

**THE SECRET BEHIND THE TRIUMPH OF TMC IN BENGAL:
A PSEPHOLOGICAL APPROACH**

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Abstract

In the West Bengal Assembly Election, 2021 TMC has ensured the unprecedented victory. There are various reasons which influenced the electoral mandate. Through the ground-level observation and statistical analysis of electoral results, some significant factors have been noticed which remarkably paves the way for a new understanding of Indian polity.

An in-depth policy discussion, psychological connotation and several pragmatic factors which impacted the West Bengal Assembly Election, in particular, are being placed here, simultaneously a vivid description of regional impact, national issues like NRC, CAA have been discussed in the greater perspective of Indian democracy and polity.

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Introduction

To understand the unprecedented victory of Trinamool Congress (TMC) in the West Bengal Assembly Election, 2021 we have to deeply study the various reasons which played the significant role in the pre-poll and poll during the election. One of the major causes we can explore that the ruling government has successfully reached the common people those who have directly benefited from the government. They have been able to enjoy the various government projects like *Kannyashree*, *Sabuj Sathi*, *Ruposhree*, *Swastha Sathai*, *Duare Sarkar*, etc. So, a large number of people in Bengal have a soft corner towards the present government. And it is the Bengali mentality that generally they do not try to alter or change any things unless and until a great threat is there. So, from that perspective in the last 10 years, they are not threatened by any incident or which may irritate them. Nevertheless, they were not influenced by the opposition party like Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and others. Another significant matter has been noticed that the BJP and other opposition parties were found only during the election or just before the election. They did not continue any ground-level work throughout the year; rather only before the election, they tried to divide the people only in religious line. Generally, the Bengali people were not ready to accept this type of fanatical activities done by these ultra-right wings parties. Apart from these, no suitable leadership from the side of BJP can be trusted, instead of this, the people of Bengal have witnessed the unscientific, reckless, and uncontextual speech and comments delivered by the top level of BJP state leaders. Simultaneously it should be noted here that there is a lack of prominent Bengal leadership on the part of BJP, all time the people have seen the face of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and other top leaders of BJP those who have come from the outside of the state. Naturally, there was a psychological gap between those leaders and the people of Bengal. This could be fulfilled if there were leaders from the Bengal people. The BJP has failed to generate the Bengali leaders while they wish to conquer the kingdom of Bengal. For changing the government a multilayered preparation is needed where the support from all sections of people is very important, in this case, the BJP has failed to draw the intellectual support as well as massive support from civil society. In the largest democracy like India, the diversified factors should be given equal importance, the politics based on religion cannot be a substantial source of winning a political battle for a long time. The success of voting not only depends on the propaganda based on social media or organizing some political rally, a vote-catching mechanism is required at the grassroots level which was completely absent from the part of BJP. It seems that there are huge supporters of BJP but practically there is a lack of ground-level workers who

can catch the voters or motivate the voters during pole or immediately before the poll. So, what we can explore in a democracy mass mobilization is an essential factor for the success of electoral victory but here, on the part of BJP, no mass mobilization was there. Another significant factor may reveal through the analysis of the post result electoral statistics we can see the Trinamool Congress has won its seats only where a significant proportion of Muslim voters are there.

After the declaration of result, it has been highly clear that even in the 2021 election Muslim minority vote has played a crucial role behind the vivid success of Trinamool Congress. There were so many pre-poll factors that mobilize the Muslim minority people and as a consequence of that, they were in huge tension and anxiety. One of the major reason is that the negative impact of NRC, they were highly worried about the devastating consequences of NRC, they have witnessed the countrywide protest, agitation against the implementation of NRC, not only that they were afraid of the upcoming danger of BJP while they used to listen to the aggressive speech delivered by the various BJP leaders. It posed a challenge in their day-to-day lives while despite having the scope of casting vote in favor of the Indian Secular Front (ISF) led by Abbas Siddiqui they cast vote in favour of TMC. Being a religious leader during the pre-poll campaign he earned huge political support and enthusiasm from their supporters but ultimately it was not materialized in EVM. We cannot deny the crucial fact that a sense of insecurity, apprehension of immediate cultural danger made the minority people more suspicious which promoted them to become much more conscious and while they cast their vote in favor of the existing ruling government. It is not at all a surprising fact that if we critically analyze the major winning seats of TMC it will be revealed that they easily secured the seats consisting of highly Muslim populated areas. In the West Bengal Assembly, 294 seats are there, out of which the election was held for 292 seats. The party-wise election result can be understood from the following table (Table.1).

Table.1: Party wise result division

Party wise Result		
Result status for 292 out of 292 constituency		
Name of Political Party	Seats won	% of Seats won
All India Trinamool Congress (AITMC)	213	72.95
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	77	26.37
Rashtriya Secular Majlis Party	1	0.34
Independent	1	0.34
Total	292	100

Source: results.eci.gov.in

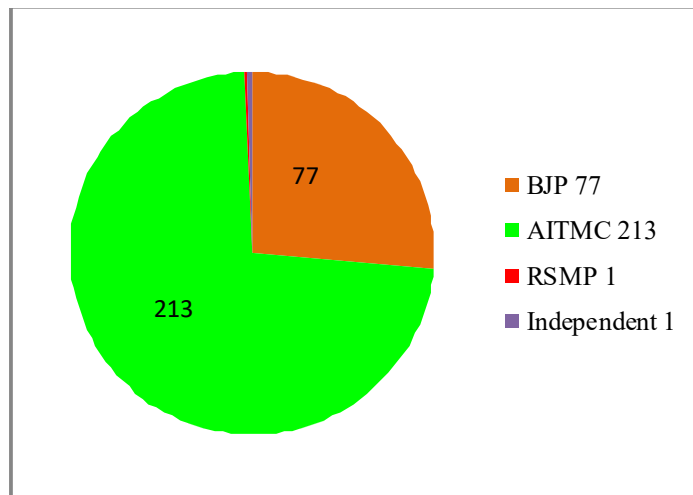


Figure-1: Party wise result division

From the above table, we see the TMC has successfully managed 213 seats out of 292 which are almost 73 % in respect of total seats. Though, there are few seats where the margin is very low. In Dinhata constituency Mr. Udayan Guha of TMC was defeated by Nisith Pramanik of BJP only by 57 votes. Interestingly it is also shown that the average winning margin of BJP is lower than their defeating margin. The total vote share of different parties has been shown in the following table (Table.2).

Table-2: Vote share of the political parties

Name of Political Party	% of vote share	Name of Political Party	% of vote share
TMC	47.94	CPI (ML)(L)	0.03
BJP	38.13	AIMIM	0.02
CPIM	4.73	JD(U)	0.02
INC	2.93	LJP	0.01
AIFB	0.53	NPEP	0.01
BSP	0.39	IUML	0.00
RSP	0.21	NOTA	1.08
CPI	0.20	ISF	1.35
AJSUP	0.10	Others	3.66

Source: results.eci.gov.in

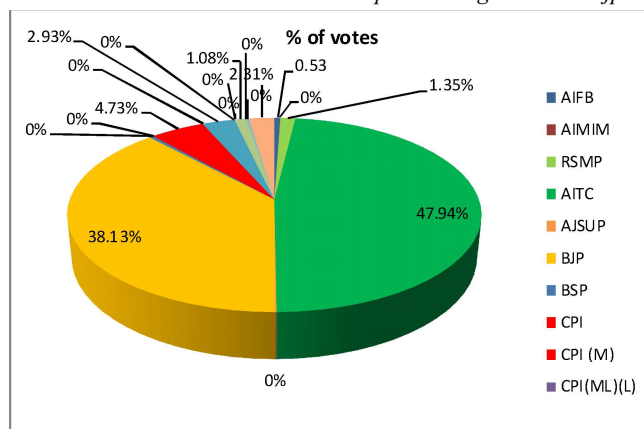


Figure-2: Vote share of the political parties

The above table shows that TMC has secured 47.94% votes whereas the BJP has managed 38.13 % votes and the difference between these two contesting opposition parties is 9.8%. If we examine the result of a particular seat where the Chief Minister contested against Suwendu Adhikari, significantly Suwendu Adhikari won the election in that seat. It was the incident of Nandigram, in this constituency what we have noticed that despite the dynamic image of Mamata Banerjee she defeated. It is the only reason; Suwendu Adhikari and his party were capable to mobilize the people at large. As they concentrated only on this seat, they applied the entire vote-catching mechanism whatever we have mentioned. Here, the BJP's ground-level workers have successfully managed the voters during the poll. It is one of the important mechanisms for mobilizing the voters even on the day of the poll. This was not possible for BJP throughout the Bengal. In the following table, a detailed result analysis of the Nandigram Constituency has been shown.

Table-3: Analysis of Nandigram Result

Nandigram Assembly Constituency				
Result status				
Sl.No.	Name	Party	Total Votes	% of Votes
1	Suwendu Adhikari	Bharatiya Janata Party	110764	48.49
2	Mamata Banerjee	All India Trinamool Congress	108808	47.64
3	Minakshi Mukherjee	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	6267	2.74
4	Swapan Parua	Independent	776	0.34
5	Sk. Saddam Hossain	Independent	313	0.14
6	Manoj Kumar Das	Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist)	240	0.11
7	Dipak Kumar Gayen	Independent	74	0.03
8	Subrata Bose	Independent	73	0.03
9	NOTA	None of the above	1090	0.48
	Total		228405	100

Source: results.eci.gov.in

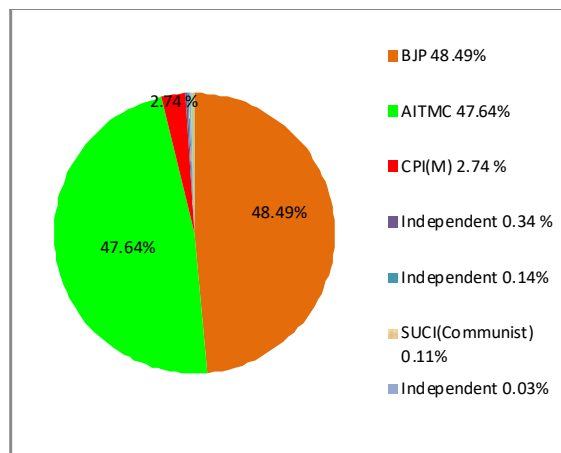


Figure-3: Analysis of Nandigram Result

From this table (Table.3) it is noticed that the winning candidate Suwendu Adhikari of BJP has got 48.9% vote, though his margin from Mamata Banerjee, the chief of TMC is very low, it has been possible only due to active vote catching mechanism at the grass-root level. The voting percentage is comparatively high in this constituency and the voters were influenced in the line of BJP. The BJP under the leadership of Suwendu Adhikari has been able to concentrate here and as a consequence, they have managed the seat despite the overwhelming majority of TMC in Bengal. However, so many factors that we have analyzed are important here, it varies from constituency to constituency. The minority Muslim also played a decisive role in many seats; they rejected the religious appeal of the Rashtriya Secular Majlis Party (popularly known as ISF). But this is the first time in Bengal the minority Muslims showed their voice under the aegis of Abbas Siddiki led ISF. As India is a diversified country consisting of multi-culture, language and religion so for the promotion of communal harmony, unity and integrity of the country and protecting the cultural heritage of the country the varied opinion, values should be given proper importance. In no situation violence can be supported, critics and critical thought always should be welcomed. Now it is expected that TMC should observe the *Rajdharm* and BJP should play the role of constructive opposition.

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