



Trump congratulates Modi, BJP on 'BIG' election win

Conratulations to Prime Minister @narendramodi and his BJP party on their BIG election victory!" Trump tweeted. "Great things are in store for the US-India partnership with the return of PM Modi at the helm. I look forward to continuing our important work together!" Trump said.



Narendra Modi (C) flashes the victory sign next to Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) president Amit Shah (3L) and Minister of Home Affairs of India Rajnath Singh (3R) and other senior BJP leaders as they celebrate the victory in India's general election at the party headquarters in New Delhi



National Conference (NC) leader Farooq Abdullah (C), former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, shows a victory sign after winning his Srinagar constituency parliament seat in Srinagar

Modi makes clean sweep

Modi vows 'inclusive' India after landslide election win

New Delhi, India

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed an "inclusive" future for all Indians yesterday after a landslide election victory that crushed the Gandhi dynasty's comeback hopes once again.

"Together we grow. Together we prosper. Together we will build a strong and inclusive India. India wins yet again!" Modi tweeted as delirious supporters of his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) celebrated nationwide.

"The faith placed in our alliance is humbling and gives us strength to work even harder to fulfil people's aspirations," he said before arriving at BJP headquarters flashing victory signs with both hands and being showered in petals.

Although final results were yet to be published, a rolling vote count by the election commission showed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) increased its majority with 302 out of 543 elected lower house seats.

The BJP's main rivals Congress were on just 51 seats, with Rahul Gandhi -- the great-grandson, grandson and son of three premiers -- conceding defeat and congratulating Modi.

In an added personal humiliation Gandhi, 48, also admitted he had lost Amethi, a seat long held by his famous family, to a former television star running for the BJP.

The BJP's headquarters in Delhi erupted in celebration with drummers, fire-

crackers, dancing and singing as hundreds of party faithful thronged the yard and nearby streets waiting for Modi.

"Modi will make India great again. Modi is the strongest prime minister India has ever had and will get. We need to support his policies to prosper," said one supporter, Santosh Joshi.

At Congress headquarters, a handful of dejected supporters sat in groups under the shade of trees.

"We are sad but we will rise again. Modi won because of his lies and false promises. The country is in danger now," Rajesh Tiwari, a Congress supporter, said.

India's main Sensex index breached the 40,000-point level for the first time as the count pointed to a Modi win, following strong gains since Monday.

The vast size of India -- stretching from the Himalayas to the tropics, taking in polluted megacities, deserts and jungles -- made the world's biggest election a marathon six-week endeavour.

The campaign, estimated to have cost more than \$7 billion, was awash with insults -- Modi was likened to Hitler and a "gutter insect" -- as well as fake news in Facebook and WhatsApp's biggest markets.

Gandhi tried several lines of attack against Modi, in particular over a French defence deal and high unemployment and saying Modi was dividing the officially secular country.

The watchman

But Modi, 68, managed to deftly turn the election into a referendum on his rule while depicting himself, often in the third person, as the only one able to defend India.

In this he was given a major boost when a suicide bombing, claimed by a Pakistan-based militant group, killed 40 Indian paratroopers in Indian-administered Kashmir on February 14.

Doubts about the efficacy of India's subsequent air strikes on Pakistan, but the action enabled Modi to style himself the "chowkidar" ("watchman").

"We have shown the world that India is a great country. We have shown Pakistan that they cannot mess with us," said Vishal Sharma, a BJP supporter in Delhi.

2014					
BJP+ 336		OTH 146		CON+ 60	
BJP	282	AIADMK	36	CON	44
SS	18	TMC	33	NCP	6
TDP	15	BJD	36	RJD	4
LJP	6	TRS	11	JMM	2
SAD	4	CPM	9	IUML	2
RLSP	3	YSRC	8	RSP	1
AD	2	SP	4	KCM	1
NPF	1	AAP	4		
NPP	1	AIUDF	3		
OTH		OTH	18	OTH	

INDIA					
BJP+ 357		OTH 97		CON+ 88	
BJP	303	TMC	24	CON	52
SS	19	SP	7	DMK	23
JDU	16	BSP	14	RJD	2
AIADMK	1	BJD	14	NCP	5
LJP	6	YSRC	25	JDS	1
SAD	2	TRS	9	JMM	1
AD	2	AAP		RLSP	
NPP	1	TDP	4	HAM	
AGP	1	CPM	3	IUML	3
OTH	1	OTH	4	OTH	5

Sikkim (32)

2019		2014	
SDF	12		22
SKM	11		10
CON	0		0
BJP	0		0

Andhra (175)

2019		2014	
YSRC	147		66
TDP	26		103
BJP	0		4
NPT	0		1

Kerala

2019		2014	
UDF	19		12
LDF	1		8
NDA	0		0

Odisha (147)

2019		2014	
BJD	107		117
BJP	22		10
CONG	14		16
OTH	3		2

Arunachal (60)

2019		2014	
BJP	26		11
OTH	7		2
CON	2		42
PP	0		5

