

## Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018

### About the Survey

A Pre-Poll Survey was conducted in Karnataka by Lokniti, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) for ABP News. The survey was conducted from **April 27 through May 3, 2018 among 4929 voters in 224 locations (polling stations) spread across 56 assembly constituencies** (the State has a total of 224 assembly constituencies). The sampling design adopted was multi-stage random sampling. The assembly constituencies where the survey was conducted were randomly selected using the probability proportional to size method. Thereafter, four polling stations within each of the sampled constituencies were selected using the systematic random sampling method. Finally, the respondents were randomly selected from the electoral rolls of the sampled polling stations.

Before going to the field for the survey, field investigators were imparted training about the survey method and interviewing techniques at a day-long training workshop held in Bengaluru. The field investigators conducted face-to-face interviews of the respondents in Kannada asking them a set of standardized questions. The duration of an interview was about 35 minutes. At some locations the non-availability of sampled respondents or difficulty in finding households necessitated replacements or substitutions.

The achieved raw sample is quite representative of Karnataka's population profile. It has nevertheless been weighted by gender, locality, religion, and caste group based on Census 2011. The poll has an overall margin of error of plus or minus 2 points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

### Profile of Achieved Sample in Karnataka

	Survey Sample (raw) %	Census 2011 %
Scheduled Castes	20.8	17.1
Scheduled Tribes	14.3	6.9
Muslims	11.0	12.9
Christians	0.9	1.9
Women	48.9	49.3
Urban	36.8	38.7

The fieldwork of the survey was coordinated by Dr. Reetika Syal of JAIN (Bengaluru) and Dr. Veena Devi of Bangalore University. The survey was designed and analyzed by Prof. Sandeep Shastri, Prof. Sanjay Kumar, Prof. Suhas Palshikar, Dr. Reetika Syal, Dr. Veena Devi, Mr. Himanshu Bhattacharya and Mr. Shreyas Sardesai.

### Survey details in a nutshell

Conducted by	Lokniti-CSDS for ABP News
Dates of fieldwork	April 27 to May 3, 2018
No. of Assembly Constituencies covered	56
No. of Polling Stations (Locations) covered	224
No. of interviews of voters conducted (Sample size)	4929
Overall Margin of Error	+/- 2

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Sampling method	Multi-stage random sampling
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## KEY FINDINGS OF LOKNITI-CSDS-ABP NEWS KARNATAKA PRE-POLL SURVEY 2018

### Congress inches ahead in a closely contested race

	Voting intention April 27-May 3 %	Change since VS 2013 (% points)	Change since LS 2014 (% points)
Congress	38	+1	-3
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	33	+1	-10
Janata Dal Secular+ (JDS+)	22	+2	+11
Others	7	-4	+2

Note: JDS+=JDS+BSP. For calculating change since 2013, vote shares of KJP and BSRCP have been merged with BJP's.

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

### Voting intention by regions

	Voting for Cong (%)	Voting for BJP (%)	Voting for JDS+ (%)	Voting for Others (%)
Hyderabad Karnataka (31 seats)	40	34	20	6
Mumbai Karnataka (50 seats)	42	42	13	3
Coastal Karnataka (21 seats)	40	38	16	6
Central Karnataka (35 seats)	41	40	15	4
Southern Karnataka (51 seats)	35	20	36	9
Bangalore (36 seats)	33	32	25	10

Note: Hyderabad Karnataka includes districts of Bidar, Gulbarga, Koppal, Raichur and Yadgir. Mumbai Karnataka includes districts of Bagalkot, Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwad, Gadag and Haveri. Coastal Karnataka includes districts of Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu, Udupi and Uttara Kannada. Central Karnataka includes districts of Bellary, Chickamagalur, Chitradurga, Davangere and Shimoga. Southern Karnataka includes districts of Chamarajanagar, Chikkaballapur, Hassan, Kolar, Mandya, Mysore and Tumkur. Bangalore includes districts of B.B.M.P. (Central), B.B.M.P. (North), B.B.M.P. (South), Bangalore Rural, Bangalore Urban and Ramanagaram.

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

### Voting intention by locality – Congress leads in villages and big cities, BJP in small towns

	Voting for Cong (%)	Voting for BJP (%)	Voting for JDS+ (%)	Voting for Others (%)
Villages	39	32	23	6
Small towns	36	38	20	6
Cities	40	34	21	5
Metro	34	31	23	12

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

### Farmers are with the Congress mostly

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	Voting for Cong (%)	Voting for BJP (%)	Voting for JDS+ (%)	Voting for Others (%)
Farmers	40	31	24	5
Non-farmers	37	34	21	8

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

**Economically weaker sections more likely to vote Congress**

	Voting for Cong (%)	Voting for BJP (%)	Voting for JDS+ (%)	Voting for Others (%)
Upper Class	33	33	31	4
Middle Class	33	33	26	8
Lower Class	39	34	21	7
Poor	43	32	18	8

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

**Elderly and middle aged giving Congress a big advantage**

	Voting for Cong (%)	Voting for BJP (%)	Voting for JDS+ (%)	Voting for Others (%)
Youth (18-39 years)	37	34	23	6
Middle aged (40-59 years)	39	31	22	8
Elderly (60+ years)	40	33	19	8

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

**Congress's Lingayat strategy has failed but AHINDA communities consolidating around it**

	Voting for Cong (%)	Voting for BJP (%)	Voting for JDS+ (%)	Voting for Others (%)
Upper castes	23	49	23	5
Vokkaligas	27	19	47	7
Lingayats	18	61	11	10
Other OBCs	40	36	19	5
SCs	48	24	21	7
STs	46	29	19	6
Muslims	65	17	14	4
Others	38	36	16	10

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

**3 in every 5 Lingayats support the idea of getting a separate religion status for their community**

	Support separate Lingayat religion (%)	Oppose separate Lingayat religion (%)	No response (%)
Overall	43	35	21

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Lingayat	62	23	15
Non-Lingayats	40	38	22

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

Question asked: Do you support or oppose the proposal to grant religious minority status to Lingayats and Veerashaiva-Lingayats who believe in Basava Tatva philosophy?

### Despite supporting separate religion status, Lingayats not rewarding Cong with their votes much

	Voting for Cong (%)	Voting for BJP (%)	Voting for JDS+ (%)
Lingayats who support separate religion status for Lingayats	24	59	11
Lingayats who oppose separate religion status for Lingayats	10	67	13
Lingayats who are non-committal on separate religion status	8	62	6
Others who support separate religion status for Lingayats	43	29	22
Others who oppose separate religion status for Lingayats	41	27	28
Others who are non-committal on separate religion status	43	25	23

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

### Congress leads BJP even among regular users of social media

	Voting for Cong (%)	Voting for BJP (%)	Voting for JDS+ (%)
Daily Facebook users	36	33	21
Daily Twitter users	37	34	18
Daily Whatsapp users	37	33	22

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

### Spontaneous CM choice of voters: Siddaramaiah followed closely by B S Yeddyurappa

	%
Siddaramaiah	33
Someone else from Congress	5
B S Yeddyurappa	27
Someone else from BJP	2
H D Kumaraswamy	22
Someone else from JDS	2
Others	1
No response	8

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

Question asked: After the upcoming assembly election, who would you prefer as the next Chief Minister of Karnataka?

The question was asked in an open-ended manner and no choices were offered to the respondent.

### Local candidate to be most important voting consideration for most voters, not CM candidate

	Party	Candidate	CM choice
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	to be my voting consideration (%)	to be my voting consideration (%)	to be my voting consideration (%)
<b>Overall</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>12</b>
Congress leaning voters	43	42	13
BJP leaning voters	39	49	10
JDS leaning voters	36	48	15
Voters leaning towards Others	29	51	3

Note: The rest of the respondents did not respond.

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

Question asked: While deciding whom to vote for in the coming election, what would be the most important consideration for you – the party or the local candidate in your constituency or the chief ministerial candidate of a party?

### In a candidate driven election, there seems to be very little anti-incumbency at the local level

	Satisfied (%)	Dissatisfied (%)	No response (%)
Sitting Congress MLAs' performance	69	27	4
Sitting BJP MLAs' performance	79	20	1
Sitting JDS MLAs' performance	79	19	2

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

### Most people satisfied with performance of Siddaramaiah and Modi governments

Assessment of...	Fully Satisfied with it (%)	Somewhat Satisfied with it (%)	Somewhat Dissatisfied with it (%)	Fully Dissatisfied with it (%)
Siddaramaiah government's performance	29	43	15	10
Modi government's performance	23	45	16	12

Note: The rest of the respondents did not respond.

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

Questions asked: 1) Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of the Congress government in Karnataka over the last five years? (*Probe further whether fully or somewhat*) 2) Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of the Narendra Modi-led Central government over the last four years? (*Probe further whether fully or somewhat*)

### State government's assessed well by voters on electricity, road and water fronts

In the last five years...	Improved (%)	Remained same (%)	Deteriorated (%)
Condition of roads in my area has...	59	30	9
Supply of electricity in my area has...	61	33	5
Supply of drinking water in my area has...	63	30	6
Condition of government hospitals	43	39	12
Condition of government schools	46	40	10
Religious harmony in my area has...	43	43	10

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Note: The rest of the respondents did not respond

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

Question asked: Now I will read out a few things. Please tell me whether each of these has improved, remained same or has worsened in your area during last five years?

### Siddaramaiah's welfare schemes: 4 in 5 have benefitted from Anna Bhagya

	%
Someone in my household has benefitted from Anna Bhagya (free rice, subsidized food grains)	79
Someone in my household has benefitted from Ksheera Bhagya (flavored milk to school kids)	55
Someone in my household has benefitted from Akshara Dasoha (mid-day meals)	45
Someone in my household has benefitted from Cycle Bhagya (cycles for school kids in rural and hilly areas)	25
Someone in my household has benefitted from Indira Canteens (subsidized meals)	21
Someone in my household has benefitted from Krishi Bhagya (financial assistance to farmers)	20

Note: Only farmer responses taken into consideration for question on Krishi Bhagya

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

Question asked: Have you or any of your family members benefitted from these schemes?

### Development is the most important voting issue

Most important voting issue will be...	%
Development and performance	29
Candidate's work, personality	13
Party	11
Leadership	4
Farmer/agricultural issues	4
Poverty	4
Welfare schemes	2
Unemployment	2
Electricity, roads, water	3
Several other issues combined (each <2%)	18
No response	10

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

Question asked: While deciding whom to vote for in the coming Assembly elections, what will be the single most important election issue for you?

### Strong desire for changing the State government despite a positive assessment of its performance

	%
Congress govt. should get another chance	39
Congress government should <b>not</b> get another chance	47
No response/Can't say	14

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

Question asked: Should the present Congress government in Karnataka get another chance?

### Voting preference of those who don't want to give Cong govt. another chance

#### *Anti-incumbency vote badly divided between BJP and JDS*

	%
BJP	53
JDS	34
Others	13

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

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**Siddaramaiah nearly as popular as Modi**

	%
Like Modi more than Siddaramaiah	39
Like Siddaramaiah more than Modi	35
Like both Modi and Siddaramaiah	8
Dislike both Modi and Siddaramaiah	11
No response	6

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

Question asked: Which of these two leaders do you like more - Siddaramaiah or Narendra Modi?

**Siddaramaiah far more liked than Yeddyurappa**

	%
Like Yeddyurappa more than Siddaramaiah	29
Like Siddaramaiah more than Yeddyurappa	41
Like both Yeddyurappa and Siddaramaiah	7
Dislike both Yeddyurappa and Siddaramaiah	16
No response	8

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

Question asked: Which of these two leaders do you like more - BSYeddyurappa or Siddaramaiah?

**BJP seen as more corrupt and faction ridden than Cong; Congress seen as being more nepotistic**

	Cong %	BJP %	JDS %
Which party is more corrupt?	41	44	4
Which party is more nepotistic?	40	36	10
Which party is more faction-ridden?	35	38	14

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)

**Most voters see Congress as better suited to bring development to Karnataka than BJP or JDS**

	Cong %	BJP %	JDS %
Which party is best for Karnataka's development?	38	32	24
Which party is best for maintaining religious harmony?	35	32	25
Which party is best for protecting Karnataka's interests in Cauvery dispute with TN? ( <i>responses of Southern Karnataka region only</i> )	28	18	34
Which party is best for protecting Karnataka's interests in Mahadayi dispute with Goa? ( <i>responses of Mumbai Karnataka region only</i> )	27	36	24
Which party is best for protecting Karnataka's interests in border dispute with Maharashtra? ( <i>responses of area bordering Maharashtra only</i> )	36	35	23

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Which party is best for Karnataka's youth? <i>responses of 18-39 year olds only</i>	34	30	29
Which party is best for curbing illegal mining?	32	28	27
Which party is best for cities and towns? <i>(responses of urban respondents only)</i>	33	33	24

Source: Lokniti-CSDS-ABP News Karnataka Pre-Poll Survey 2018 (fieldwork April 27-May 3)