

SPOTLIGHT MCD ELECTIONS

Cong's worst MCD showing seals party's eroded standing in Delhi

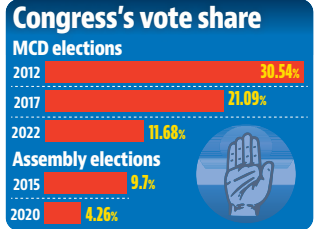
Risha Chitlangia
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NEW DELHI: The Congress registered its worst performance in the Delhi municipal elections on Wednesday, as its number of seats reduced to a single-digit count—nine—in the 250-ward civic body. Its leaders, meanwhile, acknowledged that fielding candidates from political families and a split in Muslim votes helped the party win those seats.

The party's campaign against the Aam Aadmi Party and a reminder of the work done under the leadership of former chief minister Sheila Dikshit didn't resonate with people as its vote share plummeted to 11.68% from 21.09% in the 2017 municipal polls. However, the party's vote share increased from 4.26% in the 2020 assembly elections, largely due to the split in Muslim votes to the party won Chauhan Banger, Zakir Nagar, Abu Fazal Enclave, Kabir Nagar, Aya Nagar, Nihal Vihar, Shastri Park, Brij Puri and Mustafabad municipal wards. Of the nine wards, seven have a sizeable Muslim population. The Congress won northeast Delhi's riot-affected areas such as Chauhan Banger, Brij Puri, Mustafabad and Kabir Nagar with margins varying between 2,118 and 15,193. It also won south Delhi's Abu Fazal Enclave and Zakir Nagar, and east



Delhi Congress office wears a deserted look on Wednesday.



Delhi's Shastri Park. According to senior Congress leader Chatar Singh, the election witnessed a split in Muslim votes

as communal riots that battered northeast Delhi in 2020. "The Muslim community is disenchanted with the AAP, as the party did not support them during the riots," Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's recent suggestion to have Lord Ganesha and goddess Lakshmi's pictures on currency notes has also not gone down well with the community.

Senior party leaders also said that the party won certain wards this time due to candidates from political families. Former five-time MLA Chaudhary Mateen Ahmed's daughter-in-law, Shagufta Chaudhary, won northeast Delhi's Chauhan Banger, which was affected by communal riots in 2020, by 15,393 votes. Ahmed's son Zubair Chaudhary (Shagufta's husband) had won the municipal bypoll from this ward by a margin of 10,642 votes in 2021. Former Congress MLA Asif Mohammad Khan's daughter, Arifa Khan, won from Abu Fazal Enclave, and three-time Congress councillor Shoab Danish's wife Naziya won from Zakir Nagar.

The Congress, which ruled the Capital between 1998 and 2013, has been struggling to revive itself but in vain. Delhi's Chief Minister Abhishek Bhatt said, "The results are not what we expected. We will re-strategise and start work on the ground again."

THEY SAY

Parks should be well-lit. The new corporation should also restrict stray dogs in residential parks.

JP SHARMA,
East Delhi resident

The new corporation should prioritise sanitation and propose garbage disposal. Roads are regularly lined with garbage mounds.

NAZIA FATIMA,
South Delhi resident

The new councillors in the corporation should fix the parking problem and ensure that footpaths are not encroached upon.

LAXMI ROY,
North Delhi resident

Victory margins show '22 polls more closely fought

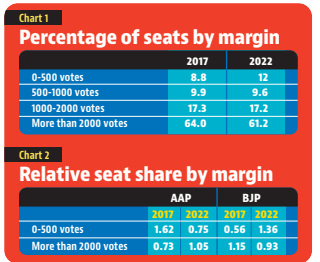
Abhishek Jha
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Were the 2022 Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) elections more closely contested than the one in 2017? A simple comparison of seat shares suggests that they were. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), that won on Wednesday, has a seat share of 54%, lower than the 66% seat share for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which won the elections in 2017.

Even in terms of vote share, the difference between the winner and the runner-up in 2022 is three percentage points, significantly lower than the ten percentage point difference between the vote shares of the BJP and AAP which finished first and second in the 2017 polls.

Did the 2022 elections also see a close contest at the level of wards? It is difficult to answer this question with accuracy. This is because the Delhi State Election Commission has only provided the votes of the winner and runner-up candidates at the ward level. This means the ward-level vote shares for candidates and victory margins cannot be calculated. However, it is possible to classify wards by absolute victory margins between the top two candidates.

HT has used a simple classification of wards by four groups of victory margins — up to 500 votes, 501-1,000 votes, 1,001-2,000 votes and more than 2,000 votes — to look at how things changed between the 2017 and 2022 MCD elections. The comparison shows



that the share of wards won by up to 500 votes has increased. Share of wards which were won with a margin of more than 2,000 votes has decreased by almost the same amount. The remaining two categories are largely the same.

See Chart 1: What does a party-wise classification of victory margins tell us? The best way to answer this question is to look at the relative seat share of each party in the four margin categories described above. The comparison shows that AAP's relative share in the most closely contested wards has come down between 2017 and 2022 elections whereas it has increased in the highest victory margin group. The reverse holds for the BJP. **See Chart 2:** How accurate is it to treat fixed

victory margins to compare whether or not the elections were closely contested at the level of wards? A comparison of average votes polled per ward in 2017 and 2022 is a useful metric to outline the limitations of this approach. This number was 26,425 in 2017 and 29,343 in 2022. This is understandable given the fact that the number of wards came down from 272 in 2017 to 250 in 2022 and total votes polled increased marginally from 7,187,715 in 2017 to 7,335,825 in 2022. This suggests that using similar victory margin categories for 2017 and 2022 will underestimate the number of closely contested wards in 2022. To be sure, one needs information on votes polled in individual wards to make a concrete claim on this question.

Bobi, city's 1st transgender councillor, wins Sultanpuri

Hemani Bhandari
hemani.bhandari@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Capital on Wednesday got its first transgender councillor as 28-year-old Bobi from Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won from the Sultanpuri ward in the municipal elections, making history in the Capital. Bobi, a social worker for over a decade, defeated the Congress' Varuna Dhakwa by over 6,500 votes in the ward reserved for women candidates, according to data shared by State Election



Sultanpuri councillor Bobi

Commission (SEC). Bobi said she wishes to resolve issues of the area residents and the people who voted her to power first.

"First, I'll work for the society and people who have voted for me. I'll also work for the transgender community. Being a transgender person, I know getting jobs is a big concern for us. In fact, members of the community who live with me still dance on occasion for a living. So, if anyone ever needs any help, I'll definitely work for them," she said.

According to Bobi, the area's local issues include cleanliness and safety in parks, unclean roads, lack of amenities like open gyms that are available in other neighbouring wards.

"The other political parties have not worked and people here are looking for development," she said. This is not Bobi's first foray into politics. She had contested the 2017 municipal election as an independent candidate but lost. However, she associated herself with the AAP about two years ago and became the

party's face in Sultanpuri. "I was first associated with the Anna Hazare anti-corruption movement in 2012 and then with AAP, but formally joined them two years ago," she said. "I am grateful for the opportunity and I am sure I'll live up to the expectations," Bobi added. Bobi has also been associated with the Delhi unit of an NGO Hindu Yuva Samaj Ekta Awam Anti-Terrorism Committee, which helps the elderly, women and widows, for 15 years.

Three independent candidates win

NEW DELHI: With the results of the MCD polls declared on Wednesday, almost all 250 seats were divided between the three big parties of Delhi — the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress. Only three independent candidates — two of them women — emerged victorious in the elections. This was a significant drop in Independent councillors from the

previous elections to the then trifurcated civic body in 2017, when six of the 272 councillors were not affiliated to any party. In addition, smaller parties like the Bahujan Samaj Party, Samajwadi Party and the Indian National Lok Dal also had representation in the civic body last time, but failed to open their account in the 2022 elections. Interestingly, all three independent candidates who won in

the present elections did so by a comfortable margin. In Mundka, Gajender Singh Daral defeated AAP's Anil (single name only) by a whopping 9,348 votes, and by a margin. Meena Devi defeated AAP candidate Pinki Taxta by 2,170 votes. Meanwhile, in the communally sensitive seat of Selampur in north-east Delhi, Shaikha Begum defeated BJP's Seema Sharma by 4,262 votes.

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Delhi Police के Wise Words

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cybercrime.gov.in

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National Forensic Sciences University

Notice is hereby given to the Shareholders of GAIL (India) Limited ["the Company"] whose shares are due for transfer to Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) in accordance with the section 124(6) ("the Provisions") and Rule 6(a) of the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the Rules").

As per the provisions, all the shares in respect of which dividend(s) remained unpaid or unclaimed for seven consecutive years or more shall be transferred to IEPF.

In this regard, Company has completed the posting of specific communications to the concerned shareholders whose dividend(s) have not been paid or claimed for seven consecutive years, at their latest available address with the Depository/IFDA mentioning complete details of the shares due for transfer into IEPF. The brief particulars are as under:

Dividend (Year)	Date of declaration	Last date for claiming Dividend	Transfer into IEPF Account
Interim (2015-16)	09 th February, 2016	08 th March, 2023	Before 08 th April, 2023
Final (2015-16)	23 rd September, 2016	22 nd October, 2023	Before 22 nd November, 2023

To know the details of such shareholders please refer: <https://www.gailonline.com/InvestorInformation.html>

Shareholders who have not claimed their dividend during the period of the last seven consecutive years, can write to the Company at the Registered office (or email at shareholders@gail.co.in) or to our Registrar and Share Transfer Agent (Address: MCS Share Transfer Agent Limited, Unit-GAIL (India) Limited, Plot-4-62, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi-110020 or email at amc@mcsegregistrar.com) for further details and for making a valid claim of the unclaimed dividend(s) with the Company on or before 08th March, 2023 (for Interim Dividend 2015-16) and on or before 22nd October, 2023 (for Final Dividend 2015-16) failing which the relevant shares will be transferred to IEPF.

Subsequent to the date(s) mentioned above, the concerned shareholders can claim the said shares along with the dividend(s) from IEPF in accordance with the procedure and on submission of such documents as prescribed in the IEPF Rules, 2016. Shareholders can also refer to the details available on www.iepf.gov.in. Claimant(s) are advised to approach the company for issue of Entitlement letter along with all the required document(s) before filing of claim(s) with the IEPF Authority.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 08-12-2022
E-mail: shareholders@gail.co.in
Phone: 011-26182955
Fax: 011-26185941

For GAIL (India) Limited Sd/-
(Mahesh Kumar Agarwal)
Company Secretary

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Date: 08-12-2022
E-mail: shareholders@gail.co.in
Phone: 011-26182955
Fax: 011-26185941

For GAIL (India) Limited Sd/-
(Mahesh Kumar Agarwal)
Company Secretary

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