

Exit polls

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In news— Amidst Gujarat Assembly Election, the Exit Poll once again came to light.

What is the Exit Poll?

- **An exit poll asks voters which political party they are supporting after they have cast their votes in an election.** In this, it differs from an opinion poll, which is held before the elections.
- An exit poll is **supposed to give an indication of which way the winds are blowing in an election**, along with the issues, personalities, and loyalties that have influenced voters.
- An exit poll, on the other hand, is conducted immediately after people have voted, and assesses the support for political parties and their candidates.
- Today, exit polls in India are conducted by a number of organisations, often in tie-ups with media organisations. The surveys can be conducted face to face or online.
- **In 1957, during the second Lok Sabha elections, the Indian Institute of Public Opinion had conducted such a poll.**
- However, an opinion poll is a pre-election survey to gather voters' views on a range of election-related issues.
- The EC held its first consultation with political parties on exit and opinion polls on December 22, 1997 – when Dr M S Gill was Chief Election Commissioner.

Rules governing exit polls in India-

- The issue of when exit polls should be allowed to be published has gone to the Supreme Court thrice in

various forms.

- **Currently, exit polls can't be telecast from before voting begins till the last phase concludes.**
- In India, results of exit polls for a particular election are not allowed to be published till the last vote has been cast.