



THE TIMES OF INDIA

www.toistudent.com

HAS MODI ALREADY WON THE 2019 ELECTIONS?

SAFFRON TSUNAMI

With the BJP sweeping Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, and making major inroads into the Northeast with a strong showing in Manipur, the prospects of Prime Minister Narendra Modi returning to power at the Centre in 2019 have become more evident, say experts.

What the experts are saying

While a majority of experts say the 2019 election augur smooth sailing for Modi, there are a few who maintain that a lot could happen over the next two years. Praveen Rai, political analyst at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, called the assembly elections in the five states "a mid-term appraisal for the central government".

Balancing the views

Political commentator and columnist Neeraj Chowdhury asserted that the latest poll results have improved Modi's chances as "his credibility and image are as strong — may be even stronger — as they were in 2014". At

It (BJP) has to look after the promises it made earlier (during the Lok Sabha election in 2014). So coming back to power in 2019 will not be easy. Ashok Malik, political analyst

At the same time, she maintained, there were still two years to go during which a lot could happen. "If you go by the Bihar story, two major parties buried their differences and came together to fight the BJP... Opposition will have to close ranks in state after state and find a common leader if they want to take on Modi," she said. Chowdhury added that if BSP chief Mayawati and Samajwadi Party leader and Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav had come together in Uttar Pradesh, they may have been able to give the BJP a tough fight.

Demonetisation worked

Maintaining that the demonetisation issue clicked big time with the voters of UP and Uttarakhand, Rai said it would be difficult for the opposition to regroup against the BJP to open a front against it in the next two years. "Now all parties opposed to the BJP will have to form a 'mahagathbandan' (grand alliance). However, till that happens, BJP will gain more momentum," Rai said.

After this mandate, it is now going to be a cakewalk for the BJP, not only to retain what they won in 2014, but to even improve on that

Praveen Rai, Political analyst

Send us your views along with your pics

THINK... THINK... THINK...

- 1 Will India find a credible and strong Opposition soon?
- 2 Is too much of a single party (in this case BJP) good for democracy?
- 3 Should people brace for harsher steps like demonetisation?
- 4 Is it the end of the road for Congress, considering its poor show in the elections?
- 5 Is the BJP winning on the basis of merit, or has it won because of the lack of a strong Opposition? For instance, it was defeated in the Bihar state election because Nitish Kumar worked hard to develop the state.

Modi favourite for 2019 Lok Sabha elections: US EXPERTS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as a clear favourite for the 2019 general elections after the BJP's landslide victory in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, top US experts on India have said. While one expert noted that the electoral results of the just-concluded Assembly

polls in five states show that the 2014 Lok Sabha election results were not an aberration, another felt that Modi would continue to lead India after 2019. It's the same with Punjab, Adam Ziegfeld, assistant professor, Political Science and International Affairs at the George Washington University, US, said.

"The man of the moment is Narendra Modi. He has convincingly demonstrated that his appeal is pan-Indian. It extends from Gujarat and Goa to Assam and Manipur. After slipping badly in Bihar, he has regained his prime position as a master of communication. The victories in Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Uttarakhand have reconfirmed that Modi is the most dominant Indian political leader."

P Chidambaram, Senior Congress leader

TOI STUDENT POLL
UP Win: Is The Modi Wave Back?
83% 17%
OF COURSE CAN'T SAY

"It will be very easy for BJP to win the 2019 elections as it has proved majority in more than half of India"
Riya Mittal, Convent Of Jesus And Mary

"It is too early for BJP to rejoice. After losing the UP elections, other parties will not sit silently"
Arpit Jaiswal, Sunbeam Suncity School

STUDENT EDITION

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017



Pak girl congratulates PM Modi on UP victory

Aqeedat Naveed, an 11-year-old Pakistani school girl, has written a letter to congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the BJP's historic mandate in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. She wrote to Modi saying that he should now focus towards winning more hearts of

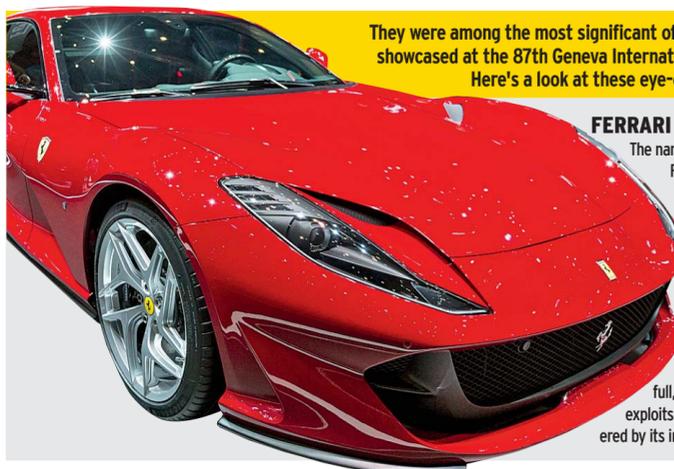


both Indians and Pakistanis alike, by becoming a bridge of peace between the two nations. Aqeedat also highlighted on the need for peace between India and Pakistan, and said that PM Modi can help speed up the process.

Excerpts from her two-page letter:
"Once my father told me that winning of hearts is a marvellous job. Perhaps you have won the hearts of Indian people, therefore you won the election in UP. But I must tell you if you want to win more Indian and Pakistani hearts, you should take steps towards friendship and peace. Let's make a peace bridge between India and Pakistan."

Geneva Auto Show's Hottest Rides

They were among the most significant of the 900 vehicles showcased at the 87th Geneva International Motor Show. Here's a look at these eye-catching vehicles.



FERRARI 812 SUPERFAST
The name says it all. It's the car Ferrari says is "the most powerful and fastest" in its history. The huge 6.5-litre engine will take the vehicle to a top speed of 340 kph, and from 0-100 kph in 2.9 seconds. The big engine has been tuned so that it produces "a full, rich exhaust sound that exploits the acoustic cloud delivered by its increased displacement".



MCLAREN 720S
Weighing only 1,283 kg unfuelled thanks to a carbon-fibre chassis (underpart of a vehicle), the car's 720-horsepower engine pushes it to 100 kph in 2.9 seconds, with a top speed of 341 kph. The race car comes with a clean but luxurious two-seat interior in leather and machined aluminium. Delivery to customers starts in May.



OPEL CROSSLAND X
Struggling German automaker Opel hopes to tap one of the hottest market segments with this very small SUV. At 4.21 metre-long, the Crossland X is 16 cm shorter than Opel's mainstay Astra compact. And it is 10 cm taller offering the higher seat position that makes some drivers feel more comfortable in traffic.



RANGE ROVER VELAR
This luxury SUV fills a size niche between the Range Rover Evoque and the Range Rover sport. It carries two to five people in its luxurious interiors with two 10-inch touchscreens and sound from a 1600-watt Meridian Signature sound system. Eight devices can connect to the on-board Wi-Fi hotspot. The crisp acceleration, especially in the larger engine version, along with electronic stability control, should make it easy and fun to drive, despite its size and high seat position.

Quizholics



Q1 Who is the defence minister of India?

- a) Arun Jaitley b) Manohar Parrikar
c) Sushma Swaraj

Q2 Name the new CM of Punjab.

- a) Navjot Sidhu b) Amarinder Singh
c) Prakash Singh Badal

Q3 The superhit movie 'Dangal' was inspired by which wrestler's life?

- a) Geeta Phogat b) Saina Nehwal
c) Sakshi Malik

ANSWERS: 1. a) Arun Jaitley 2. b) Amarinder Singh 3. a) Geeta Phogat

VIENNA

NICEST CITY, BAGHDAD WORST

Vienna, Austria's grand capital on the Danube river, has topped consulting firm Mercer's list of cities offering the highest quality of life for the eighth year in a row, while Baghdad was again ranked as the worst place to live. The survey uses dozens of criteria such as political stability, health care, education, crime, recreation and transport. Global centres



HIGHLIGHTS

■ Vienna has topped consulting firm Mercer's list of cities offering the highest quality of life for the eighth year in a row

■ The survey of 231 cities helps companies and organisations determine compensation and hardship allowances for international staff

BAGHDAD was again ranked lowest in the world. Waves of sectarian violence have swept through the Iraqi capital since the US-led invasion in 2003. Six years into Syria's bloody war, Damascus was ranked seventh from bottom, with Bangui in the Central African Republic, Yemeni capital Sanaa, Haiti's Port-au-Prince, Sudan's Khartoum and Chad's N'Djamena filling out the end of the list.

London, Paris, Tokyo and New York City did not even make it to the top 30, lagging behind most big German, Scandinavian, Canadian, New Zealand and Australian cities.

Singapore was the highest ranked Asian city, at 25 while 29th-placed San Francisco was the United States' highest entry. Top of the list in Africa was South Africa's Durban at 87. Switzerland's Zurich, New Zealand's Auckland, Germany's Munich and Canada's Vancouver followed Vienna in the top five of most pleasant cities to live in.

NEWSMAKERS

Arun Jaitley promises to deliver as defence minister

Finance minister Arun Jaitley promised continuity in the country's overall defence policy after taking additional charge of the defence ministry. "The ministry has a distinct responsibility regarding the country's security and armed forces, etc," he said.



Arvind Kejriwal seeks ballot papers in Delhi polls

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has asked for the use of ballot papers, instead of electronic voting machines (EVMs), in the upcoming Delhi polls. The move questions the "reliability" of EVMs in elections.

Theresa May will trigger Brexit by March-end

UK Prime Minister Theresa May has said that she would trigger Brexit by the end of March. "We remain on track with the timetable set out six months ago," she said, referring to her promise to trigger Article 50 by March-end. AFP

