

1. **lap** (noun) – round, stage, phase.
2. **prime** (verb) – prepare, ready, gear up.
3. **mirror** (noun) – reflection, exact likeness, replica/parallel.
4. **dull** (verb) – make something less intense, soften, tone down/moderate.
5. **nasty** (adjective) – unpleasant, awful, disagreeable.
6. **notable** (adjective) – glaring, obvious, evident/apparent.
7. **highhanded** (adjective) – arbitrary, overbearing, authoritarian.
8. **vitiate** (verb) – spoil, impair, destroy.
9. **condemnable** (adjective) – objectionable, unjustifiable, reprehensible.
10. **oversight** (noun) – management, administration, supervision.
11. **leave a lot to be desired** (phrase) – be highly unsatisfactory.
12. **in terms of** (phrase) – with regard to, regarding/concerning, in connection with.
13. **demonstrably** (adverb) – provably, obviously clearly.
14. **impartial** (adjective) – unbiased, unprejudiced, neutral.
15. **swift** (adjective) – rapid, quick, sudden/prompt.
16. **let-up** (noun) – abatement, decline, decrease.
17. **ferocity** (noun) – intensity, severity, strength.
18. **adversary** (noun) – rival, enemy, nemesis/opponent.
19. **characterise** (verb) – identify, specify, describe.
20. **scenario** (noun) – course of events, situation.
21. **reach out** (phrasal verb) – contact someone for help/assistance/cooperation.
22. **dissatisfied** (adjective) – disappointed, unsatisfied, unhappy.
23. **evidently** (adverb) – seemingly, apparently, on the face of it.
24. **premature** (adjective) – untimely, early, too soon/too early.
25. **fierce** (adjective) – violent, forceful, powerful.
26. **admiration** (noun) – acclaim, respect, praise.
27. **wide open** (phrase) – something (an issue) which is completely open to be resolved/settled.
28. **strike** (verb) – achieve, reach, arrive at.
29. **materialise** (verb) – happen, occur, take place.
30. **in principle** (phrase) – in general, in essence, in the main.
31. **unstable** (adjective) – unsteady, unsafe, unreliable.

To the final lap: on Lok Sabha polls

With six phases of elections over, parties are primed for post-poll alliance building

With **Sunday's sixth phase of polling**, voters in 483 of the 543 Lok Sabha constituencies have voted. The electoral process has been a mirror to both India's failings and its promise as the world's biggest democracy. A reasonably good voter turnout did nothing to dull the effects of a nasty campaign by leaders of most parties, but especially of the Bharatiya Janata Party. All of Delhi and Haryana, and parts of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand voted in the sixth phase, a total of 59 constituencies. Turnout

varied from place to place, but the sharp decline in Delhi, to 60.50%, from 2014's 65.07% was notable. Widespread violence, including the death of a BJP activist, and the State government's highhanded action against a BJP activist for a social media post ahead of the polling vitiated the atmosphere in West Bengal. An attack on the [BJP candidate in Ghatal constituency](#) was unfortunate and condemnable. Meanwhile, the oversight by the Election Commission of India has left a lot to be desired in terms of being demonstrably impartial and swift, through the first six phases. In the last phase of polling on May 19, the remaining 59 constituencies will vote. There is no word on when Vellore, [where the election was cancelled](#) because of excessive use of money by the candidate of the DMK, will vote.

There is no let-up in the unusual ferocity among political adversaries that has characterised the campaign in the 17th general [election](#), but political leaders have started preparing for the post-poll scenario. Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, whose Telangana Rashtra Samithi is expected to do well, has reached out to leaders in other States. On Monday, he met DMK chief M.K. Stalin in Chennai as part of efforts to put together a Federal Front of parties dissatisfied with both the BJP and the Congress. On the other hand, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has been eager to move towards early coordination of regional parties within an anti-BJP formation that would include the Congress. These moves are evidently premature, and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has rightly suggested that they must await the final results. The fierce response by Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's suggestion that she withdraw support to the Congress government in Rajasthan has been the clearest indication of her preference in the post-poll scenario. Meanwhile, Congress president Rahul Gandhi has continued to publicly express his admiration for Ms. Mayawati, keeping the possibility of an understanding with her wide open. He had earlier tried to strike a pre-poll alliance with the BSP, but it did not materialise. Prime Minister Modi, while continuing to campaign against alliances, in principle calling them unstable, has over the weekend claimed to know "the art of running coalitions". The calculators are clearly out, but the calculations will have to wait.