



Trivedi Centre
for Political Data

Lok Dhaba Codebook 2.0
<http://lokhaba.ashoka.edu.in>
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Introduction

Welcome to Lok Dhaba!

Lok Dhaba is a visual and data repository of the results of all Indian election results held since 1962. The data comes from the Statistical Reports published by the [Election Commission of India](#) (ECI from here on). The data extracted was cleaned and structured to fit into a tabular format. Additional variables, mostly derived from ECI data, have been added.

This codebook provides information about the variables included in Lok Dhaba such as the labels, types, brief description, and a few summary statistics. The codebook will be updated as and when new data is added to Lok Dhaba.

In Version 2.0, we have added more information on political parties (variables #28 and #29), and sociological variables extracted from candidate affidavits (variables #43 - #47). These new variables are described in Table 1 and Table 2 below.

We hope that you will find this repository useful and request that you cite it whenever you use it in publications or public presentations.

With thanks,

TCPD Team

Terms and Conditions

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Data Citation: Ananay Agarwal, Neelesh Agrawal, Saloni Bhogale, Sudheendra Hangal, Francesca Refsum Jensenius, Mohit Kumar, Chinmay Narayan, Basim U Nissa, Priyamvada Trivedi, and Gilles Verniers. 2021. "TCPD Indian Elections Data v2.0", Trivedi Centre for Political Data, Ashoka University.

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Personal data: The Centre may record visits to Lok Dhaba without collecting the personal information of the users. The records shall be used for statistical reports only.

Acknowledgement: The user must agree that the use of the Data presented within the application can be seen as the acknowledgement of unconditionally accepting the Terms of Use presented by the Centre.

Table 1: Variable names, types and labels

#	Variable Name	Variable Type	Variable Label
1	Election_Type	string	<i>Type of Election:</i> General Election (GE) or Assembly Election (AE)
2	State_Name	string	Name of the State
3	Assembly_No	numeric	Assembly Number as per ECI
4	Constituency_No	numeric	Assembly Constituency Number as per ECI
5	Year	numeric	Year in which the election was held
6	month	numeric	Month in which election results were announced
7	Poll_No	numeric	This is an indicator of whether the election was a bye-election or regularly scheduled election. The variable is 0 in case it was a regularly scheduled election, 1 for the first bye-poll for that assembly and constituency, 2 for the second bye-poll, and so on.
8	DelimID	numeric	Delimitation Number
9	Position	numeric	Rank of the contestant based on Vote Share
10	Candidate	string	Name of the Candidate as per ECI
11	Sex	string	Gender of the Candidate as per ECI
12	Party	string	Party of the Candidate as per ECI
13	Votes	numeric	Number of Votes for the Candidate as per ECI
14	Candidate_Type	string	<i>Category of the Candidate:</i> General (GEN) or reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) or Scheduled Tribes (ST)
15	Valid_Votes	numeric	Sum of all votes to all candidates in a particular election for a particular constituency
16	Electors	numeric	Total number of registered electors in the constituency as per ECI
17	Constituency_Name	string	Name of the Constituency
18	Constituency_Type	string	<i>Type of the Constituency:</i> General (GEN) or

			reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) or Scheduled Tribes (ST)
19	Sub_Region	string	Subregion of the constituency
20	N_Cand	numeric	Number of candidates contesting the constituency
21	Turnout_Percentage	numeric	Percentage turnout in the constituency
22	Vote_Share_Percentage	numeric	Percentage Vote Share received by the candidate in a given constituency
23	Deposit_Lost	logical	Binary variable that indicates if the candidate lost their deposit (yes) or not (no)
24	Margin	numeric	Difference in votes between a candidate and the next ordered candidate (ordered by position)
25	Margin_Percentage	numeric	Percentage margin of a candidate in compared to the next position candidate
26	ENOP	numeric	Effective Number of Parties (derived from vote shares of each candidate in a constituency)
27	pid	numeric	Unique identifier for a candidate
28	Party_Type_TCPD	string	Classification of political parties done by TCPD
29	Party_ID	numeric	Unique identifier for a political party
30	last_poll	logical	Binary variable that indicates if this was the last election held in this constituency (TRUE) or not (FALSE)
31	Contested	numeric	The number of times a candidate has contested so far, including this election
32	Last_Party	numeric	The name of the party the candidate contested from in their previous contest
33	Last_Party_ID	numeric	The unique party ID of the party the candidate contested from in their previous contest
34	Last_Constituency_Name	string	Name of constituency this candidate contested from in their previous contest
35	Same_Constituency	logical	Binary variable that indicates if the candidate contested from the same constituency in their previous contest.

36	Same_Party	logical	Binary variable that indicates if the candidate contested from the same party in the previous contest.
37	No_Terms	numeric	Number of contests won by the candidate, including this election
38	Turncoat	logical	Binary variable that indicates if the candidate has switched their party from the immediately preceding election (TRUE) or not (FALSE)
39	Incumbent	logical	Binary variable that indicates if the candidate is a sitting member of the house at the time of this election (TRUE) or not (FALSE).
40	Recontest	logical	Binary variable that indicates if the candidate contested in the immediately preceding election (TRUE) or not (FALSE).
41	Age	numeric	Age of the candidate as per ECI
42	District_Name	string	Name of district of constituency as per 2001 Census
43	Education Level	string	Indicates the education level of the candidate as filled by them in their nomination affidavit.
44	Primary Profession Category	string	This is the primary profession category based on the profession filled by the candidate in the nomination affidavit.
45	Primary Profession Type	string	This is the primary profession type based on the profession filled by the candidate in the nomination affidavit.
46	Secondary Profession Category	string	This is the secondary profession category based on the profession filled by the candidate in the nomination affidavit.
47	Secondary Profession Type	string	This is the secondary profession type based on the profession filled by the candidate in the nomination affidavit.

Table 2: Detailed variable description

#	Variable Name	Variable description
1	Election_Type	This variable is used to denote the <i>Type of Election</i> : General Election (GE) conducted for the Lok Sabha, or Assembly Election (AE) conducted for Vidhan Sabhas
2	State_Name	Name of the state as per the ECI. A tabulation of the values for this variable will show the following values: "Andaman_& Nicobar_Islands", "Andhra_Pradesh", "Arunachal_Pradesh", "Assam", "Bihar", "Chandigarh", "Chhattisgarh", "Dadra_Nagar_& Haveli", "Daman_& Diu", "Delhi", "Goa", "Gujarat", "Haryana", "Himachal_Pradesh", "Jammu_& Kashmir", "Jharkhand", "Karnataka", "Kerala", "Lakshadweep", "Madhya_Pradesh", "Madras", "Maharashtra", "Manipur", "Meghalaya", "Mizoram", "Mysore", "Nagaland", "Odisha", "Puducherry", "Punjab", "Rajasthan", "Sikkim", "Tamil_Nadu", "Telangana", "Tripura", "Uttar_Pradesh", "Uttarakhand", "West_Bengal". We have data on erstwhile states such as 'Mysore' and 'Madras' which are now a part of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu respectively. In a similar way, states such as Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand were carved out of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in 2000.
3	Assembly_No	Our data begins in 1962 when the third Lok Sabha elections were held, and the third assembly was constituted. The "Assembly_No" for the 1962 election is thus 3 as these were the <i>third</i> Lok Sabha elections. The following shows the mapping of each assembly number to the corresponding year in which a Lok Sabha election was held: 4 → 1967, 5 → 1971, 6 → 1977, 7 → 1980, 8 → 1984, 9 → 1989, 10 → 1991, 11 → 1996, 12 → 1998, 13 → 1999, 14 → 2004, 15 → 2009, 16 → 2014, 17 → 2019. This works in a similar way in the case of the State or Vidhan Sabha elections too. For instance, Uttarakhand which was created in 2000, has had 4 assemblies (1 → 2002, 2 → 2007, 3 → 2014, 4 → 2017).
4	Constituency_No	This is the constituency number assigned by the ECI to each constituency. This number does not necessarily stay the same across each election year or across delimitations (see variable #7, "DelimID").
5	Year	The year in which the election took place.
6	month	The month in which the election results are announced, where 1 → January, 2 → February, 3 → March, 4 → April, 5 → May, 6 → June, 7 → July, 8 → August, 9 → September, 10 → October, 11 → November, 12 → December

7	Poll_No	<p>This variable indicates the number of times a constituency has been up for election <u>within a given assembly</u>. For instance, for an election held in 2009 for the Lok Sabha, the "Poll_No" will be 0 for all the constituencies. If however for any given constituency, elections are held again (in case the incumbent resigns or dies), then this number changes accordingly.</p> <p>In essence, it is used to keep track of bye-polls, with 0 indicating an election held when the previous assembly was dissolved, 1 indicating the 1st bye-poll, 2 indicating the second bye-poll, and so on.</p>
8	DelimID	<p>This refers to the delimitation done by the ECI. The purpose of the exercise is to redraw boundaries of constituencies in order to account for changing demographics. There have been 4 delimitations in India post-Independence - 1952, 1962, 1976 and 2008. In the data, this variable has the following values [1, 2, 3, 4] which correspond to the following years [(1962-1963), (1964-1972), (1973-2007), (2008-current)]</p>
9	Position	<p>At any time there can be several candidates contesting in any constituency. This variable shows the rank of the particular candidate in the constituency, calculated based on Vote Share. It is possible for the votes of two people to be the same, however, this has not been true for a winner.</p>
10	Candidate	<p>Name of the candidate as per the ECI results. What has been observed is that for a particular candidate, if the person contests several elections, there is no guarantee that the spelling will be the same. We have proposed a solution to this problem. Check out our project "Incumbency Mapping" here. Note: NOTA/None of The Above is also an option that this variable can take.</p>
11	Sex	<p>Gender of the candidate as per the ECI. This variable can take on three values - "F" for Female, "M" for Male and "O" for Other. The "Other" category was introduced in 2013. See here for details.</p>
12	Party	<p>The Political Party on whose ticket the candidate contested from as per the ECI.</p>
13	Votes	<p>Number of votes that the candidate received as per the ECI.</p>
14	Candidate_Type	<p>The candidate can be any of the three types - General (GEN) or reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) or Scheduled Tribes (ST)</p>
15	Valid_Votes	<p>Sum of all votes to all candidates in a particular election for a particular constituency</p>
16	Electors	<p>This is the total number of people who are registered to vote</p>

		in a given constituency as per the ECI.
17	Constituency_Type	The constituency can either be non-reserved (General (GEN)) or reserved (Scheduled Castes (SC) or Scheduled Tribes (ST)).
18	Sub_Region	The subregion within which the constituency lies. This subregion has been assigned to constituencies by TCPD in consultation with state experts. For example, Andhra Pradesh is divided into two subregions - Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema, or Jammu & Kashmir is divided into three regions - Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.
19	N_Cand	The number of candidates contesting a constituency. This number can range from the single digits to a few hundred. It can also be 1 for an uncontested constituency.
20	Turnout_Percentage	This is the percentage of eligible voters who turn out to vote in a constituency. This is calculated by dividing the number of Valid Votes ("Valid_Votes") by the number of Electors ("Electors"). = Valid_Votes / Electors
21	Vote_Share_Percentage	This variable is calculated for every contestant by dividing the Number of votes received by the candidate ("Votes") by the total number of valid votes that have been cast in a given constituency ("Valid_Votes"). = Votes / Valid_Votes
22	Deposit_Lost	When contesting elections, each candidate needs to deposit a certain amount of money. If the candidate receives less than 1/6th of Vote Share, the deposit is refunded else they lose the deposit.
23	Margin	Difference in votes between a candidate and the next ordered candidate (ordered by Position). The margin for the candidate who comes last will be 0.
24	Margin_Percentage	Difference in Vote_Share_Percentage between a candidate and the next ordered candidate (ordered by Position). The margin for the candidate who comes last will be 0.
25	ENOP	Effective Number of Parties (derived from vote shares of each candidate in a constituency). This is calculated by using a formula $(1/\sum(p_i^2))$, where p_i is the proportion of the total votes for each candidate in a constituency (Laakso and Taagepera 1979).
26	pid	This is a unique alpha-numeric identifier for each candidate assigned by TCPD. If 2 rows in the dataset have the same identifier, this means the same person contested both

		<p>elections. Please note: there is no intrinsic meaning to this identifier. It should be treated as an opaque string. This identifier could very well be different between different versions of the TCPD dataset. It is only consistent within a single version of the dataset.</p> <p>For more information, check out our project "Surf".</p>
27	Party_Type_TCPD	<p>Political parties and candidates have been classified into four categories: National Parties, State-based Parties, Local Parties and Independent candidates. This classification does not follow the ECI's legal definition of national and state-based parties, but reflects TCPD's assessment of the national, regional or local character of parties. Thus, parties contesting in several states but being principally associated with one state are classified as state-based parties, even though they may meet the ECI definition of national party (for ex.: BSP). State-based parties typically contest most seats across a state's sub-regions, although exceptions are possible (for ex.: JD(S) in Karnataka)</p>
28	Party_ID	<p>This is a unique numerical identifier for a political party assigned by TCPD. It is analogous to pid, but for political parties.</p> <p>Please note: there is no intrinsic meaning to this identifier. It should be treated as an opaque string. This identifier could very well be different between different versions of the TCPD dataset. It is only consistent within a single version of the dataset.</p> <p>For more information, check out our project "Surf".</p>
29	last_poll	<p>This is a dichotomous variable which indicates if this election was the last election held in this constituency before the Assembly was dissolved.</p> <p>For the calculation of various incumbency related metrics we need to know the last election (regardless of whether it was a bye-poll or not).</p>
30	Contested	<p>The number of times the candidate has contested so far in any constituency, including this election</p>
31	Last_Party	<p>The name of the party the candidate contested from in their previous contest</p>
32	Last_Party_ID	<p>The unique Party_ID of the party the candidate contested from in their previous contest</p>
33	Last_Constituency_	<p>The name of the constituency the candidate contested from in</p>

	Name	their previous contest (TRUE) or not (FALSE)
34 35	Same_Constituency	Binary variable that indicates if the candidate contested from the same constituency in their previous contest (TRUE) or not (FALSE)
36	Same_Party	Binary variable that indicates if the candidate contested from the same party in their previous contest (TRUE) or not (FALSE)
37	No_Terms	<p>The total number of unique assemblies in which a candidate has won. If a candidate has won more than one election within the same Assembly (either by winning in multiple constituencies or multiple bye-polls), the counter does not increase.</p> <p>Eg - Candidate Kalidas Nilkanth Kolambkar from the 13th Assembly of Maharashtra has won a total of 8 times (7a,8a,9a,10a,10a,11a,12a,13a). But he has won in a total of 7 unique assemblies (7a,8a,9a,10a,11a,12a,13a). So the No_Terms displays 7, and not 8.</p>
38	Turncoat	Binary variable that indicates if the candidate has switched their party since the immediately preceding election (TRUE) or not (FALSE).
39	Incumbent	Binary variable that indicates if the candidate is a sitting member of the House at the time of this election (TRUE) or not (FALSE)
40	Recontest	Binary variable that indicates if the candidate contested in the immediately preceding election (TRUE) or not (FALSE).
41	Age	Age of the candidate as per ECI. This is only available for Assembly Election data
42	District_Name	Name of district of constituency as per 2001 Census. This is only available for Assembly Election data.
43	Education_Level	<p>Indicates the education level of the candidate as filled by them in their nomination affidavit.</p> <p>The scale is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Illiterate 2. Literate 3. 5th Pass 4. 8th Pass 5. 10th Pass 6. 12th Pass 7. Graduate 8. Graduate Professional 9. Post Graduate

		10. Doctorate
44	Primary Profession Category	<p>This is the primary profession category based on the profession filled by the candidate in the nomination affidavit.</p> <p>This is a categorisation done by TCPD based on the various professions filled by multiple candidates in their affidavits across elections. The 18 categories used are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agricultural Labour 2. Agriculture 3. Business 4. Education 5. Former Government 6. Government 7. Labourer or Daily Wage 8. Liberal Profession or Professional 9. Politics 10. Religious Occupation 11. Retired or Pension 12. Salaried Work or Employed 13. Small Business or Self-employed 14. Social Work 15. Student 16. Traditional Occupation 17. Unemployed 18. Other or Unspecified <p>The primary profession category is the one that is likely to be the primary source of income for the candidate.</p>
45	Primary Profession Type	<p>This is the primary profession type based on the profession filled by the candidate in the nomination affidavit.</p> <p>This is the type within the primary profession category. The list of types under each category are given in appendix 2.</p>
46	Secondary Profession Category	<p>This is the secondary profession category based on the profession filled by the candidate in the nomination affidavit.</p> <p>This is a categorisation done by TCPD based on the various professions filled by multiple candidates in their affidavits across elections. The 18 categories used are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agricultural Labour 2. Agriculture 3. Business 4. Education 5. Former Government

		<p>6. Government</p> <p>7. Labourer or Daily Wage</p> <p>8. Liberal Profession or Professional</p> <p>9. Politics</p> <p>10. Religious Occupation</p> <p>11. Retired or Pension</p> <p>12. Salaried Work or Employed</p> <p>13. Small Business or Self-employed</p> <p>14. Social Work</p> <p>15. Student</p> <p>16. Traditional Occupation</p> <p>17. Unemployed</p> <p>18. Other or Unspecified</p> <p>The secondary profession category is the one that is less likely to be the primary source of income for the candidate than the primary profession category. This is populated only when the candidate has filled in more than one profession in their affidavit.</p>
47	Secondary Profession Type	<p>This is the secondary profession type based on the profession filled by the candidate in the nomination affidavit.</p> <p>This is the type within the secondary profession category. The list of types under each category are given in appendix 2.</p>

Appendix 1: Distribution of each variable and patterns of missingness¹

The following statistics have only been generated for numeric variables.

Variable name	N	# of blanks	# of NAs	Minimum value	Maximum value
State_Name	90879	NA	0	NA	NA
Assembly_No	90879	0	0	3	17
Constituency_No	90879	0	0	1	86
Year	90879	0	0	1962	2019
month	90879	0	2576	1	12
Poll_No	90879	88303	0	0	2
DelimID	90879	0	0	1	4
Position	90879	0	0	-185	480
Candidate	90879	NA	0	NA	NA
Sex	90879	NA	0	NA	NA
Party	90879	NA	0	NA	NA
Votes	90879	16	8052	0	922416
Candidate_Type	90879	NA	0	NA	NA
Valid_Votes	90879	16	8052	0	1620444
Electors	90879	0	197	1	4587998
Constituency_Name	90879	NA	0	NA	NA
Constituency_Type	90879	NA	0	NA	NA
Sub_Region	90879	NA	0	NA	NA
N_Cand	90879	0	0	1	480
Turnout_Percentage	90879	16	8072	0	15300.52
Vote_Share_Percentage	90879	74	8068	0	97.69
Deposit_Lost	90879	NA	0	NA	NA
Margin	90879	16598	0	0	696321
Margin_Percentage	90879	19371	8068	0	97.19

¹ This will be updated as soon as the 2019 data comes in.

ENOP	90879	0	8068	1.05	10
pid	90879	NA	0	NA	NA
Party_ID	90879	0	0	1	18944
Max_Poll_No	90879	85566	0	0	2
last_poll	90879	NA	0	NA	NA
Contested	90879	0	0	1	543
Last_Party	90879	NA	0	NA	NA
Last_Party_ID	90879	0	72481	9	18721
Last_Constituency_Name	90879	NA	90879	NA	NA
Same_Constituency	90879	NA	90879	NA	NA
Same_Party	90879	NA	72481	NA	NA
Mandate	90879	83145	0	0	11
No_Mandates	90879	79115	0	0	11
Turncoat	90879	NA	0	NA	NA
Incumbent	90879	NA	0	NA	NA
Recontest	90879	NA	0	NA	NA

Appendix 2: Profession Categories

Category	Type
Agricultural Labour	Coolie
Agriculture	
Business	Real Estate or Builder or Developer or Construction, Contractor, Industrialist, Trader, Transport, Petrol Pumps, Security Services, Film Producer, Distributors, Agricultural Business, Rent, Private Company, Hospitality, Unspecified, Manufacturer, Textile
Education	School Teacher, Principal or Administrator, College Professor or Lecturer, Home Teacher or Tuition
Former Government	Ex Military, Ex Civil Service, Ex Police, Ex Judiciary, Ex Govt Employee
Government	Aanganwadi, Government Employee, Civil Service, Judiciary
Labourer or Daily Wage	Construction, Taxi Driver, Auto-rickshaw Driver, Coolie, Mechanic, Service, Artisan, Truck Driver, Unspecified, Carpenter, Painter
Liberal Profession or Professional	Lawyer, Magistrate, Doctor, Journalist or Editor, Actor, Musician or Artist, Sports, Architect, Film Director, Author, Consultant, Designer
Politics	MP, MLA, Ex MP, Ex MLA, Party Worker, Panchayat Member, Municipality Member, Minister, Ex Minister, Panchayat Head, District Council, Ex Municipality Member
Religious Occupation	Sadhu, Pastor, Imam, Priest, Religious Teacher, Preacher
Retired or Pension	Retired or Pension, Retired Teacher
Salaried Work or Employed	Medical Professional, Engineer, Accountant, Insurance Agent, Managerial Position, Legal Professional, Qualified Professional, Computer Scientist
Small Business or Self-employed	Shop Keeper, Workshop or Small Manufacturer, Self-employed
Social Work	NGO, Activist, Advocacy, Trade Union



Student	
Traditional Occupation	Yoga or Meditation Teacher, Astrologer, Traditional Medicine, Traditional Education
Unemployed	
Other or Unspecified	Household