

LOKNITI-CSDS BIHAR 2020 PRE POLL FINDINGS

Survey details in a nutshell

Assembly Constituencies covered	37
Polling stations covered	148
Sample achieved	3731
Fieldwork dates	October 10-17, 2020
Sampling method	Multi-stage Systematic Random Sampling
Mode of data collection	In-person/Face-to-face
Weights applied on raw sample	Gender, Locality, Age group, Caste & Community
Error margin	+/-3% points

Sample profile

	Share in achieved raw sample (%)
Gender	
Men	60
Women	40
Locality	
Rural	90
Urban	10
Age group	
18-25 years	14
26-35 years	29
36-45 years	15
46-55 years	15
56+ years	17
Community	
Upper castes	16
OBC (Hindu)	51
SC	18
Muslim	14

VOTING INTENTION

Voting intention for Bihar assembly elections between October 10 and 17, 2020

	2020 Vidhan Sabha Pre Poll Oct 10-17* %	2019 Lok Sabha Actual share %	2015 Vidhan Sabha Actual share %
NDA (<i>BJP-JDU-HAM-VIP</i>)	38	49.4	43.2
MGB (<i>RJD-INC-CPIML-CPI-CPM</i>)	32	25.1	28.5
GDSF (<i>RLSP-BSP-AIMIM-SJDD-SBSP-JPS</i>)	7	6	4.9
LJP	6	7.9	4.8
Other parties and Independents	17	11.6	18.6

*Source: Lokniti-CSDS Pre Poll Survey in Bihar; Sample size: 3731

GDSF stands for Grand Democratic Secular Front

But there is a caution – around one in ten voters are undecided and around one in seven of those who gave their vote preference said they may change their voting decision by Election Day

	%
Undecided/did not reveal vote	10
Revealed vote but said can change their voting decision	14

GOVERNMENT POPULARITY

Voters' satisfaction with Nitish Kumar-led JDU-BJP government compared to 2019, 2015 and 2010

	VS 2020 Pre Poll	LS 2019 Post Poll	VS 2015 Post Poll	VS 2010 Post Poll
Satisfied	52	76	80	77
Dissatisfied	44	22	18	19
No Opinion	4	2	2	4

Note: Figures are percentages.

Question asked: Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of the Nitish Kumar-led JDU-BJP government in Bihar?

Voters' satisfaction with Narendra Modi led NDA government at the Centre compared to 2019 and 2015

	VS 2020 Pre Poll	LS 2019 Post Poll	VS 2015 Post Poll
Satisfied	61	76	72
Dissatisfied	35	21	23
No Opinion	4	3	5

Note: Figures are percentages.

Question asked: Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of the Narendra Modi-led BJP/NDA government in the Centre?

Pro/anti-incumbency sentiment with respect to State government, compared to 2015 and 2010 elections

	VS 2020 Pre Poll	VS 2015 Post Poll	VS 2010 Post Poll
Favour another term for Nitish govt	38	52	60
Against another term for Nitish govt	43	42	30
No response	19	6	10

Note: Figures are percentages

Anti-incumbency vote getting badly split between Opposition parties at the moment giving an unpopular NDA government the advantage

	Voting MGB	Voting NDA	Voting LJP	Voting Oth
Favour another term for state govt	5	80	3	12
Against another term for govt	52	9	8	31
No response	40	19	7	34

Note: Figures are percentages

NITISH KUMAR'S OWN POPULARITY

First five choices for Chief Minister (October 10-17): Nitish Kumar ahead, Tejaswi Yadav is close behind

	%
Nitish Kumar (JDU/NDA)	31
Tejashwi Yadav (RJD/MGB)	27
Chirag Paswan (LJP)	5
Sushil Modi (BJP/NDA)	4
Lalu Prasad Yadav (RJD/MGB)	3

Note: Figures are percentages, the rest took other names

Question asked: After the coming election, who would you prefer to see as the next Chief Minister of Bihar?

Lalu family closes gap with Nitish as Nitish's popularity at its lowest since he came to power

	Nitish Kumar	Lalu family
1995	7	23
2000	6	26
Feb.2005	24	18
Oct.2005	43	26
2010	53	28
2015	40	9 (in alliance with Nitish)
2020	31	30

Note: Figures are percentages

Source: CSDS surveys in Bihar at the time of elections

Preference for Nitish Kumar as CM has declined amongst BJP voters, but is still substantial

	VS 2020 Pre Poll	VS 2010 Post Poll
BJP voters who want to see Nitish as CM	55	91
JDU voters who want to see Nitish as CM	93	89

Note: Figures are percentages

A similar finding from another question asked in the survey - those planning to vote for the BJP were far more likely to want a new leader leading Bihar after elections than those voting for JDU

	Nitish has done development, deserves another chance	Nitish may have done development but some other leader should get a chance	No development so no question of another chance (<i>silent option</i>)	No response
Overall	31	34	26	10
BJP voters	58	30	7	5
JDU voters	80	12	4	4

Note: Figures are percentages and may not total 100 due to rounding.

Question asked: It has been 15 years of Nitish Kumar's rule in Bihar. Some say that Nitish Kumar has done development and he should get another chance, while some others believe that while Nitish Kumar may well have done development, but after 15 years some other leader should get a chance. What is your opinion?

NDA backers more likely to base their vote on Modi government's work than Nitish government's work; many LJP voters also voting with Modi in mind

	Nitish govt	Modi govt	MLA's work	Other responses	No response
Overall	16	27	29	11	17
MGB Supporters	5	9	47	10	29
NDA Supporters	33	42	8	13	4
LJP Supporters	2	39	35	7	17
RLSP+ Supporters	2	2	64	7	25
Others	8	30	28	14	20

Note: Figures are percentages.

Question asked: While deciding who to vote for in the upcoming assembly elections, what will you give most consideration/importance to – work done by the Nitish Kumar government, work done by the Narendra Modi government or work done by your MLA?

LJP picking up some upper caste votes and about two-fifths of its core Dusadh votes which are getting split three ways between the LJP, NDA and MGB

	Planning to vote for LJP %		
Overall	6		
Upper caste	12		
Yadav	1		
Other OBC	3		
Dusadh	38	29 (MGB)	27 (NDA)
Other Dalit	4		
Muslim	2		

Dusadhs seem to be voting strategically against the JDU in seats being contested by JDU

	Dusadhs voting for NDA	Dusadhs voting for MGB	Dusadhs voting for LJP
Seats being contested by JDU-HAM	15	35	45
Seats being contested by BJP	47	18	27*

Note: Figures should be read with caution due to low sample size

*In the survey sample, two seats being contested by the BJP also have an LJP candidate in the fray

Dissatisfaction with sitting MLAs high

	Fully satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Fully dissatisfied	No answer
Overall	28	19	11	40	2
Sitting Congress MLA	25	20	10	41	3
Sitting BJP MLA	32	11	8	48	0
Sitting JD(U) MLA	21	25	14	38	2
Sitting RJD MLA	32	20	12	34	3

Note: Figures are percentages and may not total 100 due to rounding.

Question asked: Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of the MLA from your area during the last five years?

CONGRESS CONTRIBUTION TO MGB WEAK

Congress seems to be pulling the MGB down as its old supporters are not contributing well to the alliance

	Voting MGB	Voting NDA	Voting Others
Traditional Congress voters	47	7	46
Traditional RJD voters	83	4	13
Traditional BJP voters	6	71	23
Traditional JDU voters	10	70	20

Note: Figures are percentages and may not total 100 due to rounding.

VOTING ISSUES

Top five voting issues: development continues to be main issue; unemployment emerges as second most important concern

	VS 2020 Pre Poll	VS 2015 Post Poll
Development	29	31
Unemployment/jobs	20	9
Inflation	11	16
Poverty/hunger	6	6
Education/school/college-related	7	2
Other issues	25	25
Can't say/No response	3	10

Note: Figures are percentages and may not total 100 due to rounding.

Question asked: What will be the most important issue for you while voting in the upcoming assembly elections?

NDA winning the development vote, MGB doing much better among those concerned about inflation and unemployment

Most important voting issue	Voting MGB	Voting NDA	Voting Others
Development	20	47	33
Unemployment/jobs/recruitment/lack of industries	35	34	31
Inflation	52	35	13

Note: Figures are percentages and may not total 100 due to rounding.

YOUTH VOTE

Youngest voters most likely to vote on issue of jobs

	Most important voting issue to be...		
	Development	Unemployment	Inflation
18-25 years	25	27	7
26-35 years	27	19	14
36-45 years	28	17	16
46-55 years	31	17	13
56 years and above	37	14	9

Note: Figures are percentages.

Question asked: What will be the most important issue for you while voting in the upcoming assembly elections?

Close contest between NDA and MGB among young and middle-aged voters but NDA has a wide lead among the elderly

	Voting MGB	Voting NDA	Voting Others
18-25 yrs	29	34	37
26-35 yrs	37	37	26
36-45 yrs	34	35	31
46-55 yrs	30	42	28
56 yrs. and above	28	49	23

Note: Figures are percentages

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, young voters had voted more for the NDA than the average voter

	Voted MGB in LS 2019	Voted NDA in LS 2019
Voters 18-25 years of age	24	57
Voters 26-35 years of age	29	54
All voters	27	53

Note: Figures are percentages

Source: Lokniti-CSDS Post Poll in Bihar during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections

Whatever their voting preferences, there is near unanimity across age groups that the Nitish government has failed in looking after the interests of the youth

	Nitish govt has succeeded in looking after youth interests	Nitish govt has failed in looking after youth interests
18-25 years	20	69
26-35 yrs	18	69
36-45 yrs	24	62
46-55 yrs	25	62
56 yrs. and above	28	62

Note: Figures are percentages, the rest did not respond to the question.

Question asked: According to you has the Nitish government succeeded or failed in looking after the interests of youth?

GENDER AND EDUCATION

Women seem to be keeping the NDA afloat as the Nitish Kumar-led alliance has a significant gender advantage at the moment

	Voting MGB	Voting NDA	Voting Others
Men	33	36	31
Women	31	41	28

Note: Figures are percentages and may not total 100 due to rounding.

Unexpectedly, among the well educated voters, MGB is giving the NDA a tough fight

	Voting MGB	Voting NDA	Voting Others
Non literate or below primary	33	39	27
Primary pass	34	37	29
Middle pass	33	43	24
Matric pass or college incomplete	31	39	31
Graduate and above	29	31	40

Note: Figures are percentages.