

## Lokniti-ABP News Punjab Post Poll Survey, 2017: Key findings

### About the Survey

This analysis is based on a Post-Poll survey conducted in **Punjab** by Lokniti, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi, for ABP News. The survey was conducted from February 9 through February 20, 2017 among 3268 voters in 195 locations spread across 39 assembly constituencies. All constituencies and the polling stations within them were the same as those where Lokniti had conducted the first two rounds of the pre-poll tracker survey in early December 2016 and mid-January 2017. 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, five polling stations within each of the sampled constituencies were selected using the systematic random sampling method. Finally, the respondents were also 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 day-long training workshops held in Amritsar and Chandigarh. The field investigators conducted face-to-face interviews of the respondents in Punjabi (and Hindi in some cases) asking them a set of standardized questions. The duration of an interview was about 35-40 minutes. At some locations the non-availability of sampled respondents or difficulty in finding households necessitated replacements or substitutions. It must be noted that the post poll survey conducted by CSDS is very different from an exit poll in which voters are approached outside the polling booth on voting day. Instead voters were approached by the field investigators for an interview at their place of residence after votes had been cast in their respective constituencies, but before the results were known.

The achieved sample has been weighted by gender, locality, religion, and caste group, based on Census 2011 information. The poll has an overall margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 points.

### Profile of achieved sample in Punjab

	Survey Sample (%)	Census 2011 (%)
Scheduled Caste (18+ years)	35.5	29.8
Hindu	28.1	38.5*
Sikh	69.1	57.7*
Women (18+ years)	40.8	48.3
Urban (18+ years)	29.5	38.3

\*Includes all ages

The fieldwork of the study was coordinated by Prof. Jagroop Singh Sekhon (Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar and Prof. Ashutosh Kumar (Panjab University, Chandigarh). The survey was designed and analysed by a team of researchers at Lokniti. The team included Asmita Aasaavari, Arushi Gupta, Dhananjay Kumar Singh, Himanshu Bhattacharya, Jyoti Mishra, Souradeep Banerjee, Shashwat Dhar, Shreyas Sardesai and Vibha Attri. The survey was directed by Prof. Sanjay Kumar, Prof. Suhas Palshikar and Prof. Sandeep Shastri of Lokniti.

### Survey details in a nutshell

Conducted by	Lokniti-CSDS, for ABP News
Dates of fieldwork	Feb 9-20, 2017
No. of Assembly Constituencies covered	39
No. of Polling Stations (Locations) covered	195
No. of interviews conducted (Sample size)	3268
Overall Margin of Error	+/- 2.5
Sampling method	Multi-stage random sampling
Fieldwork method	Standardized face to face interview in Punjabi/Hindi

### Punjab: Congress likely to emerge on top, AAP second

Punjab seems to be heading towards a change of government with the ruling Akali Dal-BJP combine likely to finish third in the high decibel multi-cornered contest in the State. It is estimated to secure only 25 percent of the total vote according to the Post-Poll (*not an Exit Poll*) survey conducted by Lokniti, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) for ABP News. With about 34 percent of the total vote, the Congress seems closest to hitting the majority mark, though it is likely to face stiff competition from a belligerent Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) that is expected to corner 31 percent of the total vote. The survey was conducted between February 9 and 20 among 3268 respondents spread across 39 randomly selected assembly constituencies.

In what may be good news for the Congress, the survey found the party to have a comfortable lead over its rivals in the Majha region. It is expected to secure about two-fifths (40 percent) of the vote here, followed by the Akali-BJP combine (26 percent) and AAP (23 percent). However, when we move to Doaba, the AAP emerges as the leading player with a likely vote share of 32 percent. It is closely followed by the Congress (29 percent). Support for the Akali-BJP coalition is low in this region, with only about a fourth (24 percent) of the voters expressing their preference for it. The situation is a little more tricky in Malwa, a region which until fairly recently was thought to be an AAP

stronghold, but has now become the site of a neck and neck battle between the AAP (33 percent) and the Congress (34 percent).

All else remaining constant, the Congress has the added advantage of having a widely popular leader at the helm. On being asked about who they would prefer as Punjab's next CM, a plurality of voters (26 percent) said they would prefer Amarinder Singh. The corresponding figures for Parkash Singh Badal and Bhagwant Mann were 18 percent and 12 percent, respectively.

The survey found overwhelming evidence of anti-incumbency sentiment against the ruling Akali-BJP coalition. In what may be viewed as a strong indictment of the regime, a vast majority (65 percent) of voters were opposed to giving the ruling coalition a second chance. Only about a fifth (20 percent) expressed a desire to see it back at the helm.

#### **Punjab: overall estimated vote share based on CSDS-ABP News Post-Poll**

	%
Congress	34
SAD-BJP	25
AAP	31
Others	10

#### **Punjab: region-wise estimated vote share based CSDS-ABP News Post-Poll**

	Cong	SAD-BJP	AAP	Others
Malwa (69 seats)	34%	25%	33%	8%
Majha (25 seats)	40%	26%	23%	11%
Doaba (23 seats)	29%	24%	32%	15%

#### **Voters' spontaneous preference for Chief Minister**

	%
Amarinder Singh	26
Parkash Singh Badal	18
Bhagwant Mann	12
Arvind Kejriwal	7
Sukhbir Badal	2
Others	9
No response	26

Note: Figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding

The question asked was: After this election, who would you prefer as the next Chief Minister of Punjab?

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

### Very strong anti-incumbency sentiment against SAD-BJP

	In favour of giving another chance to the SAD-BJP govt. %	Against giving another chance to the SAD-BJP govt. %	Not Sure/did not answer (%)
<b>Punjab (Overall)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>15</b>
Malwa	21	65	14
Majha	18	67	16
Doaba	19	61	21

Note: Figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding

The question asked was: Should the current SAD-BJP govt. in Punjab get another chance?