

## Performance of Major Political Parties in Lok Sabha Elections

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Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) emerged victorious in the 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha elections after it bagged 260 out of the 543 seats. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) faced a shock as its tally could reach only to 160 seats. Everyone predicted a close contest between the BJP and the Congress but the difference of more than 80 seats is astonishing. In fact the BJP's has paid a price for confusion on the top which has been marked by a series of happenings around the election time, beginning with the appointment of a party in-charge in the North-East. The question whether it would have gained by changing its Prime Ministerial candidate L.K. Advani in midstream, would never be satisfactorily answered.

Given below is the state-wise comparison of national political parties, e.g., Congress and BJP, and regional political parties, e.g., Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP), and Left Front, in the last four Lok Sabha (LS) elections (1998, 1999, 2004, and 2009). That is followed by the reasons of defeat of BJP (NDA) and the victory of the Congress (UPA) in 2009 LS elections.

Party/ Alliance Position of 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha Elections

General Election 2009 Results		
	Party	Won
<b>UPA</b>	Cong	206
	DMK	19
	NCP	9
	TC	19
	JMM	2
	NC	3
	Others	2
<b>NDA</b>	BJP	116
	JD(U)	20
	SS	11
	SAD	4
	AGP	1
	RLD	5
<b>Third Front</b>	Left	20
	BSP	21
	JD(S)	3
	AIADMK	9
	TDP	6
	TRS	2
	Others	9
<b>Forth Front</b>	SP	23
	RJD	4
<b>Other Parties</b>		30

### Performance of National Parties

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(From 1998 to 2009)

	Party	1998	1999	2004	2009
1	Congress	141	114	145	206
2	BJP	182	182	138	116

### Why Congress did well in 2009 Elections?

- The contribution of Manmohan Singh to the victory was significant.
- This election saw a significant number of youth voting for the first time – Rahul Gandhi's aggressive campaigning did the trick and Delhi/UP results are a testimony to the fact. The under-30 youth vote went overwhelmingly in favour of the Congress. The Congress reinvented itself as a party where the youth matter; the BJP was seen as comparatively conservative.
- The media helped project Congress as wholesome; the BJP was seen as ugly. Varun Gandhi may have won Pilibhit but he lost the BJP thousands of votes nationally.
- The middle class vote deserted the BJP and gave Congress the extra cutting edge—which can be seen from the margins of victory in Delhi.
- People voted, by and large, on national lines. This was not an aggregate of state elections. There was a national swing in favour of the Congress.
- In UP, the restoration of the Congress coalition which was broken in 1991, worked in Congress Party's favour.

**Performance of Congress in States**  
(From 1998 to 2009)

State	Total LS Seats	1998	1999	2004	2009
Andhra Pradesh	42	22	5	29	31
Arunachal Pradesh	2	0	2	0	2
Assam	14	10	10	9	7
Bihar	54-40	5/54	4/54	3/40	2/40
Chhattisgarh	11	X	X	1	3
Goa	2	2	0	1	1
Gujarat	26	7	6	12	10
Haryana	10	3	0	9	9
Himachal Pradesh	4	1	0	3	1
Jharkhand	14				2
J & Kashmir	6	1	0	2	4
Karnataka	28	9	18	8	6
Kerala	20	8	8	0	13
Madhya Pradesh	40-29	10	11	4	11
Maharashtra	48	33	10	13	24
Manipur	2	0	0	1	2
Meghalaya	2	2	1	1	1
Mizoram	1	0	0	0	1
Nagaland	1	1	1	0	0
Orissa	21	5	2	2	6
Punjab	13	0	8	2	7
Rajasthan	25	18	9	4	20
Sikkim	1	0	0	0	
Tamil Nadu	39	0	2	10	25
Tripura	2	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	85-80	0/85	10/85	9/80	22/80
Uttaranchal	5	X	X	1	5
West Bengal	42	1	3	6	25

**Performance of Congress in Union Territories**

(From 1998 to 2009)

State	Total LS Seats	1998	1999	2004	2009
Andaman & Nikobar	1	1	0	1	0
Chandigarh	1	0	1	1	1
Dadra & Nagar Havili	1	0	0	0	1
Daman & Diu	1	0	0	1	0
Delhi	7	1	0	6	7
Lakshadweep	1	1	1	0	1
Pondicherry	1	0	1	0	1

**Why did the BJP fail in 2009 Elections?**

- The so-called “Hindu” appeal worked in specific areas, but it proved to be problem elsewhere.
- The election results lay to rest the idea that there existed in India, a unifying Hindu perception. The nationalist middleclass has clearly shifted to the Congress.
- The biggest challenge for BJP was lack of youth-leader connection .BJP didn't focus on youth at all-the 80 year average age of the BJP leadership made it difficult for the youth to connect to the party. The BJP leadership was seen to be completely unresponsive to youth aspirations and modernity.
- There is a tendency of the BJP to preach to the committed and not reach outwards.
- In caste terms, we are witnessing a definite drift of the upper castes to the Congress.
- BJP's campaign did not focus on reforms, but on lack of reforms. Congress Party's TV ads showcased common masses embracing Congress, while BJP was all about Advani.
- Infact, BJP's campaign was anti-UPA –which meant that they were better than UPA.
- The Other Backward Classes are now the core of the BJP but this has not been formally acknowledged.
- Even Raj Thackeray, President of Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, who has used nothing but hate politics, also made huge dents in traditionally Shiv sena BJP vote banks.

**Performance of BJP in States**  
(From 1998 to 2009)

State	Total LS Seats	1998	1999	2004	2009
Andhra Pradesh	42	4	7	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	2	0	0	2	0
Assam	14	1	2	2	4
Bihar	54-40	20/54	23/54	5/40	33/40
Chhattisgarh	11	X	X	10	8
Goa	2	0	2	1	1
Gujarat	26	19	20	14	16
Haryana	10	1	5	1	0
Himachal Pradesh	4	3	3	1	3
Jharkhand	14	X	X	1	0
J & Kashmir	6	2	2	0	0
Karnataka	28	13	7	18	19
Kerala	20	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	40-29	30/40	29/40	25/29	17/29
Maharashtra	48	4	13	13	21
Manipur	2	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	2	0	0	0	0
Mizuram	1	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	1	0	0	0	0
Orissa	21	7	9	7	13
Punjab	13	3	1	3	6
Rajasthan	25	5	16	21	4
Sikkim	1	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	39	3	4	0	0
Tripura	2	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	85-80	57/85	29/85	10	15
Uttaranchal	5	X	X	3	0
West Bengal	42	1	2	0	1

**Performance of BJP in Union Territories**

(From 1998 to 2009)

State	Total LS Seats	1998	1999	2004	2009
Andaman & Nikobar	1	0	1	0	1
Chandigarh	1	1	0	0	0
Dadra & Nagar Havili	1	1	0	0	0
Daman & Diu	1	1	0	0	1
Delhi	7	6	7	1	0
Lakshadweep	1	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	1	0	0	0	0

## Left Front

CPM and Left Parties have suffered a major setback in 2009 LS elections. The four parties - CPM, CPI, RSP and Forward Bloc - had a total tally of 60 seats in the 2004 elections. In Kerala where the CPM-led Left Democratic Front had got 19 of the 20 seats in 2004, it only got only four in 2009. A major factor was the serious factional fight amongst top CPI(M) leaders - Chief Minister V S Achuthanandan and party state secretary Pinarayi Vijayan. In West Bengal where the Left had fought Trinamool Congress on issues relating to industrialisation and land acquisition, the Mamata Banerjee-led party and Congress gave them a drubbing, bringing down the Left tally to its lowest level. From being the third largest party in the outgoing Lok Sabha, the poor showing of the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) in the general elections has seen it slipping five places to lie eighth in the newly elected house - below even regional parties like the Trinamool Congress, the DMK and the Janata Dal-United.

Huge electoral setbacks in the CPI-M bastions of West Bengal and Kerala have left the party with a mere 16 seats in the new Lok Sabha, down from the 43 it won in 2004.

The party finished with three seats less than the Trinamool Congress, its arch rival in West Bengal, in the 2009 polls. Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee, whom the CPI-M has expelled, wants party general secretary Prakash Karat to step down and take full responsibility for the party's dismal show in the elections.

### Performance of Regional-Parties

(From 1998 to 2009)

	Party	1998	1999	2004	2009	
1	BSP	5	14	19	21	
2	CPI	9	4	10		
3	CPM	32	33	43		
4	JD	6	S	1	S	3
			U	21	U	20
5	SP	20	26	36	23	

The Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are in the first and second positions in the newly-elected Lok Sabha with 206 and 116 seats respectively in the 545 member house. With 23 seats, the Samajwadi Party is in third position, one up from its position in the outgoing house, in which it had 36 seats. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party is at fourth place with 21 seats. The Janata Dal-United, with 20 seats, is in the fifth position. Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress, which stormed the Communist citadel of West Bengal, is in sixth place with 19 seats and the DMK is in the seventh position with 18 seats.