

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK

MEGHALAYA EXIT POLL - 2023



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(27th February 2023)



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PROJECTED SEATS



Total Seats
60
31 to win

Note : Others Include VPP, PDF, HSDP, Indp.

Note: Margin of Error plus or minus 3 present

MEGHALAYA WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE ANOTHER FRACTURED MANDATE

Meghalaya is not going to change its habit this year and would deliver yet another fractured mandate in this Assembly election, fifty one years after its statehood. The NPP would emerge as the single largest party.

According to Peoples Pulse - Big TV Exit Poll in Meghalaya state, the ruling NPP is likely to get 17 – 26 seats, the TMC 10 – 14 seats, UDP 8 - 12, BJP 3 – 8, Congress 3 – 5, VPP 1 – 2, PDF 1 – 2, HSDP 1 – 2, GNC 0 – 1 and others 1 – 2 seats.

Peoples Pulse – Big TV conducted an Exit Poll on 27th February 2023 in 15 Assembly segments selected on the basis of Probability proportional Methodology (PPS). Four polling stations selected from each Assembly segment. In each polling station 20 samples were collected. A total of 1200 samples were chosen such that the sample reflects the situation on the ground in terms of caste, religion and age. Gender was given equal representation.

The Meghalaya state has a 60 member Assembly, with a magic figure being 31. There is a strong possibility that state regional parties would play key role in Government formation.

The BJP has been trying hard to improve its position, but it will not move beyond single digit in the 60 member Assembly. The TMC has been working hard to push itself into power, but it will fall short as it is largely perceived to be an outsider.

Considering that Meghalaya is a small state particularly in the sense that constituencies have a small number of voters with a large number of parties seeking their indulgence. Therefore, even a margin of 50 to 100 votes makes a huge difference not just between winning or losing, but even if a party splits that many votes, it would influence who the winner would be. For this reason, we have increased the margin of seats in our prediction of seats.

The main issues are price rise, unemployment, charges of corruption, illegal coal mining and inadequate infrastructure. The last five years of the Conrad Sangma government has been marked by alleged corruption and highhandedness. Although it is a six-party coalition government, the National People's Party (NPP) has been calling the shots. The government took decisions on various matters without taking the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance partners into confidence. One example is the signing of the MOU between Meghalaya and Assam governments towards resolving their border disputes in six of the 12 friction points. Both sides had constituted three regional committees each, headed by a cabinet minister. The committees conducted joint visits to the disputed sites, listened to locals to try and understand their problem and submitted their reports. The coalition partners expected Sangma to talk to them before moving ahead but he went to Delhi and signed the MoU with his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma. People were not happy with this arbitrary action and staged a series of protests. There was a demand to review the agreement, even from NPP allies but the government rejected it. In the last five years, there were several charges of corruption and scams against the Sangma government. Some groups and political parties, including NPP ally BJP, had demanded CBI inquiries but the government got only two cases investigated by "independent" committees constituted with retired judges". In one, the government claimed no wrongdoing was detected by the probe panel. The report of another probe panel was not made public.

There were serious charges of irregularities especially in the Power department of which Sangma's elder brother James was the minister. The CAG exposed a scam of Rs 149 crore during the implementation of Centre's flagship programme "Saubhagya". Bowing under pressure from political parties and pressure groups, Sangma dropped James from the Cabinet.

The "scams" include the construction of the Assembly building whose dome collapsed. The project cost was Rs 105.59 crore but the contract was awarded to a firm for Rs 127.76 crore. The project cost then further escalated to Rs 177.78 crore. Payment of Rs 160.30 crore was released to the contractor when the actual work completed was about 65-70%.

There was perceived corruption also in Covid expenditure. Meghalaya spent Rs 816 crore for 96,785 Covid cases. Manipur spent just a little over Rs 100 crore for 1.4 lakh cases.

Coal mining was banned in Meghalaya in 2014 by the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Coal extracted before that was to be auctioned. The Meghalaya High Court-appointed Justice (retd) BP Katakey panel in its report stated that 13 lakh metric tonnes of coal was illegally mined, transported and discovered which the state government sought to pass off as coal mined prior to the imposition of the NGT ban. During campaigning, all political parties, including the NPP's five allies in the government, attacked the NPP on the corruption issue.

The strength of the NPP is that it has the money to fight the elections. The other important thing is PA Sangma, who is still held in high esteem in the state. The family continues to be very influential in the Garo Hills. Had corruption not been such an issue, the NPP would have been much more formidable.

The Trinamool Congress emerged as a force after 12 Congress MLAs joined the party. Former chief minister Mukul Sangma, without any doubt, is the second most charismatic leader in Garo Hills after PA Sangma. He speaks many languages and can easily connect with different communities.

The downside is it carries the "outsiders" tag. It could not make any major inroads into Khasi and Jaintia Hills regions which have altogether 36 of the state's 60 seats.

What is hampering the BJP immensely is that it is perceived as an anti-Christian party in a Christian-majority state. Candidates will win based on their individual merit and popularity, not because they are with BJP.

The contest is between NPP and Trinamool Congress in Garo Hills. Unlike in Khasi and Jaintia Hills where the 36 seats invariably went to multiple parties in past elections, the Garo Hills is known as a region that largely votes for the ruling party or the main opposition party. NPP and Trinamool Congress are the two principal parties in Garo Hills. Success here will decide which of them will lead the government.

Peoples Pulse has deployed researchers in all the 60 Assembly constituencies in Meghalaya to conduct a Tracker Poll study and assess the voter dispensation towards the political parties. This list is attached for your perusal.





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MEGHALAYATRACKERPOLL- 2023

S. No.	Assembly Segment	Reservation	District	Edge	Keen Contest Between
1	Nartiang	(ST)	West Jaintia Hill	NPP	NPP VS IND
2	Jowai	(ST)	West Jaintia Hill	NPP	-
3	Raliang	(ST)	West Jaintia Hill	BJP	BJP VS NPP VS TMC
4	Mowkaiaw	(ST)	West Jaintia Hill	UDP	-
5	SutngaSaipung	(ST)	East Jaintia Hill	UDP	UDP VS CONG VS NPP
6	Khliehriat	(ST)	East Jaintia Hill	NPP	NPP VS UDP (50- 50)
7	Amlarem	(ST)	West Jaintia Hill	UDP	UDP VS MPP VS CONG
8	Mawhati	(ST)	RiBhoi	CONG	-
9	Nongpoh	(ST)	RiBhoi	UDP	-
10	Jirang	(ST)	RiBhoi	NPP	NPP VS CONG VS UDP

S. No.	Assembly Segment	Reservation	District	Edge	Keen Contest Between
11	Umsning	(ST)	RiBhoi	CONG	CONG VS NPP VS VPP
12	Umroi	(ST)	RiBhoi	TMC	TMC VS CONG
13	Mawrenkneng	(ST)	East Khasi Hills	UDP	UDP VS NPP VS CONG
14	Pynthorumkhrah		East Khasi Hills	BJP	BJP VS CONG VS NPP
15	Mawlai	(ST)	East Khasi Hills	VPP	VPP VS NPP VS UDP VS CONG
16	East Shillong	(ST)	East Khasi Hills	NPP	NPP VS CONG
17	North Shillong	(ST)	East Khasi Hills	VPP	VPP VS BJP VS TMC
18	West Shillong		East Khasi Hills	NPP	NPP VS UDP VS BJP
19	South Shillong		East Khasi Hills	BJP	-
20	Mylliem	(ST)	East Khasi Hills	CONG	CONG VS NPP
21	Nongthymmai	(ST)	East Khasi Hills	TMC	TMC VS NPP VS UDP
22	Nongkrem	(ST)	East Khasi Hills	VPP	VPP VS UDP VS MPP

S. No.	Assembly Segment	Reservation	District	Edge	Keen Contest Between
23	Sohiong	(ST)	East Khasi Hills	-	-
24	Mawphlang	(ST)	East Khasi Hills	CONG	CONG VS NPP VS UDP
25	Mawsynram	(ST)	East Khasi Hills	BJP	BJP VS NPP VS UDP
26	Shella	(ST)	East Khasi Hills	UDP	UDP VS NPP
27	Pynursla	(ST)	East Khasi Hills	NPP	NPP VS CONG VS UDP
28	Sohra	(ST)	East Khasi Hills	PDF	PDF VS UDP
29	Mawkyntrew	(ST)	East Khasi Hills	PDF	PDF VS UDP VS HSDP
30	Mairang	(ST)	Eastern West Khasi Hills	UDP	UDP VS CONG
31	Mawthadraishan	(ST)	Eastern West Khasi Hills	UDP	UDP VS NPP
32	Nongstoin	(ST)	West Khasi Hills	CONG	CONG VS NPP
33	Rambrai-Jyrngam	(ST)	West Khasi Hills	HSDP	HSDP VS NPP VS IND
34	Mawshynrut	(ST)	West Khasi Hills	NPP	NPP VS CONG VS HSDP

S. No.	Assembly Segment	Reservation	District	Edge	Keen Contest Between
35	Ranikor	(ST)	South West Khasi Hills	BJP	BJP VS UDP
36	Mawkyrwat	(ST)	South West Khasi Hills	UDP	UDP VS CONG VS TMC VS NPP
37	Kharkutta	(ST)	North Garo Hills	TMC	TMC VS NPP
38	Mendipathar	(ST)	North Garo Hills	NPP	NPP VS TMC
39	Resubelpara	(ST)	North Garo Hills	TMC	TMC VS NPP VS BJP
40	Bajengdoba	(ST)	North Garo Hills	NPP	NPP VS CONG VS TMC
41	Songsak	(ST)	East Garo Hills	TMC	TMC VS NPP
42	Rongjeng	(ST)	East Garo Hills	IND	IND VS TMC VS NPP
43	Williamnagar	(ST)	East Garo Hills	NPP	NPP VS INC VS TMC
44	Raksamgre	(ST)	West Garo Hills	BJP	BJP VS NPP VS AITC
45	Tikrikilla	(ST)	West Garo Hills	TMC	TMC VS BJP VS NPP
46	Phulbari		West Garo Hills	NPP	NPP VS TMC

S. No.	Assembly Segment	Reservation	District	Edge	Keen Contest Between
47	Rajabala		West Garo Hills	TMC	TMC VS NPP
48	Selsella	(ST)	West Garo Hills	NPP	NPP VS BJP VS TMC
49	Dadenggre	(ST)	West Garo Hills	NPP	NPP VS TMC
50	North Tura	(ST)	West Garo Hills	NPP	NPP VS TMC VS CONG
51	South Tura	(ST)	West Garo Hills	NPP	NPP VS BJP
52	Rangsakona	(ST)	West Garo Hills	TMC	TMC VS MPP
53	Ampati	(ST)	South West Garo Hills	TMC	TMC VS BJP VS NPP
54	Mahendraganj	(ST)	South West Garo Hills	NPP	NPP VS TMC VS BJP
55	Salmanpara	(ST)	South West Garo Hills	TMC	TMC VS NPP VS BJP
56	Gambegre	(ST)	West Garo Hills	CONG	CONG VS TMC VS MPP
57	Dalu	(ST)	West Garo Hills	NPP	NPP VS BJP
58	RongaraSiju	(ST)	South Garo Hills	NPP	NPP VS TMC VS CONG

S. No.	Assembly Segment	Reservation	District	Edge	Keen Contest Between
59	Chokpot	(ST)	South Garo Hills	GNC	GNC VS TMC VS NPP
60	Baghmara	(ST)	South Garo Hills	BJP	BJP VS TMC VS NPP



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