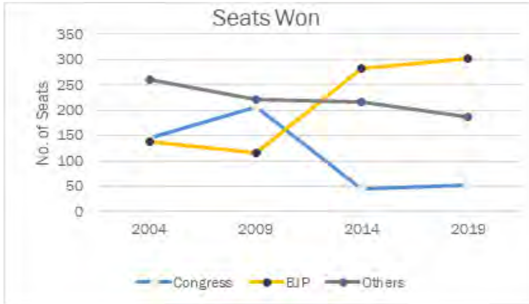
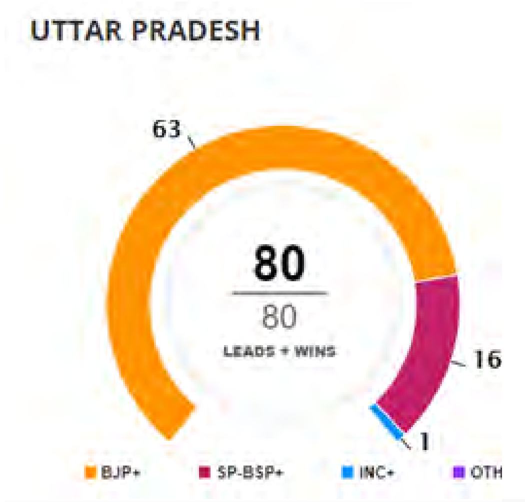
- In many states, the BJP has polled more than 50% of the voteshare
- First time in electoral history that a party has been voted back to power with a full majority and a double digit gain in voting percentage
- Women voters outnumbered men in 13 states and union territories.



State Dynamics

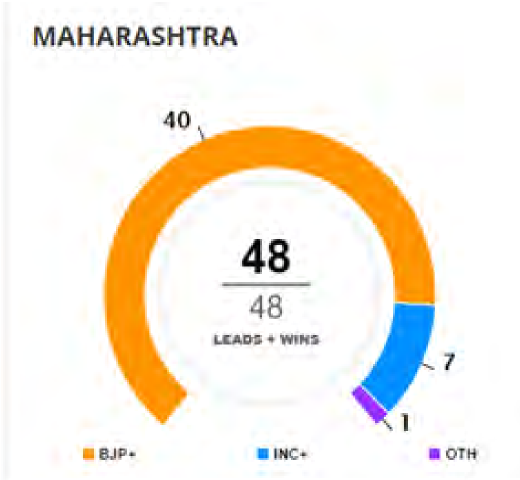
Uttar Pradesh

The SP-BSP alliance that was widely expected to mount a serious challenge to BJP didn't end up producing the expected result. Of the 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh, BJP and its allies won 64 seats while the SP-BSP alliance managed to secure 15 seats. UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi managed to secure the only INC seat in the state, INC President Rahul Gandhi lost the family stronghold of Amethi to BJP's Smriti Irani. This is the second time in the family's history that a Nehru-Gandhi family candidate has lost an election. Preliminary analyses reveal that the inability of the INC to form a pre-poll alliance with BSP-SP may have fractured the vote and worked to BJP's advantage in over 20 seats in the state.



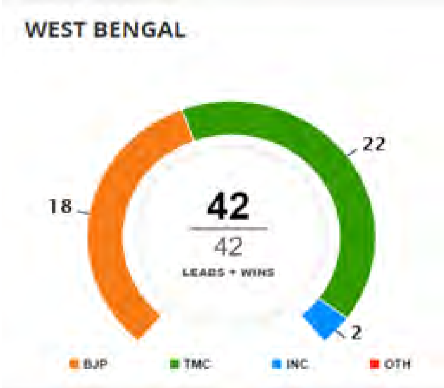
Maharashtra

Despite the tense relations between NDA alliance partners, BJP & Shiv Sena, the opposition failed to create a substantial front and make any gains in the state. The BJP and Shiv Sena held their tally at 23 and 18 respectively, while the UPA alliance reduced by one seat and are now at five seats. The All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) party led by Asaduddin Owaisi made inroads into the state, winning the Aurangabad seat. The issue of national security and the state government's projection of its achievements on the infrastructure development appear to have been of key importance to the voters. These coupled with the clean image of the incumbent Chief Minister and his strong performance over the past five years seemed to have swayed voter choices.



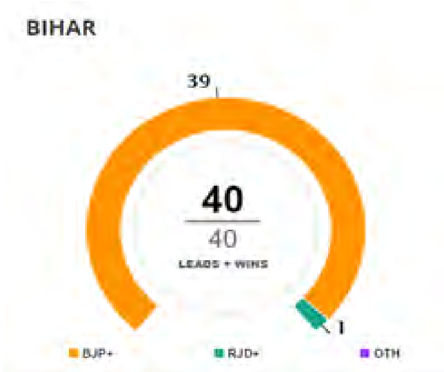
West Bengal

West Bengal through up some surprising results that has shocked political pundits. For the past five years, the BJP has been attempting to make inroads into the state but has been largely unsuccessful in capturing seats, though their vote percentage has been slowly increasing. In this election, the CPI(M) has been wiped off what was a left bastion for over three decades. The BJP has positioned itself as a credible challenger to the TMC after winning 18 of the 42 seats. TMC saw a drop in their tally from 34 to 22 seats in this election.



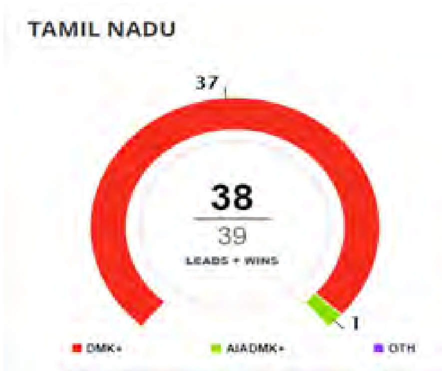
Bihar

The BJP-led NDA won 39 out of the 40 seats in the state, while the Mahagatbandhan only managed to secure a single seat. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's decision to rejoin the NDA in 2017 and the caste arithmetic of the alliance seems to have struck the right chord.



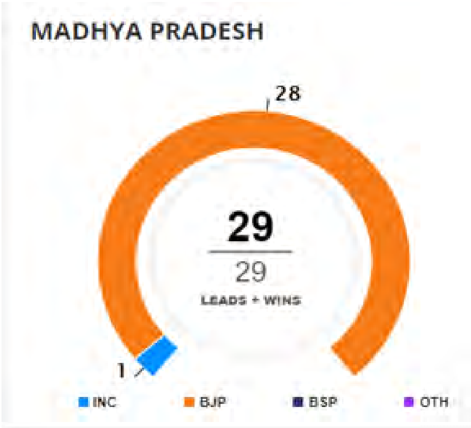
Tamil Nadu

The UPA has won 37 of Tamil Nadu's 38 Lok Sabha seats. BJP's decision to bring AIADMK into the NDA seemed to have backfired as the party managed to secure only a single seat in the election. The state has seen major political upheaval in the past five years as the stalwarts of the opposing parties, J Jayalalithaa (AIADMK) and M Karunanidhi (DMK) passed away. In this election, M K Stalin, the son of M Karunanidhi, has proven himself not only been the undisputed successor of his father, but also positioned the party as the expected winner of the next assembly polls. The AIADMK that has been marred by infighting over the last few years has shown the necessity of a strong leader to helm the party.



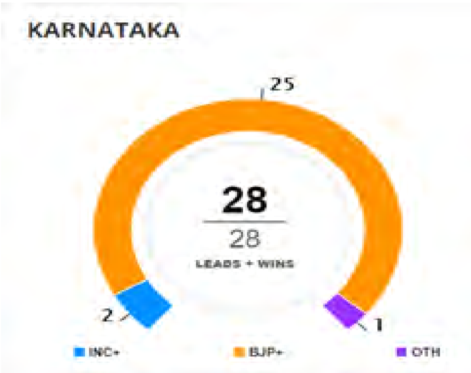
Madhya Pradesh

The gains made in the assembly elections barely six months ago have clearly had no bearing on the results of these elections. While the INC managed to scrape an alliance in December, it has been unequivocally trounced in these elections. BJP made a strong comeback and is sweeping all but 1 of the 29 constituencies. Nakul Kamal Nath, son of Chief Minister Kamal Nath is the only non-BJP candidate who won. The most surprising loss in this state is that of Jyotiraditya Scindia, who lost the seat of Guna that has been in the Scindia family since the 1970s.



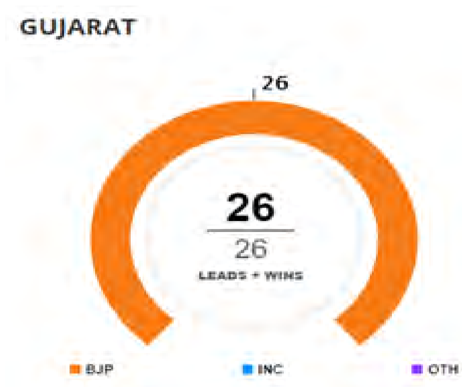
Karnataka

While the exit polls predicted that the BJP would end up with at least 18 seats, it has ended up with 25 of the states 28 seats. While the JDS-INC alliance theoretically should have increased the vote-share of contesting candidates, the tenuous alliance and the constant outbursts of the Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy may have influenced voter decisions. Given the fragility of the existing alliance and the Lok Sabha result, the stability of the coalition government is likely to be tested in the coming months.



Gujarat

As expected, the BJP won all the 26 constituencies in Gujarat, which is Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP President Amit Shah's home turf to the start of polling, the BJP gave a massive boost to its prospects in the state by announcing the candidature of Amit Shah. Amit Shah won the Gandhinagar seat with a margin of over 5.5 lakh votes (42% margin).



Rajasthan

Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have seen a similar trend in the past year. While the INC has formed the government in both states, with near single-majority, they have been effectively booted out of the state in these elections. For the second time in a row, the NDA swept all 25 seats in the state. The incumbent Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son Vaibhav Gehlot was defeated in Jodhpur.

RAJASTHAN

Andhra Pradesh

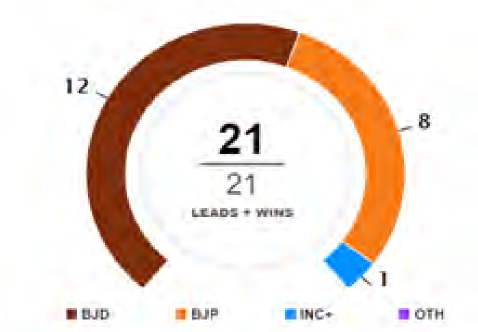
Andhra Pradesh saw simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha this election. The state rejected national parties for regional players in both these elections. Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy led YSR Congress Party has swept both the elections and is expected to be sworn in as Chief Minister. YSRCP has won 22 of 25 Lok Sabha seats in Andhra Pradesh, leaving the Chandrababu Naidu-led TDP with only three seats. The TDP was humiliated further as outgoing Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's son Nara Lokesh lost his Vidhan Sabha seat.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Odisha

Odisha too, saw simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha. In the Lok Sabha election, the Navin Patnaik led BJD, the regional power that has controlled the state since 2000 won 12 seats, while the BJP made inroads into the state increasing its total 1 seat in 2014 to 8 seats in this election. According to BJD insiders, four strategies that helped the party counter the Modi wave were the image of the Chief Minister Navin Pattnaik, women voters, social welfare schemes and the comprehensive farmer financial benefit scheme Kalia. The state has seen a number of former and sitting MLAs and MPs jump ship from the BJD to the BJP and vice-versa in the last five years.

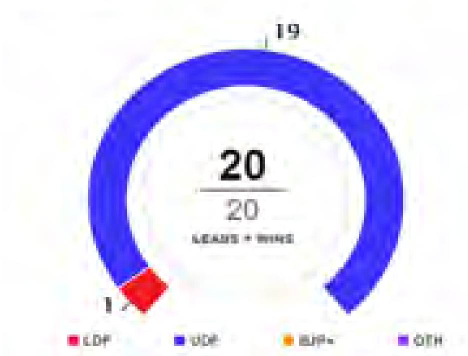
ODISHA



Kerala

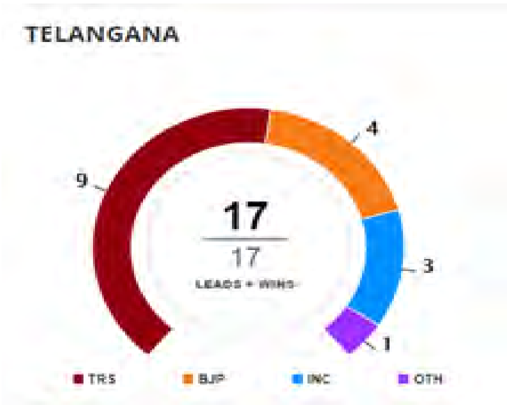
INC-led United Democratic Front (UDF) registered a remarkable victory with wins in 19 of the 20 parliamentary constituencies. Rahul Gandhi himself has won by a large margin from Wayanad. UDF has gained from a massive support from the minority segments, particularly the Muslim community. The Left Democratic (LDF) has only managed to secure a single seat in the state and has seen a sharp decline in its vote-share.

KERALA



Telangana

The BJP made inroads into India's youngest state Telangana winning 4 of the 17 seats in the state. The Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS), which spearheaded the formation of the state in 2014 and has ruled it since has won nine seats and its ally, AIMIM has won one seat. The INC has shown a comparatively strong performance, winning three seats in the state. While the TRS managed to secure its position, the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's (KCR) daughter K Kavitha lost her seat from Nizamabad after over 170 farmers decided to contest against her to protest the agricultural policies of the state government. The result in the state and across the country have also dashed KCR's hopes of playing a critical role in a Third Front.



Focus Area, Economic Policy Implications

Economy

Medium to Long-term outlook: Positive

- In the short term, the strong election outcome should support sentiment in favour of India and lead to a fillip in FDI and investment. But the focus is likely to shift back to the governments reform agenda, once the dust settles.

- Second consecutive term for the Modi government with a strong mandate will augur well for the economy. Sensex and NIFTY endorsed Narendra Modi's second term by surging up 1400 points and 400 points respectively after the exit polls had indicated a landslide win for the BJP.

- There was a sharp uptrend in equities and the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies jumped by 5.33 lakh crore a day after the poll predictions were revealed.

- The government, now free from electoral compulsions, will be able to focus on fiscal consolidation, implement key reforms in the public banking sector, infrastructure spending, FDI focus and increasing the share of private investments in the economy.

- The Reserve Bank's outlook towards the inflationary pressure would guide the monetary policy.

Policy outlook

- Policy continuity will be a stabilizing factor in the economy.

- Government may also introduce stalled reforms like the Land Acquisition Bill which was met with a strong resistance from opposition. Modi will likely continue efforts aimed at streamlining the 2017 Goods and Services Tax (GST), while continuing to empower the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) regime to tame the $150 billion debt accumulated by the banking sector. Managing the ongoing stress in NBFC sector is going to be a challenge but the government will probably have no option but to handle this on a priority.

Other main focus areas for the government are likely to be:

Jobs crisis: We will likely see an increased focus on rural spending and handouts aimed at supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to create jobs in medium to long term. It will also have to find ways of filling out the large government vacancies at a faster pace once the government takes charge as an immediate and short term solution.

Rural and farm distress: The government is likely to liberalize the rigid agricultural policies around the APMC act and could ask BJP governed states to implement it. Extending markets to farmers including through further strengthening of the eNAM (electronic national agriculture market) initiative could be on the cards.

Measured liberalization: The government is likely to continue its push on the FDI. Notably the BJP manifesto retained its aspiration of taking India's Ease of Doing Business Banking into the top 50. That said protectionist intervention of its key ally, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is still likely to keep some reforms, such as further opening of multi-brand retail at bay.

Ease of Doing Business: India's position has improved by 65 places in the Ease of Doing Business ranking, from 142 in 2014 to 77 in 2019. The government would likely aim to break into top 50 into the Ease of Doing Business in the next two years. Easing compliance for obtaining construction permits, improving the functioning of commercial courts, better enforcement of contracts and protection of minority shareholders right will likely be the main focus area for the government.

Infrastructure and Industry: Infrastructure will remain an important area of focus for the new government, which is set to continue the strong performance by the roads and transport sector. The government has already fast-tracked many stalled and ongoing projects. Expansion of Metro Rail in tier two cities across India may become a priority. The government is likely to expedite the New Industrial Policy to implement industry specific reforms, may recommend tax sops, ease in labour laws to incentivise big ticket manufacturing units. There might also be revival of certain sub components of the Make in India policy especially around local sourcing.

Foreign Policy: A reset in India-Pakistan ties is likely after heightened tensions for the past six months although the Modi government wouldn't want to look too eager to respond to Islamabad's overtures. India's relationship with China can strengthen in the light of the Sino-US trade war. The ongoing trade war between the US and China will help India tap export opportunities in both the countries in areas such as garments, agriculture, automobile and machinery. Despite the ongoing tug-of-war between India and the US on the tariff front, Trump has publicly highlighted his bond with Modi and the two countries have held talks on bilateral cooperation in defence, counter-terrorism and energy and coordination on regional and global issues.

Health: Reforming medical education, providing health cover to the poor or getting the unregulated healthcare professionals under the ambit of regulations and setting quality standards. Streamlining of flagship schemes like Ayushman Bharat, 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana' and 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana is on the cards.

Supporting MSME's: The government has proposed a multi-pronged approach for reviving the micro, small and medium sized enterprise sector. In addition to the existing credit guarantee scheme, efforts to improve MSMEs' access to technology and to make them more competitive are likely to intensify.

Sectoral Impact

Implications for the Information and Technology Sector

Digital taxation: A new framework is expected to be created to regulate and get a fair share of taxes from revenues generated by digital economy companies. Strong measures are likely to be introduced that realign the profits and taxes.

Ease of doing business: Amendment of the Companies Act is expected to incentivize compliance with law and ease of doing business. Finalisation of the new industrial policy, to emphasize on improving the competitiveness of manufacturing and services, is also expected. Promotion and empowerment of MSMEs will also be a strong feature of the policy.

Retail and E-commerce: A National Traders' Welfare Board will be set up and a National Policy for Retail Trade will also be announced. While the impact of this policy on the e-commerce sector will have to be ascertained, the developments are in line with the push to promote domestic retailers over foreign counterparts. There will be greater push from the government to finalize the 'Draft National e-Commerce Policy, especially on the data aspects.

The Personal Data Protection Bill would be the priority as privacy and data protection is a key concern area. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is working on the final version of the bill and will look to make compliance easier for industry and addressing concerns of law enforcement agencies.

Competition law reforms: The BJP government under its previous regime constituted a nine-member Competition Law Review Committee. The objective was to revamp the Competition Act 2002 and enable the regulator to better deal with competition issues in the digital economy. Amendments to the Act to expand the role of the regulator with focus on digital economy sector are in pipeline.

Implications for the Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Sector

India remains committed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and one of the key pillars where the Government's efforts have been focused in the past five years has been healthcare.

Some of the key focus areas for governance have been listed below:

Ayushman Bharat or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY): The government's landmark initiative launched in 2018 is envisaged as the world's largest health insurance programme, targeting a total of 10 crore families. Another objective of the initiative was the operationalisation of 1.53 lakh health and wellness centres to provide primary healthcare. While the number of enlisted beneficiaries is slowly increasing, on-ground implementation challenges still exist. Hospitals remain unhappy with the low reimbursement rates being offered under the scheme, and quality and availability of empanelled hospitals remains a challenge. However, universal health coverage is expected to remain a strong priority and the existing issues will need to be ironed out.

Public health infrastructure: Quality of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) needs significant improvement in order to ensure quality healthcare, and reduce reliance on private healthcare providers. For Ayushman Bharat's successful implementation, public health infrastructure will need expansion, quality improvement, and access to basis facilities.

Private sector participation in healthcare: The Government is likely to count on support from the private sector for strengthening public health infrastructure. Already, with initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat (hospitals) and Aspirational District Programme, an increasing number of corporates are getting involved in improving healthcare quality and availability. This form of PPP is likely to grow, as the Government aims to fortify its healthcare spends with CSR funds of private players.

Price control and trade margins: The past couple of years have seen more drugs and medical devices being brought under price control, and for devices like stents and implants, prices have been slashed significantly. Affordability is expected to remain high on the Government's agenda, and while this will be good for consumers, it is likely to negatively impact the industry. Already, international players have raised concerns about viability in view of decreasing profits. The trade margin regulations are also expected to be finalised soon, which may further cut profits for importers.

Jan Aushadhi/Generic drugs: With a view on increasing access and affordability of medicines, focus on the Jan Aushadhi scheme is exp ected to continue. However, concerns pertaining to quality and adherence to manufacturing standards have been raised globally (including concerns about non-compliance to FDA standards) and the Government may take measures to address these. In the earlier term, NITI Aayog had been working on the use of blockchain to track medicines to prevent counterfeiting.

Procurement policies and medical device standards: The NDA's return to power with a clear majority will further fuel nationalistic tendencies in policy making, especially focussed on enabling domestic players. This was reflected in the last year of the governance as well wherein the government looked at finalizing draft policies and formulating new ones aimed at building competitive ecosystem for domestic players in the sector. While the global industry has raised concerns about the need for level playing field, it is likely that upcoming policies will favour domestic players.

Technology in healthcare: Increased emphasis is expected on integration of technology for effective, efficient delivery of healthcare services. AI and telemedicine are likely to be priority focus areas, as are digitisation of medical health records, creation of medical device registries and even faster delivery of medicines, blood, etc. using new-age tools such as drones.

Sustainable Manufacturing: With the government returning to power, environmental policies and regulations that are in the pipeline or approval stage are likely to remain unhindered.

Implications for the Food & Beverage Sector

As the Government returns to power, no major change is expected in their position. Focus on farmer welfare is expected to continue and other regulations in the pipeline are expected to proceed unhindered.

Labelling and packaging regulations: With the government returning to power, policies and regulations that are in the pipeline or approval stage are likely to remain unhindered.

Plastic Waste Management: Globally, India has shown commitment towards reducing plastic waste. Plans to eliminate single-use plastic are expected to continue, as is the emphasis on Extended Producers Responsibility. However, there is also a need for the Government to strengthen infrastructure to manage collected waste and efforts in this area can be expected.

'Demeritization' of SSBs: With non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and public health continuing to remain a priority, no respite is expected for the SSB (sugar-sweetened beverage) category in terms of perception, labelling, taxation, etc.

GST simplification: The government is likely to further simplify the GST process. While there has been some discussion on rate rationalisation and consolidation of certain tax brackets, there is no clarity on how this will progress.

Water Management: The government stated that it intends to create a unified Ministry of Water to approach the matter of water management holistically and launch a scheme to ensure piped water for every household by 2024. The Groundwater Management Rules are also expected to be prioritized. If the drought situation continues unabated, it can be expected that water for agricultural use will be prioritized and water-intensive industries could face shortages. In addition, in drought-prone states, high cess could be imposed on water for industrial use.

Implications for Agriculture and Food Processing Sector

Agriculture sector continues to be backbone for the economic growth of our fast-growing democracy, however, under the NDA regime the already stressed agriculture sector witnessed further crisis and distress. The sector grew at only 2.5% annually under the Modi rule, compared with 3.6% in the last decade under the Congress-led UPA.

The food processing sector, which is among the few that serves as a vital link between the agriculture and industrial segments of the economy, is a sunrise sector that has gained prominence in the last few years. While considerable push has been given to the industry's growth under the first-term of the NDA government, a thrust to this sector is of critical importance to improve the value of agricultural produce; ensure remunerative prices to farmers and at the same time create favourable demand for Indian agricultural products in the global market.

As the government returns to power, increased focus is expected on the areas outlined below:

Agriculture Produce and Marketing Committee Act: The reform of agricultural markets is a long pending policy issue in India. In light of the changing global and local markets, the government is likely to liberalize the rigid agricultural policies around the APMC act and could ask the BJP governed states to implement it.

Market Access for Farmers: While rural distress hasn't impacted Modi government's performance in this general elections, the past few years has seen increased farmer distress, requiring a dire need to find sustainable solutions such as engaging more farmers on the electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM) platform to extend market access.

Further strengthening of the eNAM (electronic national agriculture market) initiative could be on the cards.

Crop insurance under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Yojana: In 2016, the insurance scheme was replaced aiming to rapidly increase enrolment, with a target to cover 50% of the cropped area. However, coverage numbers have only fallen in the last two years and therefore, there will be an increased focus by the government to successful implement this scheme across states.

Ethanol-blended fuel: For the benefit of sugarcane farmers, the Government will likely remain committed to its plan sourcing ethanol for fuel from sugar industry.

Increased Public Spending: The continued low priority accorded to public spending on agriculture has resulted in severe gaps in the implementation of multiple schemes. In the interim budget, agriculture sector received a 144% rise in allocation, taking the share of the ministry to 5.2% in the union budget. The government, now free from electoral compulsion, will be looking at focusing on proper implementation of schemes such Pradhan Mantri Kisan Yojana and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, the flagship programme for the agriculture sector, and more flexibility for states to adopt interventions needed to address local concerns.

Address Farmer Welfare: Post the state elections last year, Congress announced loan waivers for the farmers in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. With the NDA government back in power in General Elections, there is no expectation of a national programme of implementing farm loan waivers. The government will focus on easier access to credit.

Implications for the Alco-Bev Sector

With the NDA's return to power with a clear majority, the following are the implications for the sector.

Imposition of Prohibition: The first-term of the NDA government, witnessed states adopting liquor ban as a means to promote health and social well-being, women safety or simply as an electoral agenda to woo the voters in state elections, without looking at the economic feasibility of such measures as alcohol is the largest contributor to state exchequer and under the exclusive power of the state governments. While Chhattisgarh promised to implement a state-wide liquor ban post the state election last year, no concrete steps have been announced to implement the ban. In the general elections, with YSR's victory in Andhra Pradesh (in both the General and Assembly Elections), it becomes a crucial state to engage with. YSR Congress had promised liquor ban in three-phases it their manifesto. However, as per our sources, the party leader, recognises the important of revenue from the industry for development measures in the state and is not expected to aggressively pursue the poll promise.

Labelling and packaging regulations: With the government returning to power, policies and regulations that are in the pipeline or approval stage are likely to remain unhindered.

GST simplification: To get economic growth back on track, the government is likely to further simplify the GST process. Internal discussions have taken place with regard to easing compliance, consolidation of rate structures and the tax net to be widened to include items such as petroleum, real estate, tobacco and liquor under the purview of GST gradually. However, there is lack of clarity on how this will progress.

Implications for the Tourism Sector

Political Scenario: The Minister of State for Tourism, Mr K.J Alphons was among the few Ministers in the Modi Government who lost his seat in the Lok Sabha. However, he would continue to retain his Rajya Sabha seat till 2023. It remains to be seen if Mr Alphons retains his position as Minister of State Tourism.

Focus Areas: The NDA 2.0 is expected to make tourism a special focus in the services sector with a view to integrate many other allied services. There would be increased spending on upgrading of facilities around the UNESCO heritage sites. The government is expected to adopt a holistic approach towards development of these sites by integrating transport connection, heritage conservation, hotels, restaurants, entertainment and other services.

Increased Infra spending: The government would focus on increased infrastructure spending to develop the potential of coastal tourism, tourism on Island territories and in the North Eastern states. Building of religious tourist circuits may also be expedited.

Implications for the Defence and Infrastructure sectors

Defence procurement is slated to see major reforms and capacity expansion with a focus on indigenisation. In its pre-election manifesto, the BJP has promised to strengthen the armed forces by speeding up the purchases of outstanding defence related equipment and take focused steps to strengthen the strike capability of the armed forces. A strong majority in Lok Sabha will enable the BJP to move with a greater momentum in this direction. The key focus areas are expected to be:

Increased defense capital acquisitions: An acceleration of defence capital acquisition driven by the significant readiness gap in the military is expected post elections.

Increased role for Private industry: The Modi government's push to increase the role of private industry in defense through changes like the "Strategic Partnership" model appeared to stall over the last year, but now there is an opportunity to accelerate the reform agenda.

Increased push for efficiency of the DPSUs: Relatedly, the MoD may now push for greater divestment and outsourcing within the DPSUs.

Infrastructure: Infrastructure will remain an important area of focus for the new government, which is set to continue the strong performance by the roads and transport sector. The government has already fast-tracked many stalled and ongoing projects. Expansion of Metro Rail in tier two cities across India may become a priority.

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Implications for the Aviation Sector

Considering that the incumbent government will want to return to some of the unfinished agenda, a successful privatisation of Air India is up on the cards. The chorus for inclusion of jet fuel under GST has been on the rise lately, and the government will be poised to move positively on this taxation reform. Also, the Government is likely to fast track the second metro airport projects, taking on the promise of 100 new airport in the course of next five years.

Implications for Manufacturing, Automobile and Energy Sector

Manufacturing: BJP now has the opportunity to set in motion their dream of converting India into a global manufacturing hub through improving ease of doing business, strengthening Companies Act and bringing in a new industrial policy with special focus on MSMEs. The party has already promised to invest in creating clusters/networks. Incentives and public procurement may be used for this purpose. Boosting manufacturing sector to create jobs in the country has been an existing focus area of the BJP and they may tweak things to continue to bolster this aspect. As a result, local component necessity requirements may be tinkered with.

Automobiles: EV space will certainly heat-up as this may be one area where Modi will seek to leave a legacy behind. The existing focus on phased manufacturing plan is expected to continue. According to news reported by Reuters, NITI Aayog may propose a plan for electrifying most motorbikes and scooters within the next six to eight years. There is also a possibility of increase in the amount of subsidies for electric three-wheelers. Some analysts opine that Modi Government's sops to rural populace may leave enough money in the hands of these consumers for purchase of tractors and two-wheelers. Such outcomes will boost the automobile sector.

Energy: There will be a policy continuity in India's oil & gas sector over the coming years. Reducing energy import dependence has been a key objective of the Modi government but achieving the target of 10% reduction in 3 years is thought to be infeasible by most industry watchers. According to Fitch, India may seek to attract the foreign investment to push through developments across the oil and gas industry. Another prominent effort of Modi has been to push clean energy sources like natural gas, biofuels and renewables. Continued focus will drive greater traction in these areas.

The government will continue to work on improving electricity access building on the much touted achievements in rural electrification. Here attention will rightly be on ensuring the right mix of sources and ensuring financial health of the state utilities. Particularly, building on the International Solar Alliance where Modi is at the forefront is a stated intention. The BJP manifesto also talks of encouraging localized solar farming at a massive scale and bio-gas generation. Both these are seen as tools for additional income in agrarian communities.

State assembly elections

Andhra Pradesh

Voting for the Andhra Pradesh state elections took place on April 11, along with elections to the Centre. Over 79.64 percent polling was recorded in the state. A total of 3,13,33,631 electors cast their votes for 2,118 candidates across 175 Assembly Seats.

In the last election, Telegu Desam Party (TDP), headed by Chandrababu Naidu, was in an alliance with BJP and together, they won 106 seats, of which only 4 were won by BJP. The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), headed by Jagan Mohan Reddy, came a distance second with 67 seats. In March 2018, TDP severed its ties with the BJP and walked out of the NDA with the Centre not acceding to its demand on special category status for AP. The entrant of a new party, Jana Sena Party (JSP) founded by actor Pawan Kalyan have changed the voting mix.

In the state elections, the YSRCP has comprehensively won the mandate of the people with 151 of 175 seats. The TDP has been reduced to 23 seats, while the JSP has won one seat in the state. It is pertinent to note that while in 2014, YSRCP and TDP had almost similar vote-shares of 45% each across the state, there has been a divergence in this election. The JSP has received about 5-6% of the votes, and has likely cut into TDP's electoral banks, reducing to 39.1%. At the same time, the YSRCP has managed to increased their vote-share to close to 50%.

The election result is a terrible blow for Chandrababu Naidu, who was looking to spearhead an effort to forge an anti-BJP front. His hopes have been shattered as the party has not only performed poorly at the Centre, but been decimated in the state.

The YSRCP has not aligned with either party in the pre-poll phase and based on the Lok Sabha results, are likely to remain neutral while ensuring good relations with the Centre to try to push for special considerations for the state.

Odishaa

The Odisha Assembly has 147 seats. The elections for these seats were conducted across the first four phases in April. In the current election, 146 seats are being contested and one will be contested later.

Odisha has traditionally be a stronghold of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the incumbent Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has ruled the state since the party's first assembly election in March 2000. After today's result, Naveen Patnaik will rule the state for a fifth straight-term.

In the 2014 elections, the BJD won 117 seats followed by INC with 26, BJP with 10, and others with 4 seats. This year, the BJD has once again held onto the seat despite a major attempt by the BJP to displace their position. In the past five years, BJP has made inroads into the state in the Municipal Corporation and Panchayat elections.

While its seat total has marginally reduced in this election, the BJD has still managed to hold on to a similar vote-share across the state. The INC has seen its vote-share drop from 32 to 15 percent of the vote, which has resulted in a decrease of six seats; while the BJP has increased its vote-share from 18 to 32 percent of vote, which has translated to an increase of eleven seats for the party.

In the past decade, the BJD has only extended outside support to governments at the Centre, and the stance of the current government is unlikely to change. During the course of the elections, Naveen Patnaik had expressed his willingness to support any party that would push for Central aid in the cyclone-affected state.

Sikkim

Since its entry into the Indian Union, Sikkim has always elected a regional party to form the government. The incumbent Chief Minister, Pawan Kumar Chamling has ruled the state consecutively for now 25 years, making him the longest running Chief Minister in Indian history. His party, the Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) has won the 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014 Sikkim Legislative Assembly elections.

In the last election, the SDF won 22 of the 32 seats in the state assembly. The primary opposition in the state is the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM), led by a former SDF-leader Prem Singh Tamang alias P.S. Golay, which won the remaining 10 seats.

While Sikkim has traditionally seen a single-party winning the state with a thumping majority, this election has proven to be neck-in-neck, not only in terms of vote-share but also in terms of seats. The SKM has won the state with 17 of the 32 seats, while SDF has won 15 seats. The BJP and INC have not been able to make any in-roads into the state. Interestingly, while the SKM has won the battle, it has a marginally lower vote-share than the SDF.

Given the tenuous arithmetic and the larger vote-share, it will be interesting to see what happens in the state over the next five years. In the last five years, while the SDF won 22 of the seats, by the end of its term, it had 29 MLAs after defections. The party is likely to attempt to splinter the incumbent once again. For now though, the SKM will control the state with P.S. Golay likely to become the Chief Minister.

Arunachal Pradesh

Since 1980, Indian National Congress has won every election in the state and won the last election in 2014 with 42 out of 60 seats in the state.

The Chief Pema Khandu was sworn in as an INC candidate; however, in September 2016 he and a major portion of the party defected to the People's Party of Arunachal, an ally of the BJP.

Three months later, they defected again to join the BJP, making Pema Khandu the Chief Minister from BJP. While the exact seat-sharing has not been announced, what is clear is that the BJP is going to form the government in the state. The party has already won 37 seats alone, and with alliance partners, won 49 of the 54 constituencies. The alliance has capture d more than 75% of the vote-share of the state.

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