



PEOPLES PULSE
an ear to the ground

PRE-POLL SURVEY

ON

HIMACHAL PRADESH

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS – 2017

Survey Dates:

23rd October to 30th October, 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BJP SET TO FORM GOVERNMENT IN HIMACHAL

The BJP is all set to win the 20017 Assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh with a majority. With this the hill state would stay in line with the rhythm it has set for itself since the 1990s by voting out incumbent governments.

Peoples Pulse, a political research organisation, conducted a Pre-Poll Survey in HP between 23rd to 30th October, 2017. This was before the BJP announced Mr Prem Kumar Dhumal as the chief minister candidate.

The survey showed that the BJP would get 39-44 seats in the 68-member Assembly with a strong performance in both the regions of Upper Himachal and Lower Himachal. The ruling Congress would be sent to the Opposition benches with 19-24 legislators. For the first time the CPI (M) may find representation in the House with one MLA. There would two to four Independents. For any survey the margin of error is + or – 3 percent.

Further our survey showed that most of the winners in the treasury or the Opposition benches would find themselves past the post with pretty thin margins.

When asked if the Congress government should be given another term, a majority of the respondents said ‘No’. When asked whom they would prefer as the next Chief Minister a majority backed Mr Dhumal. A close second was Mr Singh.

Significantly there is no real anti-incumbency against Virbhadra Singh government. On the contrary, the voter is speaking favourably about this government that it has done some development work. The survey showed that the anti-incumbency factor, however, is working against the sitting MLAs belonging to both the Congress and the BJP.



Today, it seems that the mood began in favour of the BJP in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections where it won all the four Parliament seats and bucked the trend where the party ruling the state gets a majority of the Parliament seats. Then the BJP held the edge in 59 Assembly segments.

The issues, which are chasing the ruling Congress is the Kotkhai rape case and the forest guard murder case in Mandi. To add to this the Congress is plagued by infighting due to which it has totally failed in projecting a united fight, which in turn has caused a lethargic and aimless campaign. What has further harmed the Congress is that Mr Singh has changed his constituency.

Though the people are unhappy with demonetisation and GST the Congress has failed in even remotely capitalising on them. Alongside the Congress failed in hitting back at the BJP slogan that they are a 'Zamaanat ki Sarkar'.

On the other side the BJP has unleashed a high voltage campaign. Though there are fraught with groupism between Mr Dhumal, Mr Shanta Kumar and Mr NP Nadda, they have succeeded in putting up a united face during this campaign.

It also has to be mentioned that there is no visible Modi factor or NaMo sentiment. Actually the role of BJP or Congress national leaders is next to nothing in these Assembly elections.

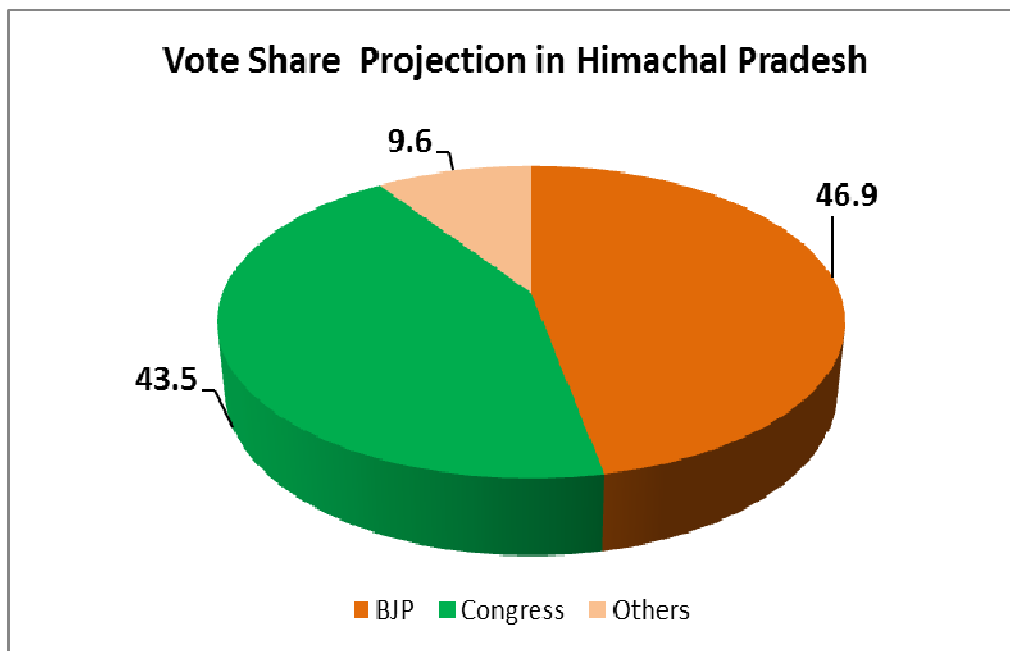
The Pre-Poll Survey was conducted in 17 Assembly constituencies with a total sample size of 3,400. It covered five polling stations in each constituency taking a sample of 40 each where equal representation was given to gender. Peoples Pulse sample included 25 percent SCs, 5 percent STs and the remaining other communities. Dr. Sajjan Kumar Singh and Mr Bathula Suresh Babu, research scholars did the data analysis. The findings of the survey are herewith enclosed.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

VOTE SHARE & SEATS PROJECTION

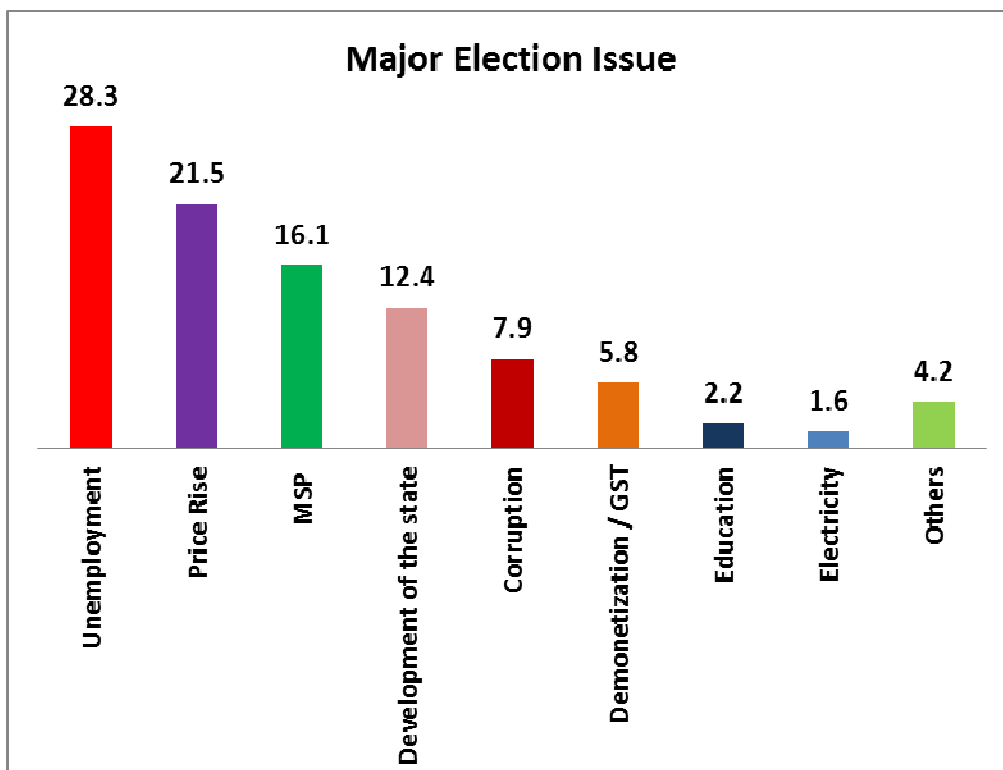
Party	Vote Share*	Seats Projection*
BJP	46.9	39-44
Congress	43.5	19-24
Others	9.6	2-4

* *Margin of error + or - 3%*



Major Election Issue

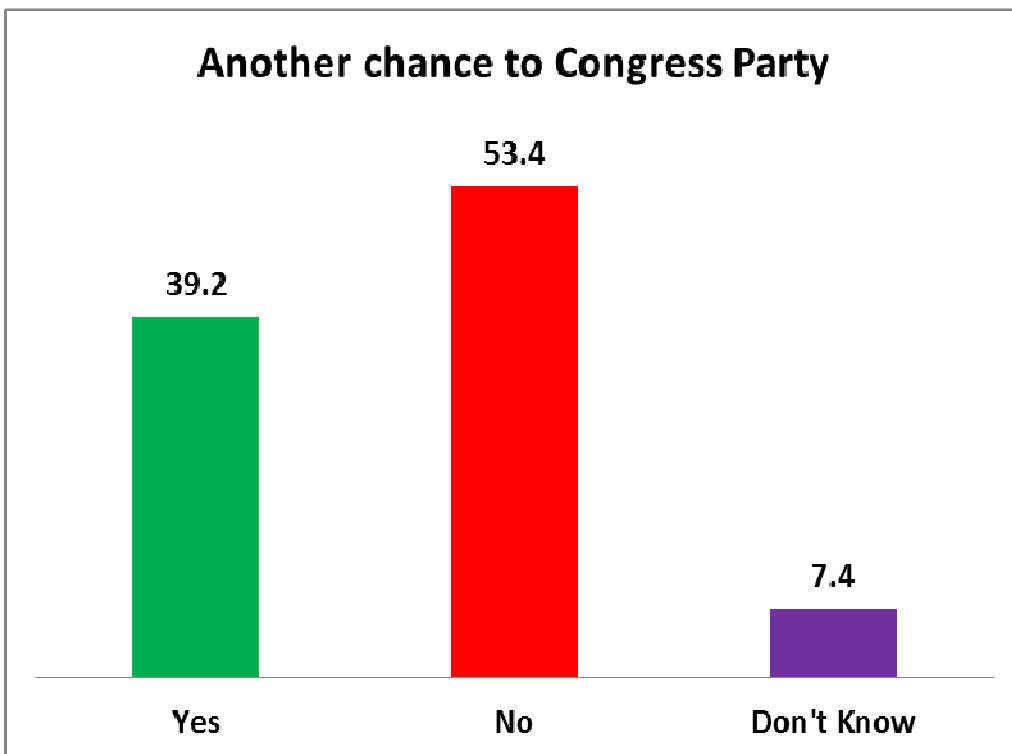
Issue	Percentage
Unemployment	28.3
Price Rise	21.5
MSP	16.1
Development of the state	12.4
Corruption	7.9
Demonetization / GST	5.8
Education	2.2
Electricity	1.6
Others	4.2





Do you think the present Congress Party can be given another chance?

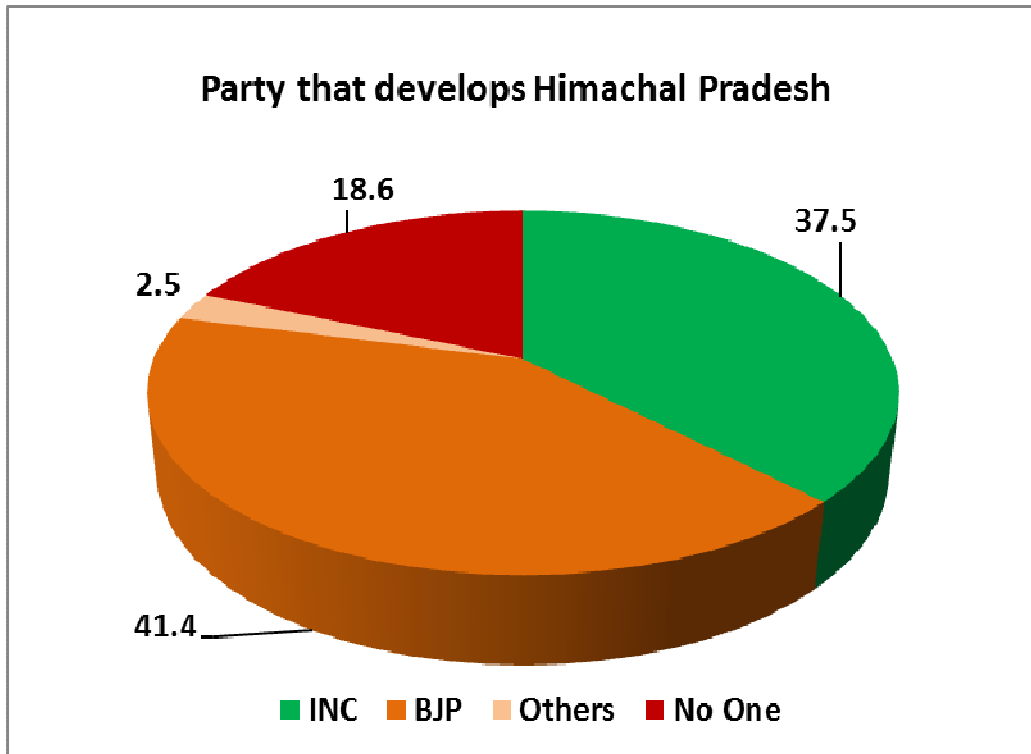
Response	Percentage
Yes	39.2
No	53.4
Don't Know	7.4





Which party is better for the development of Himachal Pradesh?

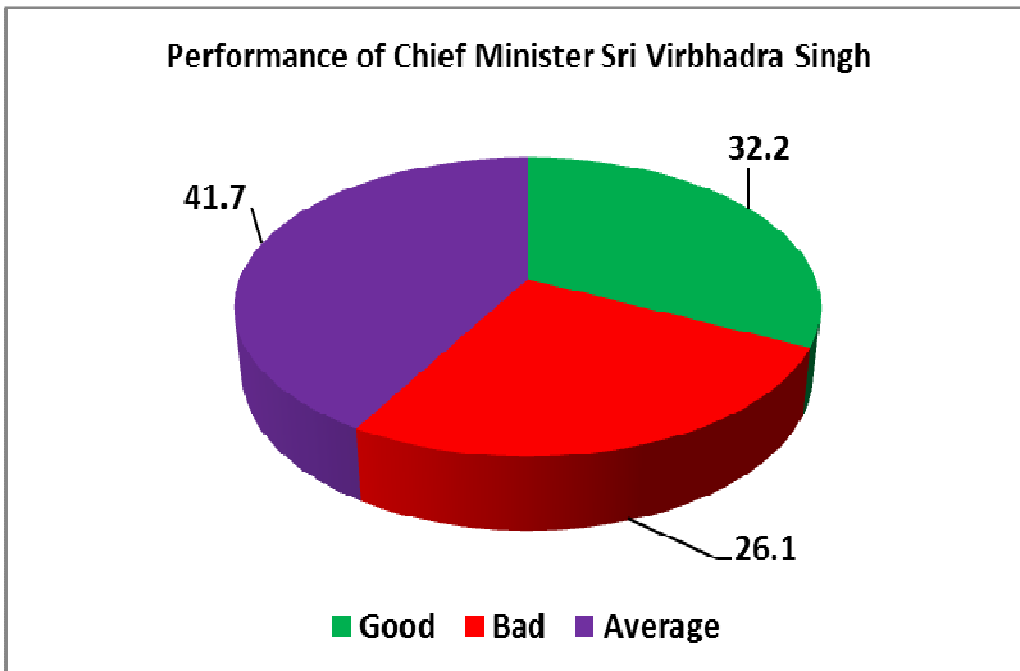
Party	Percentage
INC	37.5
BJP	41.4
Others	2.5
No One	18.6





Rate the performance of Chief Minister Sri Virbhadra Singh?

Rating	Percentage
Good	32.2
Bad	26.1
Average	41.7





Whom do you prefer as Next CM of Himachal Pradesh?

Name	Percentage
Sri Prem Kumar Dhumal	34.0
Sri Virbadra Singh	33.0
Sri J.P. Nadda	13.8
Sri Shantha Kumar	8.1
Sri Anurag Thakur	6.3
Sri Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu	4.8

