

## LOKNITI-CSDS-ABP NEWS MOOD OF THE NATION SURVEY, 2018

### About the Survey

The second round of the Mood of the Nation Survey was conducted by Lokniti, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi for ABP News between January 7 and January 20, 2018 among 14,336 respondents spread across 19 States of India - Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. The survey was conducted at 700 locations in 175 Assembly Constituencies (ACs). Each AC was located in a different Parliamentary Constituency (PC). The total sample size targeted was 14,000 with an AC/PC-wise target of 80-85 interviews. The number of PCs to be sampled in a State was determined based on the percentage share of that particular State's electorate in the total/combined electorate of all 19 states. The sampling design adopted was multi-stage random sampling. The PCs where the survey was conducted were randomly selected using the probability proportional to size method. Then, one AC was selected from within each sampled PC using the random sampling method. Thereafter, four polling stations were selected from within each of the sampled ACs using the systematic random sampling method. Finally, the respondents were also randomly selected using the systematic method from the electoral rolls of the sampled polling stations.

Once we identified our sample among the electorate, trained investigators were sent to meet them. They were asked to interview only those whose names were given to them. However at some locations the non-availability of sampled respondents or difficulty in finding households necessitated replacements/substitutions. Our investigators sat down in the homes of people and asked them a detailed set of questions which could take up to 35-40 minutes. The questionnaire we presented to our sample of voters was designed in the language mainly spoken in the respondents' State.

The achieved national sample is broadly representative of India's population, in terms of the country's general demographic profile. It has nevertheless been weighted by gender, locality, caste group and religion in each State as per Census 2011 percentages. For our all-India analysis, we adjusted the figures using a statistical technique known as weighting, which means that each State was proportionately represented in the analysis.

### Profile of the achieved national sample

	Survey Sample (Raw) %	Census 2011 %
Women	45.5	48.6
Urban	24.5	31.2
SC	20.2	16.7
ST	8.0	8.6
Muslim	12.9	14.2

The survey was designed and analysed by a team of researchers at Lokniti, CSDS. The team included Ananya Singh, Ankita Barthwal, Asmita Aasaavari, Dhananjay Kumar Singh, Himanshu Bhattacharya, Jyoti Mishra, Shreyas Sardesai, Vijay Prakash and Vibha Attri. The survey was directed by Prof. Sanjay Kumar, Prof. Suhas Palshikar and Prof. Sandeep Shastri of Lokniti.

The survey was coordinated by scholars from the Lokniti Network: E Venkatesu and Srinivas Rao Gangireddla (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), Dhruva Pratim Sharma and Nurul Hassan (Assam), Rakesh Ranjan

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(Bihar), Anupama Saxena and Shamshad Ansari (Chhattisgarh), Biswajit Mohanty (Delhi), Mahashweta Jani (Gujarat), Kushal Pal and Anita Agarwal (Haryana), Harishwar Dayal and Amit Kumar (Jharkhand), Veena Devi and Reetika Syal (Karnataka), Sajad Ibrahim (Kerala), Yatindra Singh Sisodia and Ashish Bhatt (Madhya Pradesh), Nitin Birmal (Maharashtra), Gyanaranjan Swain (Odisha), Jagroop Singh Sekhon and Nirmal Singh (Punjab), Sanjay Lodha and Nidhi Seth (Rajasthan), P Ramajayam (Tamil Nadu), Mirza Asmer Beg and Sudhir Khare (Uttar Pradesh), and Suprio Basu and Jyoti Prasad Chatterjee (West Bengal).

**Survey details in a nutshell**

Conducted by	Lokniti-CSDS, for ABP News
Coverage	19 States
Dates of fieldwork	January 7-20, 2018
No. of Parliamentary Constituencies covered	175
No. of Polling Stations (Locations) covered	700
No. of interviews conducted (Sample size)	14,336
Sampling method	Multi-stage random sampling
Fieldwork method	Standardized face to face interview in language mainly spoken in the respondents' State

## Summary of the findings

### **BJP DOMINANT BUT VULNERABLE**

#### **Lokniti Team**

The Narendra Modi led government continues to ride high on its popularity, even as clear rumblings of discontent are visible below the surface. This is the strong message from the second round of the Mood of the Nation (MOTN) Survey. Conducted by Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) among 14,336 randomly sampled voters in 175 randomly sampled Lok Sabha constituencies spread across 19 States, the survey has found that in the event of a snap Lok Sabha election in the country today, the BJP would in all likelihood secure about 34% of the total votes. While this estimated vote share is three percentage points higher than what the BJP had got in the Lok Sabha election of 2014, it is, quite significantly, five points less compared to May 2017, when round one of the MOTN Survey had found the ruling party to be netting 39% votes nationally. The BJP's allies remain where they were eight months ago, securing 6% of the votes. The slight dip in the BJP's popularity seems to be benefitting the Congress party the most, for now. The Rahul Gandhi-led party is expected to secure the vote of one in every four Indians (25%) if a national election takes place now. This is an upward improvement compared to the May 2017 MOTN Survey when it was found to be receiving 21% votes (one in every five) nationwide. The Congress's recovery is not surprising as the incumbency effect is finally catching up with the BJP and therefore, slowly, its vote share is reaching the same level as in 2014 (with a possibility of further decline). This makes the future political competition interesting to say the least. Congress's allies are expected to secure 5% of the votes, down a bit since May. Adding it all together, if an election had happened this month, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would have in all possibility secured 40% of the votes nationally and the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (as it existed in 2014), 30%. The remaining 30% would have got distributed between parties like the BSP, SP, CPI, CPI (M), Trinamool Congress, AIADMK, BJD, JDS, TRS, AAP and other regional outfits. Here one must note that even while it faces a decline in its overall support, the BJP-NDA should be able to secure a comfortable majority for itself if an election was to be held today, given the disunity in the Opposition parties and the still quite wide lead it has over the UPA.

The dip in BJP-led NDA's popularity is most precipitous in west and central India, particularly in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Had elections happened now, the ruling alliance would have likely secured 48% of the votes in this region, down 8 percentage points since the previous national survey in May 2017. In southern India too, the decline of the NDA is quite steep as it now trails the Congress-UPA by 14 points. The UPA is doing much better in all the five States of this region as compared to the May 2017 Survey. Even as the Congress seems to be reviving in a major way in the western and southern parts of the country, its recovery is relatively modest in northern and eastern India where the BJP-NDA and other parties continue to hold sway. In north India, while the BJP's popularity has declined somewhat in the last eight months, it continues to be miles ahead of its competition in most States, including in the all-important state of Uttar Pradesh. In eastern India, the BJP seems to be holding on to the tremendous gains it had earlier made in Assam and Odisha, and is benefitting in Bihar from the re-entry of the JDU in the NDA. It is, however, unable to make much of a dent into Trinamool Congress's dominance in West Bengal and is seeing a dip in its popularity in Jharkhand.

An analysis of the latest MOTN data by locality reveals an interesting paradox. The Congress-UPA is gaining support in India's towns (50,000-1 lakh population) and small cities (1-5 lakh population), but losing support in her big cities (population above 5 lakhs). The trend is exactly the reverse with respect to the BJP-NDA. The

ruling alliance seems to be doing well in the large cities but faring poorly in the small ones. In fact, the NDA's advantage over the UPA in the small cities and towns has narrowed considerably in the last eight months, from 15 percentage points in May 2017 to just one point now. In villages too, the NDA has taken somewhat of a hit and is down by about five points since the last national survey. This decline of the ruling alliance in rural India could largely been on account of farmer disappointment with the government. The latest survey found NDA to be losing about 9-percentage point support among the country's farming community as compared to the May 2017 MOTN survey. The survey also found a plurality of the farmers to be of the opinion that the previous UPA government did a better job in addressing their concerns than the present NDA government, 32% to 23%. Moreover, over half the country's farmers (53%) were found to be of the opinion that the present Narendra Modi government has done a bad job in addressing farmer related problems. Only two in every five (41%) said it has done a good job.

Not just farmers, traders and shopkeepers too seem to be quite disappointed with the NDA government. Support for the BJP alliance among them has come down by 7 points since May 2017, from 50% to 43%. Conversely, support for UPA among the trading community has risen by 9 percentage points in the same period. The survey found over half the traders (53%) to be of the opinion that the Goods and Services Tax was introduced by the Modi government in haste. Only one third thought it had been introduced after careful consideration. Traders were also more likely to view the GST taxes as being harsh compared to other voters (70% to 60%). Not surprisingly then, the UPA's greatest gains since May 2017 have taken place among upper class voters, followed by lower class and middle class voters. Voters belonging to the poorest sections of society however don't seem to have swung in its favour. In fact, the UPA is down by a point among them compared to May 2017 and so is the NDA. The old class pattern of the Congress getting more votes from the poorer voters than the well-off ones, no longer exists. The party and its allies seem to be getting lesser support from economically worse-off voters than those better-off.

For the second straight MOTN survey, most voters identified unemployment as being India's biggest problem currently. In May 2017, 25% had thought so; now 28% think so. This belief that India's biggest bane currently is lack of jobs is most strongly held in the northern states of the country - four of every ten respondents living in north India reported unemployment as being the country's biggest problem as opposed to one in every four in east India, two of every ten in the western and central part, and less than one seventh in the south.

Interestingly though, the Congress or the UPA don't seem to be benefitting much from this 'there are no jobs' perception among voters. This is because 45% of those who reported unemployment as being the biggest problem were found to be voting for the NDA (higher than the NDA's national vote of 40%) and only 27% opted for the UPA (lower than the UPA's national vote of 30%). That said, young voters (18-35 years) seem much less enthused with the BJP than they were back in May 2017. While, they are still most likely of all age groups to vote for the BJP, the party's decline among them has been the greatest as compared to other age groups since last May. Young voters were also more likely than other voters to see unemployment as India's biggest problem (34%).

The survey found satisfaction with the performance of the Modi government to have declined sharply in the last eight months. While in May 2017, close to two thirds of the voters nationwide had reported satisfaction with the NDA government's work, the figure has now dropped by 13 points to a little over half. Dissatisfaction has gone up from a little over one fourth to four of every ten, a rise of 13 percentage points. More significantly, the proportion of those fully dissatisfied with the government's work is now greater than the proportion of those fully satisfied (17% as opposed to 10%). What should worry the BJP even more is that dissatisfaction with the Modi government's performance has gone up in nearly all the States where the survey was conducted, barring one or two. For instance, while 12% of the voters in Rajasthan had been dissatisfied with the Central government's performance back in May 2017, this has now gone up three times to 38%. In

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Uttar Pradesh, the figure of dissatisfaction has increased from 21% to 37%. The BJP may well still be the dominant party in many States at the moment in terms of voter preference, but these growing figures of disenchantment could spell trouble for the party in the months ahead.

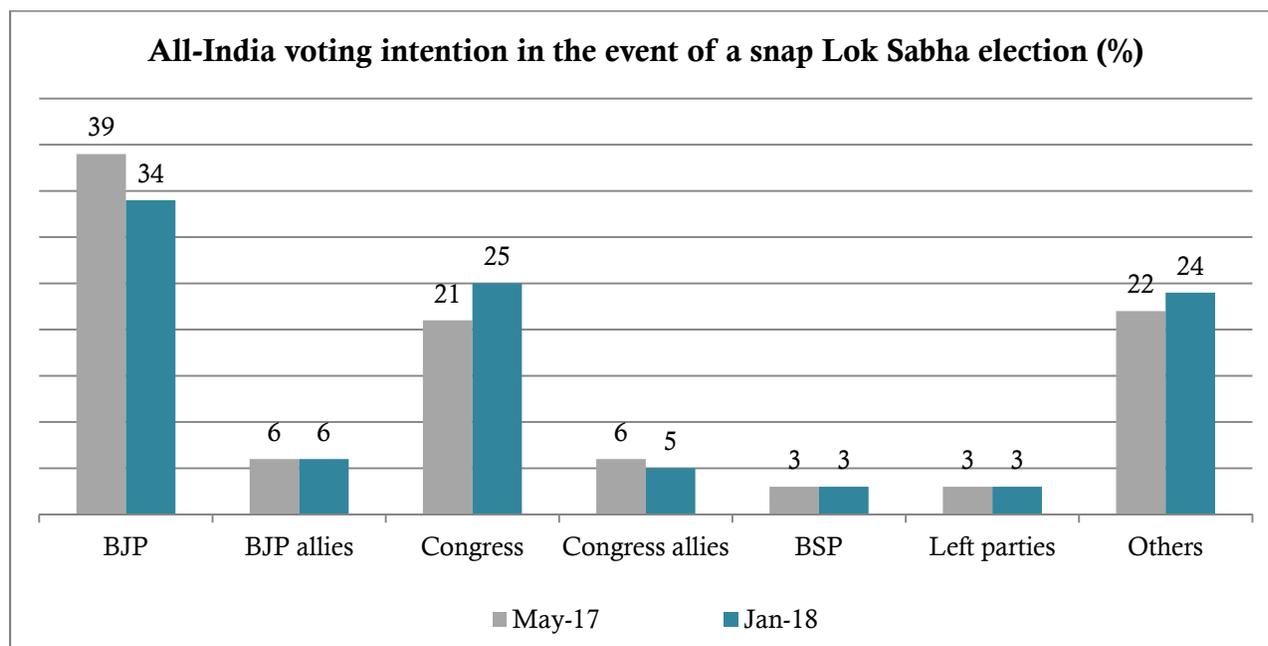
Another indicator of people's disappointment with the performance of the Modi government is their negative opinion on *Achhe Din*. Back in May, nearly two-thirds (63%) had said that Modi had succeeded in bringing *Achhe Din*. Eight months later, the figure has fallen to just four of every ten. There are in fact more people now who believe that Modi has failed in bringing *Acche Din* than those who think he has succeeded (50%-41%).

Prime Minister Modi's own personal popularity has also declined in the last eight months, although he continues to be the most popular leader by quite a distance. In May 2017, 44% of the voters had wanted him to return as prime minister in the event of a snap election. Now, the same figure is down by 7 points to 37%. Modi's popularity has in fact declined across all the four regions, with the drop being the sharpest in south India.

Narendra Modi's biggest challenge at the moment seems to be coming from Congress President Rahul Gandhi whose popularity has gone up sharply across the country. Voters' preference for Rahul Gandhi as the country's next prime minister has more than doubled in the last eight months - from 9% to 20%. This is in fact the highest it has ever been, if one were to compare it to past Lokniti-CSDS surveys. The last time Rahul Gandhi had been the preferred choice of these many people had been way back in 2011 when 19% of the respondents had wanted him as the country's prime minister. The sudden surge in Rahul's popularity could well be largely an effect of his recent taking over as the President of the Congress party. It might be the case that now that he is heading the Congress, voters take him more seriously than they did earlier. The Congress's fairly creditable performance in the recent Gujarat assembly elections might also partly explain the spike.

While Rahul Gandhi's popularity may have gone up, he seems to be quite a polarizing figure in Indian politics. When respondents were asked whether they agreed with the statement that 'Rahul Gandhi is competent to be the prime minister of the country', 48% answered in the affirmative and 39% in the negative. Both these figures have gone up in comparison to March 2014 when a pre-poll survey by Lokniti before the Lok Sabha election had found them to be 40% and 31%, respectively. Back then 29% of the respondents had stayed silent on the issue. Now only 13% did so with most giving an opinion on Rahul Gandhi's competence to be prime minister.

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Note: Raw figures of voting intention have been adjusted by the Lokniti-CSDS team for the known patterns of under-reporting for independents and very small parties and over-reporting for the ruling party/alliance in a State to arrive at the vote share estimates presented here. Voters who did not disclose their vote preference have been adjusted proportionately.

**BJP allies** include: Shiv Sena (only in Maharashtra), Shiromani Akali Dal (only in Punjab), Telugu Desam Party, Lok Janshakti Party (only in Bihar), Janata Dal-United (only in Bihar), Bodoland People's Front, Swabhimani Paksha, Rashtriya Samaj Paksha, Republican Party of India (A), Apna Dal, Hindustan Awam Morcha, Rashtriya Lok Samata Party and All Jharkhand Students Union Party.

**Congress allies** include Rashtriya Janata Dal (only in Bihar and Jharkhand), Nationalist Congress Party (only in Maharashtra), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Manithaneyya Makkal Katchi, Puthiya Tamizhagam, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (only in Jharkhand), Indian Union Muslim League (only in Kerala and Tamil Nadu), Revolutionary Socialist Party (only in Kerala) and Bahujan Vikas Aghadi.

The survey was not conducted in Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya.

Sources for estimates: Mood of the Nation (MOTN) Surveys, 2017 and 2018.

Sample size (N) in 2017 - 11,373; Sample size in 2018 - 14,336.

### NDA's popularity down significantly in West, Central and South India compared to 2017 Survey

	BJP+/NDA %	Cong+/UPA %	Others %
<b>All India</b>	<b>40 (-5)</b>	<b>30 (+3)</b>	<b>30 (+2)</b>
East India	43 (+1)	21 (-2)	36 (+1)
West and Central India	48 (-8)	40 (+8)	12
North India	45 (-5)	22 (+4)	33 (+1)
South India	25 (-8)	39 (+5)	36 (+3)

Note: Figures in parentheses show percentage point change since MOTN Survey 2017

East India includes West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand and Assam

West and Central India includes Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh

North India includes Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi

South India includes Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Telangana

Source: MOTN Surveys; N (2017) – 11,373; N (2018) – 14,336

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**Congress+ gaining most in towns and small cities, but faring poorly in big cities**

	BJP+/NDA %	Cong+/UPA %	Others %
Villages	41 (-5)	29 (+4)	30 (+1)
Towns and small cities	35 (-8)	34 (+6)	31 (+2)
Big cities	47 (+5)	28 (-9)	25 (+4)

Note: Figures in parentheses show percentage point change since MOTN Survey 2017

Big cities are those whose population is above 5 lakh.

Source: MOTN Surveys; N (2017) – 11,373; N (2018) – 14,336

**Congress+ has gained most among upper class voters in the last eight months**

	BJP+/NDA %	Cong+/UPA %	Others %
Upper class	48 (-2)	33 (+9)	19 (-7)
Middle class	43 (-3)	32 (+3)	25
Lower class	41 (-5)	30 (+6)	29 (-1)
Poor	36 (-1)	29 (-1)	35 (+2)

Note: Figures in parentheses show percentage point change since MOTN Survey 2017

Source: MOTN Surveys; N (2017) – 11,373; N (2018) – 14,336

**BJP-NDA's decline steepest among farmers and traders**

	BJP+/NDA %	Cong+/UPA %	Others %
Farmers	40 (-9)	33 (+6)	27 (+3)
Traders and shopkeepers	43 (-7)	34 (+9)	23 (-2)
Others	40 (-3)	29 (+2)	31 (+1)

Note: Figures in parentheses show percentage point change since MOTN Survey 2017

Source: MOTN Surveys; N (2017) – 11,373; N (2018) – 14,336

**Farmers and non-farmers unanimous in opinion that UPA performed better in addressing farmer woes than NDA**

	Farmer friendly government				
	NDA %	UPA %	Both %	Neither %	No response %
Farmers	23	32	17	19	9
Non-farmers	22	27	20	17	14

Source: MOTN Survey 2018

Question asked was: If we compare the present NDA government with the previous UPA government at the Centre, then which has been better in addressing the issues/problems of farmers?

**Over half the farmers of the opinion that Modi government has done a bad job in addressing their concerns**

	Good %	Bad %	No response %
Farmers	41	53	6
Non-farmers	43	46	12

Source: MOTN Survey 2018

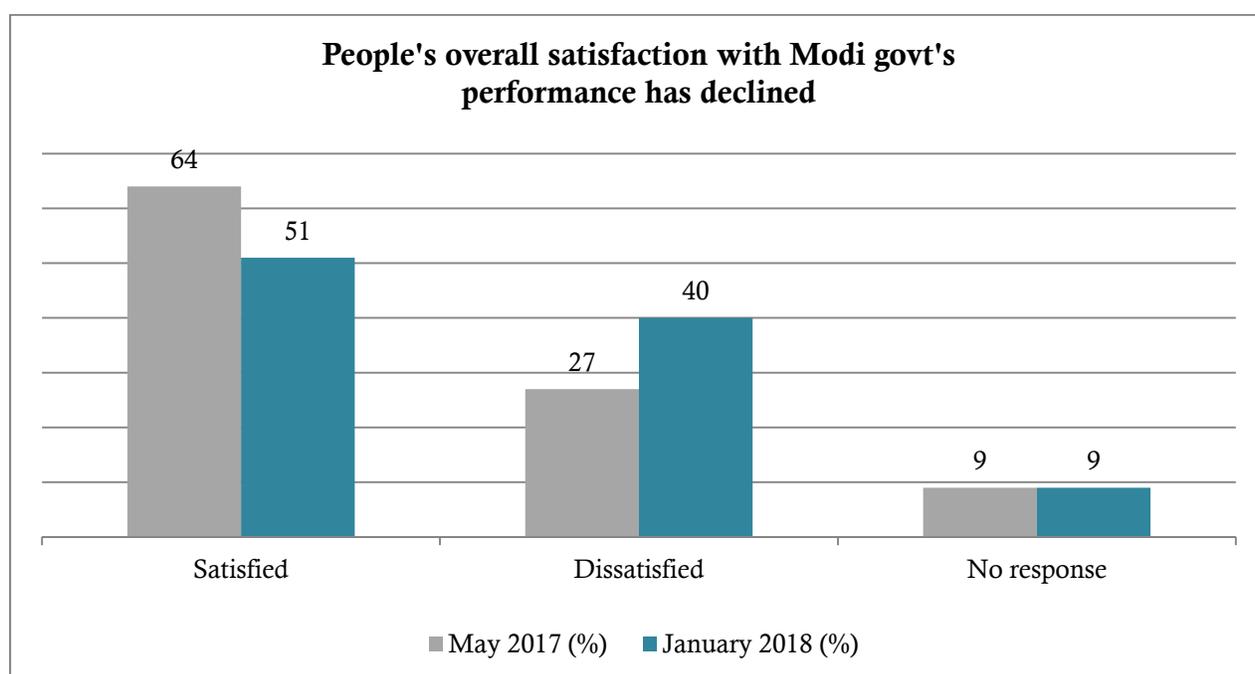
Question asked was: In your opinion has the BJP-NDA government at the Centre done a good job or a bad job in addressing farmers' issues over the last 3-4 years? (Probe further whether very or somewhat good or bad)

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### Youth are still most likely to vote for the BJP but the decline of the BJP in last eight months is also sharpest among them compared to other age groups

	Vote for BJP in May 2017 %	Vote for BJP in January 2018 %	Change in last eight months (% points)
18-25 years	43	34	-9
26-35 years	42	36	-6
36-45 years	37	35	-2
46-55 years	37	32	-5
56+ years	36	32	-4

Source: MOTN Surveys; N (2017) – 11,373; N (2018) – 14,336



Source: MOTN Surveys; N (2017) – 11,373; N (2018) – 14,336

Question asked was - Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre in Delhi over the last three/three and half years? (Probe further whether fully or somewhat satisfied or dissatisfied).

### Complete dissatisfaction with BJP govt's work now higher than complete satisfaction

	May 2017 %	January 2018 %
Fully satisfied	17	10
Somewhat satisfied	47	41
Somewhat dissatisfied	12	23
Fully dissatisfied	15	17
No response	9	9

Source: MOTN Surveys; N (2017) – 11,373; N (2018) – 14,336

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**Across all regions, dissatisfaction with Modi gov't's performance has increased**

	May 2017 %		Jan 2018 %	
	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
<b>All India</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>40</b>
East India	64	23	56	36
West and Central India	68	24	56	38
North India	72	20	56	38
South India	49	39	35	51

Note: The rest of the respondents gave no response

Source: MOTN Surveys; N (2017) – 11,373; N (2018) – 14,336

**Almost every big State is reporting higher dissatisfaction with Modi gov't than May 2017**

	May 2017 %		January 2018 %	
	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Andhra Pradesh	48	38	37	52
Bihar	72	20	62	37
Gujarat	72	20	57	35
Karnataka	73	20	51	40
Kerala	30	54	24	66
Madhya Pradesh	68	26	54	38
Maharashtra	63	28	56	38
Odisha	67	14	66	23
Rajasthan	83	12	59	38
Tamil Nadu	31	55	33	52
Uttar Pradesh	71	21	55	37
West Bengal	54	24	46	38

Note: The rest of the respondents gave no response.

Findings from only those States with an n size of &gt;500 have been reported here.

Source: MOTN Surveys

**Modi government rated poorly on the inflation front**

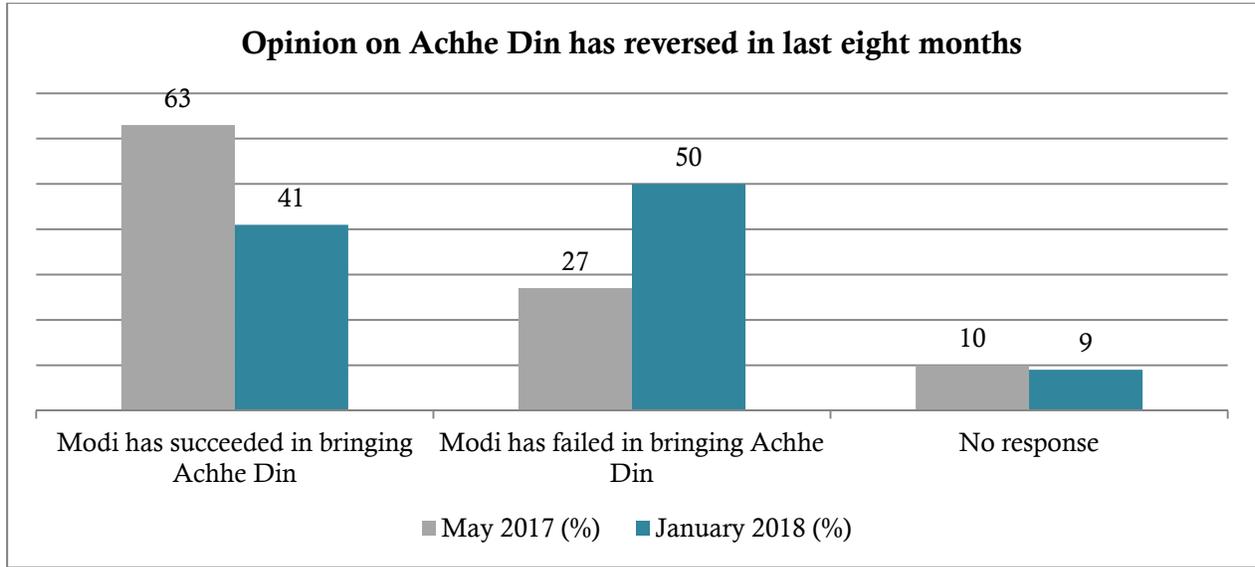
	Good job	Average job	Bad job	No response
Curbing corruption	46 (+3)	6 (-1)	40 (+5)	8 (-7)
Controlling price rise	38 (-10)	5	52 (+13)	5 (-3)
Maintaining religious harmony	42 (+4)	7	44 (+7)	7 (-11)

Note: Figures in parentheses show change since MOTN Survey 2017.

Source: MOTN Surveys; N (2017) - 11,373; N (2018) - 14,336

Question asked was: Has the Narendra Modi-led Central government done a good job or a bad job with regard to the following? (Probe further whether fully or somewhat good or bad. If someone says Average then code as such).

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Source: MOTN Surveys; N (2017) - 11,373; N (2018) - 14,336

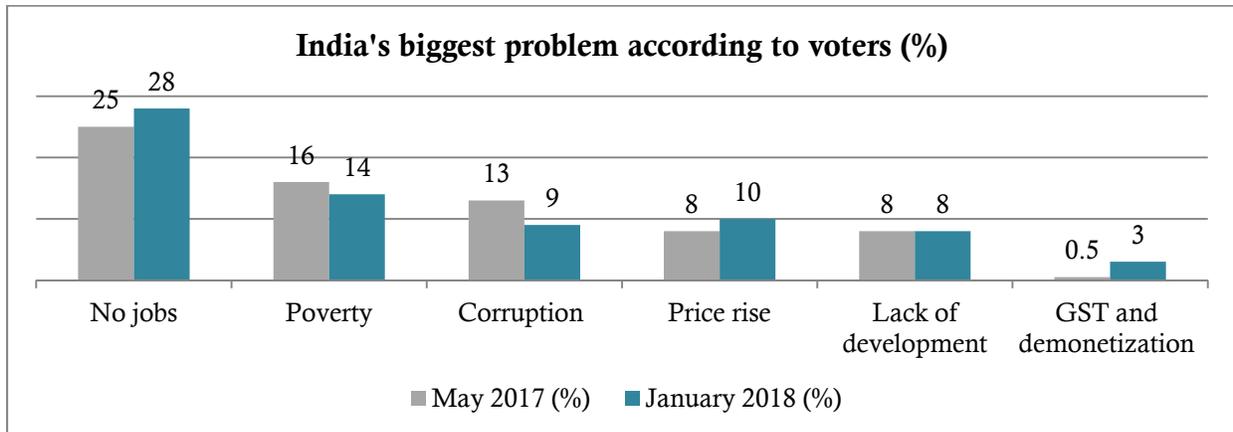
Question asked was: During the 2014 Lok Sabha election campaign, Narendra Modi had promised to bring 'acchhe din'. After over three and a half years of Modi's government, do you think Modi has succeeded or failed in bringing 'acchhe din'? (Probe further whether fully or somewhat succeeded or failed)

## 2 in every 5 believe that Modi's development has been for everyone; however over half view it negatively

In the last 3-4 years...	%
Development has been for all	39
Development has been only for the Rich	36
There has been no development at all	19
No response	6

Source: MOTN Survey 2018

Question asked was: People have different opinions about the development that has taken place in the country in the last 3-4 years. Some believe it has only been for the rich, others say it has been for all people. What is your opinion?



Note: The rest of the respondents reported other problems or did not give an opinion

Source: MOTN Surveys; N (2017) - 11,373; N (2018) - 14,336

Question asked was: In your opinion, what is the biggest problem in India today?

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**Voters in North India most concerned about the problem of unemployment**

	Unemployment is biggest problem %	Poverty is biggest problem %	Corruption is biggest problem %	Price rise is biggest problem %
East India	28	13	7	12
West-Central India	22	17	10	15
North India	40	12	9	10
South India	18	13	10	6

Note: The rest of the respondents reported other problems or did not give an

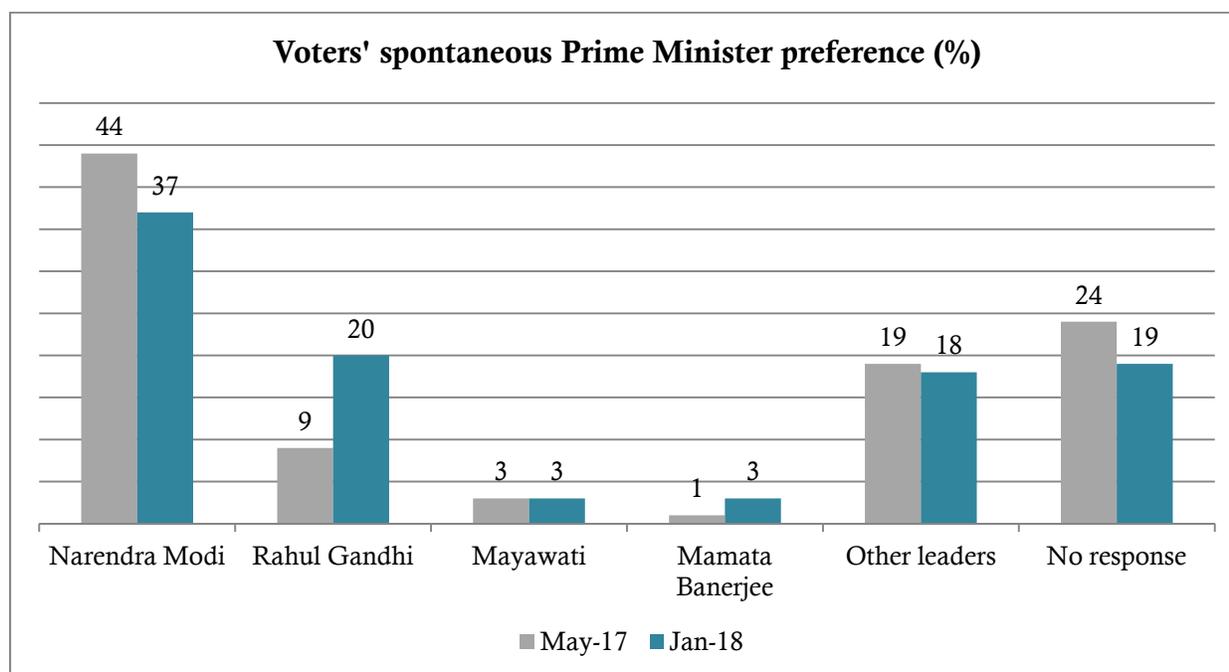
Source: MOTN Survey 2018.

Question asked was: In your opinion, what is the biggest problem in India today?

**...But those who view unemployment as biggest problem are voting more for NDA than UPA; UPA doing best among those concerned about poverty, development and farmers**

Those who said...	Leaning towards NDA %	Leaning towards UPA %
Unemployment is the biggest problem	45	27
Corruption is biggest problem	43	28
Price rise is biggest problem	42	30
Poverty is biggest problem	43	32
Lack of development is biggest problem	35	31
Farmer related woes are the biggest problem	28	34
GST and demonetization	20	56

Source: MOTN Survey 2018.



Source: MOTN Surveys; N (2017) - 11,373; N (2018) - 14,336

Question asked was: If Lok Sabha elections are held in the country tomorrow, who would you prefer to see as the Prime Minister of the country? Question was asked in an open ended manner and no choices were offered to the respondent.

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**Spontaneous PM Preference: Narendra Modi now trails Rahul Gandhi in South India**

	Narendra Modi as PM preference %	Rahul Gandhi as PM preference %
<b>All India</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>20</b>
East India	39	15
West and Central India	42	27
North India	44	15
South India	24	27

Source: MOTN Survey 2018

**After hitting a peak in May 2017, Modi's popularity declines; back to 2014 levels**

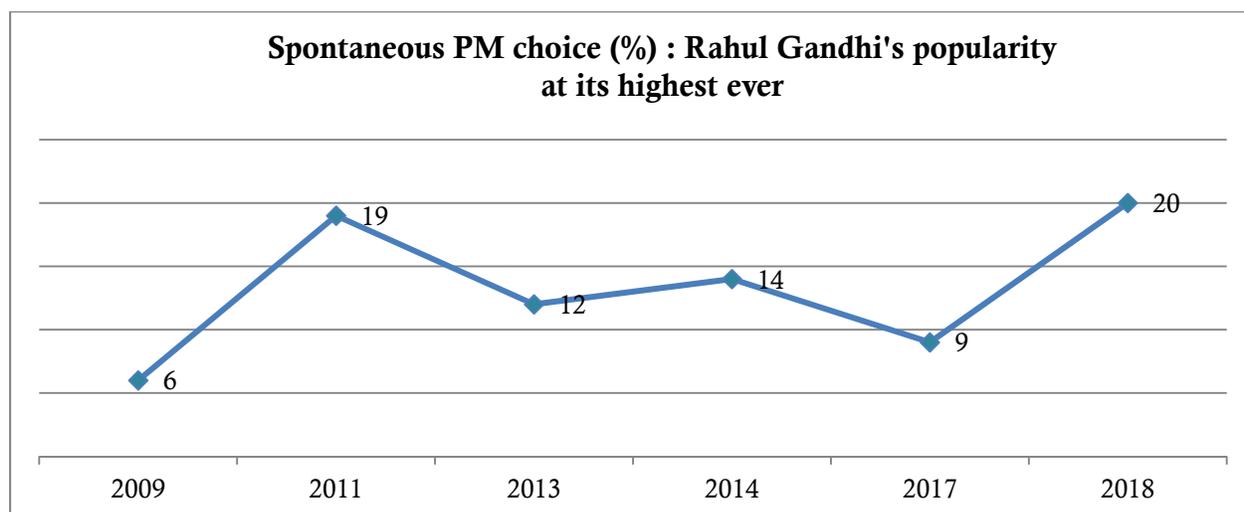
	May 2014 %	May 2017 %	January 2018 %
<b>All India</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>37</b>
East India	34	44	39
West and Central India	45	48	42
North India	41	50	44
South India	25	33	24

Source: National Election Study (NES) 2014 and MOTN Surveys; N (2014) – 22,295; N (2017) – 11,373; N (2018) – 14,336

**Preference for Rahul Gandhi as PM has doubled since May 2017**

	May 2014 %	May 2017 %	Jan 2018 %
<b>All India</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>20</b>
East India	13	7	15
West and Central India	16	13	27
North India	13	9	15
South India	16	10	27

Source: NES 2014 and MOTN Surveys; N (2014) - 22,295; N (2017) - 11,373; N (2018) - 14,336

Source: NES 2009, State of the Nation (SOTN) Survey 2011, Tracker 2013, NES 2014, MOTN Surveys, 2017 and 2018.  
N (2009) - 36,641, N (2011) - 20,854; N (2013) - 19,062; N (2014) – 22,295; N (2017) – 11,373; N (2018) – 14,336

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### Opinion on Rahul Gandhi still very polarized, his acceptability has gone up but so has the proportion of those who don't find him suitable for PM's post

	March 2014 %	January 2018
Rahul Gandhi is competent to be PM	40	48
Rahul Gandhi is <b>not</b> competent to be PM	31	39
No response	29	13

Source: NES 2014 Pre Poll and MOTN Survey 2018; N (2014) – 20,957; N (2018) – 14,336

Question asked was: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement - 'Rahul Gandhi is competent to be the Prime Minister of the country'? (Probe further whether fully or somewhat agree or disagree)

### Non-Cong, non-BJP voters more positive than negative about Rahul's competence

	Rahul Gandhi is competent to be PM %	Rahul Gandhi isn't competent to be PM %
Congress leaning voters	76	17
Congress allies leaning voters	68	25
Non-Cong, non-BJP leaning voters	43	35
BJP allies leaning voters	35	51
BJP leaning voters	31	59

Note: The rest of the respondents did not give a response to the question

Source: MOTN Survey 2018.

### Modi's demonetization decision is more popular than his GST decision

	Demonetization %	GST %
Necessary decision	53	44
Unnecessary decision	29	30
No response	18	26

Source: MOTN Survey 2018

Questions asked were: It has been over a year since the Demonetization decision of the Central government. Looking back, in your opinion, was the demonetization decision by the Central Government a necessary decision or an unnecessary one that could have been avoided? It has been six months since the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime was introduced in the country by the Central govt. What is your opinion about the introduction of GST - Was it a necessary or an unnecessary decision?

### Only one in three of the opinion that demonetization was bad for the economy

	%
Demonetization was good for the economy	48
Demonetization was bad for the economy	34
No response	18

Source: MOTN Survey 2018

Question asked was: Has the demonetization decision proved to be good or bad for the economy? (Probe further whether fully or somewhat good or bad)

### Most believe that GST was introduced in a hasty manner without careful consideration

	%
GST introduced after careful consideration	27
GST introduced in haste	42
No response	31

Source: MOTN Survey 2018

Question asked was: Was GST introduced after careful consideration or in haste?

**Nearly three in every five find the GST taxes to be harsh**

	%
GST taxes are harsh	24
GST taxes are somewhat harsh	34
GST taxes are not harsh at all	14
No response	28

Source: MOTN Survey 2018

Question asked was: Overall, are the taxes under GST harsh, somewhat harsh or not harsh at all?