

1. BJP sweeps Delhi Election

Vote and Seat Share

No Aam Story

➤ The IITian and Magsaysay Award winner who quit his sarkari IRS job becomes a face – along with the likes of former IPS Kiran Bedi and senior advocate Prashant Bhushan – of Anna Hazare-led anti-corruption movement in 2011-12



➤ In Nov 2012, parts ways with Hazare and launches Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)

➤ AAP finishes second behind BJP in its first Delhi poll outing. Kejriwal becomes CM with outside support from Congress but resigns in 49 days over Jan Lokpal Bill issue

➤ Takes on and loses to Narendra Modi in Varanasi in 2014 Lok Sabha polls

➤ AAP wins 67 of 70 seats in 2015 Assembly polls. Kejriwal becomes CM for second time. Waiver of power and water bills, launch of Mohalla clinics and improvement of govt schools are key initiatives

➤ Scripts another landslide in 2020 with 62 of 70 seats. AAP expands footprint and wins Punjab polls in 2022

➤ In 2024, after arrest in excise case, Kejriwal hands CM's post to Atishi

1. AAP: The AAP saw a drop of nearly 10 percentage points in its vote share. The AAP secured a vote share of 43.57 per cent, down from 53.57 per cent in the 2020 assembly election. In the 2015 poll, it had secured 54.5 per cent of the votes.

In 2020 and 2015, the AAP won a massive mandate by securing 67 and 62 seats, respectively. However, this time, it was restricted to only 22 seats.

2. Congress: The Congress, which failed to win a single seat for the third consecutive time in Delhi. For the Congress, which was in power in Delhi for 15 years from 1998 to 2013, the only consolation was the fact that it saw an improvement of 2.1 per cent in vote share. The Congress polled 6.34 per cent of the valid votes as against 4.3 per cent in the 2020 assembly poll.

3. BJP: The BJP was out of power in the national capital for more than 26 years. The BJP, which is returning to power, secured a vote share of 45.56 per cent and won 48 seats. Its vote share jumped from 38.51 per cent in 2020 and 32.3 per cent in the 2015 election.

New Delhi seat

BJP's Parvesh Verma, son of Delhi CM Sahib Singh Verma, defeated Arvind Kejriwal from the New Delhi constituency. Kejriwal lost the seat by 4,089 vote margin in the constituency, where Sandeep Dikshit of the Congress finished a distant third with 4,568 votes, higher than the victory margin.

AAP and Congress rivalry, Benefit of BJP

In the 2025 Delhi assembly election, the AAP and Congress's rivalry contributed to BJP's decisive win. AAP's vote share plummeted to 43.57%.

The Aam Aadmi Party and Congress, both members of the INDIA bloc, contesting separately in the 2025 Delhi assembly election appeared to have been a key factor in splitting the anti-Bharatiya Janata Party vote. A war of words between

Congress Rahul Gandhi and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal during the Delhi election campaigns further dented the ruling party's chances.

The Congress received more votes than the winning margin in 14 constituencies where the BJP emerged victorious, defeating AAP candidates, including former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and his former deputy Manish Sisodia.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II

Source: Governance

2. Reasons behind BJP victory in Delhi

1. Focus on the middle class

The AAP was born out of the middle class's frustration with the political status quo. However, over the years, it has come to be increasingly seen by this class as a party that works only for the poor, with welfare schemes such as 200 units of free electricity and free bus travel for women.



Kejriwal did try to pivot to middle class concerns in his speeches ahead of the election, but that seems to have been too little and possibly too late.

The BJP, meanwhile, wooed this voter segment assiduously through several outreach programs including Residents Welfare Association (RWA) meetings. The icing on the cake came through the massive tax cut announced by the government in the Union Budget.

The definition of "middle class" varies, but according to a 2022 report by the People Research

on India's Consumer Economy, this section makes up 67.16% of Delhi's population. The BJP appears to have managed to make deep inroads into this vote bank.

2. Declaration that no AAP schemes would be stopped

While the BJP, including the Prime Minister himself, had earlier derided welfare schemes as revadis (freebies), in Delhi, it was careful to emphasise that none of the ongoing schemes of the AAP government would be stopped if it came to power.

This was announced by Modi himself, giving it added weight that helped counter the AAP's claim that the poor would lose out on benefits if the BJP was voted in.

3. Poor condition of roads and sewers

The major factor that contributed massively to AAP's unpopularity was the poor condition of the capital's roads and sewers. Overflowing drains, potholed roads, and irregular garbage collection had angered voters across the national capital.

The fact that the AAP is in power in the MCD as well meant it could not pass the buck to the BJP, saying the central government, through the Lieutenant Governor (LG), was not allowing it to work.

4. The relentless LG-AAP tussle

The explanation the AAP gave for poor roads and lack of civic work was that the LG was holding up projects. The past few years have been marked by increased acrimony between the Delhi government and the LG, who holds significant power in the national capital.

Voters seem to have decided that a BJP government was likely to function more smoothly alongside a Centre-appointed LG. This is in line with the BJP's promise of a "double engine" government, where the governments at both Centre and UT-level work for New Delhi in tandem.

5. Anti-incumbency

AAP, which was formed in 2012, came to power in Delhi the following year, and has been in power continuously since 2015.

That the AAP was aware of anti-incumbency was apparent from its candidate list. However, the last-minute changes were not enough to counter the unpopularity of some MLAs, seen as unavailable and inaccessible.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II

Source: Governance

3. Discovery of potash reserves in Rajasthan and Punjab

Introduction



Punjab Mining Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal said the government will explore potash mining in Fazilka and Sri Muktsar Sahib districts, where surveys previously detected large mineral reserves in three mining blocks.

Surveys of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) have also identified reserves in parts of Rajasthan's Ganganagar and Hanumangarh Districts.

These findings highlight the potential for potash mining in both states, reducing India's dependence on imports and bolstering the domestic fertilizer industry. India imports 50 lakh tonnes of potash annually, primarily used in fertilisers and industries.

What is potash?

Potash refers to potassium-bearing minerals that are primarily used in fertilisers. Over 90% of potash is used as fertilizer and it is one of the three primary agricultural nutrients (Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium or N-P-K).

Where were potash reserves found?

Punjab is now the second state after Rajasthan to have significant potash reserves. The three mining blocks with potash reserves — Kabarwala (Muktsar Sahib), Sherewala and Ramsara (Fazilka) and Shergarh and Dalmir Khera (Fazilka) — are spread over nearly 18 square kilometres.

In Rajasthan, potash deposits were mainly found in the northwestern Nagaur-Ganganagar basin, including the Ganganagar and Hanumangarh districts that border Fazilka and Muktsar.

What is the Status of Potash Mining?

So far, India has not engaged in potash mining. According to the National Mineral Inventory (NMI) database, the total potash resources are estimated at 23,091 million tonnes in 2020. Rajasthan alone contributes 89% to the total resources.

Why are potash reserves yet to be mined in Punjab?

In 2019, the GSI discovered potash deposits in two districts of Punjab that were located approximately 450 metres below the surface. Some farmers from Muktsar and Fazilka believe their land will be acquired for mining reserves and have protested against any mining to be done in the future. In response, the minister said no land acquisition will happen. Potash will be extracted using an advanced drilling system with zero impact on land ownership.

He also pointed to the likely benefits, saying potash mining in Punjab will create new employment opportunities and drive regional economic development. However, farmers have asked for a written assurance regarding their land.

Although the central government has the auctioning rights for minerals, states receive royalties upon their extraction. According to sources, the Kabarwala block has reached the auctioning stage, with the Punjab government approving mining. Once the central government completes the auctioning process, extraction can commence. However, until the farmers are convinced, the project is unlikely to proceed further.

Relevance: GS Prelims; Geography

Source: Indian Express

'Sharing is Caring'

If you have friends preparing for Civil Services, tell them that they can also receive Updates through WhatsApp from Shubham's IAS by sending 'Name' and 'State' on 75979-00000