

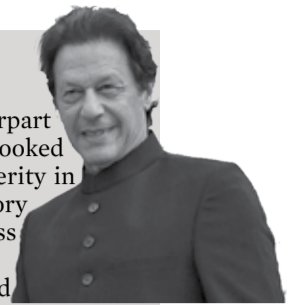


Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Aditya Nath (C) flashes the victory sign to supporters along with Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya (R) and Dinesh Sharma (3L) during the party's victory celebration at party office in Lucknow

Imran Khan congratulates Modi

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan congratulated his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and his party on their election victory, saying he looked forward to working with the premier for "peace, progress and prosperity in South Asia". Congratulate Prime Minister Modi on the electoral victory of BJP and allies. Look forward to working with him for peace, progress and prosperity in South Asia," Khan tweeted.

In April, Khan said a Modi win could help settle the Kashmir issue and Islamabad has repeatedly stated it open to dialogue with Delhi



Xi extends 'heartfelt' congratulations

Chinese President Xi Jinping extended "heartfelt" congratulations to Prime Minister Modi on his election victory and vowed to work with him to take the bilateral ties to a new height.



Opposition in shambles

- Amit Shah wins Gandhinagar seat by over 5 lakh votes.
- World leaders including from China, Russia, Israel, Sri Lanka, Japan, Afghanistan congratulates Prime Minister Narendra Modi for BJP's huge victory.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi wins Varanasi seat by a margin of 3.85 lakh votes
- Congress President Rahul Gandhi won from Wayanad, Kerala, with 12,76,945 but lost from his second seat Amethi, where he has been winning since 2004.
- Congress refutes reports of Rahul Gandhi's resignation. Some news channels have reported that the Gandhi scion had tendered his resignation from the post of Congress president following poll drubbing.
- PM Modi removes 'chowkidar' prefix from Twitter, says take its spirit to next level
- 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.

Invites Modi to Dhaka

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina who also shares strong chemistry with Modi extended an invitation to Modi to visit Dhaka. The two leaders agreed to identify dates for a meeting at the earliest.



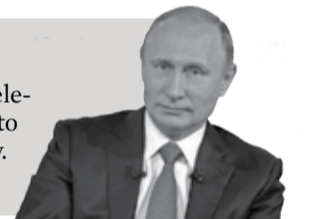
Singapore congratulates Modi

Congratulations on your re-election, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. The strong mandate reflects the results of your first term and the consequent trust that the people of India repose in your leadership. Singapore appreciates the personal focus you have placed on developing our bilateral relationship... Singapore also welcomes India's deepening engagement of the region, in line with your Act East policy



Putin calls Modi

Russian President Vladimir Putin who was the first P-5 leader to telephone Modi expressed hope that the two leaders will work jointly to consolidate strategic partnership and further build on their chemistry.



Abe reiterates commitments

Japanese PM Shinzo Abe who shares a strong chemistry with Modi in his conversation reiterated commitment towards further strengthening the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership to achieve their shared vision of peace, progress and prosperity.



Australian PM congratulates Modi

Australian PM Scott Morrison hoped that he would be able to meet the Indian PM soon.



Rahul Gandhi concedes personal defeat in family bastion

New Delhi, India

Rahul Gandhi, leader of India's main opposition Congress party, conceded yesterday he had lost his seat in the famous family's long-held home constituency.

"Smriti Irani (of the BJP) has won in Amethi and I congratulate her. The people of Amethi have given their mandate," Gandhi told a news conference.

At national level, Congress looked to have been given a hiding at the polls as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party headed for a landslide victory.

Congress has held Amethi in Uttar Pradesh state since 1967 except for one three-year stint in 1977-80 and a separate one-year period in 1998-99.

Rahul Gandhi, 48, won the seat in 2004, 2009

2014 and the constituency is considered one of the two Nehru-Gandhi family bastions.

The heavy losses suffered by the Congress to Modi put paid to Gandhi's hopes of becoming the fourth member of his famous dynasty to lead the world's biggest democracy.

Votes counted so far indicated that the party won just 50 seats against 301 for the BJP, which secured an even bigger majority than at the last election in 2014.

"I can't comment on the results today. I want to say that our fight is a fight for ideology. I want to tell our leaders, who won and lost, don't worry, don't lose confidence. We will fight together for our ideology," Gandhi told the news conference. "It doesn't matter what I think went wrong. Frankly people of India have decided that Modi should be the prime minister, as an Indian person I accept it," he said.

