

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS RESULTS 2026

Introduction:

The **2026 Assembly Elections in India** constitute a major democratic exercise conducted by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** in accordance with **Articles 324–329 of the Constitution of India**. These elections covered **five states/UTs—West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, and Puducherry**, involving approximately **824 seats**, making it a significant political and constitutional event.

Legal and Constitutional Framework Governing State Assembly Elections:

The conduct of Assembly elections in India is firmly rooted in the constitutional scheme that ensures **free, fair, and periodic elections**, which are part of the basic structure doctrine as recognised in **Indira Nehru Gandhi v. Raj Narain**.

The primary authority responsible for administering elections is the **Election Commission of India**, established under **Article 324 of the Constitution of India**, which vests in it the superintendence, direction, and control over elections to The President, Vice-President, both Houses of Parliament and both Houses of State Legislatures. Further, **Articles 326**, guarantee the principle of **universal adult suffrage**, prohibiting discrimination in electoral rolls and ensuring that every citizen above 18 years of age has the right to vote. The **Right to vote is a constitutional right and the right to contest election is a statutory right**.

State-wise election details (2026):

West Bengal-

In West Bengal, the Legislative Assembly comprises **294 seats**, making it one of the largest state assemblies in India. The contest here was primarily between the **All India Trinamool Congress (TMC)** led by Mamata Banerjee and the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)**, which relied heavily on the national leadership of Narendra Modi along with regional figures such as Suvendu Adhikari. The large number of seats makes Bengal electorally decisive and politically symbolic, especially in terms of national party expansion.

BJP never ruled West Bengal and this is the first time BJP is going to make its government in the state.

Tamil Nadu-

In Tamil Nadu, the Legislative Assembly has **234 seats**, and the electoral battle traditionally revolves around Dravidian politics. The power used to revolve around the two major parties i.e. DMK and AIADMK. The 2026 elections saw participation from the **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)** led by M. K. Stalin and the **All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK)** under Edappadi K. Palaniswami. A notable new entrant was **Vijay** leading the **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)**, which significantly altered the electoral landscape, indicating a shift from traditional biparty politics to a more competitive multi-party system.

Mr. Joseph Vijay Chandrasekhar is likely to form the new government with the support of AIADMK. This new party of Vijay is a regional political party in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry founded on 2nd February, 2024 by actor turned politician Vijay (age 52 years). The Election symbol of TVK is **whistle**. TVK party is going to receive the recognition as reorganised state party by Election Commission of India

Kerala-

The state of Kerala, with **140 Assembly seats**, witnessed a contest between two major alliances: the **Left Democratic Front** led by Pinarayi Vijayan and the **United Democratic Front** represented by leaders such as Rahul Gandhi and V. D. Satheesan.

LDF: It is a coalition of political parties like **Communist Party of India (CPI)**, **Communist Party of India- Marxist(CPI-M)**, the **Kerala Congress (B)**, **Kerala Congress (M)** and some other smaller parties.

UDF: The United Democratic Front (UDF) is a coalition of political parties in the state of Kerala. It is **led by the Indian National Congress** and represents one of the two main political alliances in Kerala politics. The alliance currently consists of **Indian National Congress, Indian Union Muslim League, Kerala Congress (Joseph), Kerala Congress (Jacob), Revolutionary Socialist Party, All India Forward Bloc** and a variety of other smaller parties.

The power is being shifting from LDF to UDF through these elections.

Assam-

In Assam, which has **126 Assembly seats**, the principal contest was between the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the **Indian National Congress (INC)** represented by Gaurav Gogoi. Assam's elections are particularly significant in the context of regional identity politics, border issues, and the strategic importance of the North-East in national politics.

BJP is going to make a bet this time by forming a government.

Puducherry-

The Union Territory of Puducherry has a smaller Legislative Assembly consisting of **30 seats (elected) + 3 seats (nominated by the Union Government)**, making it politically compact but strategically important. The main political force here is the **All India N.R. Congress (AINRC)** led by N. Rangasamy, often in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party under the **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)**. Despite its smaller size, Puducherry plays a crucial role in demonstrating coalition politics and centre–state relations in a Union Territory framework.

N. Rangasamy is going to retain his government for another term.

Result and Trend:

State-wise Seats (Approx.)

West Bengal (Total: 294 seats)

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP): 206*
All India Trinamool Congress (TMC): 81*
Others: Few seats

Tamil Nadu (Total: 234 seats)

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK): 100+ (leading)
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK): 59*
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK): 43*

Kerala (Total: 140 seats)

United Democratic Front (UDF): 100–110
Left Democratic Front (LDF): 30–40

Assam (Total: 126 seats)

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP): 82*
Indian National Congress (INC): 19*
Others: Few seats

Puducherry (Total: 30 seats)

All India N.R. Congress (AINRC): 12*

BJP: 4*

Note-

Kerala name is being used as “**Keralam**” in many places in recent discourse, reflecting the native Malayalam pronunciation. In a significant development, the Union Cabinet led by Narendra Modi approved the proposal on February 24, 2026, following a unanimous resolution passed by the **Kerala Legislative Assembly on June 24, 2024**. The proposal seeks to formally rename the state from “**Kerala**” to “**Keralam**” to ensure linguistic authenticity and better represent the cultural identity of the region. To implement this change, the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 will be introduced in Parliament under Article 3 of the Constitution of India, requiring an amendment to the First Schedule of the Constitution. The term “Keralam” is derived from “**Kera**” (**coconut tree**) and “**alam**” (**land**), symbolizing the state’s geographical and cultural identity as the “land of coconuts.” Once enacted, the change will apply to all official records, documents, and government usage, marking an important step in aligning the state’s official name with its indigenous heritage.

The **Election Commission of India** and the **State Election Commission** have clearly divided responsibilities, though people often confuse them. The Election Commission of India conducts elections at the **national and state level**, including elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the offices of the President and Vice President of India. In contrast, the State Election Commission operates independently in each state and is responsible only for conducting elections to **local self-government bodies** such as Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, and Panchayats. Thus, while the ECI deals with parliamentary and state-level political elections, the SEC handles grassroots-level democratic institutions within the state.

