



THE DAY IN PICTURES

Election results meant a burst of celebration for some and silent mourning for others



SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Party workers dance as they celebrate the Assembly polls results



GUWAHATI: Party workers in Assam, too, celebrated the party's victory in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand



KOLKATA: Though BJP lost the West Bengal Assembly polls last year, party workers drench themselves in the 'Modi wave'



KOCHI: Kerala was another state where BJP could not make a mark during the 2016 Assembly elections

As the day progressed, celebrations broke out even in cities and states not directly affected by the poll results. The Bharatiya Janata Party enhanced its political capital with the landslide victory in Uttar Pradesh, one of the country's most complex and crucial states. BJP's victory in UP, a state with a population of 204 million people, and Uttarakhand is being read as a vote of confidence for Prime Minister Narendra Modi despite his controversial move to invalidate 86 per cent of

India's currency.

The Opposition parties stood decimated, though the Congress decisively reclaimed ground in Punjab. The picture for Goa and Manipur was unclear till the end of the day, with no majority for any of the competing parties. This has been a closely tracked election, not just in India, but also globally because of the "wave" associated with Modi. A photo essay looks at the events of the day of reckoning.



CHANDIGARH: Punjab's chief-ministerial candidate Amarinder Singh shares his victory with his family. The Congress's win in Punjab has been credited to Singh's strong presence in the state



(From top) While celebrations broke out at BJP's offices across the country, the headquarters of other leading political parties remained deserted. Offices of the Bahujan Samaj Party and Congress in Lucknow and the Aam Aadmi Party in New Delhi were shrouded in resounding silence



People watching Assembly election results on a giant screen fixed at a mobile van outside the Vidhan Sabha. This was one of the most-anticipated elections, especially for Uttar Pradesh



(Above) Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi kept track of the vote counting process through telecommunicating with 158 centres across five states; (Left) Celebrations for BJP workers in Lucknow began early in the morning, soon after trends were in favour of the party



(Above) Congress had reasons to cheer in Goa as well as it went neck-and-neck with BJP. Seen here is Nilakanth Ramnath Halarankar with party supporters celebrating his win in Panaji; (Right) The Modi masks, which made a debut during the Lok Sabha elections in 2014, seem to be a favourite mode of showing support for the prime minister

