

Loksabha Election 2014 in India with Special Reference to Indian National Congress

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Abstract: - *The present paper makes an effort to address an overview of General Election 2014 in India and the performance of Indian National Congress in the election. The general election 2014 in India in which the whole nation was gearing up for the Loksabha election 2014 to constitute the 16th Loksabha. In this election, exit poll and opinion poll results were favouring the opposition parties and the ruling alliance of UPA was predicted to oust from power. The 16th Loksabha results have been the worst-ever for Indian National Congress which not even the BJP might have expected. There are many logical grounds on which congress lost.*

Keywords:-Loksabha Election, Congress, BJP, Media, Modi Wave, Opposition, Opinion poll, Exit poll.

Citation of this article

Zai, T. A. (2017). Loksabha Election 2014 in India with Special Reference to Indian National Congress. *International Journal of Higher Education and Research*, 7(1), 181-186. www.ijher.com

INTRODUCTION

The Loksabha Election 2014 in India was spread over a long period of time. From 7th April to 12th May 2014, the entire nation was gearing up for the Loksabha election 2014 to constitute the 16th Loksabha. It was being held in nine phases. Voting has been taken place in all the 543 constituencies across India to elect the members of parliament. As we know, Loksabha elections in India have always witnessed a fierce battle. This time too, it promises to be not different. Loksabha election 2014 exit poll results are favouring the opposition parties and the

main constituents of the UPA which is the ruling alliance since last decade is predicted to be ousted from power due to various reasons.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To study the importance of general election 2014 in India.
- To study the impact of opinion poll on general election 2014.
- To study the opinion poll, exit poll and results of general election 2014. To study the performance of Indian National Congress in general election 2014.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

The present study has been descriptive; the data for this study were obtained from primary as well as secondary sources. The secondary data has been collected from various references which already existed in published form; Part of the paper is based on literature review the method comprising of collecting all the available papers relating to the theme and selecting relevant papers/books for the review purpose. The primary reading of the selected papers constitutes the core of this review study.

IMPORTANCE OF THE GENERAL ELECTION 2014:

The general election is a part of the constitutional process and takes place every five years to elect the new government of the country. In 2014, though, a lot more was at stake, in light of the following:

- (i) The anti-incumbency wave in India against the UPA which had ruled the nation for 10 years was growing stronger due to the scams and allegations of corruption against the UPA government.
- (ii) Rise of Narendra Modi as the Prime Ministerial candidate from BJP due to the featuring of his successful Gujarat model. There was rapid increase in the “Modi Wave” which attracted the people from every part of the country.
- (iii) India was looking for a change from the current government, seeking an awakened India.
- (iv) The 2011 India against Corruption Movement led by Anna Hazare stimulated a new move of the common man into politics.

- (v) Emergence of the AAP as a promising party initiated a new drive in the nation by bringing citizens to fight against corruption by changing the system itself.
- (vi) The Congress is facing a leadership crisis, with Rahul Gandhi, arguably the strongest contender for the position of PM candidate, not viewed as a good choice by political leaders and analysts alike.

THE IMPACT OF OPINION POLL ON GENERAL ELECTION 2014:

Opinion polls before assembly and parliamentary elections are a common feature. From this survey one gets a fair assessment about the outcome of the polls. From the other angle these opinion polls influence the voters to vote for one party who craves to take charge of country's overall administration. Before going into detail, it is our duty to probe into details what actually is meant by opinion poll and how effective it is. About opinion poll in India: opinion poll in India has been first initiated by ABP and Nielsen India jointly. Hope same scenario is noticeable in Bangladesh too. Though the overall length of Bangladesh is much smaller to that of India but still this kind of pre-poll survey is essential judging by the freakish mental makeup of vast numbers of around 81.4 crores of people who will decide the fate of 543 members of parliament residing in different parts of India. So the term "opinion poll" is referred to as the pre-poll forecasting judging by on the spot interaction with different voters of diverse backgrounds and financial strength. Though the opinion polls in India there are some voters who are easily influenced about a particular political party. This is also one way indicated as "sting operation". Opinion polls help some political parties in India about possible majority before parliamentary and assembly polls.

Loksabha election 2014 opinion polls have a tremendous impact upon Indian National Congress and UPA (II) Allies. The way the BJP and NDA Allies are spearheading campaign against Indian National Congress to oust INC from power through opinion polls is not at all desirable. This is because it breaks the morale of the ruling party.

So the overall impact of opinion poll in India does not bear positive impact in Indian political scenario but for certain of its parameters it is desirable. This is nothing but the common statistical graphs through which we get fairly good opinions about all political parties in India.

OPINION POLL OF GENERAL ELECTION 2014

Seat Forecast	BJP Allies	Congress Allies	NF + LF	Others
DRS	249	155	102	37
Outlook/AC Nielsen	238	149	123	33
India Today/CSDS	214	164	127	38
Frontline/CMS	225-235	145-155	120-130	32-52
Actual Result	252	166	96	23

EXIT POLLS OF LOK SABHA ELECTION 2014:

- ❖ NDTV-Hansa Research: BJP allies to win 279 seats; Congress bloc 103, others 161.
- ❖ India Today-Cicero: BJP bloc to get 261-283 seats; Congress bloc to get 110-120 seats; others 150-162.
- ❖ Bloomberg TV India-CVoter: BJP bloc to get 289 seats; Congress bloc to get 101 seats; others 153.
- ❖ Today's Chanakya: BJP bloc to win 340 seats; Congress-led alliance seen winning 70; others 133.
- ❖ ABP news-Nielsen; BJP grouping to win 281 seats; Congress alliance seen getting 97 seats; others 161; AamAadmi Party to win 4 seats; Surveyed 183,623 voters.
- ❖ CNN-IBN-Lokniti-CSDS; BJP alliance to win 274-286 seats; Congress and allies may get 92 to 102 seats.

CONGRESS IN LOK SABHA ELECTION 2014:

In the loksabha election 2014, the main opposition party BJP won the election by securing 282 seats. In contrast, the incumbent party the Indian National Congress party (INC) lost the elections by winning only 44 seats. The 16th Lok Sabha results have been the worst ever for Congress which not even the BJP might have expected. The shadows of Congress defeat were looming high particularly in the media circles. But, no one including the so-called opinion or exit polls was predicting such rout for Congress. Let's have a look on what went wrong for congress in these elections. There are many logical grounds for on which Congress lost need less to elucidate and necessary to point out;

Anti-incumbency factor, Rampant Scams and political corruption; High inflation, Modi's aggressive campaign, Rahul Gandhi's lack of communication skills, Division of Congress votes, Aam Aadmi Party factor, Indian media and lots more. These factors need a full paper!

FUTURE OF CONGRESS IN INDIA:

India has witnessed lots of political dramas since 1967 so has been the case with Indian National Congress particularly since 1977. In the political history of India Congress has ruled for more than fifty years after independence but the recent debacle has resumed a debate on the relevance of Congress in future. Many political analysts oversimplify the fact that Congress may be obsolete in future given the recent rout in elections. But, Congress has bounced back many times in the past and may repeat the same may after ten or fifteen years if Indian electorate finds an iota of doubt in the BJP or AAP which has potential to do the wonder as AAP has done in the last state elections of Delhi! Yet every political analyst does believe in the fact that Congress may have to look beyond the politics of TOM HARRY OR DICK and find an alternative to fight BJP on the political turf. Though the fact cannot be ignored that you do not find the charisma of Nehru in the given Congress party, yet someone with political wit, skill and charisma will have to be looked for in or beyond "Gandhi Family". Now, Indian political culture has taken a shift from blind faith to faith in virtue, so the message for all political parties is loud and clear from the recent verdict that is either PERFORM or PERISH. So, the ball is in the court of political parties whether they want to perform or perish!

CONCLUSION

The present paper gives whole information about the political situation of India during loksabha election 2014. The paper makes an effort to address the Exit Polls, Opinion Polls, Results and the performances performed by the various political parties etc. of loksabha Election 2014. The main focus is given on the performance of Indian National Congress in LokSabha Election 2014. Also, the paper highlights that the Indian voters have now learned a lesson of teaching a lesson to those who might have lived in the spooning of being the chosen ones which democracy neither adheres nor approves.

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