

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **front** (noun) – political group, party, faction, grouping.
2. **arena** (noun) – field of conflict, sphere of action, sphere of activity, battleground, battlefield.
3. **force** (noun) – a group (of people).
4. **incumbent** (noun) – the present holder or occupant of an office.
5. **alliance** (noun) – association, union, partnership.
6. **arithmetic** (noun) – calculation, reckoning, tally; the use of numbers in counting and calculation.
7. **triumphant** (adjective) – victorious, successful, winning, conquering.
8. **set to** (adjective) – ready, prepared, likely to do something.
9. **swear in** (phrasal verb) – admit into office, inaugurate, introduce (into office).
10. **comeback** (noun) – resurgence, recovery, return, revival, rebound.
11. **a foregone conclusion** (phrase) – predictable result, predictable outcome, inevitability.
12. **score** (verb) – win, achieve, get, gain.
13. **landslide** (noun) – decisive (victory), runaway (victory), overwhelming majority.
14. **successive** (adjective) – consecutive, continuous.
15. **unlikely** (adjective) – improbable, not likely, doubtful, dubious.
16. **demise** (noun) – death, dying, passing away.
17. **towering** (adjective) – outstanding, leading, distinguished, prominent.
18. **figure** (noun) – person, personality.
19. **decade** (noun) – a period of ten years.
20. **ride on** (phrasal verb) – depend on.
21. **popular** (adjective) – public, collective, social, societal.
22. **on one's own** (phrase) – alone, all alone, by oneself, all by oneself, independently, single-handedly.
23. **secure** (verb) – obtain, acquire, gain, get.
24. **ally** (noun) – partner, supporting (political) party (with common interests).
25. **end up** (phrasal verb) – finish up, reach, come to.
26. **draw** (verb) – attract, interest, win, capture, catch the eye of.
27. **appeal** (noun) – charisma, attraction, allure/charm, drawing power, fascination.

28. **base** (noun) – a group of people considered as supporting a (political) party.
29. **amid** (preposition) – in an atmosphere of, against a background of; during.
30. **tally** (noun) – total, count.
31. **interpret** (verb) – explain, elucidate, clarify, make clear; understand, read.
32. **in terms of** (phrase) – with regard to, regarding/concerning, in connection with.
33. **campaign** (noun) – canvassing, electioneering, an act of soliciting (asking for/requesting) votes; an organized effort that seeks to influence the decision-making progress within a specific group.
34. **surrender** (verb) – capitulate, give in, yield, concede, succumb, back down; give up, relinquish, renounce, forgo.
35. **mitigate** (verb) – reduce, lessen, decrease, make less severe.
36. **adverse** (adjective) – unfavourable, disadvantageous, bad.
37. **tie-up** (noun) – link, association, relationship.
38. **cadre** (noun) – members of a (political) group.
39. **prevail over** (phrasal verb) – succeed, triumph, be victorious, gain mastery, prove superior.
40. **bastion** (noun) – stronghold, bulwark, support, protection, mainstay.
41. **intact** (adjective) – unbroken, undamaged, unharmed, uninjured, unimpaired.
42. **outgoing** (adjective) – departing, leaving.
43. **regime** (noun) – government.
44. **loan waiver** (noun) – the borrower (farmer) is exempted from repayment of loan due to a poor monsoon or natural calamity and the Centre or State governments which offer loan waiver, will take over the liability of farmers and repay the banks.
45. **stand someone in good stead** (phrase) – be beneficial, be advantageous, be useful.
46. **under/below par** (phrase) – below average, unsatisfactory, poor, bad.
47. **add to** (phrasal verb) – increase, augment, enhance.
48. **go up** (phrasal verb) – rise, increase.
49. **aspirant** (noun) – candidate, contestant, contender.
50. **consign (to)** (phrasal verb) – to put (someone/something) in an unpleasant situation/place (or) to put someone somewhere in order to

avoid dealing with them (or) to put something somewhere in order to dispose it.

51. **fringe** (noun) – border or outer edges.

DMK returns: On Tamil Nadu Assembly poll results

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Tamil Nadu stays a two-front arena; attempts to form a third force fail to impress voters

Some elections are decided on key issues, some on the incumbent's performance, and others on alliance arithmetic and local factors. The outcome of the Tamil Nadu Assembly election, in which the DMK emerged triumphant and its leader, M.K. Stalin, is set to be sworn in as Chief Minister, seems to be an unequal mix of all these. The DMK's comeback was a foregone conclusion after the alliance led by it scored a landslide victory in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, and a third successive term for the AIADMK was unlikely. Mr. Stalin has been rewarded for his patience. He has led the party successfully for the second time after the demise of M. Karunanidhi, his father and the party's towering figure for over four decades. The DMK rode mainly on a popular desire for change, to win 133 seats on its own, including some secured by allies who contested on the DMK symbol. The front ended up with 159 seats. The Congress's performance is more impressive, as it won 18 of the 25 seats allotted to it. The two Left parties won two seats each, and the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) won four seats, of which two were in the general category, showing that it draws its appeal from a base wider than the Dalits it represents. Amid expectations that the Tamil Nadu voter would reject the idea of an alliance with the BJP, the AIADMK managed to win 66 seats, while five seats went to its ally, the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK); the BJP re-enters the Assembly after 20 years with a tally of four.

The results may be difficult to interpret in terms of whether the voters accepted the DMK's campaign point that the AIADMK, led by Edappadi K. Palaniswami, surrendered the State's rights to the Centre, but it may indicate that Mr. Palaniswami managed to mitigate the adverse impact of having a tie-up with the BJP. In the ultimate analysis, the DMK cadre's fieldwork prevailed over the AIADMK's mass appeal. The AIADMK has retained

much of its vote base, and its bastion in the western region is intact. The outgoing regime's handling of the COVID-19 situation, farmers' loan waiver and the 7.5% quota for government school students in medical admissions seem to have stood Mr. Palaniswami in good stead. However, the sub-quota for the Vanniyar community seems to have had only limited impact, as the AIADMK-PMK alliance performed below par in the northern districts, where most of the seats went to the DMK. The entry of the Left parties, the VCK and the MDMK — which were part of an unsuccessful third front in 2016 — to the DMK front has added to the DMK front's tally. The DMK front's vote percentage went up from about 39% in the last poll to 45% now. Tamil Nadu remains a two-front arena, with aspirants such as the Naam Tamilar Katchi, whose share has jumped to 6.58%, the Makkal Needhi Maiam and Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam consigned to the fringe.

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