

WHO SAID WHAT



“Assure countrymen that to fulfil their aspirations, we will move forward with new energy, new enthusiasm and new resolve.”

Indian PM
Narendra Modi



“I was confident that the people of this country would give the right response.”

Indian opposition leader
Rahul Gandhi



“The public has taught a lesson to BJP in this election.”

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief
Sharad Pawar



“It’s a fair assessment to say 400 at the moment certainly looks distant.”

BJP spokesman
Nalin Kohli

LOK SABHA ELECTION 2024

What a third term for Modi means for the world

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has won a third term in power yesterday, leading a country with the world's biggest population and fastest-growing economy.

The 73-year-old Hindu nationalist leader, who is pushing for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, has been courted by the United States and European allies as a counterweight to China. Here is how a third term for Modi could build on a decade of his diplomatic ambitions.

UNITED STATES, EUROPE President Joe Biden hosted Modi for a state dinner last year and has called ties with India the “defining partnership of the 21st century”.

In February, Washington approved a \$4 billion sale of state-of-the-art drones to India, the latest bolster to India's defence in a counterbalance to neighbouring China.

That deepening of ties has come despite rights groups sounding the alarm about



threats to India's democracy and increased discrimination towards the 200 million-plus Muslim minority.

India also has strong ties with European countries. With France, it hopes to expand multi-billion-dollar deals including the sale of Rafale fighter jets.

CHINA Relations between the world's two most populous countries slumped in 2020 after their troops fought a deadly high-altitude skirmish along their 3,500-kilometre

frontier. Modi's right-wing government has pumped billions of dollars into border infrastructure and boosted military spending by 13 percent last year -- but it is still barely a quarter of China's.

RUSSIA New Delhi and Moscow have ties dating back to the Cold War and Russia remains by far the biggest arms supplier.

India has shied away from explicit condemnation of Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, abstained on

UN resolutions censuring Moscow, and snapped up cut-price Russian crude oil supplies.

Modi in March congratulated President Vladimir Putin on his re-election.

PAKISTAN

Modi's government has refused to engage with Pakistan since accusing Islamabad of cross-border terrorism.

In 2015 Modi made a surprise visit to Lahore but relations plummeted in 2019. But in March, Modi congratulated Pakistani counterpart Shehbaz Sharif on his return to the premiership. It was a rare expression of goodwill between leaders of two rivals.

‘GLOBAL SOUTH’

Modi has also projected India as a key member of the BRICS club of emerging economies, and this week called New Delhi “a strong and important voice of the Global South”. It was under Modi's watch that the African Union bloc joined the G20, with India arguing developing nations need a greater say in global decision-making.

Modi's key allies stand by him despite weaker showing

REUTERS, New Delhi

Two key regional allies in Narendra Modi's coalition have endorsed him as India's next prime minister, their spokespeople said yesterday, after trends showed Modi's party was falling short of a majority in a general election.

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Janata Dal (United) said their pre-poll alliance with Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was intact and they would form the next government.

Their comments came after media speculation that the opposition alliance, which is doing much better than expected, was also in touch with them.

N Chandrababu Naidu's TDP, based in the southern coastal state of Andhra Pradesh, is currently the second-biggest party in Modi's National Democratic Alliance (NDA) after the BJP. Naidu, who allied with the opposition the last time, has in the past spoken about loan waivers for farmers and privatisation of air and sea ports.

“TDP has a pre-poll alliance with NDA and it will continue, no doubt about that,” said party lawmaker K. Ravindra Kumar. “PM Modi and Naidu have congratulated each other.”

Party spokesperson Jyothsna Tirunagari said: “TDP has always shared a vision with PM Modi and he remains our PM face.”

Gandhi siblings shine in INDIA's stellar show

NDTV ONLINE

From ‘pappu’ to ‘shehzade’, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been the prime target of BJP's ridicule for years. Jabs at the Gandhi family have been the BJP leader's main line of attack at the main opposition Congress in every election over the past decade.

But as Congress inches towards a 100-seat tally in this Lok Sabha election -- its best show in a decade -- and the INDIA bloc's tally defies all exit polls, the Gandhi siblings have played a central role.

Rahul virtually launched his campaign with a Bharat Jodo Yatra across the length and breadth of the country. While the actual impact of the yatra in terms of Lok Sabha seats won is a subject of data and debate, there is no doubt that his public interactions on the trail brought him out of television screens to the people and contributed to shattering the perception the BJP had

created of him.

Visuals of Rahul petting puppies, hugging people and chatting with people from every section of the society, from students to truck drivers to mechanics, showed a side of him the country had not seen before.

As for Priyanka Gandhi, many had expected her to contest the polls this time, and questions were raised when she did not. In her response, Priyanka has said in several interviews that it was a conscious decision. If both she and Rahul contested the election, they would get tied up with campaigning in one constituency, she had said, adding that the plan was to keep her free for rallies.

As Rahul travelled across the country to address rallies of the INDIA bloc, Priyanka also took up the task of leading the Congress's campaign in family strongholds Amethi and Raebareli.



BJP candidate concedes defeat in Ayodhya

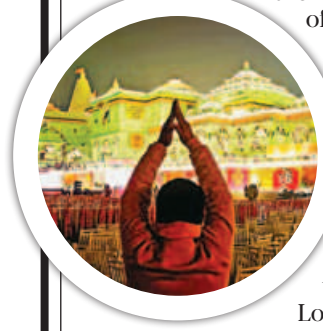
REUTERS, New Delhi

India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party yesterday conceded defeat in a constituency where the inauguration of a grand Hindu temple just months ago by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was seen as an event that would cement his legacy and the party's poll victory.

The BJP looks set for heavy losses in the bellwether northern state of Uttar Pradesh, as the opposition Samajwadi Party and Congress race ahead in more than half of its 80 seats, including in Ayodhya city in the Faizabad constituency where Modi inaugurated the temple in January.

The opening of the temple dedicated to god-king Lord Ram, on a site previously contested by India's minority Muslims, fulfilled a three-decades old BJP promise which it mentioned in almost every campaign rally during the massive two-months long vote in the Hindu-majority country.

“I could not protect your and Ayodhya's dignity, there must have been some shortcoming in me,” Lallu Singh, the BJP's incumbent lawmaker from Faizabad, told party workers, according to footage shared by the Indian Express daily.



‘Exit polls were not reflective of the reality on the ground’ Says Congress spokesperson

AGENCIES

Congress spokesperson Shama Mohamed said leaders of the opposition knew that exit polls showing a wide-margin of victory for Modi's alliance were not reflective of the reality on the ground.

“Of course, we always said that the opposition is going to do well in this election,” Mohamed said. “You have to understand that there is a lot of unemployment in India, the price rise is huge.”

“There is the capture of various institutions for example,” Mohamed added, referring to the opposition's allegations that Modi's government has consolidated power at key institutions, including the country's election commission.

The News18 mega exit poll, conducted by a major television news network in India, predicted that the NDA would take anywhere between 355 and 370 seats, with the BJP taking over 300 seats by itself. On the other hand, INC was touted to take between 62 and 72 seats, with the INDIA block winning between 125 and 140 seats.



Palestinians mourn for their relatives killed during Israeli bombardment of a house in al-Bureij refugee camp, at the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

POST-POLLS SOUTH AFRICA

ANC weighs up partners from free-marketeers to Marxists

REUTERS, Johannesburg

The African National Congress was holding high-stakes internal talks yesterday about which parties it should approach to form South Africa's next government, with diametrically opposed Marxists and free-marketeers on the menu of options.

After 30 years of dominance since Nelson Mandela led it to power in the 1994 elections that marked the end of apartheid, the ANC lost its majority in last week's national vote. It remains the largest party but can

no longer govern alone.

Voters punished the former liberation movement for high levels of poverty, joblessness and inequality, rampant crime, rolling power cuts and corruption -- problems that have held South Africa back and will challenge the next government.

It will have 159 seats out of 400 in the new National Assembly, while the free-marketeer Democratic Alliance (DA) will have 87. The populist uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) will have 58 seats, the Marxist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)

39, the socially conservative Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) 17 and the far-right Patriotic Alliance (PA) nine.

“The ANC is still trying to make up its mind about what it wants to do,” said Charles Gilliers, co-founder and head of strategy for the PA, which calls for the mass deportation of undocumented immigrants and the return of the death penalty.

“Everyone is reliant on the ANC coming to a decision. There's a lot of pressure on them from big money, from big business in South Africa, to work with the DA,” he told Reuters.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION SPRING 2024



Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology

OFFERED PROGRAMS

- Faculty of Architecture and Planning**
Bachelor of Architecture (ARCH)
- Faculty of Engineering (ENGG.)**
B. Sc. in Civil Engineering (CE)
B. Sc. in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)
B. Sc. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE)
B. Sc. in Textile Engineering (TE)
B. Sc. in Industrial and Production Engineering (IPE)
B. Sc. in Mechanical Engineering (ME)
- Faculty of Business and Social Sciences**
Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)

ADMISSION SCHEDULE

- Application Date: 06.06.2024 (Thursday) - 23.06.2024 (Sunday)
- Date of Verification of FF, RA and O and A-Level Application: 27.06.2024 (Thursday) (from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm)
- Publication of the Shortlisted Candidates: 02.07.2024 (Tuesday)
- Date of Admission Test: 06.07.2024 (Saturday)
- Publication of Merit List: 18.07.2024 (Thursday)
- Modification of Program Choice: 19.07.2024 (Friday) - 21.07.2024 (Sunday)
- Publication of Merit List with Selected Program: 25.07.2024 (Thursday)

QUALIFICATION

- Category 1: ENGG. Program(s), ENGG.+ARCH. Program(s) and, Category 2: ARCH. Program**
HSC (Science) with Math, Physics, Chemistry
GPA in HSC: Minimum 3.5 (with additional subject)
Minimum total of SSC and HSC GPAs: 8.0 including additional subject
For O-Level and A-Level/ Equivalent
O-level or equivalent (with at least five subjects including Math, Physics, Chemistry & English)
A-level or equivalent with Math, Physics & Chemistry with minimum equivalent GPA of 3.5
Minimum equivalent total of O and A-level GPAs: 8.0
Grade equivalence: A*/A=5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, and E = 1

Category 3: BBA Program

- SSC and HSC or equivalent from any discipline
Minimum total of SSC and HSC GPAs: 7.0 including additional subject with at least 2.0 at any level
For O-Level and A-Level/ Equivalent
The candidate completed a minimum of five subjects in O-level and two subjects in A-level
Minimum equivalent total of O and A-level GPAs: 7.0 with at least 3.0 at any level.
Grade equivalence: A*/A=5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, and E = 1

NOTE

- Applicants from **Category 1** with an option for ENGG.(only) have to sit for a Common Admission Test (Mathematics + Physics + Chemistry + English) for 1 hour and 45 Minutes.
- Applicants from **Category 1** with an option for ENGG.+ARCH. and **Category 2: ARCH.** have to sit for an additional 1 Hour and 30 Minutes 'Drawing Test' after appearing in the Common Admission Test (Mathematics + Physics + Chemistry + English)
- Applicants from **Category 3: BBA Program** have to sit for Admission Test (English + General Mathematics + Information and Communication Technology) for 1 hour and 45 Minutes, starting at the same time as Engineering Common Test.
- As per Private University Act 2010, 3% of the total seats is reserved for sons/daughters of Freedom Fighters (FF), and another 3% for poor and meritorious candidates of Remote and Underdeveloped Areas (RA).
- Candidates have to apply through the website (<https://iims.aust.edu/admission/>) by paying the necessary application processing fees through bkash.
- Candidates who have passed SSC or O-level or equivalent examinations in 2019 and onwards, and HSC or A-level or equivalent examinations in 2021 and onwards can apply.
- Detailed application procedures and other information are available on the University Website (<http://admission.aust.edu>).

