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Exit Poll Analysis 2026 – BJP May Win Bengal for First Time; DMK Retains TN; UDF Returns in Kerala

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

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Exit Poll Analysis 2026 — BJP May Win Bengal for First Time; DMK Retains TN; UDF Returns in Kerala

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WHY IN NEWS

Exit poll predictions for all five 2026 state elections were released on **April 29 evening after 6:30 PM** — the moment West Bengal Phase 2 voting concluded and the Election Commission lifted its exit poll ban. The predictions carry major implications: if confirmed on May 4, the BJP would win its first-ever West Bengal government, the UDF would break the LDF’s historic 2021 consecutive win in Kerala, and TVK would emerge as a genuine third force in Tamil Nadu.

IMPORTANT UPSC NOTE: Exit polls are survey-based predictions, not results. Historical accuracy is mixed — the 2024 Lok Sabha exit polls significantly overestimated the NDA’s seat count. Actual results are on **May 4, 2026**.

WEST BENGAL — BJP HISTORIC WIN PREDICTED

AGENCY	BJP+NDA	TMC+	LEFT-CONGRESS-ISF	OTHERS
Matrize	146-161	125-140	5-10	2-5
Axis My India	148-162	128-142	4-8	—
People’s Pulse	95-110	177-187	5-8	—
Poll of Polls	~153	~134	~6	—

Majority mark: 148 of 294

If the poll of polls is correct, the BJP would become the first non-Left, non-TMC party to win West Bengal since 1977. This would be the most dramatic electoral upset in Indian politics since 2014.

Key factors exit polls cite for BJP’s predicted lead:

- West Bengal Phase 1’s 93.19% turnout (rural/semi-rural areas where BJP mobilised)
- Phase 2’s lower 80.5% turnout (urban Kolkata where TMC is stronger)

- Anti-incumbency narratives around corruption, governance

Caution: People’s Pulse projects an opposite result (TMC 177-187). The range of predictions is unusually wide — indicating genuine uncertainty. Nandigram (Suvendu) and Bhawanipur (Mamata) results will set the narrative on May 4.

TAMIL NADU — DMK RETAINS; TVK MAKES HISTORY?

AGENCY	DMK+	AIADMK-NDA	TVK	OTHERS
P-MARQ	125-145	75-95	8-15	5-10
Chanakya	130-150	72-90	5-12	3-7
Poll of Polls	~138	~83	~10	~3

Majority mark: 118 of 234

DMK is projected to comfortably win a second consecutive term under CM M.K. Stalin. The more significant story is **TVK (Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam)** — Vijay’s party — potentially winning 8-15 seats in its debut election. If TVK wins even 5 seats, it establishes Tamil Nadu’s first genuinely viable third force in the Dravidian era.

Note: Tamil Nadu’s FPTP system means TVK needs concentrated vote share in specific constituencies to convert vote share into seats.

KERALA — UDF PROJECTED TO RETURN; LDF’S 2021 FLUKE CONFIRMED?

AGENCY	UDF	LDF	BJP-NDA
Axis My India	78-90	49-62	0-2
CVoter	71-83	56-68	1-3
Poll of Polls	~82	~55	~1

Majority mark: 71 of 140

UDF (Congress + Muslim League + Kerala Congress) is projected to win a clear majority — the first time since 2016 that the traditional LDF-UDF alternation pattern would be restored (the 2021 LDF consecutive win was the historical exception). If exit polls are right, LDF’s 2021 win was a one-term interruption, not the beginning of a new political era.

Kerala's BJP has so far not won an assembly seat; exit polls give them 0-3 seats — still not a significant foothold despite sustained efforts.

ASSAM — BJP THIRD CONSECUTIVE TERM

AGENCY	BJP-NDA	CONGRESS-LED	OTHERS
Axis My India	88-100	24-36	2-5
Chanakya	85-97	26-38	3-6
Poll of Polls	~93	~30	~3

Majority mark: 64 of 126

BJP under CM **Himanta Biswa Sarma** is projected for a decisive third consecutive term. If confirmed, Assam becomes one of a small number of states where a party has won three straight elections since 2000. The Congress and regional parties are projected at a distant second.

PUDUCHERRY — NDA AHEAD

The 30-elected-seat Puducherry legislative assembly is projected to return an NDA-AINRC majority. DMK (which won Puducherry in 2021 alongside Congress) is projected to underperform, with internal TMC-Congress tensions cited as a factor.

WHAT MAY 4 WILL DECIDE

SCENARIO	POLITICAL IMPLICATION
BJP wins WB	Historic — BJP rules every large Indian state except Kerala, Telangana
TMC wins WB	Mamata's TMC model vindicated; national opposition strengthened
UDF wins Kerala	LDF's 2021 consecutive win was an outlier; UDF-LDF cycle resumes
LDF wins Kerala	LDF establishes new political tradition; Pinarayi's legacy confirmed
TVK wins 10+ seats in TN	Tamil Nadu acquires genuine three-party system
TVK wins 0 seats	Third-party FPTP ceiling demonstrated; Vijay's future uncertain

UPSC RELEVANCE

PAPER	ANGLE
GS2 — Polity	Exit polls; FPTP; state elections; regional parties; coalition dynamics
GS1 — Indian Society	Dravidian politics; left politics in Kerala; Bengali political culture
GS2 — Governance	ECI; election results; democratic accountability

Mains Keywords: Exit polls 2026, poll of polls, West Bengal BJP, DMK Tamil Nadu, UDF Kerala, LDF, BJP Assam third term, TVK Vijay, FPTP seat conversion, May 4 election results

Facts Corner

ITEM	FACT
Exit poll release	April 29, 2026 after 6:30 PM
WB poll of polls	BJP ~153; TMC ~134 (BJP majority predicted)
WB majority mark	148 of 294
TN poll of polls	DMK+ ~138; AIADMK-NDA ~83; TVK ~10
TN majority mark	118 of 234
Kerala poll of polls	UDF ~82; LDF ~55
Kerala majority mark	71 of 140
Assam poll of polls	BJP ~93; Congress ~30
Assam majority mark	64 of 126
Results date	May 4, 2026
BJP first WB win	Would be first BJP state government in WB since Independence
LDF 2021 consecutive	First consecutive LDF win since 1982 pattern established

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