

THE TRIBUNE 112TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

Chandigarh : Friday, February 21, 1992



Two-thirds majority for Cong



Anxious crowds eager to know the election results in Sector 17 near the Press Information Bureau office, Chandigarh, on Thursday,

Tribune News Service swept to power in Punjab, with a thumping mandate. having secured a two-thirds majority in the State Assembly, ending nearly nine years of political wilderness in the troubled

Edit: Time to look ahead

state Of the 107 results available at the Of the 107 results available at the state headquarters here till midnight, 79 went in favour of the Congress, taking it past the magical figure of 59 needed to gain absolute majority in the 117-member state Assembly. The party was leading in a host of other constituteries and anneared well est constituencies and appeared well set to overhaul its best Assembly per-formance todate. In 1972 the party bagged 66 seats

The party sweep was nearly com-plete in all the three regions of Pun-jab – Malwa, Majha and Doaba. It left way beind the Babaujan Samaj Party, which with eight seats, emerged as the second largest party.

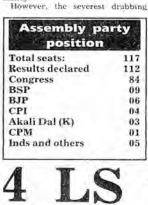
~ 49

4 6 10

This is for the first time that the BSP CHANDIGARH, Feb 20 The Congress was tonight Phillaur Lok Sabha seat in 1989 election with the support of the Akali Dal (Mann)

The Bhartiya Janata Party which had campaigned hard in the elections and was expected to give a good account of itself, won only six seats. It party chief, Mr Madan Mohan Mittal, won from the Nangal consti-

Mittal, won from the Nangal consti-tuency, unseating the Congress lead-er, Mr Ram Parkash Bali. The CPI which won only one seat in 1985 poll, picked up five and was leading in a few other constituencies. The CPM which drew a blank in the last releations, won in one consti-tuence. tuency



Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, Feb 20 The first

our of the 13 Lok Sabha results in

four of the 13 Lok Sabha results in Punjab went in favour of the Con-gress as the party maintained its leads in the remaining partiamentary constituencies in the state The Congress won the Tarn Taran. Balt indu and Sangrur parlamentary sents. All the three seats had been won in the 1989 vicetions by the Akah Dal (Mann). Mr Swinder Sinch Kairon, son of

Mr Surinder Singh Kairon, son of

was reserved for the Akali Dal(Ka-bul) which was the only Akali faction to take part in the elections. The party could take only two seats, one of which was won by Capt Amarinder Singh, Dal(K) leader, unopposed from Samana constituency. He however lost to the Congress candi-date, Harnek Singh, in Kharar con-stituency. The natv's noor perform stituency. The party's poor perform-ance has thrown cold water on its grandiose plans to form the next grandiose plans to form the next government in Punjab with Capt Amarinder Singh has the Chief Minister. Many of its stalwarts, in-cluding Capt Kanwaljit Singh, Mr Baldev Singh Mann and Mr Surjit Singh Minhas, Speaker of the dis-solved Assembly, lost.

The Punjab PCC chief, Mr Beant was declared elected from Jalandhar cantonment constituency Jalandhar cantonment constituency Barring unforescen developments, Mr Beant Singh seems destined to head the new Congress government in Punjab. He registered a convuncing win over his nearest BSP rival, Mr Gulzara Singh, with a margin of 10,113 votes. Mr Harcharan Singh Brar won from Muktsar. Mr Manin-derit Singh Bitta reseident of the derjit Singh Bitta, president of the state unit of the Youth Congress also yon from Amritsar (South) defeating his immediate rival. Mr Raj Kumar of the BJP. Another Youth Congress leader elected was Mr Jagmohan Singh Kang from Morinda consti-

was reserved for the Akali Dal(Ka- Congress was not without setbacks. Congress was not without setbacks. Mr Basant Singh, a nephew of the former President of India, Giani Zail Singh, lost in the Anandpur Sahib-Ropar constituency. So did Mr Brahm Mohindra in Patiala, Mr Bir Devinder Singh in Sirhind and Mr Gurdev Singh Bashiwala in Budhla-da. Incidentally, all three of them were dissident Congress leaders. Mr Hans Rai Sharma. President of Mr Hans Raj Sharma, President of the Punjab Bachao Morcha, lost to Mr Mohinder Singh Gill, a former Mr Moninder Singh Gill, a former PCC chief, in Banur constituency, However, two independent candi-dates and one belonging to the Irdian Peoples Front, made to the state Assembly.

Polling for the 115 Assembly con stituencies and 13 Lok Sabha seats which took place yesterday under an unprecedented security cover mounted by the Army, para-military, state police, home guards and SPOs. was marked by a record low in turnout of voters, thanks to the call for an election boycott by major Akali and AISSF factions backed by threats from militants.

The absence of major Akali and AISSF factions from the poll arena robbed the elections of its usual hustle and bustle and predictably inade it easy for the Congress to march to power in the state. Counting of votes in all the Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies began at 8 this morning and by noon, it was clear that the

ing and by noon, it was clear that the Congress would form the next gov-ernment in Punjab. The last Congress ministry headed by Mr Darbara Singh was sworn in on June 7, 1980, Mr Darbara Singh however, resigned on October 6, 1983 and President's rule was imposed in the state following stepped-up mili-tant violence in the state. Elections were held in September, 1985, following Rajiv-Longowal record mich her observed to the state.

accord which brought the Akalis to power in the state. But the Akali ministry, led by Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, lasted till March 1987, when Pracident's ministry sident's rule was imposed. The



tion available with the election office

in Chandigarh tonight. Mrs Sukhbans Kaur Bhinder had

taken a comfortable lead of 67,000 votes over her nearest BJP rival in Gurdaspur Mr Om Parkash

Mrs Santosh Chaudhary (Phillaur),

Mr Gurcharan Singh Ghalib (Ludhiana), Mr Sant Ram Singa (Patiala), Mr Jagmit Singh Brar (Patidkol) and Mr Santokh Singh Randhawa (Ferozepore) – all Con-

Mahajan. 🖌

Continued on page 14 col 3 seats for Congress

He was leading by more than 70,000 votes over his nearest BSP rival, according to the latest informagress candidates - were maintaining sizeable leads over their respective rivals until last report came

> In Sangrur, the contest was close between Mr Gurcharan Singh (Congress) and Mr Chand Singh Chopra (CPM).

In Ropar, Mr Harchand Singh, a former Punjab Minister, was ahead of his nearest rival, Mr Sona Ram Lalka of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Kabul) The most interesting contest, was witnessed for the Sangrur parliamen

Continued on page 14 col 5

Leader not to be imposed

NEW DELHI. Feb²20 (PTI) = The Replying to a question whether the Congress leadership would not im-new government would hold talks puse anybody as leader of the legisla-with militants in an attempt to re-ture party in Punjab which would be solve the Punjab problem, she said left free to elect its leader. The AIC-"we will talk to everybody to help Chi general secretary. Dr Rajendra resolve the issue". Kuman Bajpai said today

Replying to questions of newsmer reproductions of newsmer bress Dr Bajpaa slad the army would be stallation of a popular government. Dr Bajpaa slad the Army will stay there for sometime to help restore povernment there tovernment there

As trends of counting of votes in he Assembly elections indicated, the Meanwhile, the Centre claimed it met demands of various shades of political opinion by holding peaceful Congress is heading for an absolute majority in a 117-member house. Dr Bajpai asked, "why should we go for "roalition government""

Asked who would be the leader of the Pinjab Congress legislature par-ty, Dr Bajpai said it would be decided by the CLP

ty the CLP The people of Punjab have voted for the Congress as they felt that this party alone can restore peace in the, state, which had been the main plank of the party in the elections. Dr Bigpai said

Congratulating the people of Pun-jab for the smooth conduct of yester-day a polling. Dr Bappai said the first lask of the new government would be to restore peace in the state.

Replying to a question, Dr Bajpai said that she could not give a time-frame within which the task would the be fulfilled.

gun deal

ish

the

Asked whether she would call the new government a popular one in view of a mere 30 per cent polling, Dr Bapparsaid a fear psychosis prevailed there and it was not that those who ind not vote were opposed to the Congress

Even in states liked Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, polling percentage had no or been recorded cent per cent. Sne said, adding, that polling in Punjab passed off peacefully except mb explos

The government had made fool- liquor vends would be opened within roof security arrangements for a radius of 150 metres of educational olding the Punjab elections, she institutions, bus star.ds, religious'

elections in Punjab and initiating the political process in the trouble-torn state The elections, an official spokes-

The elections, an official spokes-man said here, were held against acavy odds, marking the beginning of the political process. An elected gov-ernment, he said, would provide a rallying point for moderates and change the political climate in the state. state The elections in Punjab were held

after a lapse of five years. Surjit Singh Barnala, heading the Akali Dal(L) ministry laid down office in May 1987

Mr Surinder Singh Kairon, son of former Chief Minister Pratap Singh Kairon, won the Tarn Taran Lok Sabha constituency defeating his main rival. Mr Harbhajan Singh Oshan of the BSP, by 47, 180 votes. In the last elections the seat had been won by the Akah Dal (Mann) chief. Mr Simmajit Singh Mann The Bathunda seat went to Mr. Beant Singh Haryana hikes duty on IMFL

his controversial econo-

Tribune News Service

Tribune News Service CHANDIGARH, Feb 20 – Ban on sale of liquor in the municipal limits of Kurukshetra, Thanesar and Peho-wa, closure of 'ahatas' in the state, 'uncrease in excise duty by R 2 per proof litre on country liquor, rum and gin and tax on the sale of liquor in municipal committees are the high-lights of the Haryana excise policy for 1992-93 Wide angle

Mr Bhajan Lal, Chief Minister, who Finance Minister Mangave details of the excise policy approved by the Cabinet, said a mohan Singh will present the Union Budget on target of Rs 423 crore was fixed for excise department next year February 29. There are rumours that as part of

'Ahatas' closed

mic reforms he will make against an estimated collection of Rs 352 crore in the current financial year. The target for this year was Rs 255 crore the farming community share part of the tax burden. Should agricultural income be taxed is a

He said beer bars would now be allowed to be opened only in cities and that too on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner and Su-perintendent of Police concerned. question which is not easy to answer. There are as many points of view as there are people willing The Cabinet also decided that no

to express their opinion on the issue. Page 7.

places, harijan and labour colonies. and beer respectively. The amount He said village panchayats and collected on the sale of these bottles panchayat samitis would share the within the municipal limits would income from tax in liquor bottles sold to the municipal committee con-in their areas, in the ratio of 60 per cerned. The total revenue on its cent and 40 per cent respectively. The account would be Rs 12 crore, which ax will be Rs 2, Re one and 25 paise per bottle on IMFL, country liquor The areas dup has been increase in the resources The excise duty has been increased

The excise duty has been increased from Rs 14 to 16 per bottle of country liquor and Rs 15 to 17 per bottle of rum, while the increase in the case of beer is from Rs 2 to 3, if the alcohol content is 5 per cent or less, and from. Rs 4 to 5, if the alcohol content is more than 5 per cent. The licence fee for L-3 (wholesale Country, Fource) has been increased

The licence fee for L-3 (wholesale country liquor) has been increased from Rs 25,000 to Rs 75,000; for L-30A (wholesale rum and gin of 55 degree proof) from Rs 1,000 to Rs 3,000; for L-2A (retail vend of rum and gin of 55 degree proof) from Rs 1,000 to Rs 3,000; sub-vend from Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000; L-1 (wholesale and Indian-made foreign liquor) and Indian-made foreign liquor) from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 lakh, L-1A (wholesaie licence granted to bottling plants) from Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000; plants) from Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000; L-1B (wholesale licence for distiller-ies) from Rs 1.75 lakh to Rs 2.50 lakh; builded warehouses licence (BWH-2) from Rs 35,000 to Rs 75,000; L-11 (licence granted to bottling plants for bottling IMFL) from Rs 2 lakk to Rs 3 lakh; for Rs 2-12C (club licence) from 164

The Bathinda seat went to Mr Kewal Singh who defeated Mr Makhan Singh of the CPI by 10,249 votes Former Punjab Minister and Con-gress candidate Mr Yash was de-clared elected from Jalandhar parliamentary constituency. He defeated his nearest BJP rival Mr Jugal Mahajan by a margin of 1.13.813 votes.

Mr Raghunandan Lal Bhatia won the Amritsar Lok Sabha seat defeat ing Dr Baldev Chawla of the BJP

ber Congress (I) group in the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha today boycotted the Governor's Address to the House at the opening

dra Verma, read out his 40-minute Address in Hindi, They did no cooperate with the Congress (I) in the

Press saying that the boycott had become necessary because the BJP government headed by Mr Shanta Kumar had "miserably failed" to promises made in the earlier Gov-led. On the contrary, the anti-people policies pursued by the government had hit hard all sections of the people familiers, labourers, employees and farmers, labourers, employees and

The statement, signed by all MLAs

Cong boycotts Address Virendra Verma reiterated the state technology to identify underground government's commitment to bawater sources for installation of hand lanced development, public welfare pumps in scarcity areas and hoped and social justice that this would go a long way to achieve the target of providing

Achievements and policies of the governer said that there would be no change in the Plan there would be no change in the Plan **HP ASSEMDIV** priorities during 1992-93. He said the structural priorities during 1992-93. He said the structural the made structural the the USAID programme. convecti. Contrary to expectations, the Jana-ta Dal group led by Mr Vijay Singh Mankotia ulso did not disturb the proceedings. Later, the Congress (I) members of the during the current year. He said the power sector would Later the congress (I) members of the during the current year. He said the power sector would continue to get top priority followed

said the state government had offered nine hydel projects with a 1304-MW capacity to the private sector. A memorandum of understanding had been signed with three private com-panies for the Baspa Stage-II (300 MW), Uhl Stage-III (70 MW) and Ghanvi (22.5 MW) projects. The state would get 12 per cent free ower in these projects Employment power in these projects. Employment opportunities for 15,000 persons would be generated. The World Bank had also sanc-tioned a loan of \$ 43 million for

Continued on page 14 col 4

and social justice. That this would go a Mr Verma hoped that the efforts of achieve the target of the government to ensure quick eco-nomic growth and social justice would receive full support from all Sections of the House. Pumps had been fixed a making brief references to the pumps had already been achieve the target of achieve the tar He said a target of 1000 hand pumps had been fixed and about 200 pumps had already been installed. As many as 350 villages were provided water in 1990-91 and 354 more vil-Making brief references achievements and policies of the gov-



during the current year. He said the power sector would continue to get top priority, followed by roads, drinking water, afforesta-tion, trigation, education and health services in the Rs 486-crore Plan for next year, which was 20 per cent

Mr Verma said the government had adopted satellite remote sensing



others.

Later, the Congress (I) members circulated a joint statement to the Press saying that the boycott had

Address to the House at the opening of the budget session. The Congress (1) members ab-stained from the House. The other Opposition members, including those of the Janata Dal, the Samajwadi Janata Party, the Himachal Congress, the CPI and Independents main-tained a complete silence in the House when the Governor, Mr Viren-tra Verma, read out his 40-minute

Surinder Singh Kairon

Tribune News Service

SHIMLA, Feb 20 - The nine-mem-

in implem Programm



Hooray' I have won with my only vote. No other voter turned up.

Other pages

More and more complex at random by Rrem Bhatia page 8 Creative in spellings_ winners and sinners page 9 page 9 Award winner worker pay, perks Our r complain p readers page 11 Railways derail · Services page 12

NEW DELHI, Feb 20 (PTI) = CBI filed in a New Delff court, is likely to investigators are studying the Swel-ish news reports that appeared on Monday about the alleged links bemeet Swedish prosecutor-general, Mr Torsten Jonnson. His mission to Stockholm is to tween former Prime Minister Raily

persuade Swedish authorities in ex-tending help to CBI in its investiga-Gandhi and kickbacks in the Bofors tions into the Rs 1430 crore Howitzer

Official sources said the Indian deal. He would also visit Geneva and embassy in Sweden yesterday faxed the authentic English translation of Berne

The proceedings in the Geneva cantonal court's decision whether the documents could be made available the reports which appeared in Swed-

daily "Dagens Nyheter" on uary 17 After getting a response from th disting CBI DSP. Ashok Kuma Sunday Reading visiting CBI DSP. Ashok Kumar Malhotra, the CBI would be able to February 23, 1992 decide the new line of investigations depending on the attitude of th Swedish authorities, the sources said They said Mr Malhotra who had gone to investigate the Sethia case Pyjama cricket by Abhijit Chatterjee The Melbourne stadium - by Prabhjot Singh abroad was still in London and had nul yet reached Stockholm to pursue Science man Hawking - by Elizabeth Grun We clisic investigations with the Swedish authorities The sources were optimistic that the Swedish authorities might recon-Nirad Babu's bile - by P.D. Tandon Killer cars sider their decision not to reopen the case in view of the plea made Swedish Defence Ministry spokes-man to the executives of Bofors to reveal what they knew about the kickbacks to top Indian politicians.

by Charles Newton Principal Jeewan by D.C. Sharma Children's heroes... - by Taru Bahl NTR's 'Ashoka' The sources so top indian politicians. The sources soid Mr Malhotra was in touch with the CBI headquarters here H's first task would be to check the varacity of the reports. Mr Malhotra, who has been associ-ated with the Bofors investigation by Lakshmi Kamalakar National TT by Harbans Virdi Captions, cartoons, etc. right from January 1990 when the

FIR naming 19 accused had be

CBI studying Bofors reports to CBI or not has been put off till totally rejected the "false prop-

April. In Delhi high court on January 18, Additional Solicitor General Altaf Ahmed said, Win Chadha allegedly involved in the Bofors kickbacks, could be arrested by CBI to facilitate investigations.

'Continued on page 14 col 3

Official sources said the complete English translation of the two-part article by Bors Andersson was ex-pected to be faxed here "in a day or

After studying these reports, the CBI would decide its future course of cuon

Besides these two reports, the CBI had asked for some more documents but the sources declined to divulge the details.

The Congress described as an "im-teral" act the attempts by the BBC and "some people in Stockholm" to avolve Rajiv Gandhi in the Bofors candal when he was no longer alive o defend himself.

The party general secretary, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is also the o the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, described the allegations as "totally malicious and mischievous" prop-aganda against the late leader. "As long as Rajiv Gandh) was alive a section of the media both in India

and outside was bent upon spoiling his image", Mr Azad said, adding his image, Mr Azad said, adding that in spite of the propaganda against Mr Gandhi and the Congress, it came to power at the Centre and in some states. This, he said, showed that the yoters of the country had

Declining to hazard any guess as to the timing of the fresh allegations, Mr Azad, however, did not think that the Opposition would highlight the issue n the coming Budget session of Parliament. There is no reason. They have highlighted it on a number of necessons and the 1989 elections also were fought on the Ram Jan-mabhoomi and Bofors issues," hi

R.L. Bhatia

Meanwhile, Mr Win Chadha's counsel, Mr D.C. Mathur pleaded in the Delhi High Court that it could not direct the issue of warrants of arres for appearance before a police officer for appearance before a police officer lo facilitate investigation. Mr Mathur submitted to Mr Justice V.B. Bansal that the arrest warrants were without authority of law.

Conditions in Sweden for a positive outcome in the Bofors gun deal inves-tigations are the "best ever at this point", according to Mr Gunnar Berg, the attorney for India in the case "The Indians have the possibility to achieve both - a diplomatic break-through via the Swedish Foreign Affairs Ministry, as well as a legal advance through the prosecutor general," Mr Gunnar Berg told UNI

today The key Indian requests to Swedish authorities in the Bofors investigations are: access to certain Swedish banks, radio and other documents the diary of the then AB Bofors

Continued on page 14 col 3

The statement, signed by all MLAs of the Congress (I), including the CLP leader, Mrs Vidya Stokes, and the PCC president, Mr Virbhadra Singh, said that the unemployment problem had taken on new dimensions as the state government, pursuing a "reck-less" policy of privatisation, had jeopardised the basic interests of the state and its inhabitants. The law and

slate and its inhabitants. The law and order situation had "greatly deterio-rated" and the ruling party was blantally misusing government machin-ery for political advantage, as was witnessed in the panchayat and samiti elections.

The statement alleged that, keeping in view past experience, the Gov-ernor's Address which is, in fact, the ernor's Address which is, in fact, the policy statement of the government, is going to be nothing more than "full of platitudes, false claims and prom-ises which the government has no intention of fulfilling". The statement clarified that by abstaining from the House, "we mean no disrespect to the Governor, for whom we have bigh personal sec.

whom we have high personal re gard'

GOVT'S COMMITMENTS In his Address to the Assembly, Mr

CHANDIGARH WEATHER

The maximum temperature on Thurs ay was 24°C (75.2°F) and the minimum day was 24°C (6°C (42.8°F).

The maximum relative humidity was 95 per cent and the minimum 36 per cent. The sun will set on Friday at 6.14 and rise on Saturday at 6.57. OUTLOOK FOR FRIDAY: Mainly

clear sky. Not much change in the night temperature.



Himachal Governor Virendra Verma being led in procession, escorted by Speaker T.S. Negi, to the Vidhan Sabha to inaugurate the Budget session in Shimla on Thursday