

## FOR TAX EVADERS, THE GOING GETS TOUGH

In a first, candidates without a PAN card and with assets of over Rs 5 crore or those declaring a jump of Rs 2 crore in value of immovable assets since last polls will come under the EC and I-T Dept's scanner. The idea is to weed out tax-evaders from the poll fray



If the youth want a change in the country, they have to vote. We always keep on complaining... but if you (youth) become the change you want to see, then everything will go good | **RANBIR KAPOOR**



# Dance of Democracy

BATTLEGROUND INDIA | 7 APR-12 MAY, 2014

FOLLOW DANCE OF DEMOCRACY ON TWITTER @TOI\_ELECTIONS

THE TIMES OF INDIA | THURSDAY | APRIL 3, 2014

## 1 JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Rated the most important issue across most divides—gender, age, wealth categories, rural and urban. This is hardly surprising given the phase of jobless growth India has been going through in recent years. However, it is not necessarily the most important issue in every state. In fact, there are even states in which it is not rated among the ten most important issues.

In Kerala and Karnataka, this is not among the 10 top issues



## 2 DRINKING WATER

Like jobs, an issue that cuts across most divides. Interestingly though, it ranks second in urban areas but third in rural ones. Similarly, people from the high-wealth category rank it somewhat lower than those from relatively less well-off backgrounds. This is also true of very young voters as compared to the slightly older ones.

It's the top issue in states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Delhi, but not in the top 10 in Kerala

## 3 ROADS

Unlike jobs and drinking water, how important roads are ranked as an issue differs from segment to segment. For instance, it is the second top issue for rural respondents but only the seventh most important one for urban residents. Not surprisingly, it also ranks lower for those in the high-wealth category than for those from lower economic strata.

It's the top issue in Maharashtra and Rajasthan, but ranks only 10th in Kerala and 8th in Punjab



## 4 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Its ranking as an issue varies quite a lot across different categories of respondents, though it remains in the top 10 in most cases. Surprisingly, it ranks as high as second for high-wealth individuals, an indication perhaps that good mass transit systems could reduce private vehicles significantly.

This ranks no. 2 as an issue in Gujarat, but is surprisingly not in the top 10 in Uttar Pradesh

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Daksh came together to conduct a survey of over 250,000 people across 525 Lok Sabha constituencies, perhaps the largest survey ever done in one country. TOI brings you the issues people thought were most important, according to the survey. Corruption, interestingly, was not among the top 10

### ADR-DAKSH NATIONAL VOTERS SURVEY

# WHAT PEOPLE WANT

ISSUES	RANKING	
	INDIA	GUJARAT
Better job opportunities	1	1
Drinking water	2	9
Better roads	3	8
Better public transport	4	2
Better electric supply	5	7
Better hospitals	6	Not Top 10
Better schools	7	Not Top 10
Better law & order	8	10
Empowerment of women	9	3
Security for women	10	4



## 6 HOSPITALS

The lack of quality healthcare facilities obviously agitates nearly everybody, but the rankings show clearly how some have less access to good hospitals than others. It's clearly more of an issue in villages than towns, among the poor than among the well-off and among the older lot than in younger respondents.

This is ranked 2nd as an issue in MP and third in Bihar, but in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Kerala it does not rank among the top 10



## 8 LAW AND ORDER

Yet again, rural respondents rank it higher than urban ones and, somewhat surprisingly, men rank it a more important issue than women. Across states, there is a very wide variation with some ranking it as high as 3rd and others not putting it in the top 10.

Predictably, it ranks as high as no.3 in UP, while in many others including most southern states, it is not in the top 10



Among all states, Karnataka and Maharashtra ranked this the highest at no. 3



## 5 ELECTRIC SUPPLY

While it remains an important issue for almost all categories of those surveyed, it is clearly a bigger issue in villages than in towns and cities, interestingly more so for men than women and also less important an issue for those on either extreme of the wealth range than for those in the middle. There are also states in which it doesn't figure among the top 10 issues at all.

It's the top issue in Bihar and ranked second in UP, but in states like Punjab, Karnataka and MP it is not among the 10 biggest issues

## 10 SECURITY FOR WOMEN

Nowhere is the urban-rural divide as clear as this. In urban areas, this is ranked the third most important issue. In contrast, rural respondents do not place it in the top 10 issues. Interestingly, however, the two genders do not rate the issue very differently.

This issue is not in the top 10 in many states, but ranks as high as no.4 in Andhra, Maharashtra and Gujarat



## 9 EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Once again, there is a visible rural-urban divide, with city and town dwellers ranking this the sixth most important issue but rural voters placing it 10th. There is, however, no real gender divide on this issue. The mid-wealth category seems less concerned about it than either of the two extremes.

It ranks as the topmost issue in Andhra Pradesh and as high as no.3 in Gujarat and no. 4 in Kerala, MP and Punjab

## WHY PEOPLE VOTE

What are the factors that determine who people vote for? The ADR-Daksh survey checked it out and found that candidates matter more than parties or PM candidates. Contrary to the popular notion, factors like caste and freebies seem to sway "general" voters more than those from SC/ST or OBC.

	Overall Score	General	OBC	SC	ST
Party	6.70	6.74	6.67	6.53	6.94
Candidate	7.28	6.96	7.48	7.60	7.37
PM Candidate	5.98	6.20	5.96	5.68	5.70
Caste/Religion	5.11	5.47	4.94	4.73	4.87
Distribution of 'Gifts'	4.36	4.53	4.26	4.17	4.27

## Assam's Deobandi perfume baron out to stop lotus from blooming

Naresh Mitra | TNN

Guwahati: Badruddin Ajmal is in a tearing rush. Defying the scorching heat and health concerns, his urgency and gruelling schedule are powered by a mission — not to allow the lotus to bloom in his fief.

This mission keeps the billionaire perfume-maker going in his party's second outing in the LS election as he negotiates dirt tracks and remote Dhubri hamlets in the run-up to the three-phase polls in Assam.

His outfit, the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) debuted in the 2009 parliamentary polls. Ajmal its lone MP. Today, AIUDF is Assam's major opposition party ahead of Asom Gana Parishad and has emerged a powerful voice of the minorities in the Northeast. Ajmal has his reach even beyond — especially in alma mater Darul Uloom Deoband.

In February 2011, Ajmal shot into national headlines when he backed the Gujarati maulana Ghulam Mohd Vastanvi as rector for the Deobandi seminary after severe conflict broke out in its western UP campus over Vastanvi's reported remarks asking Muslims to forget the 2002 pogrom. Ajmal alleged that his backing of the rector, who had to



A NOSE FOR POLITICS: Badruddin Ajmal

eventually resign, prompted the Arshad Madani faction in Deoband to ensure Ajmal's removal as the state chief of the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind. Ajmal hasn't been taking things easy, working towards increasing his party's MP tally. "Our aim is to plug our shortcomings to ensure BJP doesn't win," the maulana-turned-businessman-turned-politician reminds his workers and the electorate. Crowds mob him at rallies rushing to him with bottles of water or oil to seek "dua" (blessings) from the "huzur", as his supporters reverentially address him. "At the same time, we shouldn't forget we are fighting Congress in the state," Ajmal exhorts. He's being forced to work extra hard this election. He

has a full-throttle campaign planned in eight Bengal constituencies from mid-April where AIUDF candidates are contesting for the first time. In 2009, Dhubri voted him with 50% votes, the highest in Assam's 14 parliamentary seats. The toil now is directed at replicating this feat elsewhere. His blitzkrieg focuses on lower Assam's minority-dominated reaches. In 2009, the party won the lone Dhubri LS seat, which Ajmal represents. He wants to improve on the tally and his days are packed with at least five meetings ("baithaks"). Once campaigning picks up, he'll hold four rallies daily. "We were inexperienced in 2009 and didn't field the right candidates. We made the mistake of fielding Mus-

lims in many places. This helped BJP. We're more alert this time and have selected Hindu candidates to stop polarization," explains the Deoband-educated maulana.

Mangalodoi, Nagaon, Kaliabor and Guwahati were among important seats AIUDF didn't do well in 2009. "We want to correct mistakes. Inshallah we'll do better. We are more confident now," says Ajmal. Ajmal targets tea workers, whose votes are shared by Congress, AGP and BJP this election. In 2009, AIUDF fielded a candidate from this community, Laxmi Orang, but her nomination got cancelled. This time, he has handpicked Bijoy Kumar Tiru, a community leader, against CM Tarun Gogoi's son Gaurav.

"We'll consolidate our base among the Adivasi bhai and bhanti (tea garden brothers and sisters) for the 2016 assembly polls," says Ajmal, who began his journey with the 2006 assembly elections winning 10 seats. In the 2011 assembly polls, AIUDF burnt a big hole in Congress' Muslim vote bank winning 18 seats.

Like his perfume business, which started humbly in Hojai subdivision of Nagaon and now has now expanded into an empire, the maulana has bigger dreams.

## 'I could've played golf, but lots to be done'

V K Singh, former Army chief and BJP's Ghaziabad candidate, tells Purusharth Aradhak he isn't a dream-seller and has only made promises he can deliver on

people to vote for a stable government.

### On being a resident of Gurgaon and contesting from Ghaziabad

It was the party's decision to field me from Ghaziabad. One day, Narendra Modi called me at night and asked me to contest from Ghaziabad. The Opposition didn't want me there, which gave me more strength. I called Modi back and told him I'm ready to contest from Ghaziabad.

### On why Rajnath Singh vacated Ghaziabad

Again, it was a party decision. The party isn't a one-man army. Rajnath Singh shifting to Lucknow was part of political strategy and such changes are made for better results.

### On Rajnath being blamed for neglecting Ghaziabad and if this will affect his chances

Blaming Rajnath Singh is wrong. He proposed projects worth Rs 650 crore for Ghaziabad. The files are still with the UPA government. To tackle this problem, we are urging

On being called outsider and if people would vote for him or Narendra Modi

People will vote for change. People are fed up with Congress. We are all working under Modi's leadership and I've seen unprecedented support for him among the youth.

### On plans for his constituency

I make promises that I can deliver on. I'm not promising to make roads of gold but there is need to improve infrastructure, especially widen NH-24, and expand the Metro line. Ghaziabad is reeling under population burden. Solutions should be invited from the public rather than impose poor planning on them.

### On rumours that he'll be made defence minister if BJP comes to power

(Laughs) I'm not in the race for any post. I've joined politics for change. After retirement, I could've played golf, chatted with friends and attended cocktail parties but chose to hit the road to fight for the country. There's a lot to be done in the Army. The problem is with the bureaucracy and procedures.



## VOICE BOX

She (Mehbooba Mufti) comes wearing green but basically she is with Modi. They lie so much I wonder if they don't fear God. Ask them where's that slogan of healing touch gone? **Omar Abdullah | J&K CM**

BJP looks set to improve its previous tally. As on today, major parties which will get good numbers are BJP and Congress. It looks like BJP will improve its position although they (NDA) may not be able to get to that magic number **Sharad Pawar | NCP**

I have not received any official communication from the party informing me about my expulsion **Alagiri**

## NETA MEASURE

**A RAJA DMK**  
SEAT | NILGIRIS  
Former telecom minister, prime accused in 2G scam  
Total assets (2014): ₹ 1.8cr  
2009: ₹ 70 lakh  
2014 | Movable property | ₹ 1.5cr  
₹ 8 lakh cash  
108 sovereigns of gold | ₹ 26.6 lakh  
Bank deposits | ₹ 65 lakh  
Shares | ₹ 22 lakh  
Pending IT assessment of ₹ 25.5 lakh  
Immovable assets | Rs 33 lakh