



# YOcee Summer of 2026: eBook Issue 1



## YOcee PRESENTS... A COLLECTION OF REPORTS ON THE TAMIL NADU ELECTIONS By Student Interns



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YOcee – News Website for Children

# OVERVIEW

With the ongoing election campaigns, the YOCee summer interns have actively documented a wide range of events. Through on-the-ground photographs, reports, and insightful interview submissions, our interns have captured the evolving political landscape. As the Tamil Nadu elections are highly anticipated, this compiled eBook is designed to provide readers with a clear and comprehensive overview of the intricacies and dynamics of the campaigns.

The first edition of the eBook 2026 is a unique collection of election stories documented across different timelines and perspectives of the electoral journey - beginning with the campaigns of contesting parties, extending through polling day, and reflecting on the post-election atmosphere. Student reporters ventured into the field to gather testimonies, photographs, and firsthand observations, while also using this opportunity to engage more deeply with the democratic process as future voters.

This eBook, featuring contributions from ten interns, was compiled by a three-member editorial team under tight deadlines. Despite never meeting in person, we collaborated seamlessly online, gaining invaluable hands-on experience in cooperative journalism. We are proud to present this collection of reports, documented over two crucial weeks of election campaigning.

*Medha R  
Samyuktha Chandrashekar  
Anushka A*



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# THE BLUE CROW OF HOPE: HOW 'NAMMA THANGA' BECAME CHENNAI'S NEW HEARTBEAT

Reported on 14 April, 2026

Ravi Raja Chakravarthy TR



Move over traditional icons; there's a new bird in town. Namma Thanga, the vibrant blue crow unveiled by the Greater Chennai Corporation, has taken flight as the definitive face of our city's spirit. While the crow is often an overlooked part of our urban landscape, this mascot transforms it into a symbol of resilience, unity, and strength.

The choice of a crow is a stroke of local genius. Crows are communal, survivors, and clever—traits that mirror the people of this city.

By painting it a bold, electric blue, the GCC has created a mascot that is both vibrant and unstoppable and introduced it to the public on October 2025. The aim of bringing in the mascot, Namma Thanga is to making it a neighbour for every resident, a "younger brother" of sorts to the city's streets, making civic duties like voting and waste management feel like a shared community mission. Namma Thanga, Chennai is now a mascot that makes a connect with people

Far from just a decorative figure, Namma Thanga is currently serving as a crucial ambassador for the 2026 Assembly elections, leading the charge for 100% voter awareness. From giant balloons at Ripon Buildings to posters on thousands of battery-operated vehicles, the blue crow is everywhere, urging every Chennaiite to participate in what is insisted as the "Great Festival of Tamil Nadu."

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# COLOURS OF DEMOCRACY; RANGOLI FOR VOTER AWARENESS

Reported on 26 April, 2026

Samyuktha Chandrashekar



Arrays of colorful rangoli patterns decorated the sidewalks of the Promenade beach, widely known as the Rock beach of Puducherry, on the scorching summer morning of April 4, 2026, enrapturing tourists visiting the beach. Rangoli enthusiasts and artists gathered in large numbers to participate in the rangoli competition hosted by the Election Commission of India. The initiative aimed to promote voter awareness and encourage greater public participation ahead of the elections held on April 9, 2026.

This event drew over 500 participants across age groups and genders resulting in a colorful display of rangolis along the Promenade early in the hours of the day. Beyond artistic expression, many participants used their creations to voice aspirations for social reform, reflecting hopes for governance in the post-election period. Themes ranged from the prevention of abuse against women and children, appeals to improve access of education to women, to advocating for a greener India, as well as aligning everyday actions with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

More than a competition, a collaborative and creative spirit was fostered among viewers and participants. Participants were seen sharing ideas, offering design suggestions, and even exchanging coloured powders to enhance each other's work.





Glimpses of the rangoli competition in Puducherry ahead of elections

A participant shared that her intention was not only to pursue her passion for rangoli but also to promote unity among the people of Puducherry, rather than deepen divisions based on political affiliations.

In a striking display of creativity, a group of participants were seen creatively exploring unconventional resources to design their rangolis with damp tissue paper and sand mixtures to create a 3 dimensional effect, turning heads of many.

The event sparked spontaneous conversations among tourists and participants, livening up the promenade, while successfully spreading the word about the importance of each voter's contribution to the election and eventually fulfilling the aim of the initiative.

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**Cover Photo: Rangoli with awareness messages created with sand mixture  
Photos by Samyuktha Chandrashekar**



# FROM POSTERS TO POLICY: HOW VOTER AWARENESS DIFFERS ACROSS GENERATIONS

Reported on 17 April, 2026

Anusha Vinodhinee



Conversation with a wide range of people from different occupations, from flower vendors to IT employees, aged 18 to 60 years reveal that most people are aware of election process, but awareness about candidates is limited.

The majority of the first-time voters know about the candidates from popular parties and candidates' photos or names that they have seen frequently on posters or advertisements. In contrast the people above 50 years know the full details of candidates contesting the elections and understand how elections work. More surprisingly, they are actively tracking the election campaigns and predicting -Who will win? If he wins, he will definitely do this; if not, the other candidate from another party will – These seniors are more involved in politics; they have different political opinions and which differ from those of young voters.

Divya dharshini (20), a first time voter is more concerned about poor roads and infrastructure and she wants an environment friendly society.

Krithika Thulasidas (19), a college student and first time voter said that she hates crowding at polling booths and campaigning until the last minute.

But people who are 50 years and above are concerned about primary issues such as women's safety, child safety and increase in prices especially, vegetable and electricity bills. They look for a middle-class friendly government.



# INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE OR ELECTION PREMIER LEAGUE? WHO MARKETS BETTER?

Reported on 17 April, 2026

Harsha Prashanth



Recently, shoppers at Ramraj Cotton, a brand that sells South Indian textiles, found handkerchiefs, dhotis, and sticker patches of different political party symbols competing in the 2026 Tamil Nadu State elections, displayed at their stores. These patches, which could conveniently be stitched or ironed onto a white shirt, were showcased prominently in their outlets.

This is only one example of the various types of election-themed merchandise being sold. From tiny whistles to glowing LED badges and even mufflers, many of these accessories are available on online platforms such as Amazon, branded with names or colours of the political parties. The range of these accessories is similar to that seen in the Indian Premier League (IPL) merchandise.

On closer examination, a distinct observation can be made – both political campaigns and IPL marketing use a similar marketing strategy that is 'persuasive advertising'. The idea is to create a distinct brand image or showcase a unique message. Political parties, as well as IPL teams, achieve this in several ways, one of them being apparel.





*Merchandise with stickers of parties*

The presence of a particular team logo or the flag of a political party imbues pride in the wearer. The chance to showcase this pride and flaunt their home colours incentivizes people to watch the game or attend voter rallies. Additionally, the vibrancy of brand colours and catchy slogans, such as the Chennai Super Kings' bright yellow theme and "Whistle Podu," shows how these factors improve brand recognition.

Persuasive advertising also takes place through digital marketing. Recently, political party advertisements have started appearing on YouTube channels too. Instead of using conventional methods, the parties used settings such as colourful local musicals, or through humorous conversations between everyday locals in the Chennai city background. Through this, advertisements become more relatable to and visually appealing, say the advertisers.

Overall, political parties, while using traditional marketing methods, also resort to IPL soft strategies. Persuasive advertising adds a fresh new perspective to Tamil Nadu's election campaigns. It is all colours, themes and marketing!

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**Cover Photo:**

*Dhoties and shirt along with a variety of stickers at Ramraj Cotton Store  
Photos by Harsha Prashanth*



# VOICES OF TOMORROW, DEMANDS OF TODAY

Reported on 19 April, 2026

Shirley Jane Manuel



## Colours and Voices of the polls

Even before they reach the age to cast a vote, Chennai's teenagers are already shaping the conversation on governance. Young voices are rising with clear expectations, from safer streets for women to corruption-free leadership, better education and cleaner surroundings. Speaking with YOSee, these students share their concerns, hopes, and messages for the government, proving that the future electorate is neither silent nor indifferent.

Across local neighbourhoods in Chennai, young school going teenagers who are not yet in the voting age step out to raise their voices to the government. They bring out their demands and high expectations for the upcoming government. While many share issues about the government, some share issues that have been a burden on their shoulders to the government.

The main concern everyone put forth is about the safety of women considering the sexual harassment cases and also in the perspective of most of them being girls, they want to bring a change in the safety of women. They also want a corruption-free environment since they see corruption in many files.





*State Election buzz spills onto Chennai's streets.*

**PHOTO:** Hrithika

Other concerns such as changing of the mindset of the education system to not force on the marks but allow deeper learning, cleanliness and job opportunities. When asked about what they think, three pressing concerns of this government came up.

Hrithika, a 15 year old student stated, "The condition of roads should be resolved during the rainy season, since many roads are filled with water." Another 15 year old, Junia Ruban said that the rate of unemployment should reduce considering that it is affecting the education rate.

As current youth, when asked about their thoughts on the current government, majority of the youth, we spoke to echoed the view, "They say they will bring change but there is no development of the state." However, some shared that they are satisfied with the government. Hrithika says, "I liked its functioning when it comes to sports and also I appreciate the efforts taken by the government such as the provision of free bus access to women and for the schemes like midday meal scheme."

What would they tell if they meet the CM of Tamilnadu? Well, each one had something to say to the chief minister. Junia Ruban said "Sir, please think about how decisions made today will be remembered 20 years from now. I hope you focus on building a legacy that future generations will remember you for not just for making decisions, but for implementing solutions that truly lasted." Rujisha, a student who is entering class eleven said, "Listen to the solutions suggested by the general public instead of just making your your own and also mainly give opportunities for women."

When asked about what is the one message or demand to the chief minister, Ervin Jeshua a 15 year old said, "Do the best you can for this state." The others also felt the same way and just wants the government to do the best they can.

Adults consulted for validation confirmed the concerns raised, noting that today's youth understand the issues facing the government and that awareness is what truly matters.

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# TAMIL NADU 2026: WAY AHEAD?

Reported on 22 April, 2026

Medha R



The Tamil Nadu State elections, set to happen on April 23, 2026 have left people with many predictions. With new youth voters, various parties, and defected candidates, this is seen as one of the most intriguing elections of all time.

The Chennai International Centre held a political event at the Tagore Auditorium on 17th April to discuss the way forward regarding the awaited elections. Political experts Mr. Rangaraj Pandey and Dr. Sumanth Raman, moderated by Mr. R.K. Radhakrishnan, analyzed the current trends and demographics for different parties.

Dr. Sumanth Raman began the session by revisiting the 2021 election trends. He noted that the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)'s path to retaining power could be swayed by a swing of 5,000 votes in 41 critical constituencies.



A major focus of the discussion was the entry of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) into the political sphere.

Dr. Raman suggested that this has created a notable “Index of Unity” shift, bringing more unpredictability. He expects TVK to create a larger impact in urban areas, especially the Perambur constituency in Chennai, due to actor-turned-politician Joseph Vijay’s influence among the youth and first-time voters. While he projects a decline in seats for the DMK alliance, owing to friction among partners like the Indian National Congress (INC) and Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), he emphasized that the final outcome depends on whether TVK draws support from anti-incumbency sentiments or shifts in minority and Scheduled Caste vote banks.

Mr. Rangaraj Pandey offered a different perspective on the ongoing campaign, claiming that modern politics focuses on managing public perception rather than ideologies. He noted that both the DMK and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have effectively used mainstream media to ensure a positive public perception. However, he is quite uncertain about how TVK will change the political dynamics. “The impact of TVK can be inaccurate; we already saw this happen in the 2025 Bihar elections, where exit polls overestimated the impact of Prashant Kishor,” Mr. Pandey said. Despite this, he affirms that the BJP is set to gain at least 8 to 10 seats.

He also noted that despite the DMK gaining the 13–16% minority vote, the drift of independent churches toward TVK could erode DMK’s support in that segment. With the BJP aiming to expand its voter base and TVK bringing a layer of uncertainty, the outcome remains fluid, with no certain party dominating under the current trends.

Thus, the 2026 election stands as one of the most closely watched contests in recent Tamil Nadu history, with results that could make or break political equations in the state.

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**Cover Photo:** Panelists Mr. Pandey (left), Mr. Radhakrishnan (centre), and Dr. Sumanth Raman (right) debating trends in the upcoming election.  
Photo by Medha R



# FROM CHALKBOARDS TO BALLOT BOXES

Reported on 22 April, 2026

Ravi Raja Chakravarthy TR



Walk down a quiet neighborhood street, and you will see the signs: 'Polling Station 100M, 200M.'



*Road signs marks the beginning of the democratic zone*

At a local primary school, the usual sound of lessons has been replaced by the clinking of tools as municipal workers repair the grounds. The school is shedding its identity as an educational hub to become a vital part of the democratic process.

Inside, the familiar notice boards are draped in old newspapers which is a silent rule of the election commission to ensure neutrality. Staff are busy not with grading, but with the massive task of "booth prep."





*Municipal staff work steadily to repair school grounds and ensure smooth access for voters*

One primary teacher here wears two hats. By day, she prepares students for exams; by evening, she is the neighborhood's Booth Level Officer (BLO). She spends her 'summer break' distributing booth slips door-to-door and guiding neighbours through the Voter Helpline App. "The people are very responsive," she notes, though she admits that the summer heat is a silent killer of the otherwise enjoyable work.



*The election awareness boards*



*The entry gate at the government school doubling up as a polling booth*

While the students are away, their presence remains. Colourful election awareness boards, created during school rallies, stand tall near the entrance. They serve as a reminder that the work being done here today is for the future of the children watching from the sidelines

As the flaws are fixed and the gates are readied, this school stands as a symbol of the massive, quiet effort required to make every vote count.

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**Cover Photo:** *The Local school getting ready as a polling booth*  
 Photos by Ravi Raja Chakravarthy T R



# NEEYOSI: A YOUTH'S CALL FOR INFORMED VOTING

Reported on 22 April, 2026

Medha R



## VOTE INFORMED

KAPIL BHASKAR'S WEBSITE PROVIDES  
ACCESS TO ALL THE INFORMATION OF  
ELECTION CANDIDATES



Meet Kapil Bhaskar, a 12th-grade student from Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School, Mylapore, Chennai, who created a website [Neeyosi.com](https://neeyosi.com) to share the details of the candidates standing for the election.

He noticed that information on the financial, educational, professional, and criminal records is not readily accessible. With the Tamil Nadu State elections scheduled for April 23, 2026, the information on his website comes at a timely moment for voters across the state.

"I consume a lot of political content and enjoy discussing it with friends, so I thought it would be a fun and problem-solving way to use my coding skills to address this issue," says Kapil.

The website functions in both Tamil and English, providing information regarding financial disclosures, educational background, professional qualifications and criminal antecedents of all the candidates in all the 234 Legislative Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu.



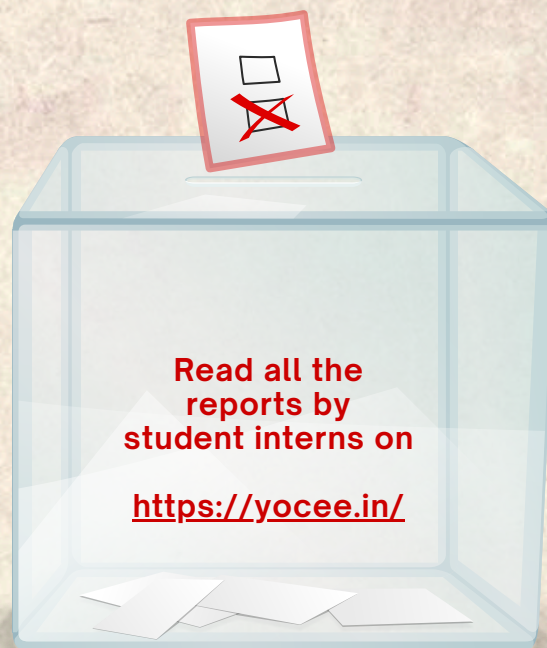
Kapil recalls the most difficult part of the process to be data collection. He took the initiative to connect with the non-governmental organisation, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), which collects and compiles data from Election Commission affidavits to make electoral information accessible. After receiving the data from them, he spent days coding the website with the help of AI-assisted tools like Emergent to speed-track the process.

The information about this website quickly spread across channels, and Kapil says it is overwhelming. "Many people reached out to me, even those I didn't share the website address to, and said that it helped them decide who to vote for," he says. He feels elated that this passion project is helping the voters across the state access reliable and transparent information they need, to make decisions. He hopes to scale it further and provide information for many more elections.

As the election approaches, Kapil's message is for people to "Vote informed, vote maturely, and vote based on policy, because ultimately, the power to think rests with you."

Kapil, though not yet a voter, has shown how young voices can strengthen democracy.

To explore the website, visit: <https://neeyosi.com/>



Read on [YOcee](https://yocee.in/)

Photo by Medha R



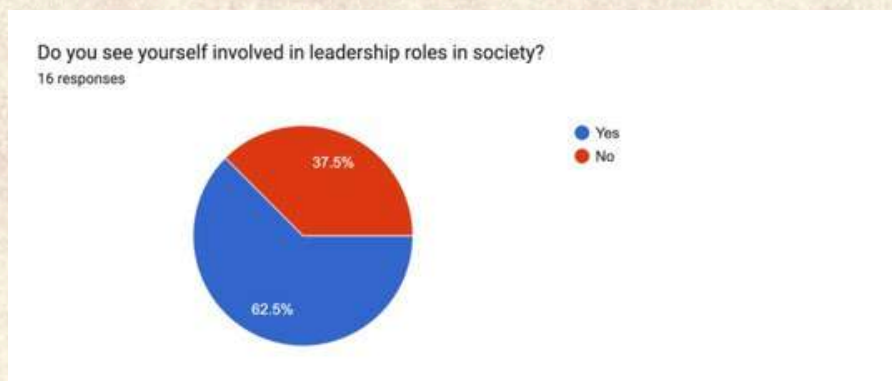
# BY THE YOUTH, FOR...?

Reported on 22 April, 2026

Rida Sait



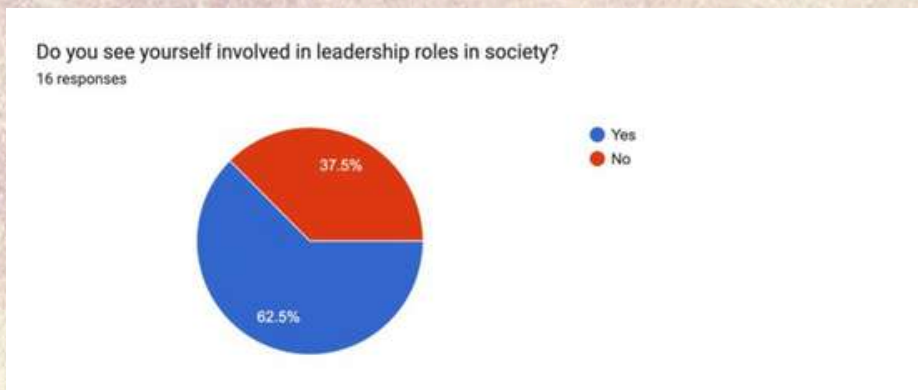
Politics is widely observed and discussed among school and college students, yet only a few consider it a stable career path. A survey of 16 students reflects the mentality that while social awareness is high, interest in politics is limited.



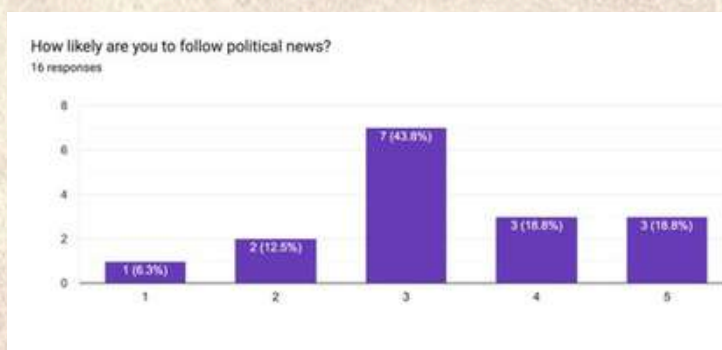
Many described the field as unappealing or difficult to navigate. A high school respondent said, "It's stressful and messy, and I have other things I'm more interested in." Another respondent noted they were "not brave enough" to engage with a system they already considered flawed. When asked to describe politics in one word, common responses included "corruption," "power," and "drama."



In contrast, civic participation is more widely accepted among respondents. Fifteen out of sixteen indicated they would vote in elections when eligible, and 62.5% envisioned themselves assuming leadership roles in society. However, only three respondents reported actively following politics.



Students also showed moderate levels of engagement with political news. When asked to rate how often they follow politics on a scale of 1 to 5, most responses clustered around the middle.



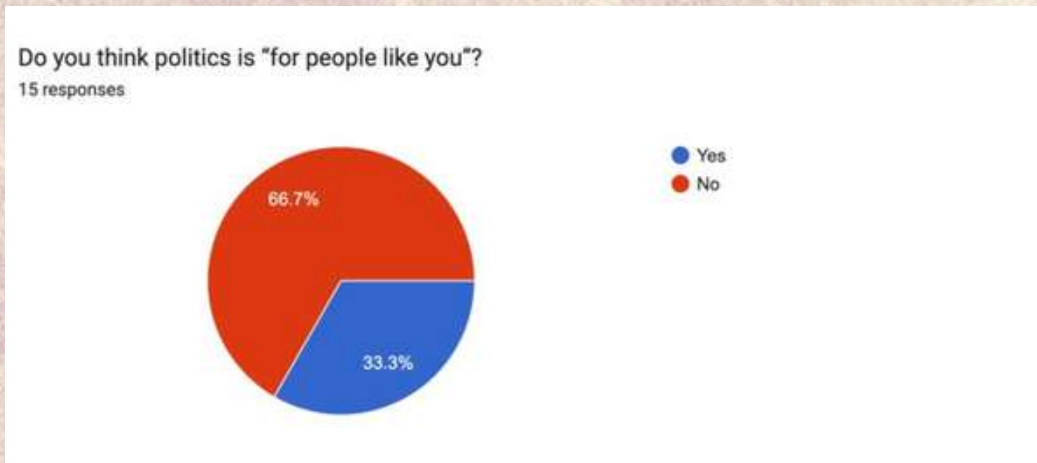
Several respondents pointed to the demanding and often controversial nature of politics as a key deterrent. "It feels confusing, like our opinions don't matter," a college respondent said. Others described politics as disconnected from their own lives or as a space dominated by older individuals.

Despite this, students reported regular exposure to political content, primarily through social media. Many said they encounter political discussions, videos, or commentary online, even if they do not actively seek it out.

This indicates a shift in how young people engage with politics. Instead of participating directly, respondents are more likely to interact with political content digitally. Short-form videos and online discussions were described as accessible and easy to engage with.

However, increased exposure does not appear to translate into participation. While some respondents said social media makes politics easier to understand, many still do not see it as a viable career. Some described it as risky, while others said it requires a level of resilience, they are not willing to take on.

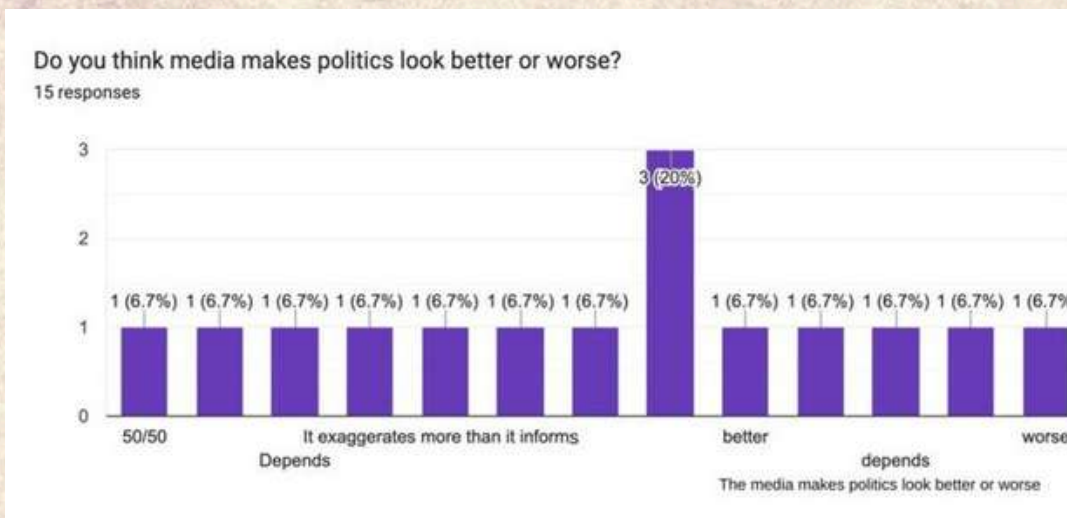




Students also identified several factors that discourage young people from entering politics, including corruption, lack of trust, social divisions, and pressure. Others mentioned outdated systems and the perception that individual voices have limited impact.

When asked what might increase interest in politics, responses included "real impactful change," greater transparency, and more opportunities for direct involvement, such as internships. Some respondents also said that politics would be more appealing if young people's opinions were taken more seriously.

Media representation was identified as another key influence. While some respondents felt coverage could be balanced, many said it tends to emphasise conflict and negativity. One student described politics as a "catfight between rich and powerful people," while another said it "exaggerates more than it informs."



*Respondents were not identified by name to encourage honest responses.*

Overall, the findings highlight a gap between awareness and participation. While students are exposed to political content and form opinions about it, fewer see themselves entering the field. For many, politics remains something they observe and discuss, rather than path they expect to pursue.



# THE LONGEST MILE – THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE POLLING BOOTH

Reported on 23 April, 2026

Varnika A



Through the throat-wrenching April sun, April 23 stood as a true testament to the determination and dedication of Tamil Nadu's voters, who planned to create change. According to reports, Election 2026 has made history, with 84.45% of the population voting by 6 p.m. which is already a miraculous beginning and a significant indicator of civic engagement



While navigating in the sea of bikes through the parking lot, one could notice how N.S.N Memorial school in Chitlapakkam neighbourhood has a clean way of following the rules to the ballot box. Firstly, a policeman stood looking at how all the voters entered. The voters appeared focused and well aware of the high stakes. As they walked through the significant hour of their day, they had to meet the officials handling the SIR list.



The officers were checking the voters' identities, age, photos, EPIC numbers, etc. As the voters passed through these columns, the officials guided them to the focus zone with complete concentration on the ballot box through the corridors of the school, which served as the polling venue.



Amidst these hectic procedure under the blistering sun, a first time voter said, "It felt exciting, different and fun because the person I really look up to is standing for elections this time.

It gave me the responsibility and reminder that I am now part of a grown up community. I am no longer a kid who admires but the one who is taking action."

Enakku romba sandhosham vote pottadhu," (I am very happy that I voted), said the security officer of the school while guiding the voters to the officials.

The 'Chengai veera' mascot adorning the selfie frame stood as a symbol of pride for the voters to give them a a pat for they have done their duty. Different families walked through the longest mile aiming for a change. Short conversations, long road and one vote that is making a difference.

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**Cover Photo:** A selfie frame with 'Chengai Veera' mascot  
Photos by Varnika A



# DO DIGITAL CAMPAIGNS CUT PAPER WASTE DURING THE ELECTIONS?

Reported on 23 April, 2026

Meghana Sudeesh



With political parties taking up the streets in their decorated vehicles, party members calling the attention of residents to deliver speeches and announcements, and posters, banners and even paintings of political figures on walls; The city of Chennai gets busier as it nears the polling date. However, through conversations with citizens of Chennai, the ongoing campaigning by political parties have become a point to focus on as more candidates are making use of digital platforms to promote themselves and their parties.

Already muralists have voiced out how the increasing shift to social media platforms for campaigning has led to a lack of work for them as in previous years, as election time saw a significant rise in huge murals of well-known political figures and candidates in key spots of the city. One such example of this is the mural of Chief Minister MK Stalin near the Gandhi Nagar bus stop.

Madurai, which has been a major long-standing printing hub, especially for offset printing of posters and pamphlets for election purposes, sees a lack for printing orders due to the stricter rules of the Election Commission of India (ECI) as well as campaigns going digital. The restrictions placed on wall stickers, flex boards, and banners along with the lengthy process of obtaining certifications have led to a rise in video-based submissions rather than for posters and such according to sources in certification centres.



However, citizens' noticed little change in the prominence of digital campaigns in comparison with posters and banners as it used to be. Many say that the social media factor has come into play this election season and see parties advertising in Television commercials or ads on YouTube. Other than these constant ads, citizens also notice how Instagram reels and posts by official accounts and by influencers making parodies have also been a major campaigning technique.

A college student aged 18, notes, "Even though there is a lot of stuff online about the whole elections, I've seen a lot of posters around my area too. Many of the candidates also came to my area as a group and give speeches on the road". Another citizen, when asked on which campaign they believed to be more effective, said, "I am not sure, but I think that there is a lot more use of social media, such as, Instagram and FaceBook. It's not a bad thing actually, but it can be really irritating when you see the same ads all the time when you're trying to read and watch something else."

Another citizen took to FaceBook to call out a situation where a poster of a specific party was stuck on their door without their consent or notice. Apart from this particular scenario, they stated in their post, there were other instances where the same had occurred and it had been left to them to remove the poster and fix the damage it left on their door and walls.

As the election season draws to an end, it is interesting to see the different campaigning techniques employed by political parties to reach citizens. With social media and the digital landscape more active than ever, the shift to digital platforms for marketing is one that was expected. Despite the significance of social media as a tool to reach people, political parties don't seem to be abandoning paper-based campaigns, as there were still plenty of banners and posters to be seen all over the city.

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# BEYOND THE BALLOT: WORK AFTER VOTING

Reported on 25 April, 2026

Anushka A



In the quiet village of Vellivoyal chavadi, within the Ponneri Taluk resting on the outskirts of Chennai there is an unusual bustle. This was on 23rd April 2026, the day of the state elections in Tamil Nadu.

C. Malarvizhi, the village administrative officer (VAO) narrates the events of the day in detail. With Chennai experiencing a voter turnout of 83.73% the election day came with its own hidden struggles. Preparations however have been well done beforehand with chairs and drinking water available for the long queue of people waiting in the scorching Chennai heat. The elderly were also given first priority along with voters carrying young children, she said.

The voters consisted of many youngsters as well as the elderly, with many abandoning their day-to-day activities for voting.

This act of many displaying their constitutional right under section 62(1) of the Representation of people's act (RPA) 1951, exhibits the political awareness instilled in many, especially the youth with the introduction of new parties and ideologies.

The village administrative officer conveys more of the day's events emphasising the huge security measures taken according to the rules of the State Election Commission, as there were CCTV cameras installed in every booth with a police officer appointed for each as well.





The 100 meter marking and the 200 meter marking and the rigid conditions imposed by the commission were strictly adhered to. With strict rules to show no sign of any political symbol after the 100 meter mark and no political party members and large vehicles allowed beyond the 200 meter mark, the conditions the polls were strict.

“The work for us starts quite early – as early as 5:30 AM,” explains the VAO. The Returning Officer (RO) would hold a mock election at 5:30 in the morning after receiving the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), the day before. After checking the conditions of the machine at 7 AM the real voting would begin.

However the work doesn't end until late for the officers, as after the polling is declared closed the machine is closed and sealed in front of the other officials and witnesses. This would only be done after the manual marking (male-female voter numbers), agent marking numbers, EVM numbers and finally the VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail) numbers are tallied by the end of the day.

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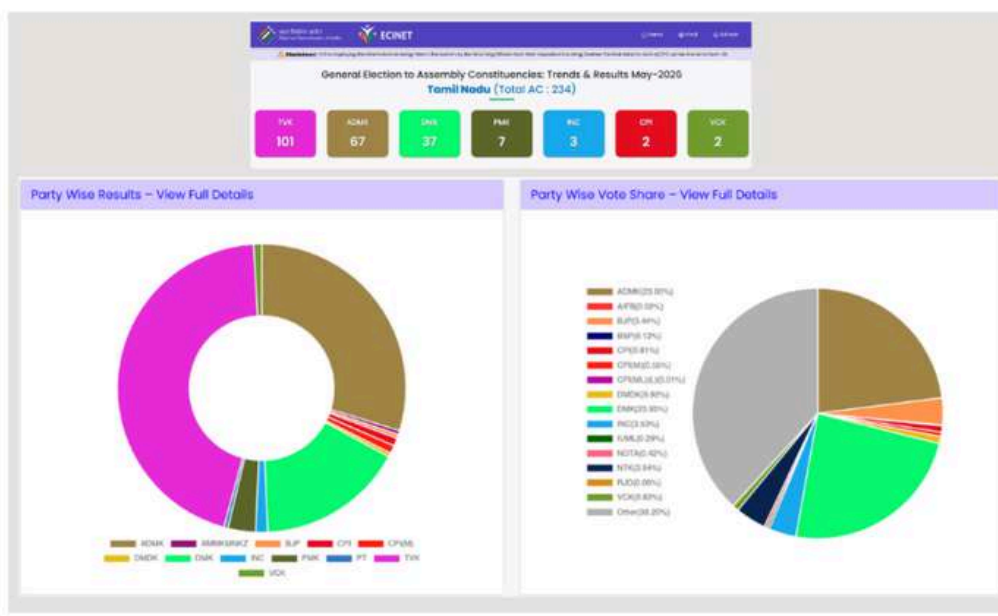
**Cover Photo:** A newly-wed couple cast their votes just after their wedding  
**Photos** by Anushka A



# HOW ELECTION RESULTS REACH US: A MEDIA TRACKING REPORT

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The 2026 Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly elections, held on April 23, 2026, marked a significant chapter in the state's political history. Characterised by record-breaking voter engagement and a shift from a traditional two-party contest to a multi-cornered battle, the election has drawn intense scrutiny from national and international observers.

As of 10:30 AM on May 4, 2026, the counting day for the Legislative Assembly elections is in full swing. Because counting happens in multiple rounds, "won" seats are not officially confirmed yet.

According to the Election Commission of India (ECI), the 2026 election recorded a historic voter turnout of 85.10%, the highest ever for an assembly election in the state. Notably, female voters (2.52 crore) significantly outnumbered male voters (2.35 crore), underscoring the importance of the gender-focused welfare promises made in party manifestos.

Exit polls, most notably from Axis My India, introduced a high level of anticipation. Their data suggested a major disruption by the TVK, projecting the new party to win between 98 and 120 seats. Vijay's party is currently leading in 50 to 85 seats across the state, In many urban pockets, TVK has pushed traditional giants like the AIADMK or DMK to the lower spots.



## Tamil Nadu - Exit Poll- AE 2026 - 234 Seats

Alliance	Party	Seat Share	Vote Share (%)
		Alliance	Alliance (%)
DMK+	DMK	92 - 110	35%
	CONG		
	DMDK		
	VCK		
	CPI(M)		
	IUML		
TVK	TVK	98 - 120	35%
AIADMK+	AIADMK	22 - 32	23%
	BJP		
	PMK		
	AMMK		
NTK	NTK	-	3%
Others	Others	-	4%

DMK+ Includes: DMK, CONG, DMDK, VCK, CPI(M), CPI & IUML

AIADMK+ Includes: AIADMK, BJP, PMK & AMMK

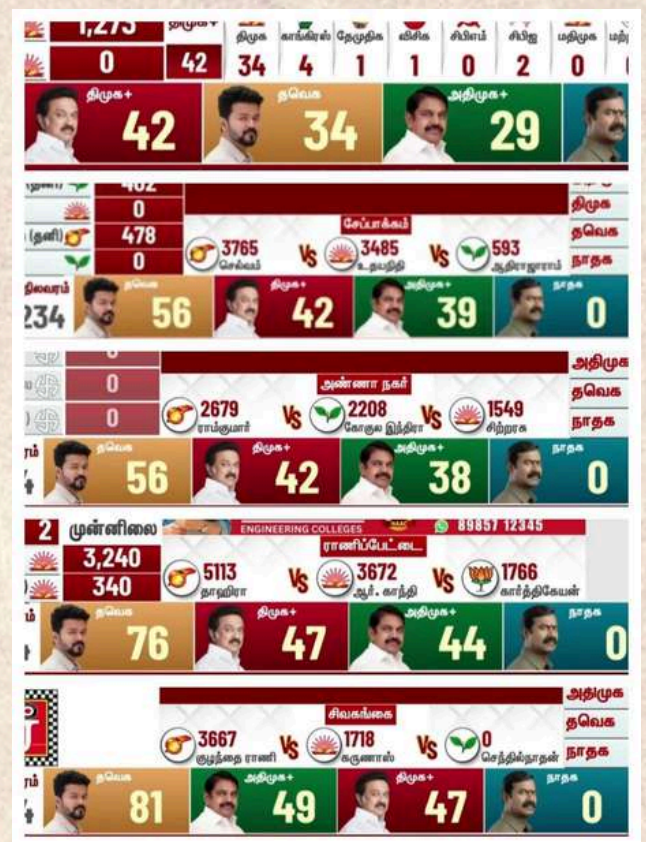
Others include: BSP, Tamizhaga Vazhuvirimai Katchi (TVMK), AIPTMK, AJPK, PT, Independent & Others

Source : Axis India exit polling official statement from their X page

As of the now, while the television channels record the “lead” information as collected from the constituencies through various sources, the Election Commission of India updates the official website periodically. The channels compare the official information and the on-the-spot information in their live discussions.

Traditionally a DMK bastion, the region saw a fierce three-way battle in seats like Trichy East, where the presence of TVK leader Vijay tested the incumbent’s hold on urban and minority votes, according to the informations on the television channels.

The election results, being declared today, May 4, 2026, will determine if the state maintains its traditional alliance-based power structure or shifts toward a new political paradigm. The transition of data from the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in strong rooms to the official tickers on news channels remains the most critical phase of this democratic process.



Source : Thanthi TV live at 10:30 AM May 4, 2026

Read on [YOSee](#)

Cover Photo: Screenshot from <https://www.eci.gov.in/>





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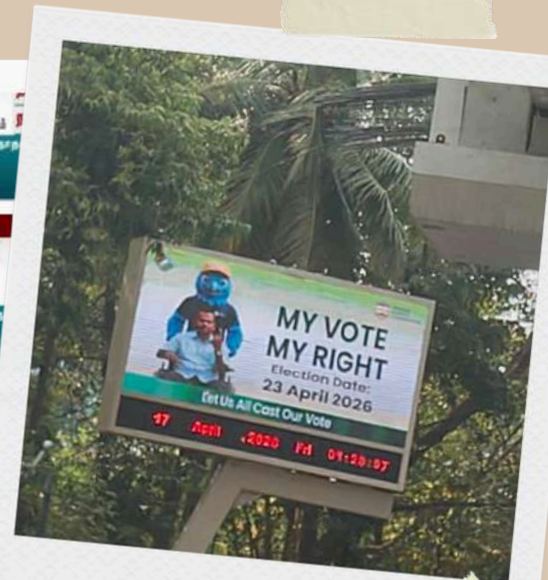
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# VOICES OF THE VOTE



**THE TAMIL NADU ELECTION  
THROUGH THE LENS OF  
YOCEE SUMMER INTERNS 2026**

