World Bank. This is despite the IBC process being bogged down in courts as interested parties attempt to delay eventual resolution that may work against their interests. The reforms in trade procedures and paperwork as a result of India signing the Trade Facilitation Agreement at the World Trade Organisation are beginning to show. The country's ranking in the "Trading across borders" category jumped 12 places from 80 to 68 signifying the abatement of paperwork in favour of electronic filing of documents and single-window customs procedures. Interestingly, there has been improvement in a parameter that most industrialists would consider as a problem even now: "Dealing with construction permits". The country's ranking has improved by 25 places from 52 to 27.

While the improvements are impressive and the rise in overall rankings in the last few years is noteworthy, the fact is that India is still below its competitors for global capital, particularly China, which at rank 31 is one level above France. The country lags in key metrics such as "Starting a business", "Enforcing contracts" and "Registering property". It should also be borne in mind that the rankings are based on samples and audits done in Mumbai and Delhi only (the World Bank has said it would be covering Bengaluru and Kolkata too from next year). Starting, running or shutting down a business may be easier in Delhi and Mumbai compared to Coimbatore or Hyderabad where it is probably more difficult. Admittedly, it is not easy to streamline processes across the country given India's federal set up where States have a big say in several parameters that go into the ranking such as securing building permits, land approvals, electricity connections, registering assets etc. Yet, this is the ideal that the country should be striving for. The easier part is now done and rise in rankings from hereon will depend on how much the Centre is able to convince the States to reform their systems.

Words	Kind	Meaning
Ameliorate	Verb	Improve, better, benefit, boost, refine
Starve	Verb	Dying of hunger, deprived of food
Phenomenal	Adj.	Exceptional, extraordinary, outstanding, remarkable, marvellous
Input	Verb	Put data into a computer, feed in, insert, process
Implement	Noun	Execution, application, performance, enactment accomplishment
Insolvency	Noun	Impecuniousness, liquidation, bankruptcy
Beg down	Verb	Halt, hang up, impede, retard, detain
Trip up	Verb	Make a mistake
Abet	Verb	Lessen, relegate, plummet, mitigate, allay
Abet	Verb	Assist, help, aid, support, endorse, second
Weary	Adj.	Tried, fagged, jaded, exhausted, ready to drop

Wary	Adj.	Careful, systematic, deliberate, circumspect
Smile on		Favour, speak for, side with
Tread	Noun	Commerce, dealing, business
Tread	Verb	Walk, step, stride, pace, march, tramp
Impressive	Adj.	Magnificent, majestic, imposing
Paper over		Conceal, hide, cover
Probably	Adv.	In all likelihood, possibly, presumably
Strive for		Try, try hard, attempt, endeavour, exert

SPECIAL VOVAB

Allude	Verb	Refer, point, touch, upon
Elude	Verb	Escape, get away, break away, shake off
Surely	Adv.	Obviously, certainly, undoubtedly
Surly	Adj.	Irritating, curmudgeonly, irascible
Pity	Noun	Mercy, compassion, commiseration
Piety	Noun	Devotion, devoutness
Navy	Noun	Fleet, liner, armada, flotilla, squadron
Navvy	Noun	Labourer, casual
Apology	Noun	Pardon, excuse, let off
Apologia	Noun	Justification, defence
Apologist	Noun	Supporter, buttress, advocate, stanchion
Facet	Noun	Surface
Facetious	Adj.	Amusing, funny, laughable, risible
Factitious	Adj.	Imaginary, chimerical, false, made up
Factious	Adj.	Divided, split, sectarian, dissenting
Circumstances	Noun	Situations, details, financial position
Circumstantial	Adj.	Indirect, circuitous, devious, oblique
Circumvent	Verb	Avoid, shun, parry, abstain, refrain
Circumscribe	Verb	Restrict, localize, condition, constrict
Circumspect	Adj.	Careful, wary, deliberate
Circumspection	Noun	Wisdom, cognition
Circumlocutions	Noun	Talkativeness, long windedness