









# 1980 Indian general election

General elections were held in India on 3 and 6 January 1980 to elect the members of the 7th Lok Sabha. The Janata Party alliance came into power in the 1977 general elections amidst public anger with the Indian National Congress (R) and the Emergency. However, its position was weak; the loose coalition barely held on to a majority with only 295 seats in the Lok Sabha and never quite had a firm grip on power. Bharatiya Lok Dal leaders Charan Singh and Jagjivan Ram, who had quit the Congress, were members of the Janata alliance but were at loggerheads with Prime Minister Morarji Desai.

The Janata Party, an amalgam of socialists and Hindu nationalists, split in 1979 when several coalition members including the Bharatiya Lok Dal of Charan Singh and several members of the Socialist Party withdrew support for the government. Subsequently, Desai lost a vote of confidence in parliament and resigned. Charan Singh, who had retained some partners of the Janata alliance, was sworn in as prime minister in June 1979. The Indian National Congress (Indira), which succeeded the Indian National Congress (Requisition) from 1978 promised to support Singh in parliament but later backed out just two days before the Government was scheduled to prove its majority on the floor of Lok Sabha. Charan Singh, forced to resign, called for elections in January 1980 and is the only Prime Minister of India never to have

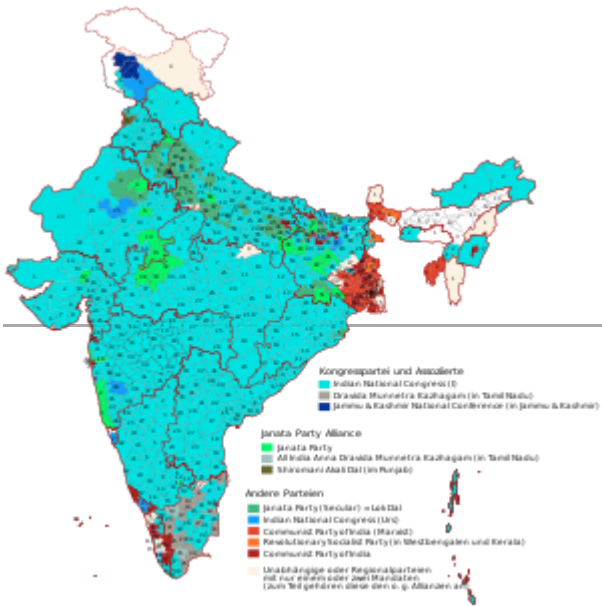
## 1980 Indian general election

			
3 and 6 January 1980			
529 of the 531 seats in the Lok Sabha 265 seats needed for a majority			
Registered	356,205,329		
Turnout	56.92% (▼ 5.55pp)		
Leader			
	<u>Indira Gandhi</u>	<u>Charan Singh</u>	<u>E. M. S. Namboodiripad</u>
Party	<u>INC(I)</u>	<u>JP(S)</u>	<u>CPI(M)</u>
Alliance	<u>INC (I)+</u>		<u>LF</u>
Last election	34.52%, 154 seats	–	4.29%, 22 seats
Seats won	<b>353</b>	41	37
Seat change	▲ 199	New	▲ 15
Popular vote	<b>84,455,313</b>	18,574,696	12,352,331
Percentage	<b>42.69%</b>	9.39%	6.24%
Swing	▲ 8.17pp	New	▲ 1.95pp
Leader			
	<u>Jagjivan Ram</u>	<u>A. K. Antony</u>	
Party	<u>JP</u>	<u>INC(U)</u>	
Alliance	<u>JP+</u>		

obtained the confidence of Parliament. In the run up to the general elections, Indira Gandhi's leadership faced a formidable political challenge from a galaxy of regional satraps and prominent leaders of Janata party like Satyendra Narayan Sinha and Karpuri Thakur in Bihar, Ramakrishna Hegde in Karnataka, Sharad Pawar in Maharashtra, Devi Lal in Haryana & Biju Patnaik in Orissa. Janata Party contested the election with Jagjivan Ram as its prime ministerial candidate.<sup>[1][2]</sup> However, internal feud between Janata Party leaders and the political instability in the country worked in favour of Indira Gandhi's Congress (I), that reminded voters of the strong government of Indira Gandhi during campaigning.

In the ensuing elections, the INC(I) won 353 seats and the Janata Party just 31 seats, with Charan Singh's

Last election	41.32%, 295 seats	New
Seats won	31	13
Seat change	▼ 264	New
Popular vote	37,530,228	10,449,859
Percentage	18.97%	5.28%
Swing	▼ 22.35pp	New

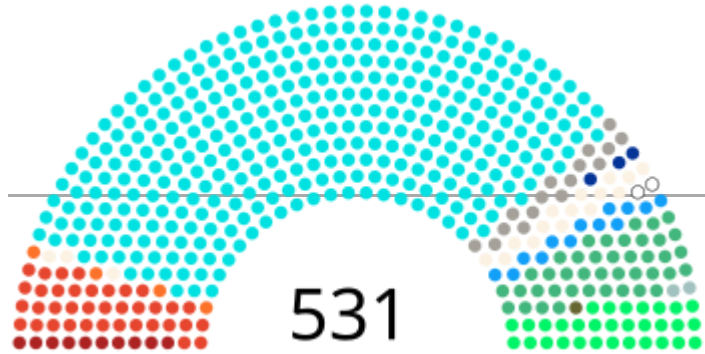


Results by constituency

Prime Minister before election	Prime Minister after election
Charan Singh JP(S)	Indira Gandhi INC(I)

Janata Party (Secular) taking 41. The Janata Party alliance continued to split over the subsequent years.

## Results



Party		Votes	%	Seats	+/-
	<a href="#">Indian National Congress (Indira)</a>	84,455,313	42.69	353	+199
	<a href="#">Janata Party</a>	37,530,228	18.97	31	-264
	<a href="#">Janata Party (Secular)</a>	18,574,696	9.39	41	New
	<a href="#">Communist Party of India (Marxist)</a>	12,352,331	6.24	37	+15
	<a href="#">Indian National Congress (Urs)</a>	10,449,859	5.28	13	New
	<a href="#">Communist Party of India</a>	4,927,342	2.49	10	+3
	<a href="#">All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</a>	4,674,064	2.36	2	-16
	<a href="#">Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</a>	4,236,537	2.14	16	+14
	<a href="#">Shiromani Akali Dal</a>	1,396,412	0.71	1	-8
	<a href="#">Revolutionary Socialist Party</a>	1,285,517	0.65	4	0
	<a href="#">All India Forward Bloc</a>	1,011,564	0.51	3	0
	<a href="#">Jammu &amp; Kashmir National Conference</a>	493,143	0.25	3	+1
	<a href="#">Indian Union Muslim League</a>	475,507	0.24	2	0
	<a href="#">Peasants and Workers Party of India</a>	470,567	0.24	0	-5
	<a href="#">Republican Party of India (Khobragade)</a>	383,022	0.19	0	-2
	<a href="#">Kerala Congress</a>	356,997	0.18	1	-1
	<a href="#">Republican Party of India</a>	351,987	0.18	0	0
	<a href="#">Socialist Unity Centre of India</a>	307,224	0.16	0	0
	<a href="#">Jharkhand Party</a>	254,520	0.13	1	+1
	<a href="#">All India Muslim League</a>	196,820	0.10	0	0
	<a href="#">United Democratic Front</a>	140,210	0.07	0	-1
	<a href="#">Shiv Sena</a>	129,351	0.07	0	New
	<a href="#">Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party</a>	127,188	0.06	1	0
	<a href="#">Tripura Upajati Juba Samiti</a>	111,953	0.06	0	0
	<a href="#">People's Party of Arunachal</a>	69,810	0.04	0	New

<u>Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad</u>	61,161	0.03	0	0
Peoples Conference	53,891	0.03	0	New
<u>Manipur Peoples Party</u>	49,277	0.02	0	0
<u>Indian Socialist Party</u>	39,399	0.02	0	New
Shoshit Samaj Dal (Akhil Bharatiya)	38,226	0.02	0	0
<u>Sikkim Janata Parishad</u>	31,750	0.02	1	New
<u>Muslim Majlis</u>	26,363	0.01	0	New
All India Labour Party	14,720	0.01	0	0
<u>All Party Hill Leaders Conference</u>	13,058	0.01	0	New
<u>Sikkim Congress (Revolutionary)</u>	11,632	0.01	0	New
<u>Sikkim Prajatantra Congress</u>	5,125	0.00	0	New
Independents	12,717,510	6.43	9	0
Appointed <u>Anglo-Indians</u>			2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>197,824,274</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>−13</b>
Valid votes	197,824,274	97.57		
Invalid/blank votes	4,928,619	2.43		
<b>Total votes</b>	<b>202,752,893</b>	<b>100.00</b>		
Registered voters/turnout	356,205,329	56.92		
Source: ECI ( <a href="https://web.archive.org/web/20140718175926/http://eci.nic.in/eci_main/StatisticalReports/LS_1980/Vol_I_LS_80.pdf">https://web.archive.org/web/20140718175926/http://eci.nic.in/eci_main/StatisticalReports/LS_1980/Vol_I_LS_80.pdf</a> )				

## See also

- List of members of the 7th Lok Sabha
- Election Commission of India
- 1977 Indian presidential election

## References

- Chawla, Prabhu (30 September 2013). "As general elections loom large, new four-party United Front formed to counter Cong(l)" (<https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/indiascope/story/19830930-as-general-elections-loom-large-new-four-party-united-front-formed-to-counter-congi-771046-2013-07-18>). *India Today*. Retrieved 23 September 2019.
- Jagjivan Ram: Most experienced artful dodger of Indian politics (<https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/cover-story/story/19800115-jagjivan-ram-most-experienced-artful-dodger-of-indian-politics-821731-2014-12-23>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210213012943/https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/cover-story/story/19800115-jagjivan-ram-most-experienced-artful-dodger-of-indian-politics-821731-2014-12-23>) 13 February 2021 at the Wayback Machine India Today, 23 December 2014

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