



VOTE VIBE
INSIGHTS FOR SMARTER DECISIONS

TAMIL NADU

EXIT POLL

APRIL 29, 2026

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**METHODOLOGY
CATI + QUALITATIVE INPUTS
SAMPLE SIZE: 29,434
MARGIN OF ERROR +/- 3%**

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**WHO DO YOU WISH TO SEE AS THE NEXT CM OF
TAMIL NADU?**

STALIN	EDAPPADI KARUPPA PALANISWAMI	VIJAY	OTHERS	CAN'T SAY
39.1%	38.4%	14.1%	6.1%	2.3%

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE ACCORDING TO YOU?

UNEMPLOYMENT	17.8%	CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT WORKS/LOCAL CORRUPTION	10.5%
INFLATION	17.5%	LAW AND ORDER AND WOMEN SECURITY	12.0%
DEVELOPMENT	6.0%	ALCOHOLISM & DRUGS	15.7%
THREAT TO FEDERAL STRUCTURE	8.6%	OTHER ISSUES/DO N'T KNOW/CAN'T SAY	5.4%
LANGUAGE IMPOSITION	6.4%		

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SEAT SHARE

	RANGE	MID-POINT
DMK+	103-113	108
AIADMK+	114-124	119
TVK	4-10	7
TOTAL	234	0

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SEAT SHARE

REGION	TOTAL	AIADMK+	DMK+	TVK
KTCC	37	12-14	19-21	3-5
NORTH	52	32-34	18-20	0
WEST	50	33-35	14-16	0-2
DELTA	37	14-16	20-21	0-2
SOUTH	58	23-25	32-34	0-2
TOTAL	234	114-124	103-113	4-10

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VOTE SHARE

DMK+ (INDIA BLOC)	AIADMK+ (NDA)	TVK (VIJAY)	NTK	OTHERS
38.9%	39.9%	15.8%	3.5%	1.9%

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		DMK+ (INDIA BLOC)	AIADMK+ (NDA)	TVK (VIJAY)	NTK	OTHERS
GENDER	MALE	39.2%	42.1%	13.5%	3.9%	1.3%
	FEMALE	38.6%	37.8%	18.1%	3.1%	2.5%

		DMK+ (INDIA BLOC)	AIADMK+ (NDA)	TVK (VIJAY)	NTK	OTHERS
AGE GROUP	18 - 24 YEARS	42.2%	28.3%	25.1%	3.0%	1.4%
	35 - 44 YEARS	35.5%	46.5%	13.8%	2.1%	2.1%
	55+ YEAR S	48.6%	41.9%	7.7%	0.8%	0.9%

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		DMK+ (INDIA BLOC)	AIAD MK+ (NDA)	TVK (VIJAY)	NTK	OTHERS
SOCIAL GROUP	SC (SCHEDULED CASTE/DALITS)	54.4%	25.5%	16.5%	2.2%	1.4%
	ST (SCHEDULED TRIBES)	38.7%	43.9%	15.7%	1.2%	0.4%
	OBC (OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES)	31.0%	48.9%	14.6%	3.7%	1.7%
	UCH (UPPER CASTE HINDUS)	27.2%	48.1%	19.8%	3.7%	1.2%
	MUSLIM	62.8%	16.0%	13.8%	3.9%	3.5%
	CHRISTIAN	52.4%	16.0%	23.5%	5.2%	2.9%

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		DMK+ (INDIA BLOC)	AIADMK+ (NDA)	TVK (VIJAY)	NTK	OTHERS
LOCATI ON	URBAN	38.5%	38.2%	18.5%	2.9%	1.8%
	RURAL	39.2%	41.5%	13.2%	4.1%	2.0%
TOTAL		38.9%	39.9%	15.8%	3.5%	1.9%

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Tamil Nadu Exit Poll 2026 – Analysis

Overall Picture

Tamil Nadu is heading for a dramatic contest, with AIADMK+ (NDA) projected to narrowly unseat the incumbent DMK+ (INDIA Bloc). The entry of actor-politician Vijay's TVK as a significant third force makes this a genuinely three-cornered contest – and potentially a kingmaker situation.

Seat Share

- AIADMK+ (NDA): 114–124 seats (midpoint: 119) – projected to form the government
- DMK+ (INDIA Bloc): 103–113 seats (midpoint: 108) – falls short of the 118-seat majority mark
- TVK (Vijay): 4–10 seats (midpoint: 7) – a respectable debut but well below expectations given vote share
- Total seats: 234

Region-wise breakdown:

- North TN (52 seats): AIADMK+ dominates at 32–34; DMK+ gets only 18–20
- West TN (50 seats): AIADMK+ again leads heavily at 33–35 vs DMK+'s 14–16
- South TN (58 seats): DMK+'s strongest zone at 32–34; AIADMK+ contained to 23–25
- Delta (37 seats): Near-even – AIADMK+ 14–16, DMK+ 20–21
- KTCC (Chennai region, 37 seats): DMK+ leads 19–21 vs AIADMK+ 12–14; TVK gets 3–5 here

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Vote Share ($\pm 3\%$ margin)

- AIADMK+: 39.9% vs DMK+: 38.9% – just 1% apart, well within the error margin, showing the close nature of the contest
- TVK: 15.8% – a striking debut vote share for a brand-new party
- NTK: 3.5% | Others: 1.9%

The vote-to-seat conversion heavily favours AIADMK+ due to the geographic concentration of their votes in North and West TN.

Gender

- Men lean AIADMK+ more strongly: 42.1% vs DMK+'s 39.2%
- Women are far more split: AIADMK+ 37.8% vs DMK+ 38.6% – DMK+ actually leads among women
- TVK performs notably better with women (18.1%) than men (13.5%), suggesting Vijay's appeal crosses gender lines

Age Group – TVK's Youth Wave is Real

- 18–24 years: TVK gets a stunning 25.1%; DMK+ leads at 42.2%, AIADMK+ trails at just 28.3%
- 35–44 years: AIADMK+ dominates at 46.5%; DMK+ at 35.5%; TVK fades to 13.8%
- 55+ years: DMK+ leads at 48.6%; AIADMK+ at 41.9%; TVK nearly irrelevant at 7.7%

Takeaway: TVK is essentially a youth phenomenon. Middle-aged and older voters are firmly split between the two traditional parties.

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Social Group Breakdown

- SC/Dalits: DMK+ leads decisively at 54.4% vs AIADMK+'s 25.5% — a crucial base, TVK gets a strong 16.5% here
- ST/Tribals: AIADMK+ leads at 43.9% vs DMK+'s 38.7%
- OBCs: AIADMK+ strongly ahead at 48.9% vs DMK+'s 31.0%
- Upper Caste Hindus: AIADMK+ leads at 48.1% vs DMK+'s 27.2%; TVK gets a strong 19.8%
- Muslims: DMK+ leads heavily at 62.8% vs AIADMK+'s 16.0%
- Christians: DMK+ leads at 52.4%; TVK scores an impressive 23.5% here

Pattern: DMK+ relies on SC + Muslim + Christian consolidation. AIADMK+ dominates OBC + ST + upper caste Hindu voters — a broader Hindu coalition.

Zone-wise Vote Share

- North & West: AIADMK+ territory — leads by 8–9 points, translating into seat dominance
- KTCC (Chennai): DMK+ leads at 40.8%; TVK gets its highest zone share at 21.1%
- South: DMK+ leads at 40.0% but AIADMK+ is competitive at 35.8%
- Delta: Essentially tied — AIADMK+ 40.1%, DMK+ 39.3%

Key Issues

- Unemployment: 17.8% – the top concern, a direct challenge to the incumbent DMK government
- Alcoholism & Drugs: 15.7% – a surprisingly great concern, possibly hurting DMK given its policy record
- Inflation: 17.5% – tied with unemployment as a top issue
- Corruption: 10.5% – anti-incumbency signal
- Development: 12.0% – voters want more
- Threat to federal structure: 8.6% and Language imposition: 6.4% – these are DMK's signature issues, but rank lower, suggesting they haven't fully translated into votes

CM Preference – Razor's Edge

- Stalin (DMK): 39.1% vs EPS/Palaniswami (AIADMK): 38.4% – virtually tied
- Vijay (TVK): 14.1% – remarkable for a first-time contestant
- Can't say: 2.3% | Others: 6.1%

The CM preference race mirrors the vote share almost exactly, suggesting voters are making a direct leader-based choice rather than being driven by party loyalty alone.

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Key Takeaways

- AIADMK+'s rural and OBC dominance is the decisive factor converting a near-tied vote share into a seat majority
- TVK is the story of the election – 15.8% vote share for a new party is extraordinary, and its youth-heavy, urban, SC/Christian appeal suggests it is eating into both parties' bases, but hurting DMK+ more in seat conversion
- DMK+'s SC + minority coalition keeps it competitive, but it isn't enough
- The $\pm 3\%$ margin of error means this result could be very close in many contests, as close margins
- 21 seats are witnessing marginal victory contests and could flip to either side
- Federal structure and language issues – DMK's traditional trump cards – ranked lower than bread-and-butter issues, suggesting the economic narrative has overtaken identity politics this cycle

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THANK YOU

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