

## INTERNATIONAL

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.

Results showed the BJP's candidate, Lallu Singh, had lost the Faizabad constituency to Awadhesh Prasad, the candidate of the socialist-leaning Samajwadi Party, by a margin of over 50,000 votes.

## Smriti Irani loses battle for Amethi

THE HINDU ONLINE

In a big upset for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani, dubbed a giant slayer after she defeated Rahul Gandhi from the seat in the 2019 elections, lost to Congress's Kishori Lal Sharma in the Amethi constituency in Uttar Pradesh.

According to the EC data, Sharma won by a margin of over 1,67,000 votes. Irani received 3,72,032 votes. Taling to X, Irani said she will be forever grateful to people who supported her in victory and loss. Amethi is one of the important seats in the state and exit polls had predicted a close fight.

## '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.



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 2024Ahsanullah 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://iums.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>).

