

BAGHEL COMING BACK...

Congress Comfortably Placed
in CHHATTISGARH



PEOPLES PULSE

an ear to the ground



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CHHATTISGARH
POST POLL SURVEY – 2023
(20th – 26th November – 2023)



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CHHATTISGARH
PRE - POLL SURVEY – 2023

Sample Size: 3060

Methodology

TOTAL SAMPLE	– 3060
NUMBER OF ASSMEBLY SEGMENTS	– 45
TOTAL POLLING STATIONS	– 180

Note: 15-20 Samples from each Polling station

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Baghel Coming Back

Congress Likely to Come Back to Power.... BJP Improves Performance in Chhattisgarh

The Chhattisgarh Assembly Elections 2023 threw no surprise even till the end. The ruling Congress was being projected as being ahead in the political contest in almost all pre-poll surveys and the situation continued till the polling day. Here are some of the factors that worked in the state till the polling day:

Competitive Welfarism: Both Congress and BJP engaged in a competitive welfarism model in the state. BVP- which had denounced social welfare policies as freebies or *Muft Ki Rewdi* earlier tried to outsmart the Congress in its welfare announcements. Promises like higher procurement price for paddy, Rs 1000 per woman per month grant to women voters were made by BJP in the state in its election manifesto. However, Congress played one step ahead in this game and announced higher paddy procurement prices and more per month grant to women than the BJP. The most important announcement of Congress was a 2018 like loan waiver which got immense traction among the voters and for which BJP did not make a counter promise.

Lack of Opposition Narrative: The main opposition party BJP failed to create a state wide narrative against the incumbent Congress government. Its previous campaigns around religious conversion, allegations of liquor scam or scam in PSC etc failed to pick up steam. Lastly, the BJP contested the election over the slogan- *Au Nahin Sahibo, Badal ke Rahibo* but it could not create a state wide narrative.

INC's Pro-poor policies and sub-regionalism: On the other hand, INC did succeed in creating a state wide narrative around its pro-poor policies like paddy procurement, loan waiver, free electricity, govt run Atman and schools for quality education etc. It further succeeded in creating a Chhattisgarhiya sub-nationalism which celebrates OBC-SC-ST leadership and local icons-festivals-foods. This put the BJP on back foot as most of its leaders in the state are upper castes.

Weakness of other parties: Chhattisgarh witnessed a tight bi-polar contest this time and none of the regional parties like JCC, BSP or newly floated Hamar Raj Party failed to make much impact. Barring the BSP, which may get 0 to 2 seats this time, none of the regional parties succeeded in creating even any micro impact and none of them is expected to win a single seat.

BJP's seat by seat strategy and Congress weakness in Surguja Division:

What helped BJP in improving its tally this time was the weakness of Congress in Surguja division and its focus on individual seats where it had a good chance. For example, in 2018, BJP scored a 0 out of 14 seats in the Surguja division but this time it is likely to get 5 to 6 seats in the region for sure. The main reasons for this are the bad ticket choices of Congress (e.g. in Ramanujganj, Samri, Baikunthpur and Manendragarh), anti incumbency against incumbent MLAs (e.g. Sitapur MLA and Minister Amarjit Bhagat), and good ticket choices/campaign by BJP on seats like Lundra and Sitapur.

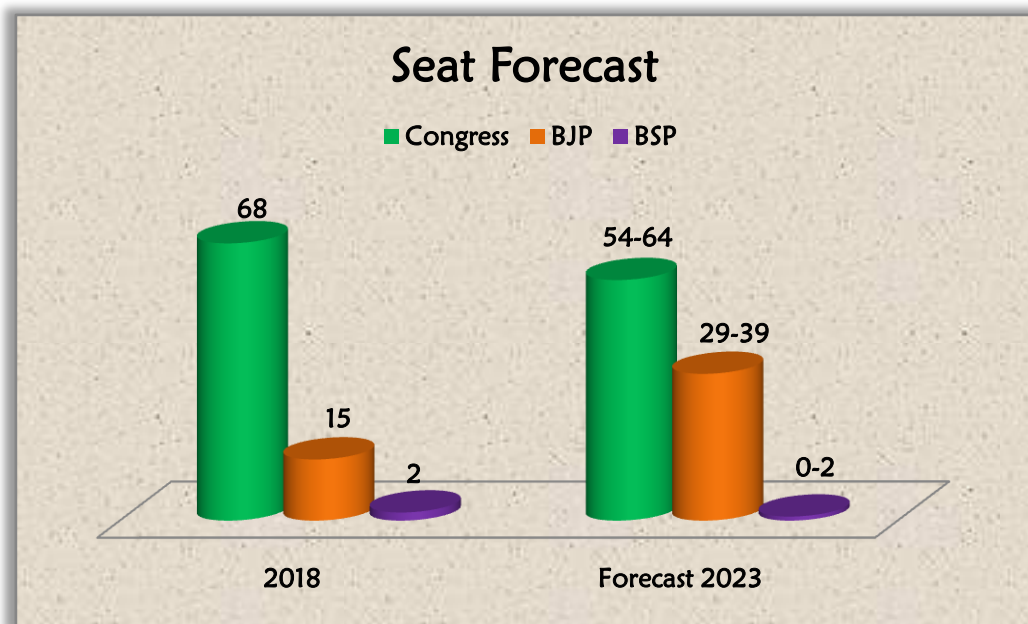
Decreasing influence of Maoism: A welcome change in this election was the decreasing influence of Maoists in the state. Prior to 2013, the Maoists succeeded in orchestrating the Jhiram massacre which wiped out a sizabale chunk on Chhattisgarh Congress' leadership. Even in 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the Maoists blew up Dantewada BJP MLA Bhima Mandawi. However, this time the incidents of Maoist violence were quite few and good polling was reported in areas which used to witness complete vote boycott in the Bastar.



Chhattisgarh Assembly Elections – 2023

Seat Forecast

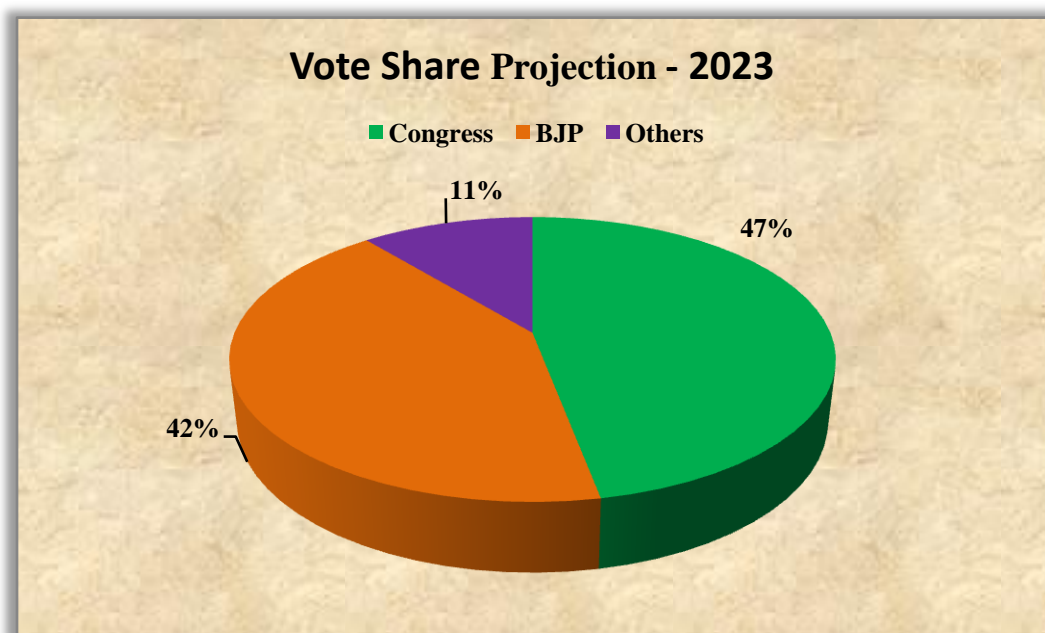
Parties	2018	Forecast 2023	Range
Congress	68	59	54 to 64
BJP	15	36	29 to 39
BSP	2	1	0 to 2



Chhatisghargh Assembly Elections - 2023

Vote Share Projection

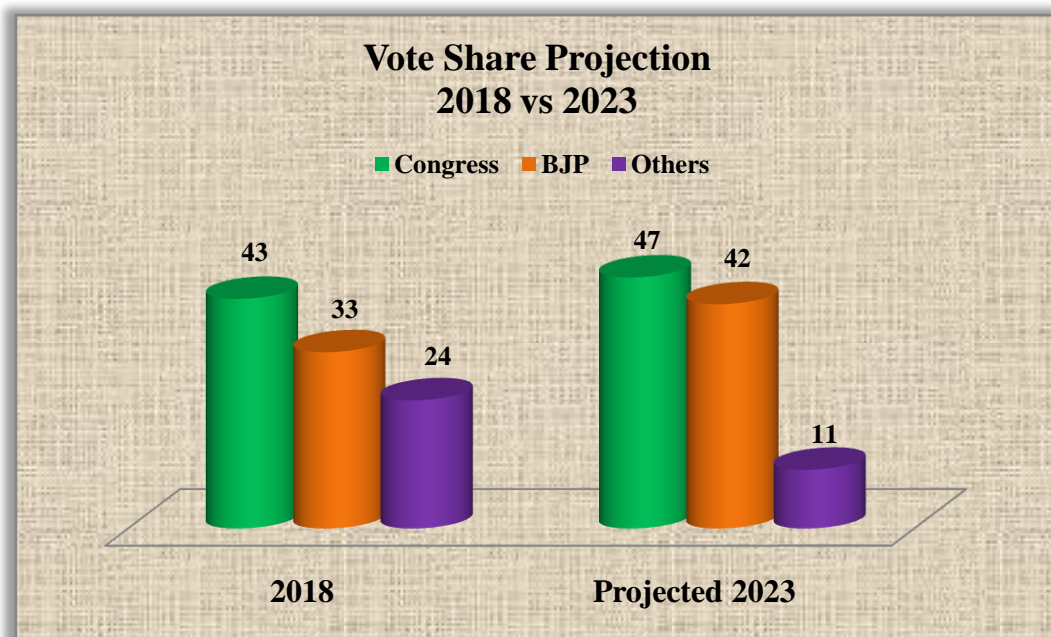
Parties	2018	Projected 2023	Swing (+/-)
Congress	43%	47%	+4 %
BJP	33%	42%	+ 9 %
Others	24%	11%	-13 %



Note: Margin of Error Plus or Minus Three Percent



Vote Share Projection 2018 Vs 2023





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