

Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections May 2016: What Voters want and how they rate Government Performance

A survey of over 16,000 respondents was done in every constituency of Tamil Nadu ending in February 2016. This is the largest survey done so far in the State. The purpose of the survey is to find out what voters really want from the Government and how they rate the performance on the issues that are important to them. In later Press releases we will send constituency wise information. The survey was done by the Association for Democratic reforms (ADR), a non-political organization that works all over India to help improve elections and democracy.

FOR CHENNAI

Voter Priorities:

When asked for their top three priorities, they said that Traffic Congestion, Water and Air Pollution and Noise Pollution were the top priorities. The Table below gives the percentage of people who said that the issue was one of the top three priorities for them. So 48.08% of voters said that Traffic Congestion was one of the top three priorities for them, 34.84% of voters said that for Water and Air Pollution, and 33.73% for Noise Pollution. Clearly they show that issues of traffic and pollution are the top priorities for them. About 83% of voters gave one of these three as their top priority.

Row Labels	% voters
Traffic congestion	48.08%
Water and Air pollution	34.84%
Noise pollution	33.73%
Better employment opportunities	21.97%
Lower food prices for consumers	20.85%
Facility for cyclists and pedestrians on roads	17.95%
Training for jobs	12.87%
Empowerment of women and security	11.32%
Mining/Quarrying	10.52%
Better law and order/Policing	10.46%

Better employment opportunities, lower food prices and facility for cyclists and pedestrians were also among the top priorities.

It is also interesting to note what issues were not priorities for them. For instance reservation for jobs, education, terrorism, strong military, corruption, were not top priorities.

Performance Rating of Government

Among the worst rated performance was on Traffic Congestion and Pollution. These unfortunately are among the top 3 priorities for the people. There were a total of 25 issues for which they gave priorities and then rated Government's performance. Thus for the top three priorities, Traffic Congestion was ranked 24th and Noise Pollution was ranked 21st out of 25, Better Employment Opportunities 12th, and Drinking Water 23rd. So high priority issues for voters had very bad performance.

Rural Performance	Score	Rank	% of Voters
Better hospital/Primary health care centres	2.58	17	19.56%
Drinking water	1.69	23	11.64%
others (Specify)	2.99	13	25.67%
Facility for cyclists and pedestrians on roads	1.45	25	9.73%
Better employment opportunities	3.05	12	35.11%
Traffic congestion	1.60	24	7.35%
Better law and order/Policing	3.15	11	21.28%
Mining/Quarrying	2.52	18	8.40%
Agriculture subsidy for seeds & fertilisers	1.85	22	7.82%
Noise pollution	2.16	21	7.54%

Conclusions

If voters expect good performance from the Government, they are likely to be disappointed. In democracy as played out today, one party has to merely defeat the other party, not necessarily deliver good governance. To win they seem to resort to freebies for voters rather than deliver good governance. The full list of priorities and performance for Chennai Voters is given in the Appendices.

Appendix 1: Voter Priorities

S.No.	Issue	% Voter
1	Traffic congestion	48.08%
2	Water and Air pollution	34.84%
3	Noise pollution	33.73%
4	Better employment opportunities	21.97%
5	Lower food prices for consumers	20.85%
6	Facility for cyclists and pedestrians on roads	17.95%
7	Training for jobs	12.87%
8	Empowerment of women and security	11.32%
9	Mining/Quarrying	10.52%
10	Better law and order/Policing	10.46%
11	Better public transport	9.41%
12	School education	8.35%
13	Electricity for domestic use	8.23%
14	Better hospital/Primary health care centres	8.04%
15	Encroachment of public land lakes etc	7.98%
16	Subsidised food distribution/ration	6.99%
17	Drinking water	6.19%
18	Better roads	6.00%
19	Better garbage cleanace	4.15%
20	Eradication of corruption	3.90%
21	Agriculture subsidy for seeds & fertilisers	3.71%
22	Availability of water for agriculture	3.59%
23	Terrorism	1.36%

Appendix 2: Performance

Issue	Score	Rank	% of Voters
Water and Air pollution	5.00	1	2.86%
Training for jobs	5.00	2	1.15%
Strong Defence/Military	4.19	3	11.26%
Terrorism	4.12	4	19.47%
School education	3.99	5	8.11%
Better public transport	3.79	6	19.08%
Subsidized food distribution/ration	3.71	7	12.31%
Reservation for jobs and education	3.39	8	7.25%
Empowerment of women and security	3.26	9	11.07%
Better roads	3.18	10	13.84%
Better law and order/Policing	3.15	11	21.28%
Better employment opportunities	3.05	12	35.11%
others (Specify)	2.99	13	25.67%
Better garbage clearance	2.95	14	8.30%
Electricity for domestic use	2.91	15	10.40%
Eradication of corruption	2.87	16	8.68%
Better hospital/Primary health care centres	2.58	17	19.56%
Mining/Quarrying	2.52	18	8.40%
Lower food prices for consumers	2.51	19	7.35%
Encroachment of public land lakes etc.	2.40	20	4.77%
Noise pollution	2.16	21	7.54%
Agriculture subsidy for seeds & fertilizers	1.85	22	7.82%
Drinking water	1.69	23	11.64%
Traffic congestion	1.60	24	7.35%
Facility for cyclists and pedestrians on roads	1.45	25	9.73%

Contacts

Association for Democratic Reforms

<p>Media and Journalist Helpline</p> <p>+91 80103 94248 Email: adr@adrindia.org</p>	<p>Maj Gen Anil Verma (Retd.) Head National Election Watch, Association for Democratic Reforms 011 4165 4200, +91 88264 79910</p>	<p>Prof Jagdeep Chhokar IIM Ahmedabad (Retd.) Founder Member, National Election Watch, Association for Democratic Reforms +91 99996 20944 jchhokar@gmail.com</p>	<p>Prof Trilochan Sastry IIM Bangalore Founder Member, National Election Watch, Association for Democratic Reforms +91 94483 53285 trilochans@iimb.ernet.in</p>
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