

Methodology of Lokniti-IBN Tracker Round 3

In the run up to the 2014 Lok Sabha election, a Tracker survey was conducted in 6 States of India (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh) by Lokniti, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi for IBN between 17th and 23rd February, 2014. The data for the survey was collected through face to face interviews amongst 9,104 voters spread across 512 locations of 138 randomly selected Parliamentary constituencies in 6 States. All parliamentary constituencies in these 6 states were the same as those sampled for the first and second rounds of the Tracker survey conducted by Lokniti in July 2013 and January 2014. In each state, the Parliamentary constituencies and assembly segment/segments within a selected Parliamentary Constituency were randomly selected using the Probability Proportionate to Size sampling technique (PPS). In each Assembly segment three to four polling stations (differed from state to state) were selected using the systematic random sampling technique. A total of 11050 voters randomly selected from the most updated electoral rolls were approached for the interview, of which 9104 could be successfully interviewed (*see Table 1*). The interviews were conducted among the same set of respondents who were sampled for rounds one and two of the tracker survey.

Table 1: Lokniti-IBN Tracker (Round 3) - Distribution of Sample

States	Fieldwork period	Number of PCs surveyed	No of ACs surveyed	Number of polling stations surveyed	Targeted sample	Achieved sample size
Andhra Pradesh	Feb 17-23, 2014	24	25	75	1650	1458
Bihar	Feb 17-23, 2014	24	25	75	1500	1316
Delhi	Feb 19-23, 2014	7	12	48	1200	985
Maharashtra	Feb 17-23, 2014	30	30	90	1800	1456
Tamil Nadu	Feb 17-23, 2014	14	15	60	1300	1029
Uttar Pradesh	Feb 17-23, 2014	39	41	164	3600	2860
		138	148	512	11050	9104

The social profile of the achieved sample in each state when compared with actual Census figures by and large reflects the representative nature of the sample. Wherever it was necessary we weighted the state data file by Census 2011 figures (see Table 2).

Table 2: Sample profile

States	Total sample size in survey	Women		Muslim*		Urban		SC		ST	
		Census	Survey	Census	Survey	Census	Survey	Census	Survey	Census	Survey
Bihar	1458	47.8	42.2	16.5	13.9	11.2	10.0	15.9	17.6	1.3	4.0
Andhra Pradesh	1316	49.8	48.1	9.2	4.8	33.3	18.2	16.4	22.2	7.0	3.8
Delhi	985	46.4	48.2	11.7	9.2	-	-	16.8	21.2	-	-
Maharashtra	1456	48.1	43.6	10.6	10.4	45.9	41.7	11.8	16.6	9.3	7.8
Tamil Nadu	1029	49.9	49.3	5.6	6.0	48.5	35.1	20.0	15.0	1.1	0.2
Uttar Pradesh	2860	47.7	37.6	18.5	17.3	22.2	20.9	20.6	20.2	0.5	2.3

Note: Census figures for women, urban, SCs and STs are from Census 2011; *Census figures for Muslims are from Census 2001

The interview was conducted face to face at the place of residence of the respondent using a standard structured questionnaire in the language spoken and understood by the respondent. To ensure secrecy, the vote intention question was asked using a dummy ballot paper and dummy ballot box. The estimate of vote shares for different political parties are based on a careful analysis of the respondents' stated preference of voting for a party as marked on the ballot paper, which carried the elections symbols of all the major political parties in the State. Since all surveys suffer from the problem of over-estimation of votes for big parties and underestimation for smaller parties, the estimate of vote shares was made after carefully adjusting the vote share of smaller parties and independents as base.

The survey was designed and analysed by a team of researchers at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi. The team included Anuradha Singh, Ashish Ranjan, Dhananjai Kumar Singh, Himanshu Bhattacharya, K.A.Q.A Hilal, Kanchan Malhotra, Jyoti Mishra, Nitin Mehta, Rahul Verma, Shreyas Sardesai and Vibha Attri. Suhas Palshikar and Sandeep Shastri provided their suggestions during the entire exercise. The survey was directed by Sanjay Kumar.

The survey was coordinated by scholars from the Lokniti Network: E Venkatesu (Andhra Pradesh), Rakesh Ranjan (Bihar), Biswajeet Mohanty (Delhi), Nitin Birmal (Maharashtra), Ramajayam (Tamil Nadu), A.K. Verma, Asmer Beg, and Sudhir Kumar (Uttar Pradesh)