

To be decisive:

Prime Minister Modi must deepen his message of carrying everyone's trust:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's declaration that the trust of all — sabka vishwas — will be a dimension of governance in his second term is reassuring, coming as it does after the highly divisive and fact-free campaign he led for the 17th general election. In a Twitter post as the results were being announced on May 23, Mr. Modi spruced up a mantra that he has uttered for long — sabka saath, sabka vikas, translated as 'collective efforts, inclusive growth' on his website — with this third tenet. Mr. Modi later elaborated on the theme and said the BJP needed to win the trust particularly of the minorities. The very admission by the Prime Minister of the need to gain the trust of all sections of the people allows high hopes for those who agonise over the prospects of a majoritarian slide in Indian democracy. While he rightly identified the trust deficit the BJP faces among religious and linguistic minorities and stressed the need to overcome it, there was not enough introspection, let alone remorse. He appeared to overlook the reasons for the mistrust in the BJP and put the blame on his political opponents who, he alleged, had created an 'imaginary fear' among the minorities. There exists an easy channel of political mobilisation where the fear about the BJP among minorities is amplified, but it is undeniably based on its rhetoric and track record. The Gujarat riots of 2002, when Mr. Modi was Chief Minister, remain a haunting memory. Recurring incidents of mob violence against the minorities by BJP supporters go unpunished, as party leaders including Mr. Modi maintain a condoning silence.

Therefore, the Prime Minister's statement about winning the trust of the minorities and accommodating regional aspirations while pursuing national aspirations must be backed with action. Mr. Modi is projected as a man of action, but politics is driven also by rhetoric. He must sustain and embellish his new slogan with his characteristic tenacity, without slackening on the question of communal harmony, going by experience. In 2011, he held a series of Sadbhavna fasts in Gujarat to spread the message that he did not discriminate between the majority and the minority — but did not follow up to deepen the message. It is possible that the wider Sangh Parivar will not take kindly to suggestions of parity between Hindus and non-Hindus, an axiomatic constitutional truth. Gautam Gambhir, former cricketer and now BJP MP, had to cite Mr. Modi's new creed in his defence after being cornered online by BJP sympathisers for rightly condemning a mob attack on a Muslim in Gurugram. Mr. Modi has continuously claimed that his governance is decisive and strong, which will be meaningless if it fails in the face of divisiveness. Standing his ground on this question — winning and sustaining the trust of all — will be a test of Mr. Modi's decisiveness.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Dimension		size, measurement, proportion, a crease
Spruced up		smarten, neaten, preen
Utter		say, speak, articulate, pronounce, enunciate
Tenet		belief, doctrine, precept, credo, conviction, postulation
Elaborate		expand on, enlarge on, expatiate on, narrate, complicated, intricate, convoluted

Agonise	worry, upset, exercise one self
Deficit	shortfall, deficiency, shortage
Introspection	self analysis, soul searching, introversion
Remorse	contrition, repentance, penitence, compunction
Opponents	rival, adversary, combatant, competitor
Alleged	supposed, claimed, professed, purported
Amplify	make louder, louden, magnify, intensify
Rhetoric	oratory, eloquence, command of language
Haunting	Affecting, evocative, stirring, poignant
Condone	accept, allow, forgive, pardon
Recurring	repeated, perennial, sporadic, spasmodic
Back	Support, buttress, advocate, prop up, endorse
Embellish	decorate, adorn, beautify, garnish, festoon
Sustain	bear, support, carry, prop up, underpin
Tenacity	persistence, determination, perseverance, doggedness
Slacken	Loosen, weaken, loose, lessen,
Harmony	Accord, agreement, amity, amicability, affability
Parity	Equality, congruity, co-equality
Condemn	blame, reprimand, berate, chide, rebuke

Pending divorce:

The leadership struggle among Britain’s ruling Tories may make Brexit more chaotic:

The politics of the United Kingdom has entered a chaotic, if not entirely dark, phase. Prime Minister Theresa May has announced, in the wake of her inability to deliver an acceptable formula for Brexit, that she would step down on June 7. Her colleagues in the Conservative Party remain deeply divided over the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement she negotiated with the European Union and have rejected three times her attempts to get it passed in Parliament. That agreement is, in principle, based on the notion of the U.K. leaving the EU’s single market and customs union, the termination of residency and work rights of EU citizens in the U.K., and a two-year transition period to consolidate new bilateral modalities. This compromise didn’t fly with the ruling Tory lawmakers because the Brexiteers of the party feel it concedes too much to the EU and yet remains bound by the bloc’s rules. Simultaneously, pro-EU lawmakers are firmly against a hard Brexit, or no-deal Brexit, and prefer to keep alive the close economic ties to the continent that have been in place since the U.K. joined in 1973. The last straw that made Ms. May’s resignation all but inevitable, came from the opinion polls for the European parliamentary election — matched this week by the results — predicting a landslide victory, at the Conservative Party’s cost, for the freshly minted Brexit Party led by Nigel Farage.

The selection of Ms. May’s successor is a relatively straightforward issue at this point. Leading the pack of contenders is former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, who has reiterated his commitment to seeing the U.K. quit the EU on October 31, the current deadline, regardless of whether a deal is agreed upon or not. Others include former Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab, who supports leaving the EU on “WTO terms”; Environment Secretary Michael Gove; and former Leader of the House of Commons Andrea Leadsom. The more complex issue is whether the Conservative Party’s next leader can devise a

universally acceptable compromise formula that minimises the economic and social pain inflicted on individuals, corporations and the national psyche. The available options are difficult and few: an orderly exit with a deal (unlikely given that Ms. May has allowed the opposition to the only deal that Brussels has signed off to crystallise); a no-deal exit (an economically and legally painful outcome but quite possible); an election or second referendum that might reverse the 2016 decision to leave the EU (possible but unclear if this could happen before the October 31 deadline); or a further extension of the deadline beyond the date (an event that some consider likely). No matter how the politics of this troubled nation turns, it is the resolution of Brexit as a struggle between nativist impulses and the existing liberal order that the world is watching.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Chaotic		Dis-orderly, dis-ordered, in turmoil, in a middle.
Notion		idea, belief, conviction, opinion, inkling
Termination		Ending, conclusion, winding up, dissolution.
Consolidate		strengthen, secure, stabilize, fortify
Concede		admit, acknowledge, confess, agree
Simultaneously		At the same time, at once, concurrently, concomitantly
Inevitable		unavoidable, inexorable, predestined
Predict	Verb	forecast, foretell, prophesy, envision
Reiterate		Re-capitulate, repeat, rehearse
Commitment		Responsibility, dedication, devotion, allegiance
Inflict		impose, exact, deal out to, mete out to
Outcome		result, consequences, upshot, aftermath
Reverse		Alter, change, revamp, overthrow, overturn
Impulse		urge, instinct, compulsion, spontaneity, impetuosity

Chemistry vs Math:

Despite adverse reports on the handling of the economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi overcame these on the plank of stability of leadership and the nationalism (Page 1, “Modi scoffs at pundits, says chemistry has trumped math”, May 28). With a splintered and unconvincing Opposition, the people had little to do but to choose Mr. Modi.

The highest recorded voter turnout has lent credibility to this election being more representative than the earlier editions. Now, with a second term, Mr. Modi has to assume greater responsibility in delivering the ‘Acche din’ of 2014. If he messes the economy any further or unleashes another storm like demonetisation, people are not likely to forgive him or the BJP ever again, for this time they have voted with their heart.

S. Kamat,

Alto Santa Cruz, Goa

While Mr. Modi, the BJP and the NDA deserve to be congratulated, the truth is that even to many a party cadre or to the BJP top leadership, the poll results are beyond their expectations. People could not have voted for the fulfilment of the 2014 assurance of 'good days ahead' and for 'taking the entire 126 crore people along'. Most other election promises also remain promises.

The BJP's success is mainly a negative mandate for the Opposition. In governance, the mantra of 'small in number and large in talent' needs to be strictly adhered to. Always respect the will of the people.

P.R.V. Raja,

Pandalam, Kerala

The attacks on the minorities run contrary to the assurance of the Prime Minister that there would be more inclusiveness. Is this what Mr. Modi means by chemistry: acidic reactions, caustic attacks, combustion, and double displacements? If so, the democratic polity will suffer. Popular opinion for fair governance, balanced administration and impartial rule of law should prevail.

S.V. Venugopalan,

Chennai

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Plank		board, floor board, timber
Scoffs		mock, deride, ridicule, sneer at, jeer at
Trump		surpass, outshine, out class, out do
Splinter		Shatter, Smash, Smash into smithereens
Turnout		attendance, crowd, gathering, congregation
Unleash		let loose, un tie, set free, un tether
Adhere		attack, stick, co here, be glued
Inclusive		all-inclusive, into to, umbrella, in corporatig
Combustion		Burning, kindling, ignition
Jarring		Conflicting, contrasting, incompatible, incongruous
Tainted		Tarnished, corrupted, blemished
Jostle		But into/against, knock into against, jolt,
Summit		top, peak, crest, apex, tip, acme, pinnacle, zenith, nonpareil
Garbage		rubbish, refuse, waste, detritus
Perceive		see, discern, detect, recognize
Scale	Verb	climb, ascend, mount, scramble up.