

Chapters of Democracy

Work of SPECT Foundation



Introduction & Background

SPECT Foundation was formed after the first consultation meeting, which was held at India International Centre in August 2022 with a number of renowned academicians, activists, journalists.

The objective of the foundation was to advance the interests of the minorities especially the Muslims and other marginalized sections by strengthening the public discourse through data analysis, social media campaigns, outreaching civil society and political parties etc. Last one decade has been difficult for Muslims in India. A well designed negative propaganda was paddled against Muslims by the mainstream media. This propaganda was devoid of facts and was far from reality, but subjected them to widespread hatred and violence, leading to marginalization, discrimination, vilification and criminalization by the state.

To counter this propaganda, the SPECT Foundation was formed with two prime departments, the Media and Research wing. The Office of SPECT foundation is in Abul Fazal Enclave. To further expand our team, big influencers of Twitter and YouTube were gathered at one place and an appeal was made to them for cooperation with mutual understanding. A lot of people were onboarded with our effort. During the month of Ramadan 2023, a gathering of more than 50 leading journalists and YouTubers was organized at SPECT's new office. The response to this program was pretty encouraging and a group of big influencers from the community was formed, who were ready to work together under the Minimal Agenda.

Following are the details of the four major kinds of work that SPECT Foundation has done in the last one and a half years: Social Media Engagements by Media team, Research based long form work done by media team, the research done by the Research team and training and workshops provided by SPECT Foundation.

Research work done by SPECT Research Team

Report Publication

SPECT did extensive research of examining the socio-economic indices of ten Minority Concentrated Districts (MCD) identified by the Sachar Committee Report which was published with the title, **“Marginalization of Muslims in 10 Minority Concentration Districts-Bringing the Equity question back in the Political Discourse”**. Ten districts with significant minority populations from UP, Bihar, Bengal and Assam were picked and in-depth secondary research was done to show the state of Human Development Index, disbursement of government policies and benefits etc. The aim of this report was to bring back the question of socio-economic marginalization of Muslim population in the country, which is hardly talked about in the media or larger policy narratives any more in the last ten years. The report was launched in April, 2023 in the Press Club of India. It was widely covered in the print and electronic media. This report is part of an ongoing project and it will be further continued to cover other multifarious aspects of socio-economic marginalization of the minority community.



Interventions by SPECT

Related to 2024 Elections

SPECT Research Team also looked at booth wise data of 132 Muslim concentrated seats and identified strong and weak booths for the secular parties.

SPECT have done a detailed study of 130 seats where the Muslim community are in a decisive part of the overall electorates. SPECT have examined in detail the following number of seats in various states. SPECT identified 130 seats, where the Muslim electorate is either more than 50%, 41-50%, 31-40%, 21-30% Or 15-20%. With these categorizations SPECT have identified the following:

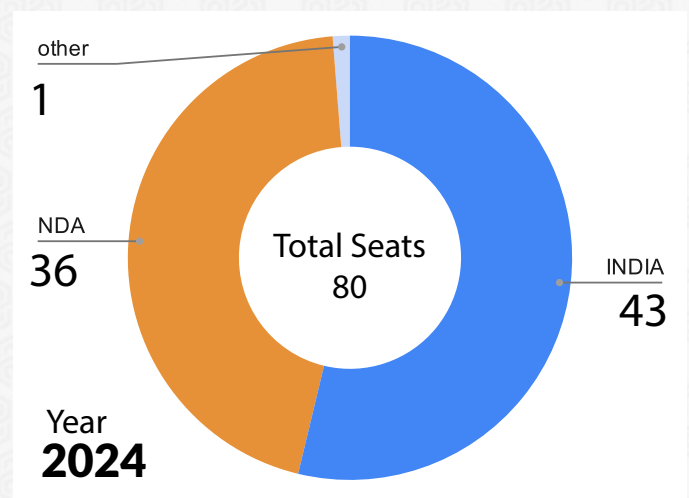
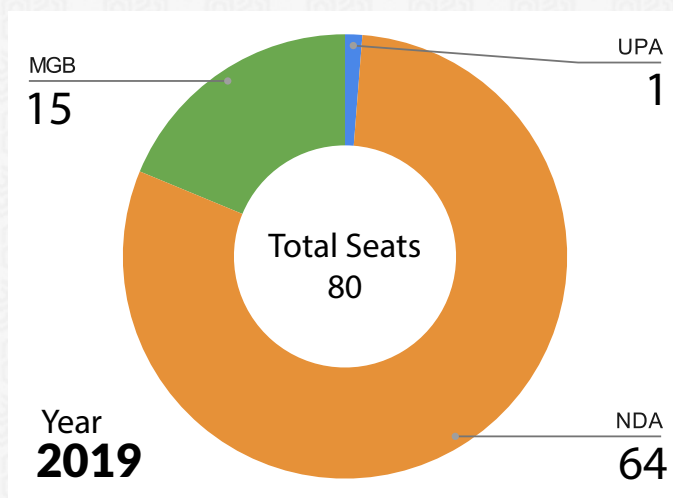
29 Seats in UP (2 are more than 50%)
 10 seats in Assam (4 more than 50%)
 18 Seats in Bihar (1 more than 50%)
 28 seats in West Bengal (4 more than 50%)
 10 seats in Kerala (2 seats more than 50%)
 8 seats in Karnataka (0 seats more than 50%)
 7 seats in Maharashtra (0 seats more than 50%)
 3 seats in Telangana (1 seat more than 50%)
 3 seats in Jharkhand (0 seats more than 50%)
 3 seats in Delhi (0 seats more than 50%)
 2 seats in AP (0 seats more than 50%)
 2 seats in MP (0 seats more than 50%)
 2 seats in Tamil Nadu (0 seats more than 50%)
 1 seat in Haryana (0 seats more than 50%)
 2 seats in Uttarakhand (0 seats more than 50%)



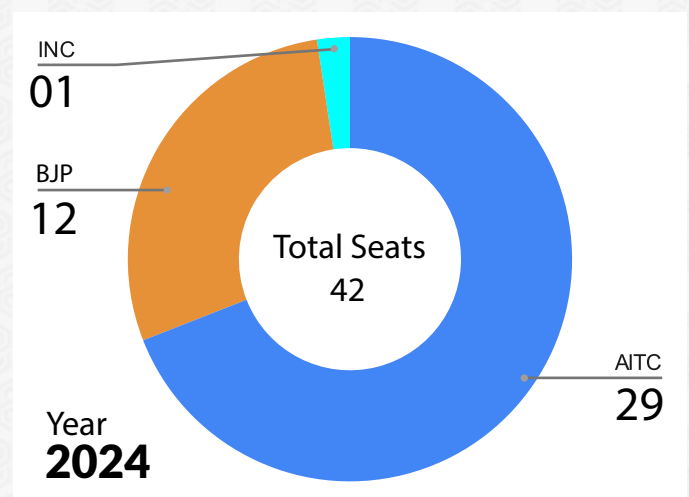
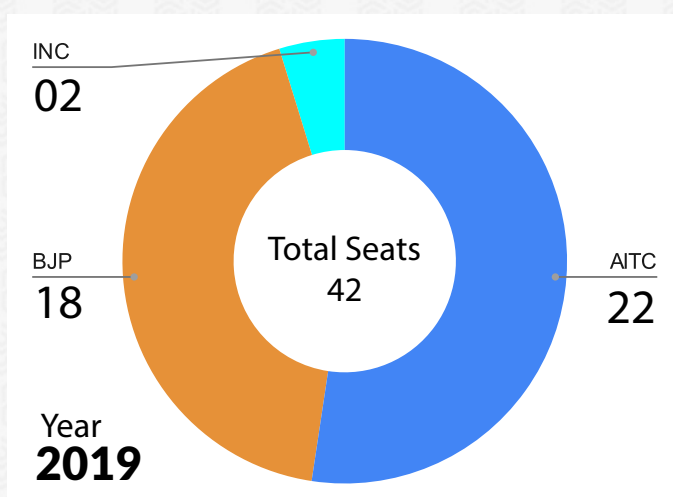
In 2019, out of these 130 seats

BJP alone won 65 seats, NDA won 2 seats, non-aligned parties won 14 seats and parties which are currently part of INDIA alliance won 49 seats.

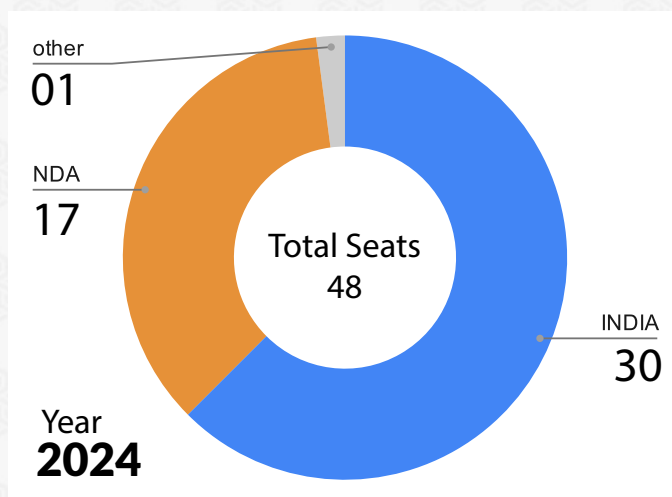
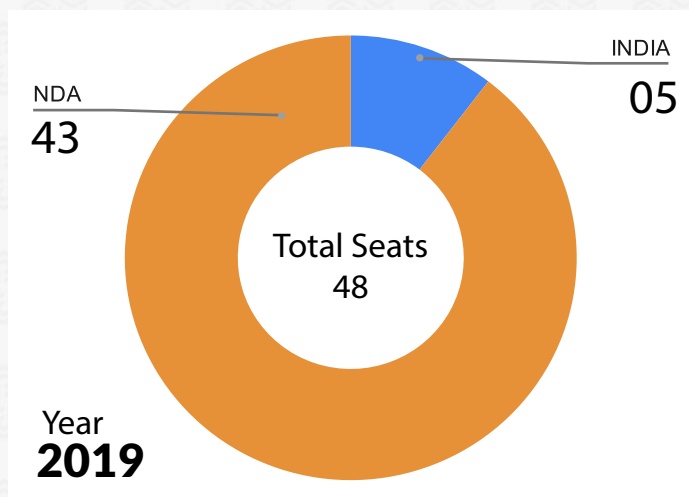
In **Uttar Pradesh**, SPECT had targeted 31 seats, out of which 20 were with BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha Election. In 2024 the BJP could only win 11 seats and 2 went to its alliance partner RLD, thus reducing the number of NDA in UP significantly. Out of these 31 seats, 18 seats were won by the India Alliance in the 2024 Elections.



There were 26 seats that we targeted in **West Bengal**. These 21 seats went to the India alliance in 2024 while other 5 seats were won by the BJP. It is to be noted that Muslim electorates are present in big numbers in these constituencies and play a decisive role. Of these constituencies, BJP won 5 (Raiganj, Malda Uttar, Bangaon, Ranaghat, Tamluk), Congress won 1 (Malda Dakshin) and TMC won the rest 20 seats. Division in Muslim votes led to the win of BJP in Raiganj and Malda Uttar.



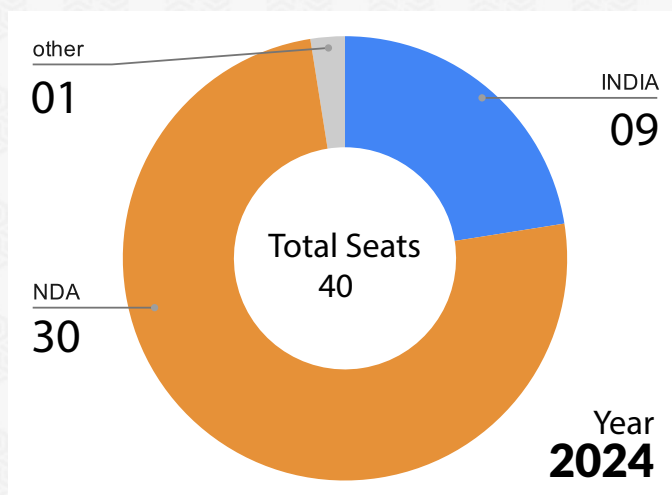
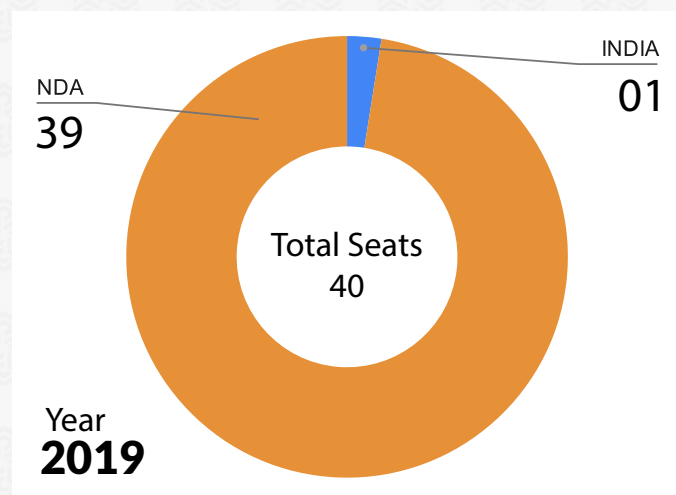
SPECT Foundation had done data mapping and analysis of the following seats in **West Bengal**: 1. Asansol 2. Arambagh(SC) 3. Baharampur 4. Balurghat 5. Bangaon (SC) 6. Barasat 7. Bardhaman–Durgapur 8. Bardhaman Purba (SC) 9. Barrackpur 10. Basirhat 11. Bolpur (SC) 12. Cooch Behar(SC) 13. Diamond Harbour 14. Dum Dum 15. Howrah 16. Jadavpur 17. Jangipur 18. Jaynagar (SC) 19. Kolkata Uttar 20. Krishnanagar 21. Maldaha dakshin 22. Malda Uttar 23. Mathurapur (SC) 24. Murshidabad 25. Raiganj 26. Ranaghat (SC) 27. Tamluk 28. Uluberia.



There were 22 seats that we targeted in **Maharashtra**. Out of these 22 seats only 2 seats were with the India Alliance. But in 2019 India Alliance won 17 seats while the BJP and its alliance partner won just 5 from these 22 seats.

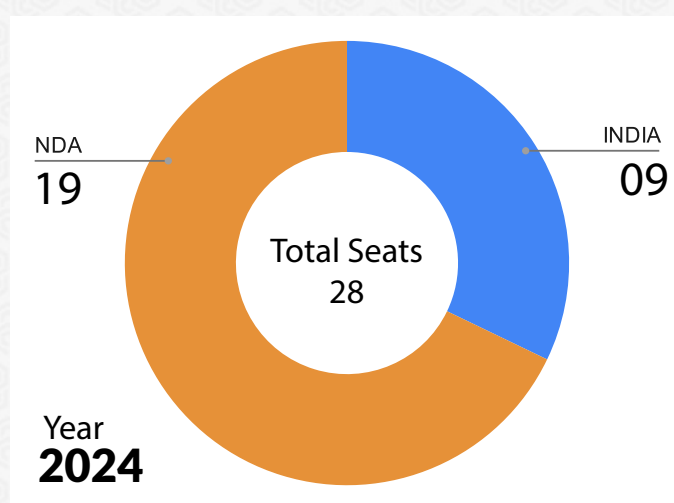
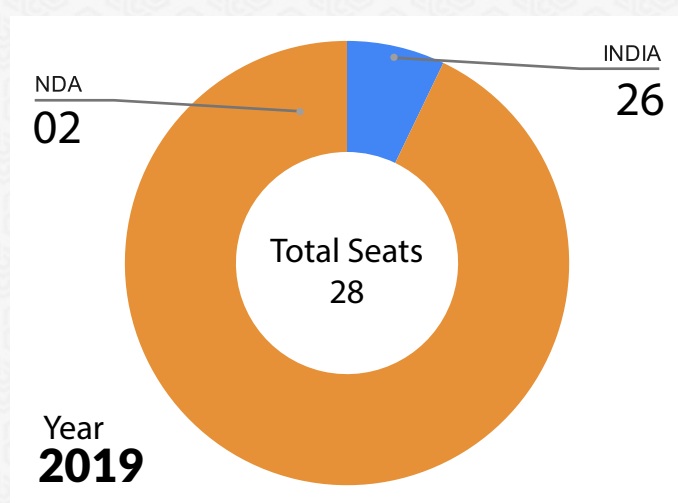
These seats were– Seats that India Alliance won– Jalna, Nanded, Parbhani, Latur, Sholapur, Dhule, Amravati, Beed, Ahmed Nager, Bhiwandi, Hingoli, Pune, South Mumbai, North Central Mumbai, North East Mumbai, North Central Mumbai and Yavatmal. While the seats that went to the NDA are– Aurangabad, Akola, Buldhana, Nagpur, Jalgaon.

In Bihar, SPECT targeted 13 seats where the Muslim population was significant in



number. Out of these 10 were won by the NDA and 3 seats went for the India Alliance. NDA won these seats –Kishanganj, Araria, Katihar, Purnia, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Madhepura, Paschim Champaran, Sitamarhi, Valmiki Nagar. On the other hand India alliance was able to win these three seats– Katihar, Kishanganj, Purnia. Overall the India alliance won 10 seats in Bihar, an increase of 9 seats from 2019.

In **Karnataka** SPECT worked on the eight seats, and won 4, while the other 4 went for the NDA. In 2019, out of these 8 seats, all the seats were with the NDA. These seats were– Dakshina Kannada, Raichur, Dharwad, Devanagre, Gulbarga(SC), Bidar, Bangalore Central and Bijapur. In 2024 the seats that went to the India alliance were four out of these eight– Raichur, Devanagre, Gulbarga and Bidar.



Research on SC\ST reserved seats

We focused on some seats in UP, Karnataka, Maharashtra, UP, West Bengal and Jharkhand, which are SC/ST reserved, but have substantial Muslim populations.

The turn out of the Muslim electorates in these seats are often low, which impact the outcome of the results. So these seats like Gulbarga (Karnataka), Arambagh (West Bengal), Godda (Jharkhand), Nagina (UP) were selected for constituency mapping, voting history and issues and analysis of the elections.

People's manifesto and preparation of draft civil society manifestos

SPECT prepared a detailed people's manifesto before the General Election, 2024 with demands and issues highlighted pertaining to the minorities of the country. It focused on issues of security to minority lives and properties, systemic discrimination that they have to face and violation and sabotaging of their constitutionally guaranteed rights in the last ten years. It demanded the repeal of draconian laws that are being used to witch hunt minorities and promulgation of new laws ensuring their security and dignity. It focused on education and health rights of minorities. And demanded other constitutionally guaranteed rights that they are entitled to. The manifesto was shared with progressive and secular parties to include them in their election agenda and promises.



Campaign and onground propaganda work

SPECT Foundation undertook several campaign and propaganda work around the 2024 General Election to support the progressive and secular forces in the country.

- ▶ SPECT prepared a narrative for the campaign in Uttar Pradesh, which has the highest number of Parliamentary Seats (80) and exerts considerable impact on the overall results. We made multiple zonal divides of the state and identified pertinent election issues of each zone and developed campaign material for the same. These election issues and campaign material were shared with the leadership and workers of the INC and Samajwadi Party for their use in the General Elections.

- ▶ The BJP's misleading claim of 400 seats had slowed down the opposition's politics a lot till some time back. Our media team tried to expose this claim to the public with data. It was successful to a great extent and after a while people started raising questions on it.
- ▶ Politically, the easiest way to convince the general public of villages is through public opinion given by the pliant mainstream media. SPECT's media team, along with various YouTube colleagues, made the anti-government public opinion go viral through Facebook videos and Instagram reels. Due to our efforts, many videos went viral on social media in which the common people of the country, suffering from inflation and unemployment, started raising questions about the ruling Modi regime.
- ▶ SPECT Foundation members were engaged in on ground campaigns for specific candidates in Delhi, Jharkhand, Maharashtra.

- ▶ **The issuing of a helpline number in Delhi:** After observing voter suppression and slow voting and other deliberate machinations by Election Commission and the ruling party agents in the election, SPECT Foundation in collaboration with other organizations issued two Helpline numbers to help voters in Delhi. We received a large number of complaints on the day of polling in Delhi, mainly pertaining to slow voting, EVM malfunctioning and missing names from voter lists. We connected with the AROs of various constituencies and intervened and tried to resolve many of the problems that we were informed of.

On 25th May, when Delhi goes to polls, if you have any complaints like **slow voting, EVM malfunctioning, use of money-muscle power etc** you can lodge your complaint in the cVIGIL app of ECI



Available on Google Play



Or else you can contact us on the following numbers for help to lodge complaints with ECI

98704-19280

79825-97191

Independent Election Observers

VOTERS WILL MUST PREVAIL

Counting Watch Help Line Numbers

Please make a note

Open from 7 AM to 12 PM on June 4th

FOR NORTH STATES	FOR SOUTH STATES (Including Maharashtra and Goa)
+91 98704-19280	+91 97414-82975
+91 79825-97191	+91 63667-05015

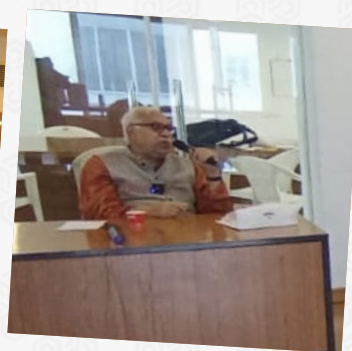
Do contact and report any violation of the procedure anywhere in counting process.

Advocates, media persons and experts will be available all the time to provide necessary support.

Training of agents Political Parties and volunteers

SPECT foundation carried extensive and targeted training of volunteers as well as polling and election agents of political parties.

- ▶ Firstly, SPECT held training and awareness programs on voter registration and campaigns against voter deletion across various states in 2023 December and 2024 January.
- ▶ On 4 and 5 November 2023, more than 100 Muslim youth leaders from across the country were called to Delhi and a training program was organized at Jawahar Bhawan and in view of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, a team was prepared according to the Lok Sabha.



- ▶ Political Training to RLD Party cadres were held when they were a part of the INDIA block. A two days long workshop was organized by field experts in UP. These meetings took place while RLD was still a part of the INDIA alliance.
- ▶ Meeting with Akhilesh Yadav was held; Training session was conducted with SP workers. Data exchange is going on with SP cadres.
- ▶ Social Media Training Program organized by West Bengal team; resource team was held by SPECT.

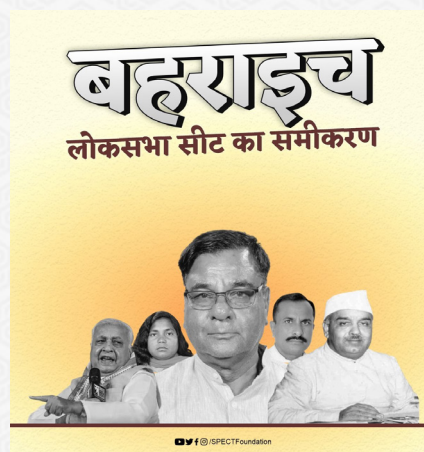
- ▶ SPECT's media team along with Quit India Campaign and Yogendra Yadav's team organized two workshops on Social Media Training and Media Narrative in which people from across the country participated virtually.
- ▶ After the political team became active in Maharashtra, many workshops were organized by the SPECT team, voter registration camps were organized, various civil society programs were participated in, meetings were held with all the political parties there and a road map related to politics was decided and continuously worked on it.
- ▶ During the Karnataka Assembly elections, the SPECT team worked politically with the civil society and Muslim organizations, which included exchanging data, organizing various programs and campaigns, etc.
- ▶ After several meetings with the Congress National Team, SPECT's team connected more than 100 grassroots people with the Congress communication team through its network for a social media campaign.
- ▶ In the politics of West Bengal, many programs were organized in collaboration with civil society, and with the help of Muslim organizations, many political training programs related to social media and media narrative were conducted. Apart from this, SPECT team is also a part of many big political programs and campaigns.
- ▶ At the time of Gujarat Assembly elections, the main opposition party Congress was assisted with political data and was sent complete details of which seats could be won and what would be the equation, but it did not get any result due to Congress not wanting to contest the elections.
- ▶ Two rounds of meetings with Delhi civil society and other grass root organizations have taken place for on ground work in Delhi. One round of workshops also took place.
- ▶ The SPECT team trained polling and election agents in Delhi in the North East Delhi and Chandni Chowk constituencies.

Social Media engagements

by Media team

One of the main objectives of SPECT was to extensively use social media to build a positive and informed political discourse on the issues concerning Muslims and other marginalized sections. Another major concern was to counter the fake and manufactured narratives against Muslims by providing factually correct information, data and using research to counter those narratives by the mainstream media – the Godi media (embedded media) as well as the hate campaigns run by different actors.

Media team used the data sets provided by SPECT's research team, and the data available in the public domain to counter the fake narratives. The content created by the media team was in the form of videos, posters, charts, maps etc. We also used different social media platforms like Twitter, facebook, Instagram and whatsapp to

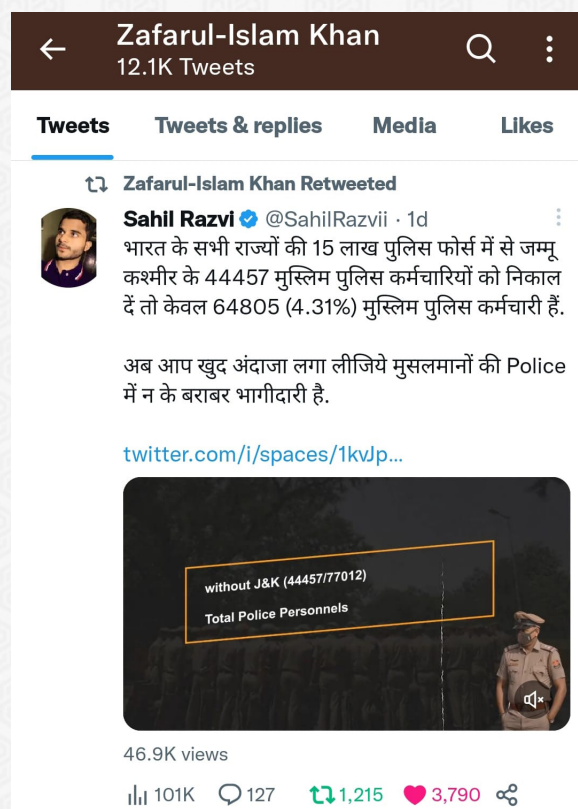


reach the larger number of people. On the other hand, we also collaborated with a number of social media influencers for this purpose.

Since the establishment of Spect Foundation in August 2022, its media team has carried out various types of work.

During this time, the media team has worked on the following issues.

1. One of the fields in which our media team has worked was related to making informative posters and videos on political and social issues.
2. SPECT team has also created a network of social media, YouTube and media influencers who work on various issues under a minimum program.
3. In view of the political situation in the country, our team has done narrative work with the media to counter the one-sided atmosphere created by the mainstream media in favor of a political party. We worked towards building a positive atmosphere for the India Alliance under the media narrative.
4. Whether it is a matter of training or supporting new journalists associated with the media, the team of Spect has always promoted them.
5. The media team has countered the misleading environment spread by the BJP and its allies on some social and political issues through research-based work.
6. SPECT media team has organized workshops for the training of new journalists and youth. SPECT was a part of the inaugural meeting of Bharat Jodo Yatra and were its unofficial partners. We also trained the social media teams of many organizations associated with this campaign.
7. SPECT team has created Wikipedia accounts for a number of Muslim personalities and civil society activists.



Few Social Media teams work worth mentioning

The Social media team is active on various social media platforms and regularly pushes content and also builds narratives by pushing trends.

- The release of the rapists of Bilkis Bano was strongly raised by the SPECT team throughout the month of October. Media team also started a trend on Twitter



on this matter. The trend and posters running on this issue across India were mostly driven by our team.

- In Haldwani, Uttarakhand, there was pressure on the local administration due

to the narrative set by SPECT's media team on the uproar after the demolition of mosques and madrassas by the BJP government. A press conference was organized by the authorities to give clarification to the accusations raised by the team. As a result, our team was targeted for some days by BJP's IT cell and some of the pro-government mainstream media channels.

- ▶ On the tragic bridge accident in Morbi, Gujarat, Media team ran a trend for the entire month of November as part of a campaign to expose the Gujarat model. The posters and videos that exposed the state government on this tragic incident were also made by our team.
- ▶ In view of the Gujarat elections held in December, 2023 SPECT Foundation supported the team in Gujarat in understanding political research data and voting patterns.



- ▶ In the month of March, 2023 the issue of inflation was targeted, under which various types of posters were circulated on social media.
- ▶ To celebrate India's independence on 15 August 2023, a series of posters were launched to revive the forgotten Muslim freedom fighters and their historical significance, which became very popular among the people.
- ▶ The SPECT team worked extensively to consolidate the Muslim vote and increase the voting percentage in the Karnataka elections held in May 2023. The effect of which was also palpable in the election results.

Research based work

by Media team

- ▶ A research based detailed video was made on the issue of Muslim youth being locked up for years on false charges of terrorism. Which was appreciated on different platforms and also went viral on social media. Along with this, small videos on unemployment, starvation, Bilkis Bano, Morbi incident and police atrocities in Kheda also went viral among the people.
- ▶ On the completion of two years of the arrest of anti-CAA protesters under UAPA, cooperation was done for the Hindi version on the international documentation for global solidarity, which had good effects at the global level.
- ▶ Amidst the discussion of making a law on the issue of population explosion, a research-based report was prepared to expose the misconception and myth that Muslims are responsible for the rise in population. Due to the wide traction that this video received, the right wing lashed back with counter propaganda.
- ▶ Many research-based maps were prepared to show the percentage of Muslim voters in the Lok Sabha in different states of India. No one had done this type of work on such a large surface before.
- ▶ A research-based report and video was prepared on the issue of custodial death and police reform. The video went viral very quickly but subsequently under pressure from the authorities, it was removed from every platform.



The truth of custodial death in India || The Insight Story || custodial violence



Citizens for Justice and Peace @... · 22m ·

There is a low representation of [#Muslims](#) in the Indian [#Police](#) force, according to a report from the NCRB in 2010. What is the reason for the lack of recent NCRB data and who is to blame? Read:



cjp.org.in

Consistent low representation of Muslims in the police force in India | CJP



Training and Workshops by Media team

An important task of our media team is to train and support new journalists, some of the major tasks of which are as follows:

- ▶ Training workshops were organized in different parts of the country including Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Lucknow, etc. with experts to teach the new journalists the tricks of anchoring in the media.



- ▶ Workshops were also organized on the issue of fact checking.
- ▶ Training programmes were also organized on the issue of content writing.
- ▶ Training programmes were also organized on the issue of legal journalism.
- ▶ Around 10 to 15 young media persons visit Spect's office to learn new tricks of media.
- ▶ Founders of various channels also use Spect's office to run their media channels.

LEGAL JOURNALISM

A SPECT Foundation Training Workshop.



Prabhakar Kumar Mishra
Journalist - News 24

03:00 PM
25th June 2023, Sunday
E-100/B, 5th Floor, Hari kothi lane,
Jamia Nagar, New Delhi



Scan for Registration

Twitter Space

आज के दौर में खबरों की सत्यता और विश्वसनीयता?

09:00 PM 21st June 2023, Wednesday



SAHBAN
Former Fact Checker
of FACTNews.com



MOHD. NADEEM SIDDIQUI
OSNT &
Media Literacy Trainer



PRASHANT TANDON
Senior Journalist
& Political Analyst

Join The Discussion
& Training Session

@SPECTFoundation

SPECT FOUNDATION

HOW TO FACT-CHECK?

A SPECT Foundation training workshop.



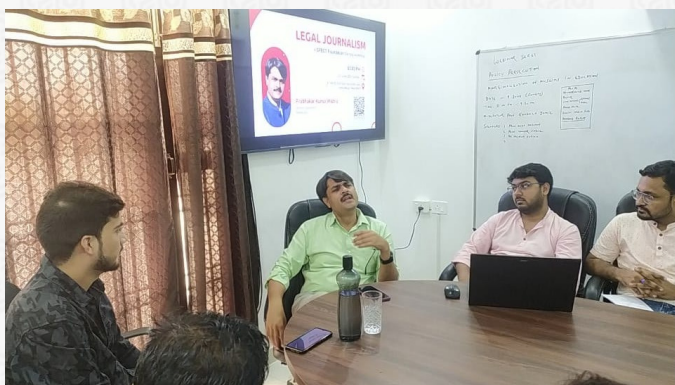
Nisar Siddiqui
Research Scholar
Expert - Fact Check

02:00 PM
17th June 2023, Saturday
100/B, 5th Floor, Hari kothi lane,
Jamia Nagar, New Delhi



Scan for Registration

- ▶ The Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan team has organized several workshops on the issue of social media at various times.
- ▶ Online and offline social media training programmes have been organized with several social organizations.
- ▶ Field recordings have also been organized several times to set the media narrative in all the seven Lok Sabha seats of Delhi. Several meetings have been held in our office under a group formed by social media experts in which minimum programs have been made to work on political issues.
- ▶ Many journalist colleagues and media channel people have been taught the skills of video recording, editing and designing.
- ▶ A whole network of media colleagues has been created in different states of India who help in understanding local issues and bringing the news to us.
- ▶ To build the Wikipedia team, SPECT have also trained many new youth to edit articles and create new pages.
- ▶ SPECT had organized a Twitter space called “आज के दौर में खबरों की सत्यता और वशिवसनीयता”. A lot of people had joined it.



Miscellaneous Media Narrative work by Media team

In today's time, electoral politics is no longer limited only to the election campaign and rallies of political parties. People's electoral choices are also heavily influenced by social media narrative to a great extent. At the time of its inception, special attention was paid to the media narrative and it was decided that we will try to do effective intervention in the social media narrative. So that a narrative can be set which can counter the vicious communal agenda propagated by the BJP.

- ▶ The myth is constantly created by the BJP that the Modi government cannot be defeated. To break this illusion, SPECT's media team has tried to establish through many posters, videos, media interviews and public opinion that with little political will BJP can be easily defeated. This was done to bust the myth of invincibility of the BJP.
- ▶ It is seen in many Muslim concentrated Assemblies and Lok Sabha, due to the divide of Muslim votes and the low Muslim vote percentage, BJP is easily winning the elections. SPECT's team has also tried to make a social media narrative on this issue. It has tried to motivate Muslim voters to take part in the voting in large numbers, so that the divisive politics of BJP can be easily defeated.
- ▶ Even in the name of delimitation, attempts are made to politically isolate the Muslim community. In recent times, delimitation has been done by BJP in Assam in such a way that many Muslim dominated areas have been converted into reserved seats. SPECT has worked to give a new direction through social media and YouTube. The issue of delimitation is not talked about much in the mainstream media. We have tried to highlight this extremely important issue. More work will be done on this in the coming days
- ▶ The BJP's misleading claim of 400 seats had slowed down the opposition's politics a lot till some time back. Our media team tried to expose this claim to the public with data. It was successful to a great extent and after a while people started raising questions on it.

- Politically, the easiest way to convince the general public of villages is through public opinion given by the pliant godi-media. SPECT's media team, along with various YouTube colleagues, made the anti-government public opinion go viral through Facebook videos and Instagram reels. Due to our efforts, many videos went viral on social media in which the common people of the country, suffering from inflation and unemployment, started raising questions about the ruling Modi regime.

• लोकसभा चुनाव 2024 •

यूपी में इंडिया गठबंधन जीत रहा है

घोसी

लोकसभा 2019 में गठबंधन को इस सीट पर 50% से ज्यादा वोट शेयर हासिल हुआ था और विधानसभा 2022 में यहां सपा गठबंधन सभी 3 सीटों पर विजयी रहा था। भाजपा का काम वोट शेयर और दलित मुस्लिम मतदाता का इंडिया गठबंधन के प्रति रुझान जीत के लिए सहायक होगा।

2024 में मोदी की विदाई तय

INDIA AGAINST HATE

• लोकसभा चुनाव 2024 •

यूपी में इंडिया गठबंधन जीत रहा है

बाराबंकी

2022 विधान सभा - 45.6%
(वोट शेयर इंडिया गठबंधन, भाजपा से लगभग 8% ज्यादा)

2019 लोकसभा - 51%
(वोट शेयर इंडिया गठबंधन)

इस लोकसभा की 5 विधानसभा में से 3 पर हैं सपा विधायक

2024 में मोदी की विदाई तय

INDIA AGAINST HATE

• लोकसभा चुनाव 2024 •

यूपी में इंडिया गठबंधन जीत रहा है

गाज़ीपुर

लोकसभा 2019 में गठबंधन को लगभग 52% वोट शेयर हासिल हुआ था जो भाजपा से 11% ज्यादा है। विधानसभा 2022 में यहां सपा गठबंधन सभी 5 सीटों पर जीता था। अफ़ज़ाल अंसारी के सपा ज्वाइन करने के बाद मतदाता का इंडिया गठबंधन के प्रति रुझान जीत के लिए काफी है।

2024 में मोदी की विदाई तय

INDIA AGAINST HATE

• लोकसभा चुनाव 2024 •

यूपी में इंडिया गठबंधन जीत रहा है

अंबेडकर नगर

हालिया विधानसभा चुनाव इस लोकसभा के अंतर्गत आने वाली पांचों विधानसभा सीटों पर सपा विजेता रही है। सपा का वोट शेयर भाजपा से 15% ज्यादा है जो जीत को सुनिश्चित करता है।

2024 में मोदी की विदाई तय

INDIA AGAINST HATE

Alternative media network

2 crore subscriber base

Channel Name	Subscribers
Millat Times	1.25 Million
Public Reaction Bank	2.5 Million
Daily Hind	1.39 Million
AR News India	1.54 Million
Pal Pal News	2.28 Million
The Nation	1.68 Million
News MX TV	1.45 Million
Anas Hashmi Official	1.85 Million
Special Coverage	1 Million
Nation 360	623 K
Khabar Adda	690 K
Nafraat Decode	211 K
Lallanpost	229 K
Journo Mirror	137 K
TV 14 Bharat	72 K
Ashraf Hussain	408 K
Wasim Akram Tyagi	283 K
R 24 News	192 K
Pappu Times	157 K
News Mate	143 K
Loktantra TV	502 K



Policy Intervention

- ▶ **Police Reforms Policy campaign plan, research and documentation.** A Consultation meeting regarding Police Reforms was held with former DGPs Dr. Ishq Kumar, IPS, Dr. VN Roy, IPS, Ravi Nair and other stakeholders. At the press club, a public meeting and programme on police atrocities were organized, for which documentation, videos, posters and various stories were created, submitted and largely shared with various organizations including People's Right an International organization. There are various consultation meetings going on with various peoples. After reviewing our report on police reforms, the INC team decided to add it in upcoming manifestos. In the future, there will be different state programs for police reform. A research-based report and video was prepared on the issue of custodial death and police reform. The video went viral very quickly but subsequently under pressure from the authorities, it was removed from every platform.
- ▶ **Research and social audit Report on welfare schemes and it's impact on minorities in 10 Districts.** As mentioned earlier, a detailed report about the implementation of public policies in 10 Minority Concentrated Districts out of the list of districts identified by Sachar Committee Report was prepared and widely disseminated.
- ▶ **Voter registration, Awareness and Mobilization-** One of the core and important political work that SPECT foundation was engaged with was voter registration and mobilization. This was important because a large section of Indian Citizens are not very enthusiastic about using their right to vote. The situation of India Muslims and particularly Muslim women was pathetic in this regard. The voter registration is important because a large number of Muslims do not register themselves as voters for different reasons. So our team collaborated with different civil society partners in different states to run awareness campaigns for the registration of voters (State wise details are given under the "state-wise

activities' heading. On the other hand the turnout of Muslim voters was very low especially in states like Karnataka, Bihar, UP and Maharashtra. We ran different campaigns to make them aware of why it is important to cast their votes. As a result we have noticed an increase in Muslim voters in Karnataka, and UP.

State-wise Activities

West Bengal: The political situation in West Bengal is favorable particularly after the assembly elections. Most of the leaders who shifted towards BJP have rejoined the party and the ground is fertile to regain the lost constituencies from the BJP. In West Bengal we have identified 26 seats where SPECT had worked. Out of which 18 fall in the category of primary focus seats while 8 other seats fall in the secondary focus category.



In West Bengal, we formed the political committees which worked in the state. We also collaborated with the Bengal Bachao campaign committee in this state for the 2024 elections.

In West Bengal SPECT did two rounds of dialogue and engagement with the civil society activists (Bengal Bachao) along with the internal Jamat Committees. On the 18th of October a huge meeting was held under the title of “NO VOTE TO BJP” campaign in which more than 400 activists participated. On the 22nd, 23rd and 24th January, there was a program in Calcutta related to the campaign and strategy planning. Chotan Das was the convenor of this proposed meeting in January 2024. The co-convenor for this meeting was a Jamat member. This program is organized by the Jammat and it was chaired by the renowned economist and social scientist Amartya Sen.

Impact- Our work bore fruits as was reflected in the results of the 26 seats that we targeted in **West Bengal**. Out of these, 21 seats went to the India alliance in 2024 while other 5 seats were won by the BJP. It is to be noted that Muslim electorates are present in big numbers in these constituencies and play a decisive role. Of these constituencies, BJP won 5 (Raiganj, Malda Uttar, Bangaon, Ranaghat, Tamluk), Congress won 1 (Malda Dakshin) and TMC won the rest

20 seats. Division in Muslim votes led to the win of BJP in Raiganj and Malda Uttar.

In West Bengal we had a total of 4 offline workshops before election and held 7 online training programs to train polling and electoral agents.

SPECT Foundation also collaborated with the IPAC team in West Bengal to conduct daily narrative building around the elections and various other issues oriented to the campaign.

Karnataka: Karnataka again was one of the states where the political circumstances were conducive to defeat the BJP, after the results of the Assembly elections. Vokkaligas and some sections of lingayats have shifted to the Congress. There are strong chances that the BJP can be defeated in at least 8-10 seats.

In view of the Karnataka Assembly elections various assemblies of the state were visited that helped us formulate a strong working setup in Karnataka. SPECT had meetings with prominent social activists, prominent personalities and politicians. During this period, places like Raichur, Bidar, Gulbarga, Bijapur, Bangalore etc. were visited. SPECT worked with different organizations like AIDLU Karnataka and continued that engagement for the 2024 elections too. On 30 September 2024, AIDLU Karnataka had organized

a big meeting of 250 activists from all across the country. SPECT Foundation was invited to give the keynote address.

SPECT have also worked with new groups and committees in Karnataka. We have also worked closely in the Bharat Jodo Abhiyan. In the AIDLU Karnataka meeting, our research and data report was being used and our presentation was one of the leading works on Karnataka.

Impact - In Karnataka we worked on the 18-20 seats with other groups, and it is the result of our continuous engagement that SPECT is able to reduce the number of NDA seats in this state. In 2019, out of the 28 seats, all the seats were with the NDA except one. In 2024 we are able to bring the NDA number to 19, thus the loss of 8 seats in comparison to 2019.

Bihar: Bihar has been one of the states where the political scenario is favorable largely because of the RJD and Congress alliance. On the other hand the caste census done by the Bihar government has also impacted the political scenario of the state. In Bihar there were 17 seats that have been identified. Most of the seats were won by the BJP alliance in the 2019 elections.



Several rounds of meetings were held in Bihar in which two convenors from each constituency of the 17 seats participated. Separate teams were formed for each seat. Our focus was largely on the Seemnachal and Mithilanchal region where AIMIM has been dividing the Muslim votes.

SPECT Foundation held two workshops in Bihar for the constituencies with substantial Minority votes and also a civil Society coordination meeting was held in Patna.

Impact- In Bihar, SPECT have seen a satisfactory result as the number of India Alliance increased to 10 which was 1 in 2019, thus an increase of 9 seats from 2019. In Purvanchal region too we were able to stop the division of votes to certain extent except for a few seats like Araria. Overall the performance was satisfactory.

Maharashtra: Maharashtra was one of the states where the political climate was favorable and the impactful campaign was run in the state. SPECT's focus was largely on the 10 seats where Muslims constitute the significant voters. **In this regard we had several meetings**

with civil society organizations etc. On 13-14 August a meeting was held in which 70 organizations participated including Ameer Jamaat, Malik Saheb and Nadeem Khan to discuss the plan and strategize for the Parliamentary elections. It was largely a civil society meeting. It was decided that all the 70 organizations will work hand in hand in the future.

On the 8th October a big consultation



meeting was held in Gymkhana in which 200 people participated. It was discussed that we will run a voter registration campaign in the state. In this meeting Maharashtra Democratic Forum was formed.



There are 40-50 voter registration camps running in all parts of the state keeping in mind the assembly elections as well as the Lok Sabha elections.

In Nagpur another consultation meeting was held in which prominent academicians like Sukhdev Thorat and other 25 organizations also participated focusing on the region of Vidarbha. Another meeting was held in Nagpur with the Muslim leadership. In the meeting it was decided that we should work in other parts of the state keeping the assembly elections and lok sabha elections in mind. However, the focus of our work will be on the 10 seats where Muslims are above 15 percent. Though we worked in 22 seats in this state.



Overall, SPECT held 9 offline training programs (3 in Mumbai, 2 in Nagpur, 2 in Nanded, 1 each in Aurangabad and Akola. We also held 8 online training programs to train volunteers and polling agents.

In Maharashtra, the results of 2024 Lok Sabha have been very encouraging. The India Alliance won 30 seats out of the total 48 seats, which is a very good result. There were 22 seats that we targeted in **Maharashtra**. Out of these 22 seats only 2 seats were with the India Alliance. But in 2019 India Alliance won 17 seats while the BJP and its alliance partner won just 5 from these 22 seats.

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UP: Uttar Pradesh is one of the main focused areas. Though the political situation in UP was not very conducive, we believed that there was ample space for interventions in this state. Though our work was spread across UP in campaign and narrative building, there were 32 seats where we had focused engagements. These seats have Muslims population above 15 percent and the focus was on identifying other local caste alliances. We had also divided seats where we needed to focus on increasing the voting Percentage in the end because those can be won easily.

Those seats were Rampur, Moradabad, Sambhal. Our strategy worked well in these constituencies and in the end India Alliance won all three seats.

But the overall campaign from the beginning was focused on Amroha, Badaun, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Kairana, Sahranpur, Aonla, because these seats have seen close contests where the winning margin has been low and these can be won by focusing on these seats from the beginning. In the end, the result came in our favor and we won all the above-mentioned seats except Meerut and Amroha. In 2019, only Amroha and Sahranpur were with the India Alliance.

SPECT did several rounds of consultation in different parts of UP. One meeting was held in Meerut. This was focusing on the western UP region. It included Farmers organizations and civil society activists with special focus on sugarcane belt and rohilkhand region. Following this two smaller meetings were held in Allahabad and Lucknow.

Another meeting was held in Lucknow at the Jamaat office. SPECT appointed two convenors and two co-convenors for the East and the West region. SPECT had a huge consultation meeting to revive or reorganize the UP Democratic Forum. And later a meeting was held in Lucknow in which more than 150 people participated in this meeting. It had 3

activists from each of 32 constituencies identified. People from different areas, civil society activists from UP- Banaras, Allahabad, Kanpur and youths, women and other prominent political campaign groups. The meeting decided on the campaign strategy, social media, media and voter registration etc. it was also decided to organize voter registration camps in the first phase.

SPECT held several rounds of meetings with the Jayant Chaudhary RLD team before they joined the NDA. We had also trained their workers and took a number of workshops with the Jayant choudhary team in January. SPECT provided help to the RLD in political data and training workshops on the 9th and 10th January 2024.

SPECT also worked closely with the SP teams. SP used our research data extensively for its work. We also wrote a report on campaign strategy for UP that was also extensively used by SP

It was also decided that we must build teams in those 32 constituencies. Constituency wise Social media groups have also been formed.. Women teams were also formed, we have also elected the convenors for each constituency.

Impact- As a result, the UP result surprised most of us. In UP, the India alliance won 44 seats breaking all records. The BJP which had 62 seats in 2019 is reduced to 33 thus a loss of 29

seats to BJP alone. Thus our organization and networks worked miraculously in UP and we are able to see a change. BJP lost even the Ayodhya seat which is symbolically a very important victory against the politics of hate in UP.

Rajasthan: SPECT had several rounds of meetings in Rajasthan. A meeting was organized on 12th July 2023 for the Political Committee on behalf of Jaipur constituency in which the State President, General Secretary and the entire state team were involved.

Another meeting was held with the selected members of Rajasthan constituency who are politically active, under the chairmanship of Malik Moatseem Saheb. Along with discussion of various political tasks, political committees and tasks for the future were decided in this meeting.

A larger committee was formed to oversee the campaign in Rajasthan, and separate teams for Youth, women, PR and voter registration work were also formed. There are more than 800 women volunteers only in Jaipur who are working on voter registration and working to increase the women participation.

Overall, SPECT working on 25 assembly seats in Rajasthan and that work will be carried forward after the assembly elections for the 2024 elections. There are 3 parliamentary seats in Rajasthan

for 2024 work. These are Jaipur City, Sawai Madhopur and Sikar.

Impact- The results of Rajasthan 2024 Lok Sabha Elections are very encouraging as the India Alliance was able to win 10 seats. The number of BJP seats has come down to 14, which was 24 in 2019, thus a loss of 10 seats.

Telangana: A committee was also formed in Telangana. They have also formed a data center in Telangana which has conducted a micro study in Telangana. There are 3 important seats in Telangana where Muslims are significant in numbers and can play a decisive role in the electoral outcome. BJP did well in this state by increasing its to 8 in 2024 from 4 in 2019.

Gujarat: In Gujarat there are 2 seats where Muslims can play an important role in determining the electoral outcomes. Our focus is also on seats with tribal regions where we are in contact with Tribal groups. We are in touch with the civil society activists in the state.

Madhya Pradesh: There are 2 seats in Madhya Pradesh where we are working for the 2024 Parliamentary elections along with the assembly seats. We are working with other civil society organizations in Madhya Pradesh. We have a strong network in Khargone, Khandava and Indore. We have already done online meetings in this direction.

Assam: There are 10 seats in Assam where Muslims are significant in numbers. There are 4 seats where Muslims are more than 50%. However, we don't have any direct influence in this state. We are in contact with Prakash Malakar who is a senior activist in Assam. He is very active in this state. We have done meetings with him and his team is using our data report in devising campaign strategies.

Delhi: Apart from the central meetings that were held in Delhi, that have been mentioned separately, several campaign strategies were adapted for Delhi elections itself. SPECT made collaboration with both Congress and AAP IT cell and held separate meetings with them for narrative building, training and voters' outreach. On 28th April 2024 Volunteers meets were held on Elections in Okhla for South Delhi and in Seemapuri for North east Delhi constituencies. On 09 May 2024 Meeting related to Election



was held in Old Delhi for Chandni Chowk and on 17 May 2024 Meeting related Election was held in Abul Fazal Okhla for East Delhi constituency. On 28th May a joint civil society meeting was held called "Voters Will Must Prevail", to remain vigilant against any malpractices to rob the mandate on counting day. It was followed up with another online meeting.



Other Important works

- ▶ SPECT have been actively part of the Bharat Jodo Abhiyan all over India. A number of civil society activists are part of this campaign. We are one of the important parts of this campaign. We have been part of the civil society organization who met Mr. Rahul Gandhi and gave our inputs for the campaign.
- ▶ A meeting was held in the Constitution Club in March 2024, with several MPs of the India Alliance like Derek O'Brien (TMC), Jaya Prada (SP), Tiruchi N. Siva (DMK) and others to strategise civil society interventions in the upcoming elections.
- ▶ SPECT members met T.S. Singh Deo, the convener of the Manifesto Committee of INC. We had a long meeting and we presented a draft proposal with suggestions for their manifesto.
- ▶ AIDLU Karnataka has started a large nationwide campaign in consultation with the civil society activists. SPECT is part of the main steering committee of four members for this campaign.

- ▶ A Civil Society Network for the 2024 elections. The meeting for this was held in Punjab, Kerala etc. and we invited 120 activists from all over India to Delhi for a 2 day consultation meeting. SPECT is actively looking to work closely with this network.
- ▶ A similar meeting with civil society was held in Bangalore, where mostly the people from the south participated and consolidated the civil society network of progressive people.
- ▶ In Bhopal SPECT held a big meeting with the Muslim organizations. In the meeting a committee of Muslim organizations having 11 members was formed. We also organized a meeting with this committee in which members from Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh also participated along with members from Madhya Pradesh. The focus was on the assembly elections in these states.
- ▶ In most of the civil society campaigns and movements, our data report for 130 constituencies is being used. Teesta Setalvad's group, Yogenrdrad Yadav's group, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Prakash Malakar, all of them are using our report for the campaign purposes.
- ▶ SPECT have also done meetings with all main Political Parties which are part of the INDIA alliance, be it RJD, Congress, JDU, RLD etc. We are in contact with the people who are managing their party campaigns etc. We have already done detailed discussions with Manoj Jha, Shaheen, KC Tyagi etc.



Proposed Research Project **for the future**

- ▶ The issue of delimitation is not talked about much in the mainstream media. In the name of delimitation, attempts are made to politically isolate the Muslim community. In recent times, delimitation has been done by BJP in Assam in such a way that many Muslim dominated areas have been converted into reserved seats. The issue of Delimitation is going to be severe in the coming days. SPECT has worked to give a new direction through social media and YouTube. We have tried to highlight this extremely important issue. Extensive research of the delimitation and its impact on the populace will be done in the coming days.
- ▶ In future work we plan to do Data Analysis, Voter Awareness, Narrative building, media and write civil society manifesto for forthcoming assembly elections in Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand in 2024 and Delhi and Bihar in 2025.
- ▶ SPECT Foundation will do analysis of the voter data of General Election 2024 to see the caste- class- religion division of voter distribution. We will further do constituency mapping and election issues specific to constituencies for the upcoming state election too.
- ▶ The Police Reform project will be continued and further extended by exploring state level data and with further consultation.
- ▶ The implementation of public policies in the minority concentrated districts will be extended covering other districts identified by the Sachar Committee Report.

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