

Dissecting Karnataka's Assembly Elections 2023

Karnataka assembly elections 2023 saw an emphatic victory for the Congress; a record broken after 34 years in terms of both the number of seats and the vote share. Against 135 seats of the Congress, the BJP won 66 seats; a reduction of 38 seats. The Congress also increased its vote share by 5% from the last Assembly poll, while the BJP held on to its vote share. This verdict is significant as the Congress won another state assembly after Himachal Pradesh. Also, Parliamentary elections are due in 2024. The verdict of this election has raised several questions.

1. What worked in favour of the Congress in Karnataka: local factors or Bharat Jodo Yatra?
2. What were the main issues that decided the elections?
3. Will the Modi charisma ensure the victory of the BJP in 2024?
 - a. The usual argument: what happens in regional elections will not impact national elections
 - b. Opposition's internal contradictions
 - c. The "labharti" class, who benefit from central subsidies and freebies, will stand by Modi in any general election
4. What positive impacts it will have on the morale of the congress?
5. Will the opposition back the congress in united fight against BJP?

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