



KERALA STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2021

Post Poll Survey - Final Report

June - 2021

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I. INTRODUCTION

The state of Kerala has always been more or less a political anomaly in India. The electoral battle of Kerala has revolved around two traditional pre-poll alliances; the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Indian National Congress (INC)-led United Democratic Front (UDF), for the last four decades. From the first election to the State Assembly in 1957, when it elected a Communist Party into power, to the fact that no political party has ever achieved majority in the house single-handedly, except for the first government, Kerala's political landscape is unlike any other state in the country.

In the early 1980s, Kerala witnessed an important development in its political sphere with the formation of two major pre-poll alliances, the LDF and the UDF, from the then-prevailing political conditions. Ever since, Kerala has had alternate power shuffles between these alliances every term. At present, the major political parties in LDF are CPI(M), CPI, KC(M), NCP, INL and JD(S) among others. The UDF consists of INC, IUML, JD(U), KC(Joseph) and RSP. This is the 14th State Assembly after the formation of Kerala in 1956. In the previous election to the assembly in 2016, the LDF had won 91 out of 140 seats, while the UDF was limited to 47 seats. The BJP opened its account for the first time with a lone MLA from the Nemom assembly constituency. The total voter turnout was 77.53%, where the LDF received 43.48%, the UDF received 38.81% and the NDA got 14.96% of the polled votes.

The evolution of the BJP-led NDA into a visible third front in Kerala politics happened over the last 10 years. The alliance was able to consolidate more than 14% of the polled votes in the last three elections (Legislative Assembly, Lok Sabha [LS] and Local Self Governments [LSG]). It is now trying to gain ground in uncharted territories, thus challenging the traditional bipolar nature of Kerala politics. The peculiar way in which the electorate votes in different elections is an intersecting subject that needs to be studied upon. The UDF alliance that swept the 2019 LS polls lost a few sitting seats in the state by-elections and recorded a below-par performance in the LSG elections. This is in sharp contrast to the state's general trend of voting against the incumbent. An analysis of the Kerala assembly elections over the past two decades substantiates this general behaviour of the state's electorate to oust the incumbent government.

The vote shares of the two major political fronts from 1996 to 2016 are as follows:

Year	Vote share (Number of seats)		Total votes polled
	LDF	UDF	
1996	45.88% (80)	44.84% (59)	71.16%
2001	43.70% (40)	49.05% (99)	72.47%
2006	48.63% (98)	42.98% (42)	72.08%
2011	44.94% (68)	45.83% (72)	74.92%
2016	43.48% (91)	38.81% (47)	77.53%

The data gives a clear picture of the polarised nature of the electorate and the swing votes that change allegiance every five years, which results in the change of government. With the rise of the NDA under Narendra Modi in the centre, the state also witnessed an increase in vote share for the BJP and its allies, garnering over 14% of the polled votes in all the elections that occurred after 2014. The impact of NDA's growth is visible from the decrease in vote share of both the LDF and the UDF, and the state is on its way to become a multipolar political battleground.

This study aims to understand the political narrative prevailing in the state and the various factors that affect the voting pattern of the electorate. The caste/religion dynamics, which plays a major role in elections, is to be accounted for and its impact is to be analysed. This study also aims to understand the public perception on various controversies and allegations against the government and rate the performance of the government in various fields such as education, health, governance, crisis management etc. A comparison between the voting patterns in the assembly elections of 2016 and 2021 based on various factors such as gender, caste, income etc. is also included in the scope of the study.

II. METHODOLOGY

The method of data collection was an on-field survey conducted in selected Legislative Assembly Constituencies (LAC) across the state. The surveys were conducted from April 10, 2021 to April 20, 2021 among 2,700 voters at 56 polling booths spread across 14 assembly constituencies (Figure). A multistage random sampling was adopted to select the constituencies and thereafter four polling booths were selected from each constituency using the same method.

Within each polling booth 50 voters were randomly sampled, taking the size to 200 samples per constituency. The voters' interviews were conducted in person at their homes after the elections. The list of polling booths used was as per January 20, 2021. However, only 2,700 responses could be collected due to a surge in COVID-19 cases towards the second half of April. Hence, the team could survey only three booths in

Palakkad and Tripunithura constituencies. A review of the dataset was undertaken and invalid responses were eliminated from the study. The final dataset consisted of 2,695 responses from 14 constituencies of Kerala. The constituencies and their respective districts are as per the figures given below.

When the survey was designed and the field visits kickstarted, the reported cases of COVID-19 was quite low. As the survey progressed, there was a sudden leap in cases reported. In order to ensure the safety of the field workers as well as the respondents, instructions were given to follow the COVID protocols. The constituencies and districts covered and the samples collected in percentage of the total number of samples from each district and constituency are as given in the figures below.

Figure 1: LACs Covered and Sample Size as Percentage of Total Samples

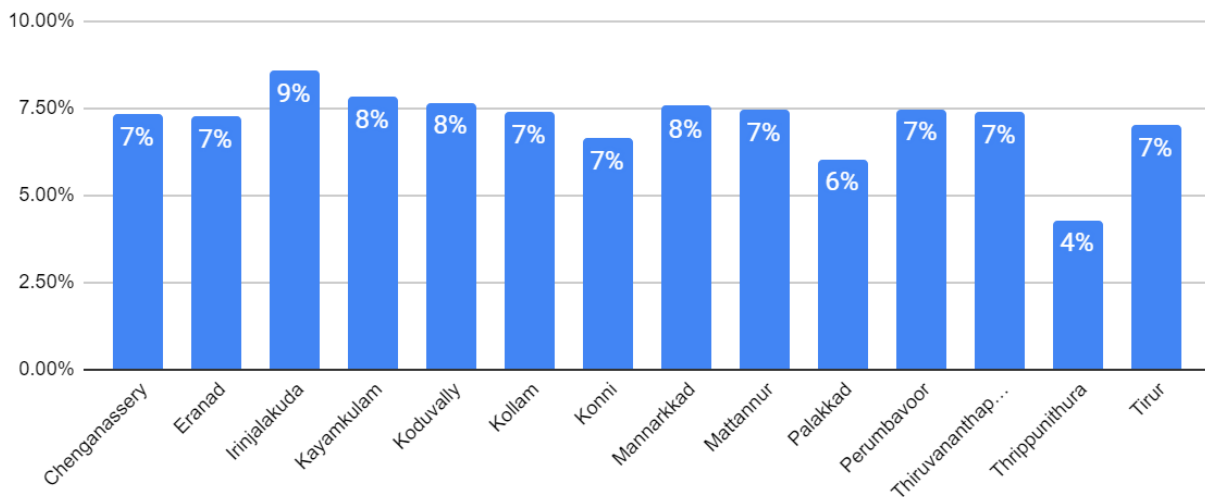
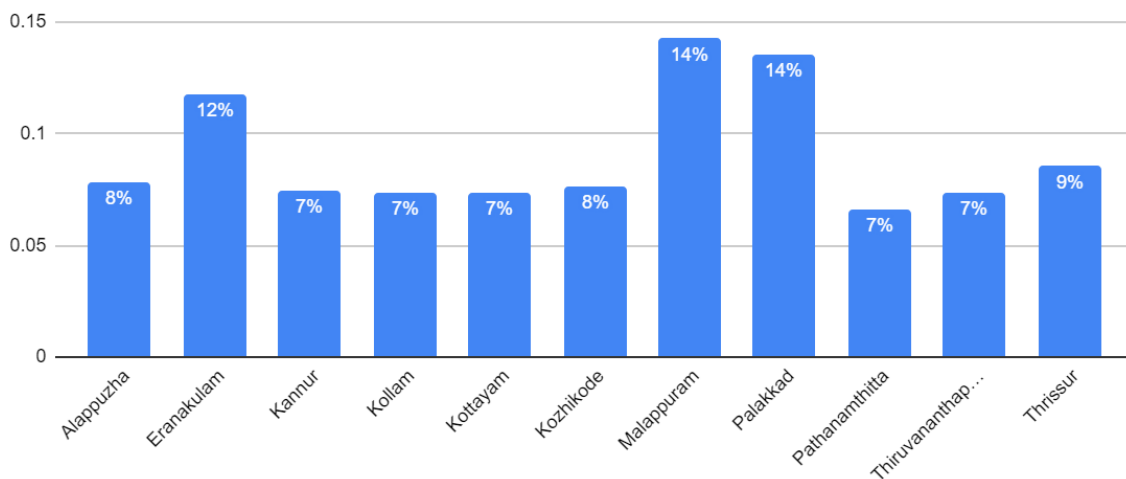


Figure 2: Districts Covered and Sample Size as Percentage of Total Samples



III. DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

A. General Statistics of Respondents

Out of the total 2,695 respondents, 65% were male and 34% were female. Gender was not mentioned in the case of 1% of the respondents (Figure 3). The higher number of male respondents compared to female respondents, contradictory to the state's sex ratio, is mostly because of the reluctance shown by women to participate in the survey. In terms of age, 33% of the respondents were between the age group of 31 and 40, 25% were between 18 and 30, 22% were between 41 and 50, 13% were between 51 and 60, and the remaining 7% were above 60 years of age (Figure 4).

Figure 3: Gender of Respondents

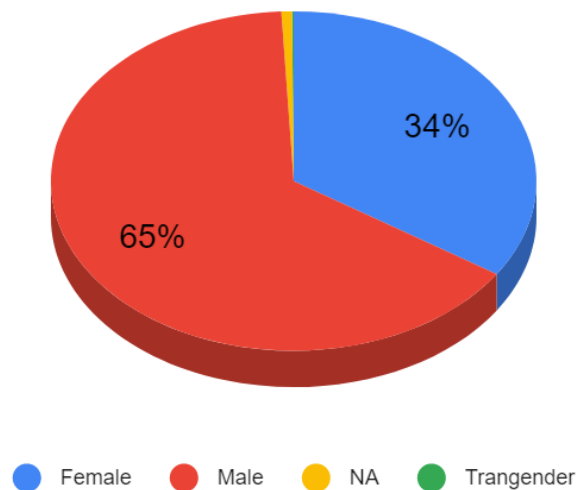
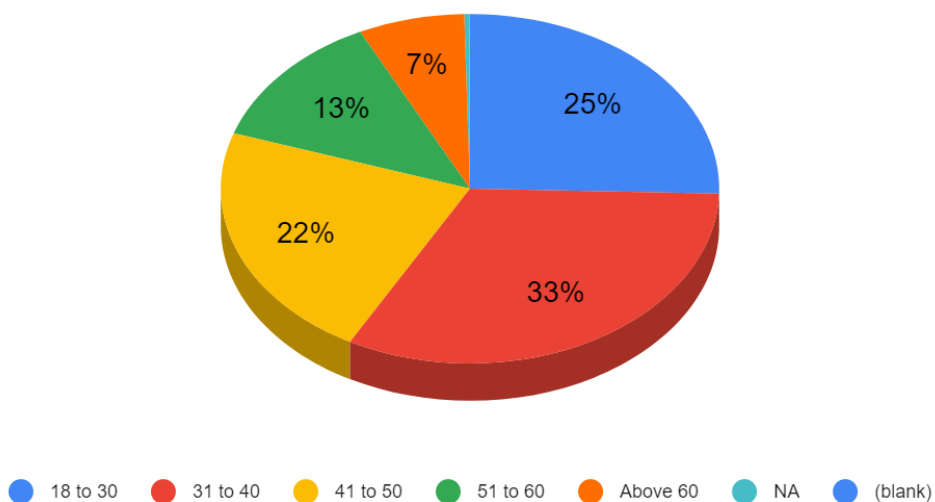


Figure 4: Age of Respondents



Among the respondents, 35% held a bachelor's degree, while 34% had qualifications lesser than a degree. About 19% of the respondents had not passed the Kerala state board exams (SSLC) and 7% held an advanced degree, like a master's or doctorate (Figure 5). The remaining 5% consisted of those who had passed diploma-level courses and those who were reluctant to divulge their educational qualification. In the case of employment status, 58% of the respondents were employed (Figure 6).

Figure 5: Educational Qualification of Respondents

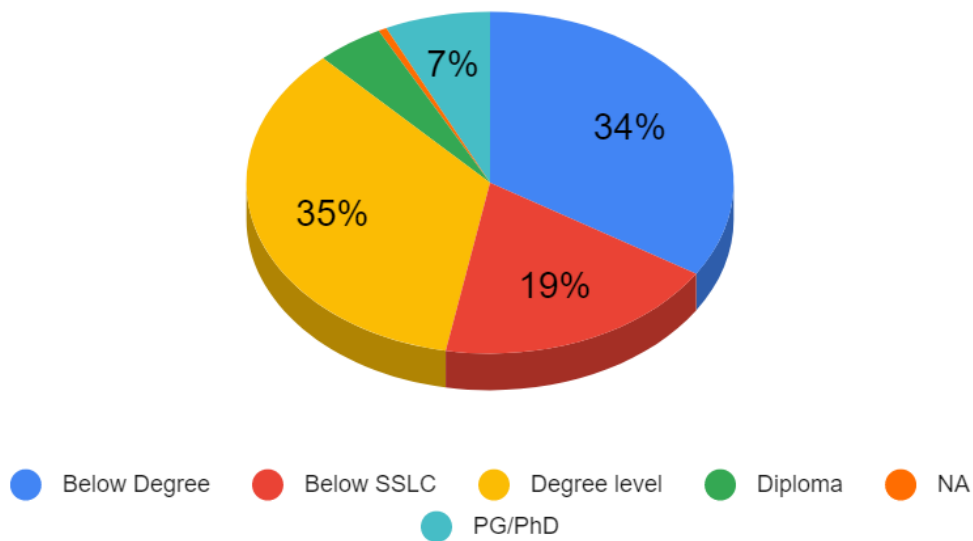
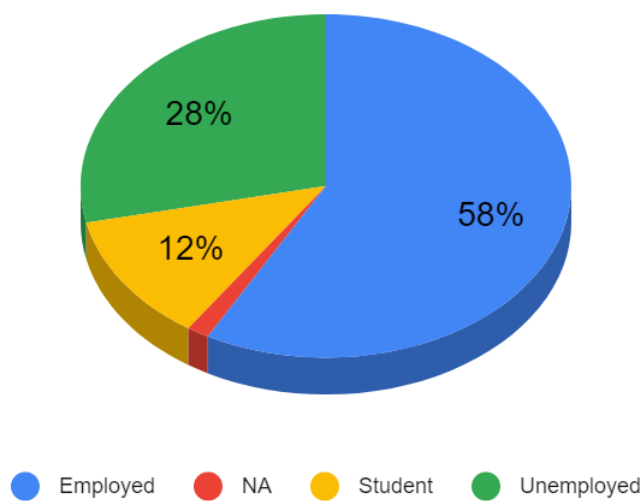


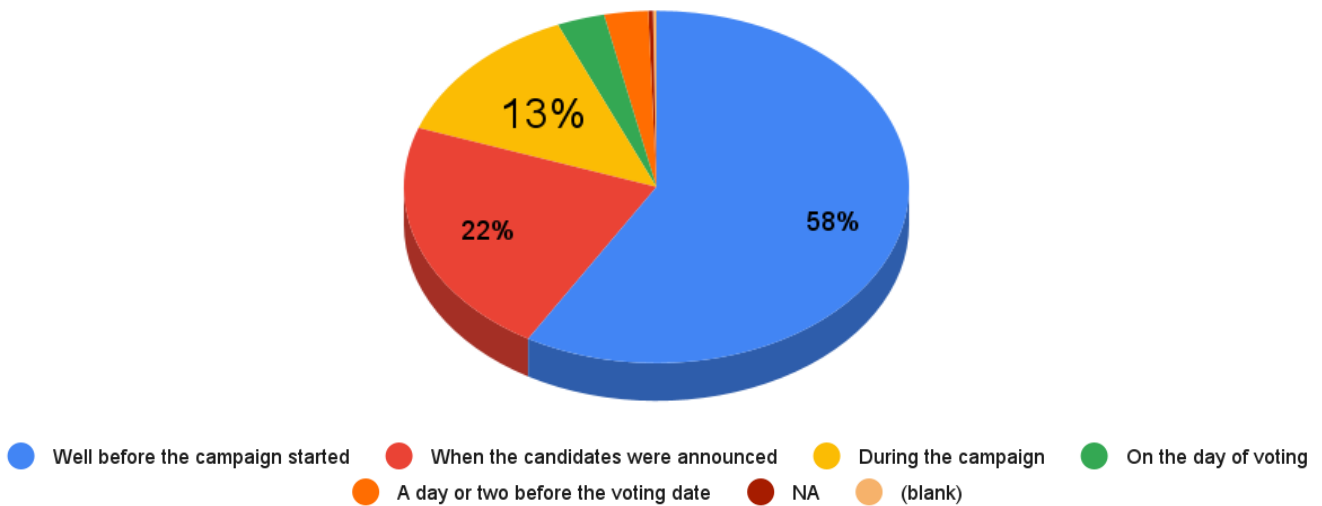
Figure 6: Employment Status of Respondents



B. Major Findings from the Study

a. When did you decide for whom to vote?

Figure 7: When did you Decide for whom to Vote?



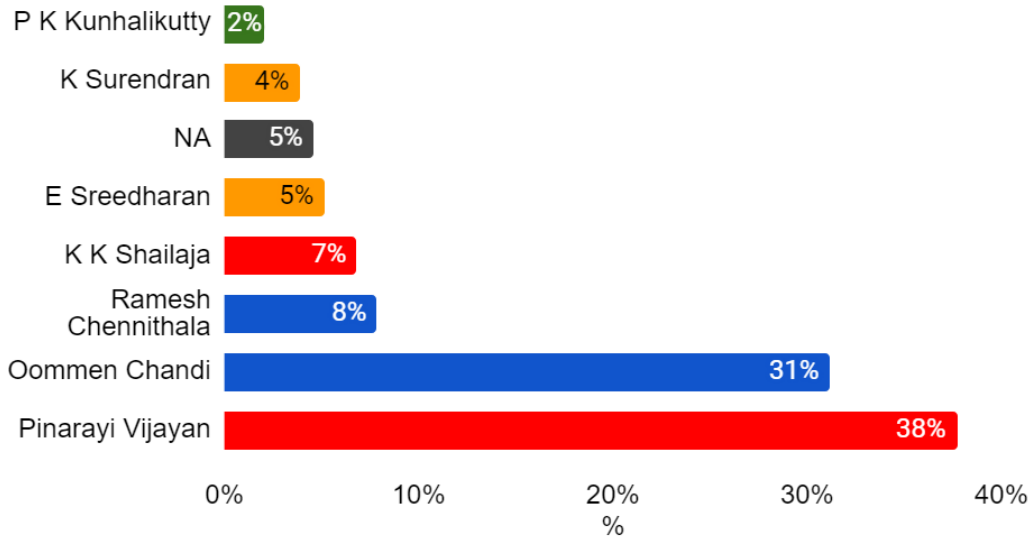
Election campaigns did not seem to influence voters as a majority of them form the traditional support base of either of the political parties and decide for whom to vote in advance. Nearly 58% of the voters had made up their mind well before the campaign started, while 22% made up their mind when the candidates were announced. Only 13% of the voters made up their mind during the campaign, followed by 3% each on the day of polling or a day or two before the polling date. This substantiates the claim of Kerala being a highly politically polarised state.

Moreover, 85% of the respondents said that they were not influenced by any of the people mentioned below:

- Father/Mother
- Husband/Wife
- Any community leader

b. Whom do you want as the next Chief Minister?

Figure 8: CM Preference

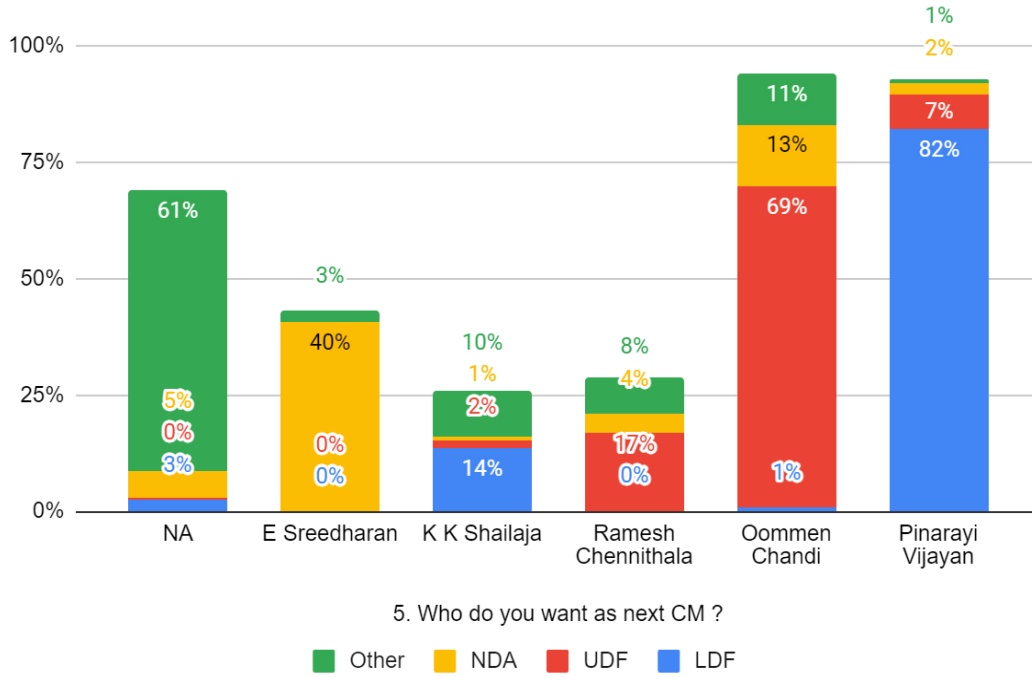


The respondents chose Pinarayi Vijayan and Oommen Chandi as the main contenders to the Chief Minister (CM) post. While 38% chose incumbent Pinarayi Vijayan, 31% chose former CM Oommen Chandi. The LDF government’s performance during crises and the strong-man image of Pinarayi Vijayan might have led to his huge popularity but Oommen Chandi’s popularity among the respondents is remarkable, as he was not even the leader of opposition.

c. CM preference based on party voted for

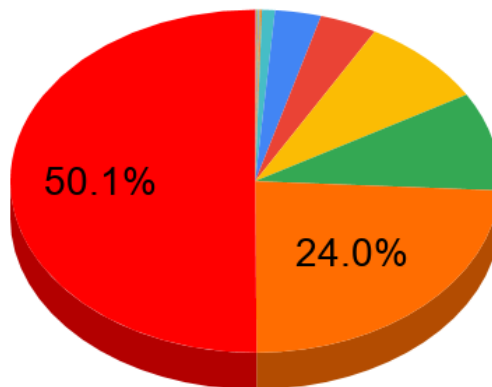
It is interesting to note that while 82% of the LDF voters wanted Pinarayi Vijayan to be CM, 7% of the UDF voters and 2% of the respondents who voted for the NDA also chose Pinarayi Vijayan. About 69% of the UDF voters, 13% of the NDA voters, 11% of the respondents who voted for none of these fronts and 1% of those who voted for the LDF wanted Oommen Chandy to be the next CM. NDA’s celebrity candidate E Sreedharan was favoured by 40% of the NDA voters.

Figure 9: CM Preference vs. Political Preference



d. What mattered the most while deciding for whom to vote?

Figure 10: What Mattered the Most while Deciding for whom to Vote?

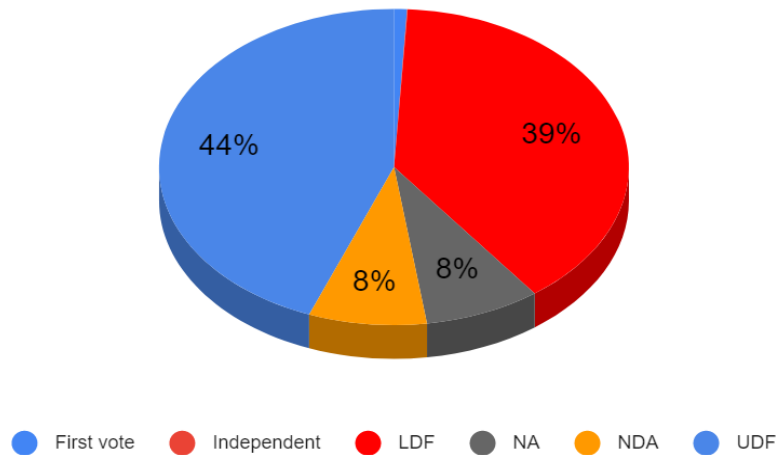


- Alternative
- Any party Not in favour of people
- Corruption, lack of accountability and responsibility from government
- Development activities
- didnt have another option.
- Friendship with candidate
- If Congress is voted out of power it will boost BJP's chances in future
- Injustice against minorities
- Narendra modi
- Not good
- By checking what they had done to the society
- NA
- Performance of the UDF in opposition
- Manifesto by the fronts & Pamphlets issued by the candidate
- Chief Minister Candidate
- Performance of the LDF govt
- MLA candidate
- Party

This particular finding again substantiates the polarised nature of the electorate of Kerala, as 50.1% of the respondents stated party as the determining factor while deciding for whom to vote. This was followed by factors like MLA candidate (24%), performance of the LDF government (9%) and CM candidate (8%).

e. Which party/front did you vote for in the 2016 assembly elections?

Figure 11: Voting Preference in 2016 Assembly Elections



Out of the total 2,695 respondents, 44% of them voted for the UDF and 39% voted for the LDF in the 2016 assembly elections. When compared to the voting preference in 2021 elections, this marks a visible shift in favour of the LDF (Figure 7).

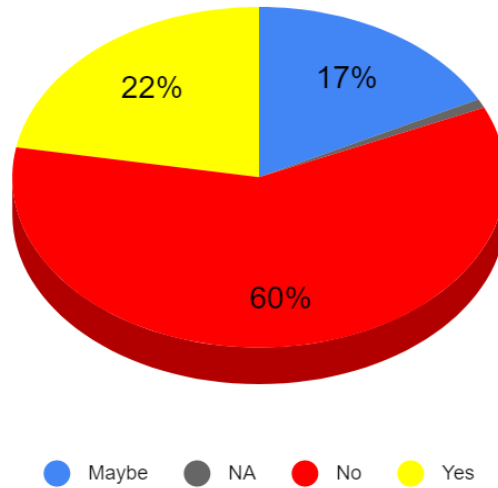
f. What is your most preferred source of election news?

Television and newspapers (24%) were the most preferred source of election news. Television alone was the main source of election news for 14% of the voters. About 19% of the voters used all the sources of election news, which includes television, newspapers, radio, online news portals and social media.

g. Did ‘channel discussions’ influence your choice to vote?

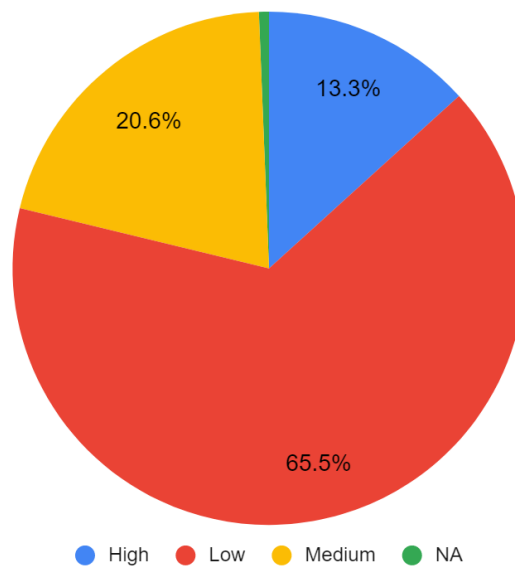
The high-octane primetime discussions did not influence the electorate or voting choices, as per 60% of the respondents. The trend is the same for those who preferred different fronts — the LDF, the UDF and the NDA. Meanwhile 22% of the respondents said that channel discussions had an impact and 17% of them mentioned that it might have influenced people’s voting preferences.

Figure 12: Influence of Channel Discussions



h. Did measures like free food kits, free COVID-19 treatment, welfare pensions etc. have an impact on the elections?

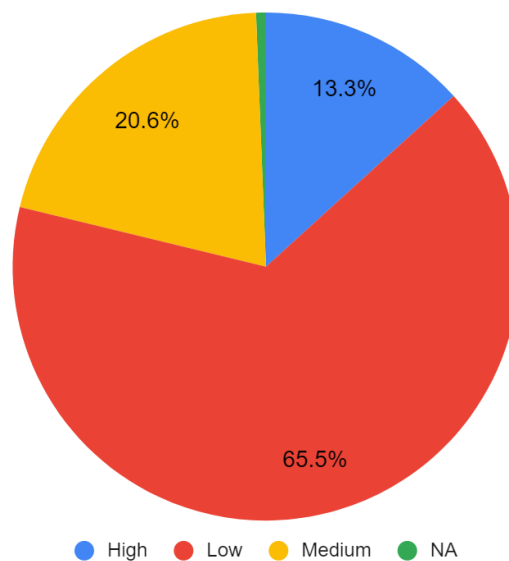
Figure 13: Influence of Welfare Measures



Five of 10 voters believed that welfare measures like free food kits, free Covid-19 treatment, welfare pensions etc. had an impact on the elections. While two of 10 voters believed there was no impact, the same number of voters thought these measures might have had an impact on the voters. Hence, it can be inferred that the welfare measures adopted by the LDF government, such as the provision of free food kits, timely disbursement of welfare pensions and free COVID-19 treatment, had a positive impact on the voters and helped it secure a second term.

i. What do you think is the winnability of the BJP/NDA in the upcoming elections?

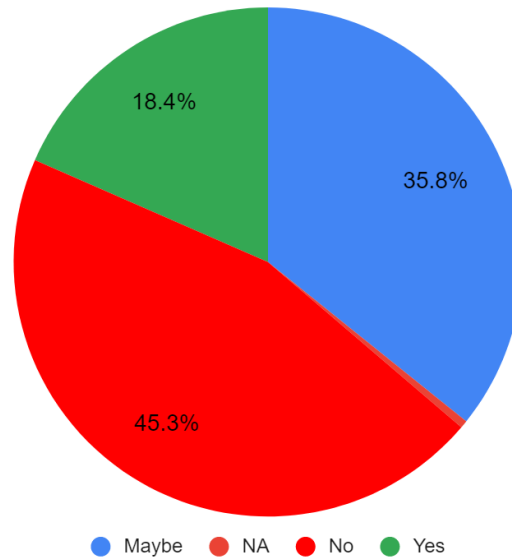
Figure 14: Winnability of BJP/NDA



The winnability of the BJP/NDA in Kerala seems to be low, as 65.5% of the respondents said that its chance for victory is slim. About 13.3% of the respondents considered its chance of winning the elections as high, which states that the front/party has a long way to go to become a political power in the state.

j. Did the BJP improve its chances by fielding celebrity candidates like E Sreedharan and Suresh Gopi?

Figure 15: Candidature of Celebrities and their Influence



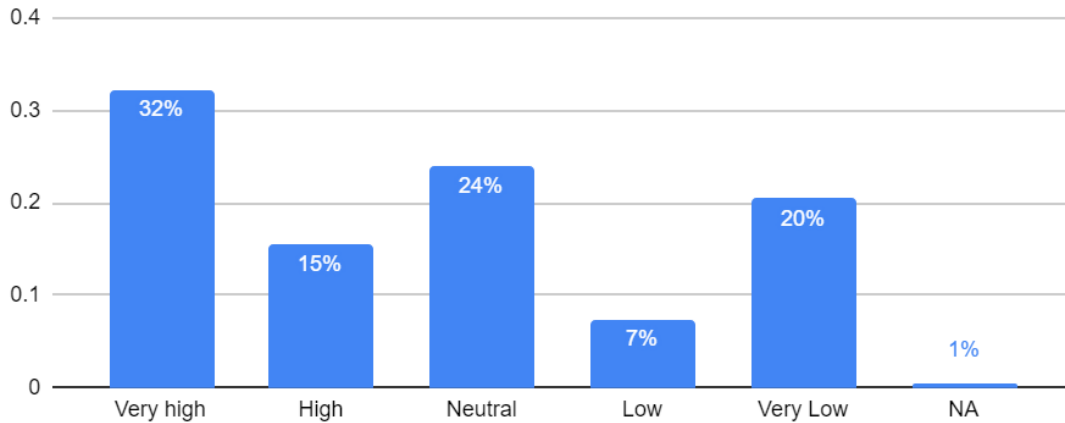
The candidature of renowned technocrat E Sreedharan and film actor Suresh Gopi was the talking point of this election, considering their celebrity status and public image. The BJP/NDA was hoping to make an impact in the assembly elections by placing celebrity candidates. However, as stated by 45.3% of the respondents, such candidatures did not have an impact on the elections as a whole. It should be also noted that E Sreedharan and Suresh Gopi were able to garner more votes than other BJP/NDA candidates in the previous election in their respective LACs.

C. Public Perception of Allegations and Controversies

Some of the major allegations against the incumbent government and related controversies were provided to the respondents to gauge their perception of these issues and to analyse whether these will have an impact on the prospects of the LDF government. The issues and the responses with respect to the issues are as follows.

a. Impact of controversy related to women’s entry in Sabarimala

Figure 16: Women’s Entry in Sabarimala



About 32% of the respondents said that the Supreme Court verdict in connection with women’s entry in Sabarimala and related controversies had a very high impact on the elections. Meanwhile, 15% of the respondents said that it had a high impact and 24% remained neutral to the question. About 7% of the respondents believed that it had a low impact and the rest 20% said it had a very low impact on the elections.

b. Impact of allegations of backdoor entry into public employment

About 34.9% and 18.4% of the respondents considered backdoor entry into public employment (PSC: Public Service Commission) as an issue of very high and high impact, respectively, on the elections,. Meanwhile, 17.1% of the respondents considered it as an issue of very low impact and 8.2% considered it as an issue of low impact.

Figure 17: PSC Backdoor Entry

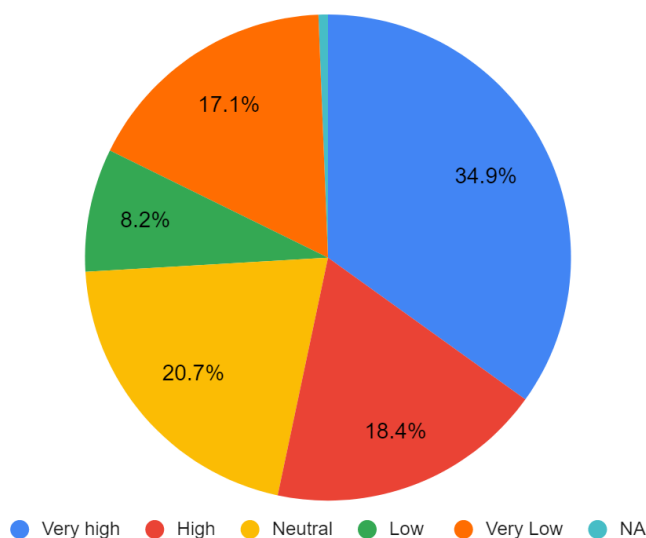
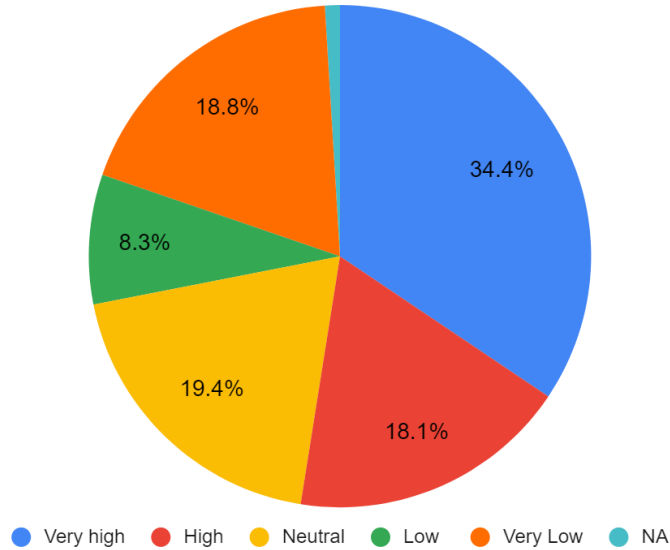


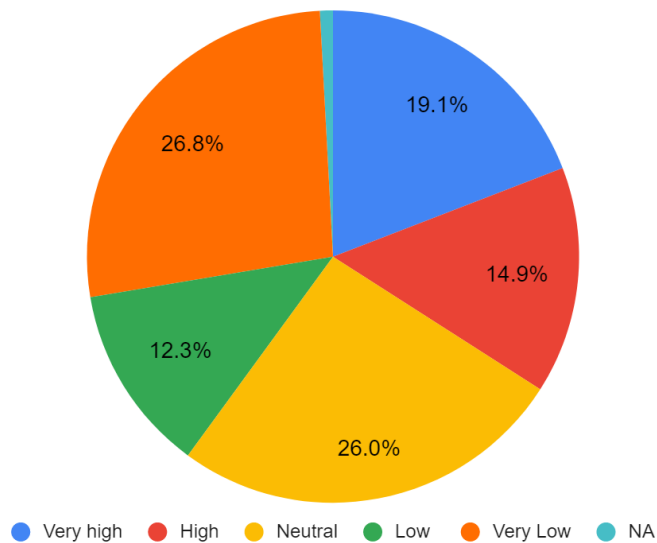
Figure 18: Gold Smuggling Scam



c. Impact of gold smuggling case and related allegations

Nearly 34.4% and 18.1% of the respondents said that the gold smuggling case had a very high and high impact, respectively, on the elections. Meanwhile, 18.18% of the respondents considered it as an issue of very low impact and 8.3% considered it as an issue of low impact.

Figure 19: Deep Sea Trawling Allegation



d. Impact of controversy related to deep sea trawling

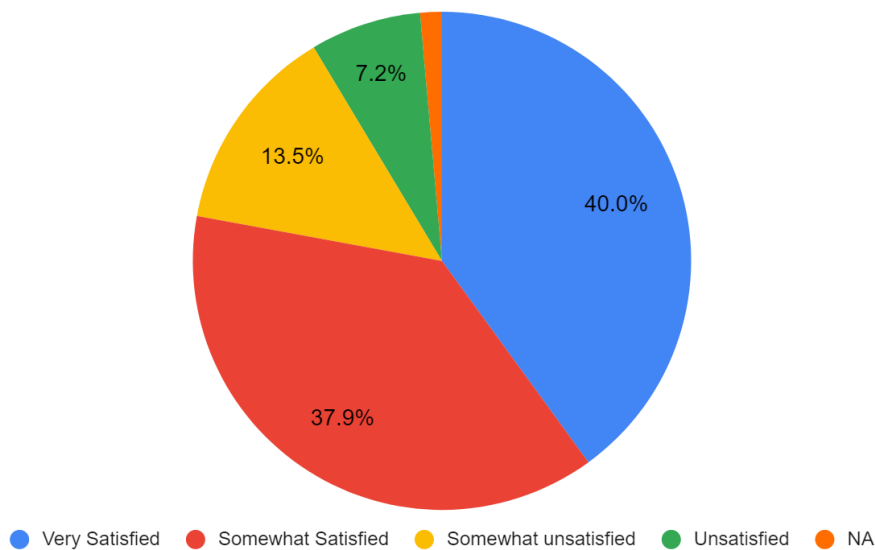
About 19.1% of the respondents were of the opinion that the allegations related to deep sea trawling, which surfaced during the months before the elections, will have a very high impact on the elections and 14.9% said that it will have a high impact on the elections. On the other hand, 26.8% and 12.3% of the respondents rated the allegation as an issue of very low impact and low impact, respectively.

D. Rating the Government’s Performance in Various Sectors

The satisfaction level with the incumbent LDF government among the people seems to be high, as over 60% of the respondents were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the government’s performance in the fields of education, housing, road/infrastructure, governance/crisis management and health. The performance of the government in the health sector seems to be the most appreciated, as 56.5% of the respondents considered it as very satisfying. This is followed by governance/crisis management with 42.3% rating it as a very satisfying performance. The government’s handling of two consecutive floods, the Nipah outbreak and, finally, the COVID-19 outbreak might have led to this opinion.

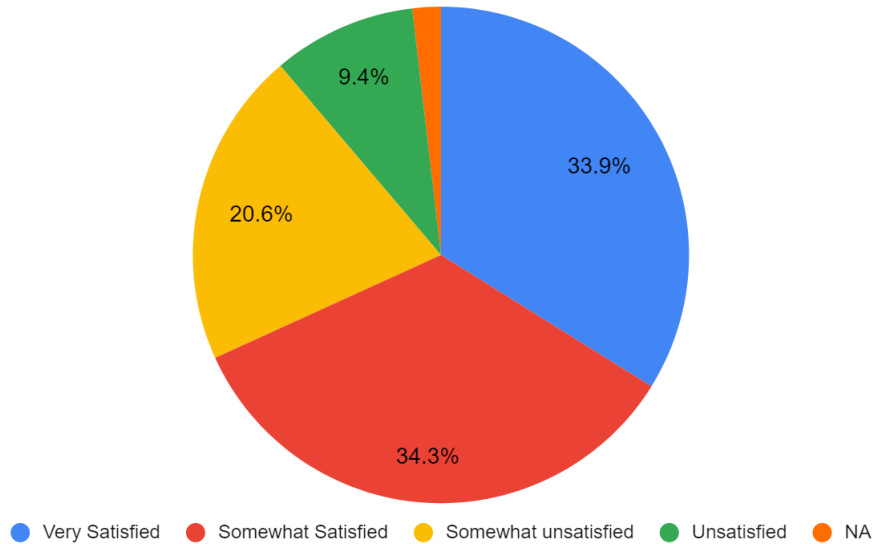
a. Education

Figure 20: Rating for Education Sector



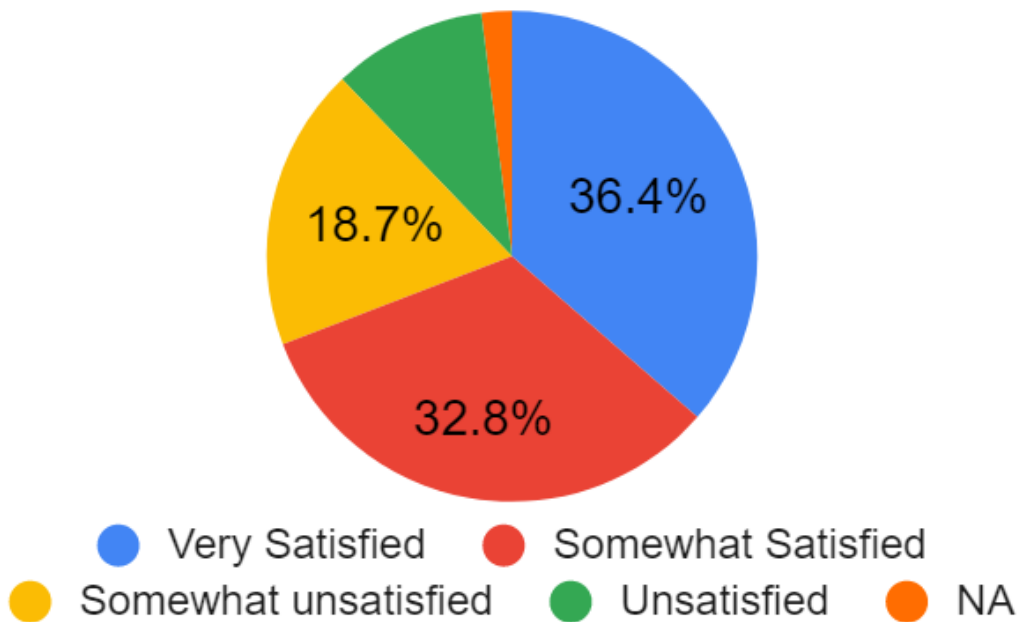
b. Housing

Figure 21: Rating for Housing Sector



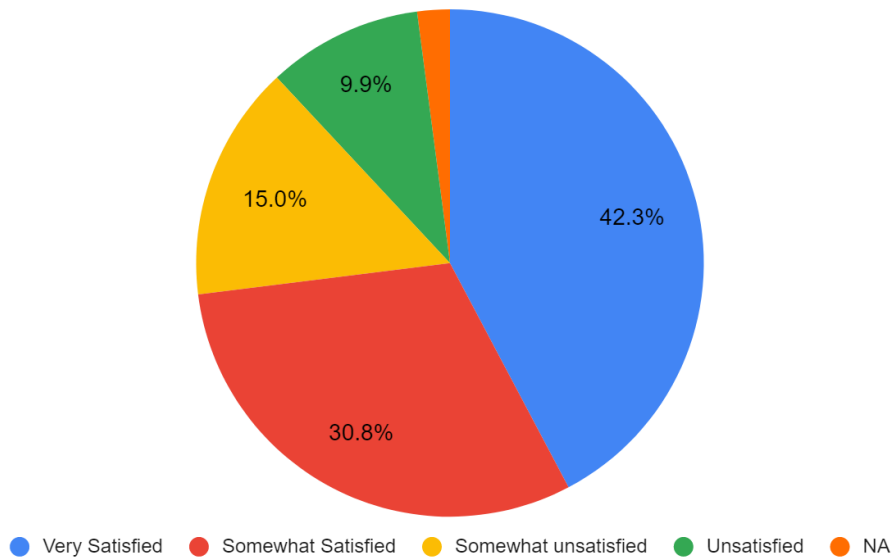
c. Road/Infrastructure

Figure 22: Rating for Road/Infrastructure



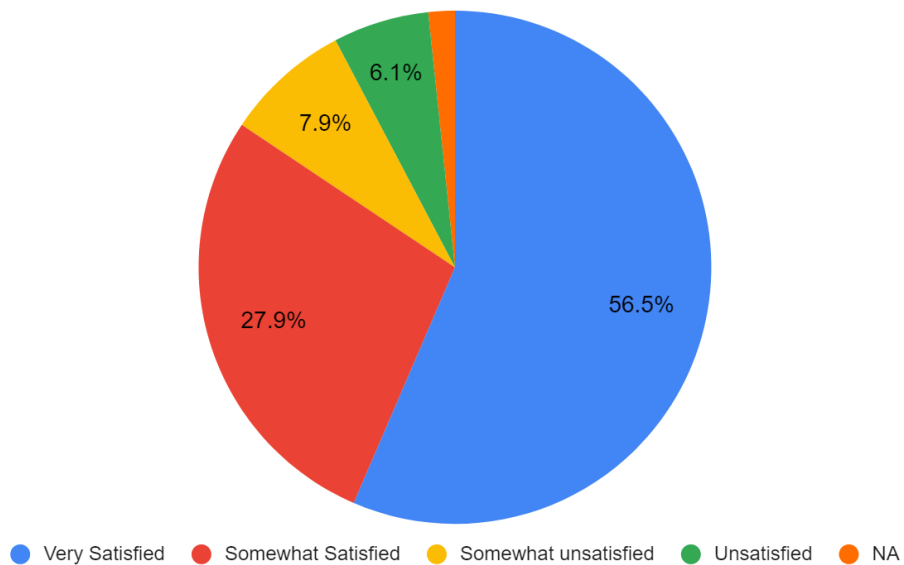
d. Governance/Crisis management

Figure 23: Rating for Governance/Crisis Management



e. Health

Figure 24: Rating for Health Sector

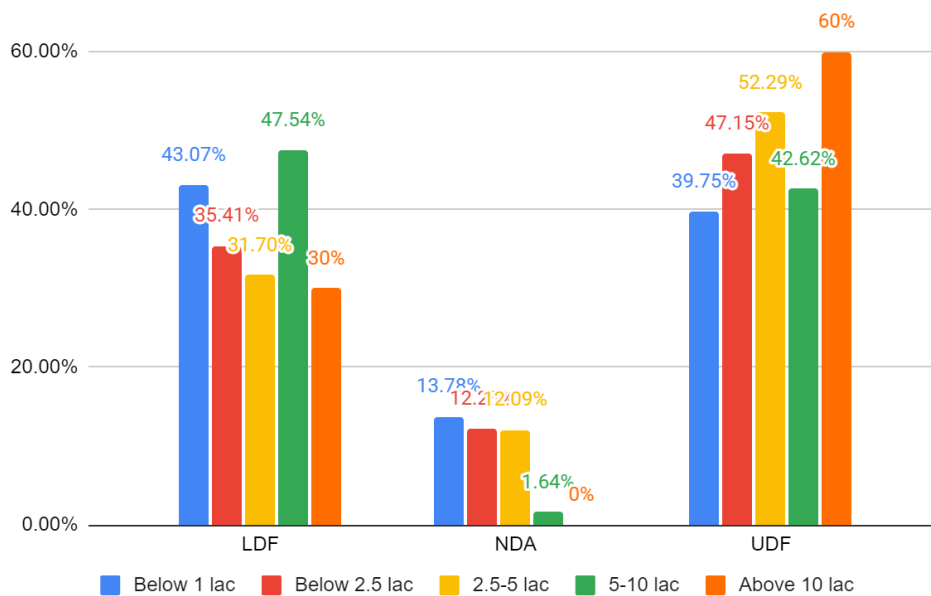


E. Voting Pattern Based on Socio-economic Variables

a. Income vs. party preference

An analysis of the responses make it clear that the political preference of the basic income groups, i.e. below 2.5 lakhs per year, is equally distributed between the two major political fronts — the LDF and the UDF. While 43.07% of the group with income below 1 lakh voted for the LDF, 39.75% cast their votes for the UDF.

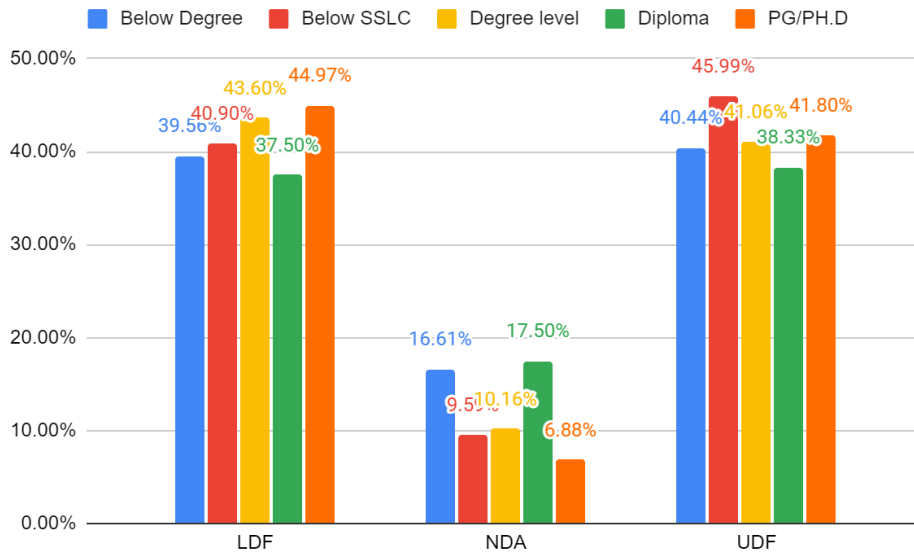
Figure 25: Political Preference based on Income



b. Educational qualification vs. party preference

The case with political preference based on educational qualification is the same as that based on income. An increased allegiance towards any political front based on the educational qualification of the respondents could not be figured out from the data collected.

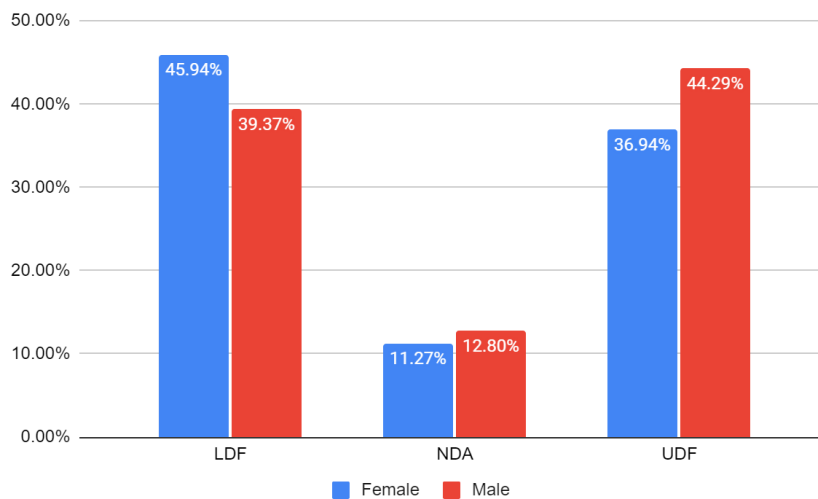
Figure 26: Political Preference based on Educational Qualification



F. Gender Analysis

a. Gender vs. party preference

Figure 27: Political Preference based on Gender

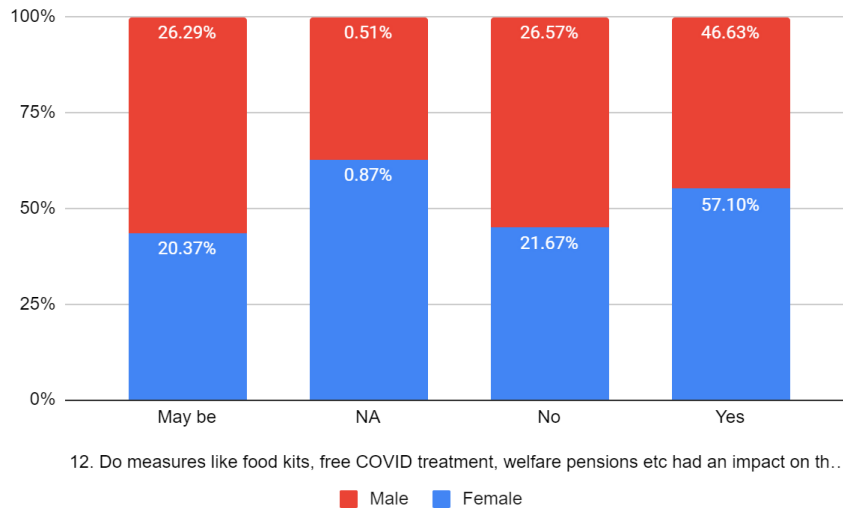


Evidently, the female respondents preferred the LDF over the UDF and the NDA in the 2021 assembly elections, as 45.94% of them voted for the LDF, while 36.94% voted for the UDF and 11.27% voted for the NDA. In the case of male voters, the

political preference seems to be the opposite, as 44.29% of the respondents voted for the UDF, while 39.37% voted for the LDF and 12.80% voted for the NDA.

b. Impact of welfare measures based on gender

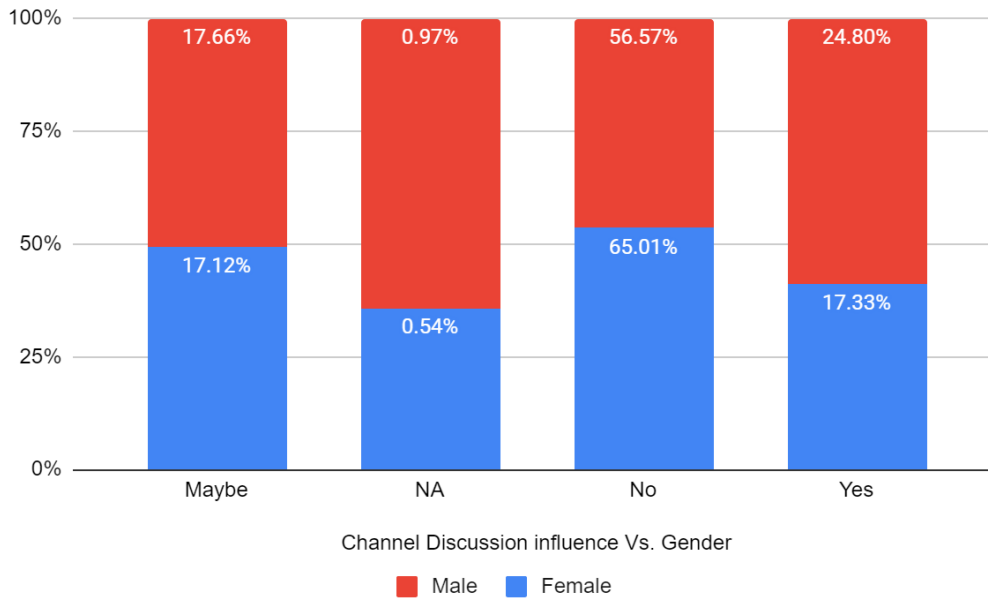
Figure 28: Impact of Welfare Measures based on Gender



The approval for the welfare measures by the government was unanimous across genders. About 57.10% of the female respondents and 46.63% of the male respondents said that they will have a positive impact on the voters. The increased popularity of the measures, such as free food kits, welfare pensions, free COVID-19 treatment etc., among the women voters might be the reason for their shift in favour of the LDF.

c. Influence of channel discussions based on gender

Figure 29: Influence of Channel Discussions based on Gender

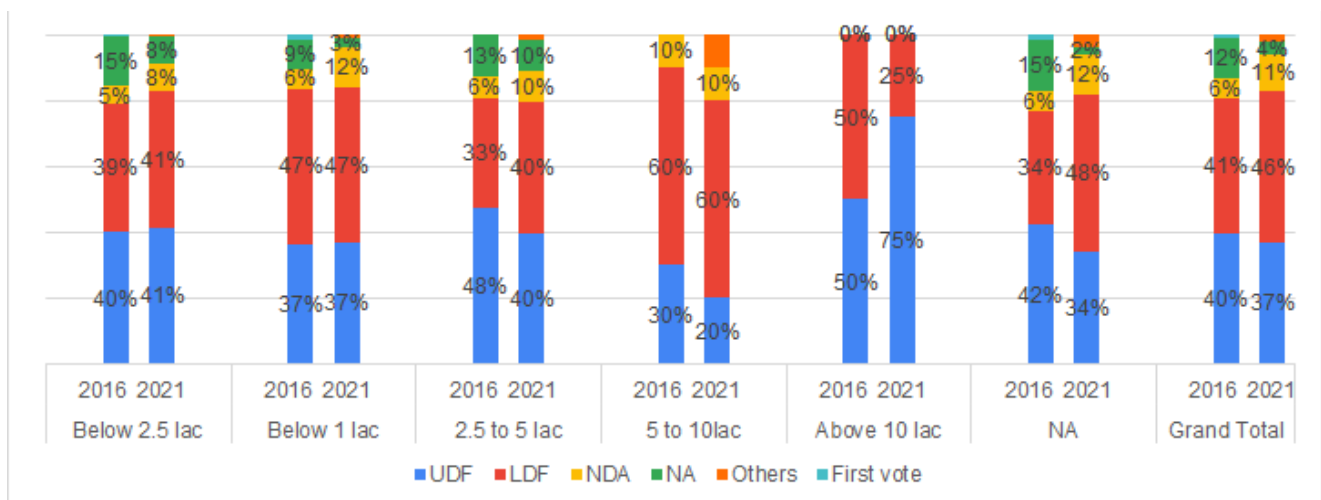


The channel discussions did not have a great influence on both female and male voters. About 65.01% of the female respondents and 56.57% of the male respondents said that channel discussions did not influence their votes.

d. Comparison of political preference of women in 2016 and 2021 assembly elections based on income

A comparison of the voting preference of the women respondents in the 2016 and 2021 assembly elections based on their income shows that almost all the women respondents across different income groups marked a decisive shift in their voting preference in favour of the LDF.

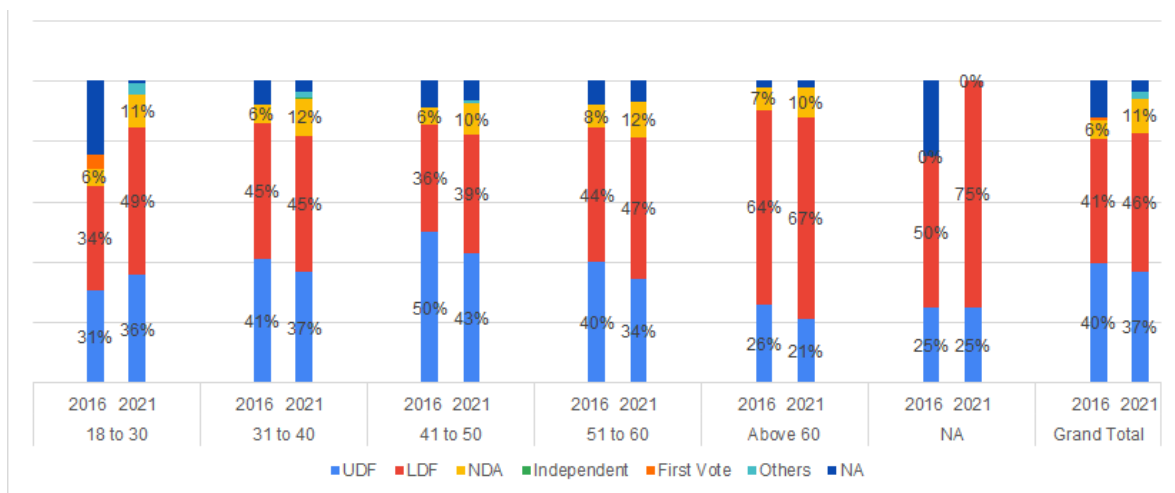
Figure 30: Political Preference of Women in 2016 and 2021 based on Income



e. Comparison of political preference of women in 2016 and 2021 assembly elections based on age

In the age bracket of 18 to 30, there is a drastic increase in support for the LDF from 34% in 2016 to 49% in 2021. Even though there is an increase in voting preference among all age groups in favour of the LDF, in the case of women, the highest shift is among the young voters. The support for the LDF among the female voters above 60 years is also remarkable, as 67% of them supported the LDF in 2021, while it was 64% in 2016. Except for the age bracket of 18 to 30, the support for the UDF among the women voters is declining.

Figure 31: Political Preference of Women in 2016 and 2021 based on Age



G. Caste/Religion Analysis

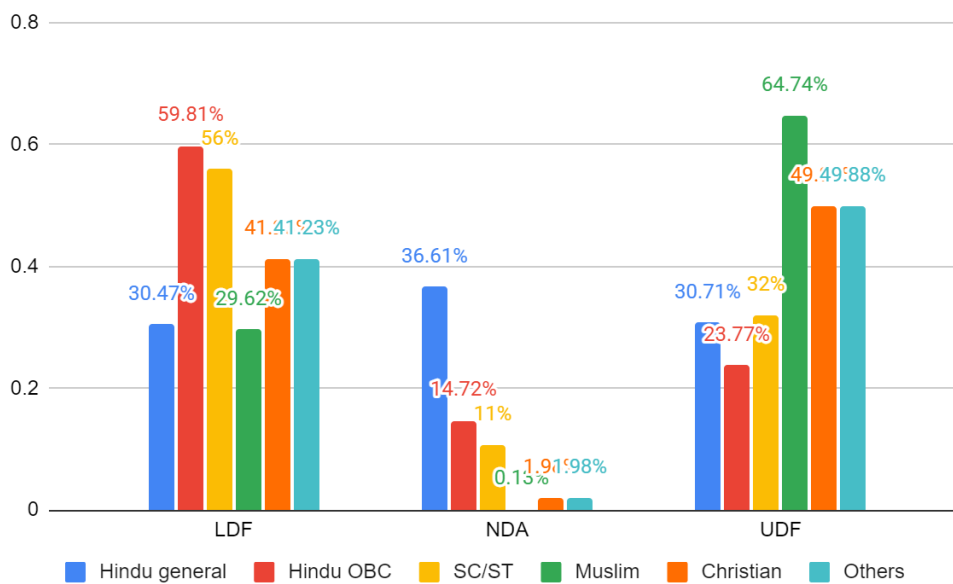
a. Religion/caste vs. voting preference

Caste and religion have an important role to play in the electoral politics of the state, as it is a crucial factor in different stages of the election process starting from candidate selection to campaign strategies. The political front that gets its caste/religion equations right has always had a better chance to the pole position. Traditionally, the OBCs (especially, the Ezhava and Thiyya castes) used to stand strongly behind the LDF. Meanwhile, the Christian and Muslim communities used to be UDF vote banks. With the entrance of the BJP/NDA into the state's political arena, the traditional upper caste votes have been shifting towards them. For the convenience of the analysis, the caste/religion part is divided as follows:

- Hindu general (comprising Nair, Brahmin, Menon and other traditional upper caste Hindu communities)
- Hindu OBC (Ezhava, Thiyya, Vishwakarma and other backward castes as per government notification)
- SC/ST
- Christian (includes all Christian communities)
- Muslim

Others (includes other religions than those specified above, those who were not willing to reveal their caste, atheists etc.)

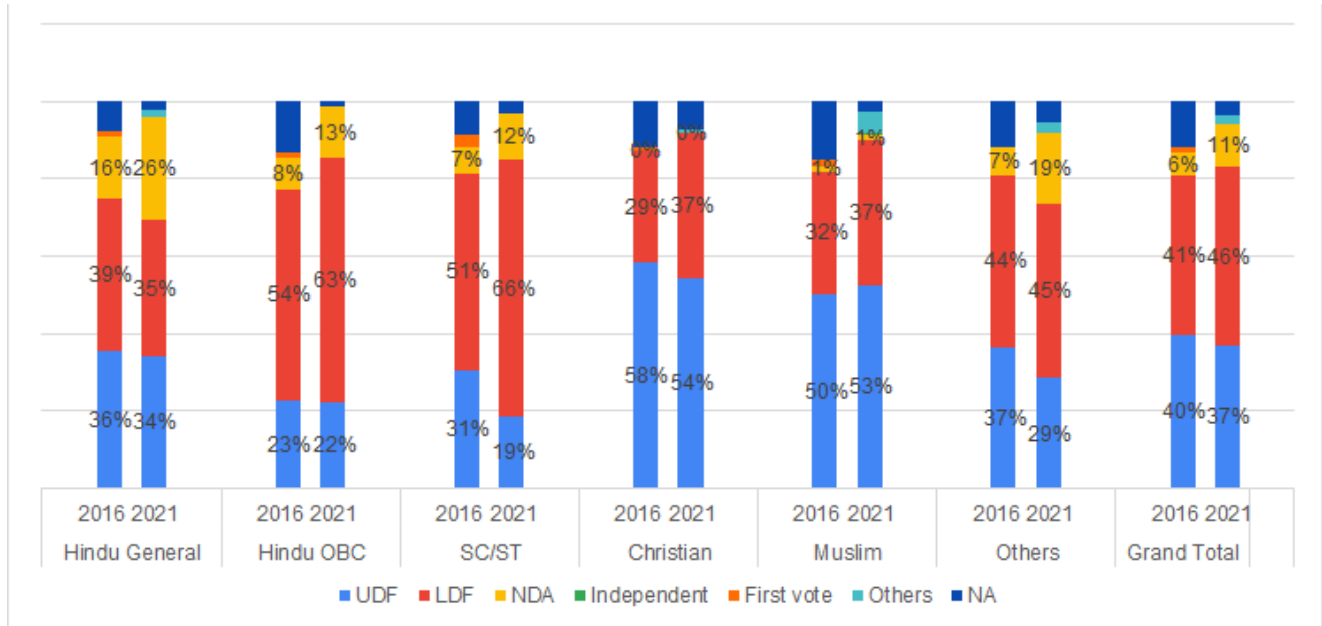
Figure 32: Political Preference based on Religion/Caste



The traditional LDF vote banks seems to be unshaken as the data shows that around 60% of the OBC community and 56% of the SC/ST community continue to stand strong with the front. The Christian and Muslim vote banks of the UDF are showing a shift towards the LDF, as 41% of the Christian community and 30% of the Muslim community favoured the LDF in this election. Meanwhile, the BJP/ NDA gained more support from the upper caste communities with 36.6% of them voting in its favour.

b. Comparison of political preference of women in 2016 and 2021 assembly elections based on religion/caste

Figure 33: Political Preference of Women in 2016 and 2021 based on Religion/Caste



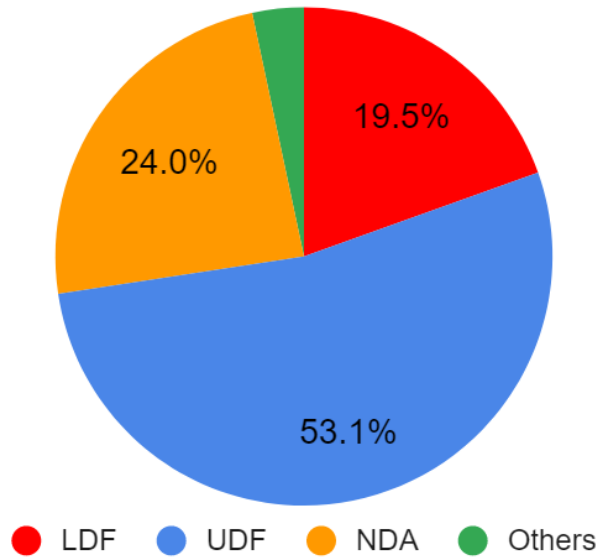
A comparison of the voting preference of women in the 2016 and 2021 elections shows that except for the 'Hindu general' group there is an increase in the number of women who voted for the LDF.

Hence, it can be concluded that increased preference towards the LDF among the women voters and the Muslim and Christian communities, along with the continued support of the OBC community, which is the traditional voter base of the LDF, have led to its remarkable performance in the 2021 assembly elections.

H. Voting Preference based on Various Issues

a. Party preference of the respondents who considered Sabarimala women's entry as an issue of very high or high impact (N=1285)

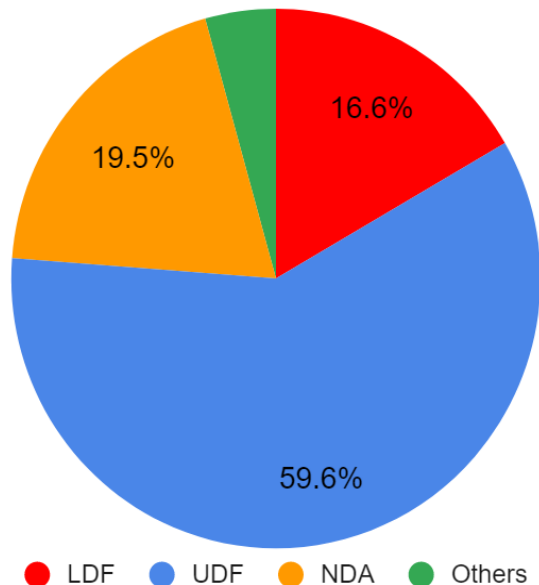
Figure 34: Political Preference based on Response to Sabarimala Issue



Out of those respondents who said that the controversy related to Sabarimala women’s entry is an issue of very high or high impact, 53.1% voted for the UDF, 24% voted for the NDA and 19.5% voted for the LDF. Even though the protests were spearheaded by the BJP and its allied organisations, it seems to have benefitted UDF the most.

b. Party preference of the respondents who considered the PSC backdoor entry allegations as an issue of very high or high impact (N=1437)

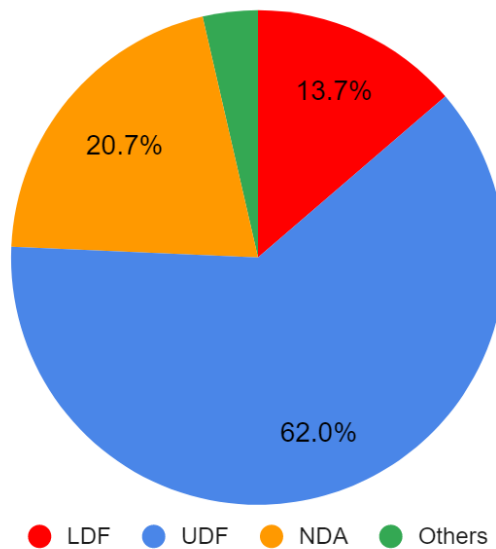
Figure 35: Political Preference based on Response to Allegations of PSC Backdoor Entry



Among the respondents who considered the allegations related to backdoor entry into public employment as an issue of very high or high impact, 59.6% voted for the UDF, 19.5% voted for the NDA and 16.6% voted for the LDF.

c. Party preference of the respondents who considered the allegations related to gold smuggling scam as an issue of very high or high impact (N=1415)

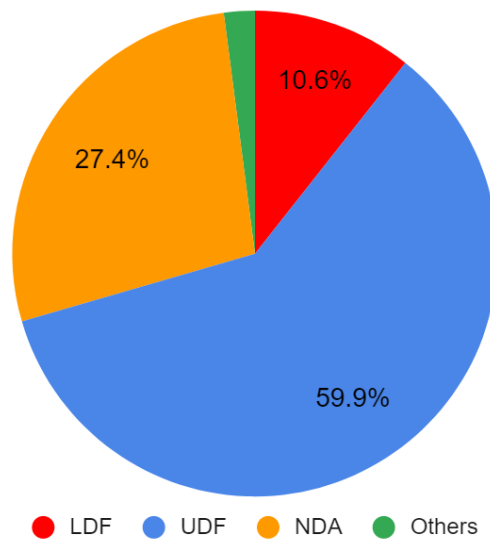
Figure 36: Political Preference based on Response to Allegations of Gold Smuggling Scam



The trend is almost the same in the case of the respondents who considered that the allegations related to gold smuggling scam will impact the elections. About 62% of them voted for the UDF and 20.7% voted for the NDA.

d. Party preference of the respondents who considered the allegations related to deep sea trawling as an issue of very high or high impact (N=918)

Figure 37: Political Preference based on Response to Allegations of Deep Sea Trawling

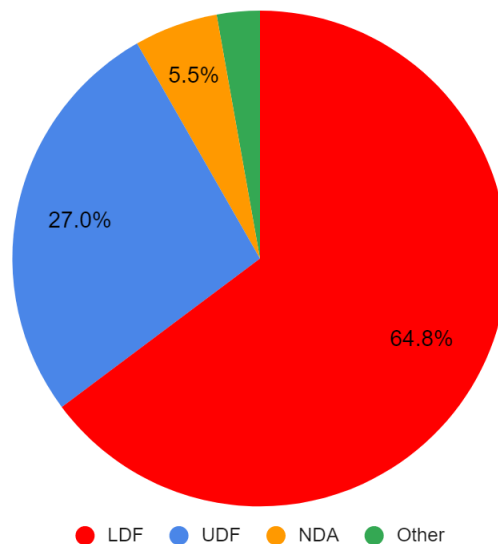


The allegation related to deep sea trawling was the latest in the list of allegations against the LDF government. The UDF seems to have reaped the maximum benefit from the controversy, as 59.9% of the respondents, who said it will have a very high or high impact on the elections, voted for the UDF, while only 27.4% of them voted for the NDA.

A conclusion may be drawn from these results as the majority of the electorate still consider the UDF as an alternative to the LDF in the state, which indicates that the NDA as a front has miles to go before becoming a major political force in Kerala.

e. Political preference of the respondents who said welfare measures such as free food kits, free COVID-19 treatment etc. will impact elections (N=1354)

Figure 38: Political Preference based on Response to Welfare Measures



The welfare measures adopted by the LDF government, like free food kits, timely disbursement of welfare pensions, free COVID-19 treatment etc., have played a major role in its re-election, as 64.8% of the respondents who said these measures will impact the election results voted for the LDF.

I. CONCLUSION

The results of the 15th Legislative Assembly elections announced on May 2nd gave the ruling LDF government a second term in the state legislature with a greater mandate than that of 2016. The approval rating for the government for its performance in various sectors, such as health, education and crisis management, and the popularity of Pinarayi Vijayan as CM candidate makes it evident that the anti-incumbency factor was on the lower side, considering the political tradition of the state.

A detailed analysis of the responses shows that a large number of women voters shifted their allegiance to the LDF in 2021 compared to the 2016 elections. Additionally, there was a shift of Christian and Muslim votes towards the LDF, badly affecting the prospects of the UDF. The erosion of Hindu upper caste votes towards the NDA/BJP also affected the performance of the UDF. Welfare measures, such as the provision of free food kits, timely disbursement of welfare pensions, free COVID-19 treatment etc., along with the efficient management of crisis situations helped the LDF government to gain more popularity, which converted into a remarkable victory for the front.

Key Findings

- Nearly 58% of the voters had made up their mind well before the campaign started, while 22% made up their mind when the candidates were announced. Only 13% of the voters made up their mind during the campaign, followed by 3% each on the day of polling or a day or two before the polling date.
- About 85% of the respondents said that they were not influenced by any of the people mentioned below:
 - o Father/Mother
 - o Husband/Wife
 - o Any community leader
- While 38% chose incumbent Pinarayi Vijayan as their next CM, 31% chose former CM Oommen Chandi.
- While 82% of the LDF voters wanted Pinarayi Vijayan to be CM, 7% of the UDF voters

and 2% of the respondents who voted for the NDA also chose Pinarayi Vijayan. About 69% of the UDF voters, 13% of the NDA voters, 11% of the respondents who voted for none of these fronts and 1% of those who voted for the LDF wanted Oommen Chandy to be the next CM.

- About 50.1% of the respondents stated party as the determining factor while deciding for whom to vote. This was followed by factors like MLA candidate (24%), performance of the LDF government (9%) and CM candidate (8%).
- Out of the total 2,695 respondents, 44% of them voted for the UDF and 39% voted for the LDF in the 2016 assembly elections.
- Television and newspapers (24%) were the most preferred source of election news. Television alone was the main source of election news for 14% of the voters. About 19% of the voters used all the sources of election news, which includes television, newspapers, radio, online news portals and social media.
- About 60% of the respondents said that channel discussions did not influence their vote preferences.
- Five of 10 voters believed that welfare measures like free food kits, free Covid-19 treatment, welfare pensions etc. had an impact on the elections.
- The winnability of the BJP/NDA in Kerala seems to be low, as 65.5% of the respondents said that its chance for victory is slim.
- Nearly 45.3% of the respondents said that celebrity candidates like E Sreedharan or Suresh Gopi did not make an impact on the elections.
- About 32% of the respondents said that the Supreme Court verdict in connection with women's entry in Sabarimala and related controversies had a very high impact on the elections.
- Nearly 34.9% and 18.4% of the respondents considered backdoor entry into public employment as an issue of very high and high impact, respectively.
- Nearly 34.4% and 18.1% of the respondents said that the gold smuggling scam had a very high and high impact, respectively.
- About 19.1% of the respondents were of the opinion that the allegations related to deep sea trawling had a very high impact on the elections.
- About 56.5% of the respondents considered the performance of the government in the health sector as very satisfying.
- About 40% of the respondents said that the performance of the government in the education sector was very satisfying.
- About 33.9% of the respondents said that the performance of the government in the housing sector was very satisfying.

- About 36.4% of the respondents said that the performance of the government in the road/infrastructure sector was very satisfying.
- About 42.3% of the respondents considered the performance of the government in governance/crisis management as very satisfying.
- Nearly 45.94% of the women respondents voted for the LDF, while 36.94% voted for the UDF and 11.27% voted for the NDA. In the case of male voters, the political preference seems to be the opposite, as 44.29% of the respondents voted for the UDF, while 39.37% voted for the LDF and 12.80% voted for the NDA.
- The approval for the welfare measures by the government was unanimous across genders. About 57.10% of the female respondents and 46.63% of the male respondents said that they will have a positive impact on the voters.
- A comparison of the voting preference of the women respondents in the 2016 and 2021 assembly elections shows that in the age bracket of 18 to 30, there is a drastic increase in support for the LDF from 34% in 2016 to 49% in 2021.
- The support for the LDF among the female voters above 60 years is also remarkable, as 67% of them supported the LDF in 2021, while it was 64% in 2016.
- The support for the UDF among the women voters is declining, except for the age bracket of 18 to 30.
- Around 60% of the OBC community and 56% of the SC/ST community continue to stand strong with the LDF.
- About 41% of the Christian community and 30% of the Muslim community favoured the LDF, whereas it is 50% and 65%, respectively, in the case of UDF.
- The BJP/NDA gained more support from the upper caste communities with 36.6% of them voting in its favour.
- About 84.91% of the respondents who voted for the LDF in 2016 continued their support in 2021. Meanwhile, 11.08% and 2.10% of the LDF voters from 2016 shifted their allegiance to the UDF and the NDA, respectively, in 2021.
- About 80.91% of the respondents who voted for the UDF in 2016 continued their support in 2021, whereas 8.75% of them voted for the LDF and 7.74% voted for the NDA in 2021.
- Nearly 91.78% of the NDA voters in 2016 voted for the NDA in 2021, whereas 3.20% voted for the LDF and 3.65% voted for the UDF in 2021.
- Out of those respondents who said that the controversy related to Sabarimala women's entry is an issue of very high or high impact, 53.1% voted for the UDF, 24% voted for the NDA and 19.5% voted for the LDF.

- Among the respondents who considered the allegations related to backdoor entry into public employment as an issue of very high or high impact, 59.6% voted for the UDF, 19.5% voted for the NDA and 16.6% voted for the LDF.
- Among the respondents who considered the gold smuggling scam as an issue of very high or high impact, 62% voted for the UDF and 20.7% voted for the NDA.
- Among the respondents who said that the deep sea trawling allegation will have a very high or high impact, 59.9% voted for the UDF and 27.4% voted for the NDA.
- The welfare measures adopted by the LDF government, like free food kits, timely disbursal of welfare pensions, free COVID-19 treatment etc., have played a major role in its re-election, as 64.8% of the respondents who said these measures will impact the election results voted for the LDF.



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