



# 1957 Indian general election



General elections were held in India between 24 February and 14 March 1957, the second elections to the Lok Sabha after independence. Elections to many state legislatures were held simultaneously.

Under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian National Congress easily won a second term in power, taking 371 of the 494 seats. They gained an extra seven seats (the size of the Lok Sabha had been increased by five) and their vote share increased from 45% to 48%. The INC received nearly five times more votes than the Communist Party, the second largest party. In addition, 19% of the vote and 42 seats went to independent candidates, the highest of any Indian general election.

## Electoral system

There were 494 seats elected using first past the post voting. Out of the 403 constituencies, 91 elected two members, while the remaining 312 elected a single member.<sup>[1][2]</sup> The multi-seat constituencies were abolished before the next election.

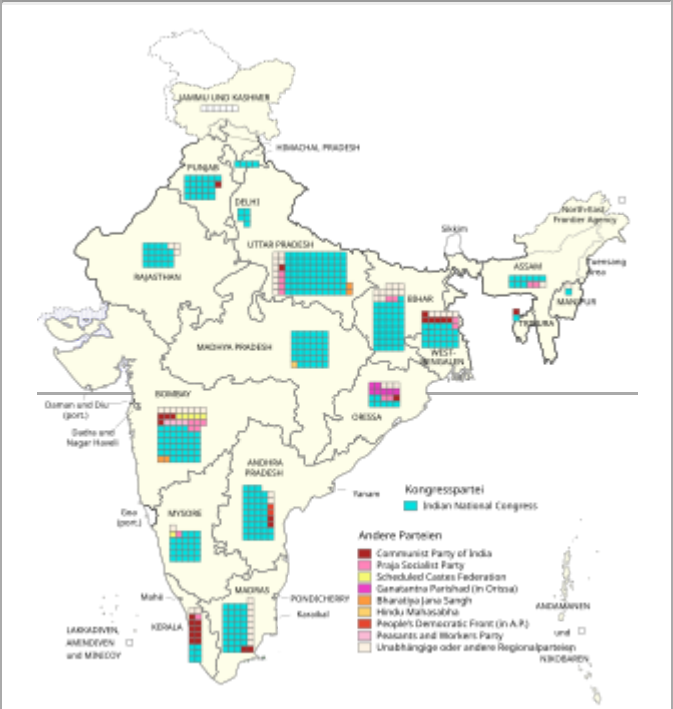
The elections were overseen by Sukumar Sen, the Chief Election Commissioner, who used the existing election infrastructure to reduce costs and improve efficiency. Historian Ramachandra Guha wrote "this general election cost the exchequer Rs45 million less than the previous one. The

1957 Indian general election		
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24 February – 14 March 1957		
494 of the 505 seats in the <u>Lok Sabha</u> 248 seats needed for a majority		
Registered	193,652,179	
Turnout	45.44% (▲ 0.57pp)	
<div><div><div><div></div><div>CPI</div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div></div>		
Leader	<u>Jawaharlal Nehru</u>	<u>Ajoy Ghosh</u>
Party	<u>INC</u>	<u>CPI</u>
Last election	44.99%, 364 seats	3.29%, 16 seats
Seats won	371	27
Seat change	▲ 7	▲ 11
Popular vote	57,579,589	10,754,075
Percentage	47.78%	8.92%
Swing	▲ 2.79pp	▲ 5.63pp
<div><div><div><div></div><div>ABJ</div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div></div>		
Leader	<u>Jayaprakash Narayan</u>	<u>Debaprasad Ghosh</u>
Party	<u>PSP</u>	<u>ABJS</u>

prudent Sen had safely stored the 3.5 million ballot boxes the first time round and only half a million additional ones were required."<sup>[3]</sup>

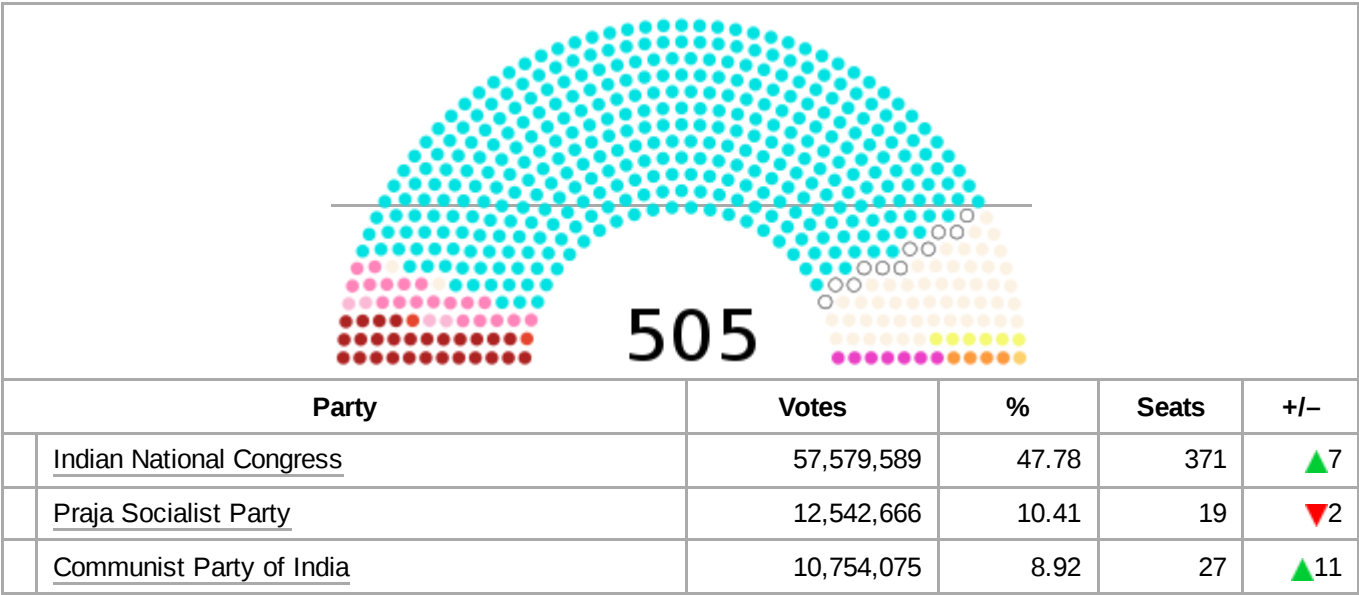
Results

Last election	New	3.06%, 3 seats
Seats won	19	4
Seat change	New	▲ 1
Popular vote	12,542,666	7,193,267
Percentage	10.41%	5.97%
Swing	New	▲ 2.91pp



Results by constituency

Prime Minister before election	Prime Minister after election
Jawaharlal Nehru INC	Jawaharlal Nehru INC



<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	7,193,267	5.97	4	▲1
<u>Scheduled Castes Federation</u>	2,038,890	1.69	6	▲4
<u>All India Ganatantra Parishad</u>	1,291,141	1.07	7	▲1
<u>People's Democratic Front</u>	1,044,032	0.87	2	▼5
<u>Hindu Mahasabha</u>	1,032,322	0.86	1	▼3
<u>Peasants and Workers Party of India</u>	924,832	0.77	4	▲2
<u>Jharkhand Party</u>	751,830	0.62	6	▲3
<u>Forward Bloc (Marxist)</u>	665,341	0.55	2	▲1
<u>Chota Nagpur Santhal Parganas Janata Party</u>	501,359	0.42	3	▲2
<u>Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad</u>	460,838	0.38	0	▼3
<u>Revolutionary Socialist Party</u>	308,742	0.26	0	▼3
<u>Praja Party</u>	140,742	0.12	0	0
<u>Independents</u>	23,284,249	19.32	42	▲5
Appointed members <sup>[a]</sup>			11	▲1
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,513,915</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>▲6</b>
Registered voters/turnout	193,652,179	45.44		
Source: ECI ( <a href="https://eci.gov.in/files/file/4112-general-election-1957-vol-i-ii/?do=download&amp;r=9737&amp;confirm=1&amp;t=1&amp;csrfKey=6df04992cf2c2fe96a9487465b425663">https://eci.gov.in/files/file/4112-general-election-1957-vol-i-ii/?do=download&amp;r=9737&amp;confirm=1&amp;t=1&amp;csrfKey=6df04992cf2c2fe96a9487465b425663</a> )				

- a. Six representing Jammu and Kashmir, two representing Anglo-Indians, one representing Part B Tribal Areas in Assam, one representing the Amindive, Laccadive and Minicoy Islands

and one representing the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

## Results by state

State	Total seats	Seats won									
		<u>INC</u>	<u>CPI</u>	<u>PSP</u>	<u>GP</u>	<u>SCF</u>	<u>JKP</u>	<u>BJS</u>	Others	Ind.	App.
<u>Andaman and Nicobar Islands</u>	1										1
<u>Andhra Pradesh</u>	43	37	2						2	2	
<u>Assam</u>	12	9		2						1	
<u>Bihar</u>	53	41		2			6		3	1	
<u>Bombay</u>	66	38	4	5		5		2	4	8	
<u>Delhi</u>	5	5									
<u>Himachal Pradesh</u>	4	4									
<u>Kerala</u>	18	6	9	1						2	
<u>Jammu and Kashmir</u>	6										6
<u>Laccadive, Minicoy, and Amindivi Islands</u>	1										1
<u>Madhya Pradesh</u>	36	35							1		
<u>Madras</u>	41	31	2							8	
<u>Manipur</u>	2	1								1	
<u>Mysore</u>	26	23		1		1				1	
<u>North-East Frontier Agency</u>	1										1
<u>Orissa</u>	20	7	1	2	7					3	
<u>Punjab</u>	22	21	1								
<u>Rajasthan</u>	22	19								3	
<u>Tripura</u>	2	1	1								
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>	86	70	1	4				2		9	

<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>36</b>	23	6	2					2	3	
<b>Anglo-Indians</b>	<b>2</b>										2
<b>Total</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>11</b>
Source: ECI ( <a href="http://eci.nic.in/eci_main/StatisticalReports/LS_1957/Vol_I_57_LS.pdf">http://eci.nic.in/eci_main/StatisticalReports/LS_1957/Vol_I_57_LS.pdf</a> )											

## Andhra Pradesh

Party	Votes	%	Seats
<u>Indian National Congress</u>	4,906,044	51.47	37
<u>Communist Party of India</u>	1,144,811	12.01	2
<u>People's Democratic Front</u>	1,044,032	10.95	2
Other parties	600,686	6.30	0
Independents	1,835,800	19.26	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,531,373</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>43</b>

## Assam

Party	Votes	%	+/-	Seats	+/-
<u>Indian National Congress</u>	1,184,708	51.68	+5.94	9	-2
<u>Praja Socialist Party</u>	457,643	19.96	-9.23	2	+1
<u>Communist Party of India</u>	235,044	10.25	New	0	New
Independents	415,217	18.11	+4.37	1	+1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,292,612</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>

## Bihar

Party	Votes	%	+/-	Seats	+/-
<u>Indian National Congress</u>	4,450,208	44.47	-1.30	41	-4
<u>Jharkhand Party</u>	751,830	7.51	+0.10	6	+3
<u>Chota Nagpur Santhal Parganas Janata Party</u>	501,359	5.01	+2.65	3	+2
<u>Praja Socialist Party</u>	2,165,462	21.64	-2.83	2	-1
<u>Communist Party of India</u>	502,707	5.02	+4.62	0	0
Other parties	51,416	0.51	-6.00	0	-2
Independents	1,584,894	15.84	+2.76	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,007,876</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>-2</b>

## Bombay

Party	Votes	%	+/-	Seats	+/-
<u>Indian National Congress</u>	8,156,272	48.66	-1.49	38	-2
<u>Praja Socialist Party</u>	1,457,203	8.69	-11.45	5	+5
<u>Scheduled Caste Federation</u>	1,354,475	8.08	+3.65	5	+4
<u>Communist Party of India</u>	1,055,013	6.29	+4.95	4	+4
<u>Peasants and Workers Party of India</u>	924,832	5.52	-1.48	4	+3
<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	566,008	3.38	New	2	New
Other parties	136,749	0.82	-4.14	0	0
Independents	3,109,733	18.55	+6.58	8	+5
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,760,285</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>+21</b>

## Kerala

Party	Votes	%	Seats
<u>Communist Party of India</u>	2,267,888	37.48	9
<u>Indian National Congress</u>	2,102,883	34.76	6
<u>Praja Socialist Party</u>	438,459	7.25	1
<u>Revolutionary Socialist Party</u>	308,742	5.10	0
Independents	932,274	15.41	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,050,246</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>18</b>

## Madhya Pradesh

Party	Votes	%	+/-	Seats	+/-
<u>Indian National Congress</u>	3,967,199	52.10	+0.47	35	+8
<u>Hindu Mahasabha</u>	373,503	4.91	+4.60	1	+1
<u>Praja Socialist Party</u>	1,225,735	16.10	-2.38	0	0
<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	1,062,936	13.96	+9.02	0	0
Other parties	376,441	4.94	-7.77	0	0
Independents	608,408	7.99	-3.94	0	-2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,614,222</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>+7</b>

## Madras

Party	Votes	%	+/-	Seats	+/-
<u>Indian National Congress</u>	5,094,552	46.52	+10.13	31	-4

	<u>Communist Party of India</u>	1,101,338	10.06	+1.11	2	−6
	<u>Praja Socialist Party</u>	399,789	3.65	−11.43	0	−8
	Independents	4,355,162	39.77	+16.62	8	−7
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,950,841</b>	<b>100.00</b>	−	<b>41</b>	<b>−34</b>

## Mysore

Party		Votes	%	+/−	Seats	+/−
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	3,219,014	55.52	−13.42	23	+13
	<u>Praja Socialist Party</u>	1,082,698	18.67	−10.79	1	0
	<u>Scheduled Caste Federation</u>	115,214	1.99	New	1	New
	Other parties	228,979	3.95		0	0
	Independents	1,152,535	19.88	+9.52	1	+1
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,798,440</b>	<b>100.00</b>	−	<b>26</b>	<b>+15</b>

## Orissa

Party		Votes	%	+/−	Seats	+/−
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	1,776,767	40.01	−2.50	7	−4
	<u>All India Ganatantra Parishad</u>	1,291,141	29.08	+2.85	7	+1
	<u>Praja Socialist Party</u>	684,023	15.40	−1.44	2	+1
	<u>Communist Party of India</u>	214,903	4.84	−0.93	1	0
	Independents	473,656	10.67	+2.02	3	+2
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,440,490</b>	<b>100.00</b>	−	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>

## Punjab

Party		Votes	%	+/−	Seats	+/−
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	3,682,219	51.26	+8.50	21	+5
	<u>Communist Party of India</u>	1,207,600	16.81	+11.77	1	+1
	<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	1,152,672	16.05	+10.45	0	0
	Other parties	333,630	4.64	−23.32	0	−2
	Independents	807,709	11.24	−7.40	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,183,830</b>	<b>100.00</b>	−	<b>22</b>	<b>+4</b>

## Rajasthan

Party		Votes	%	+/−	Seats	+/−
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<u>Indian National Congress</u>	2,494,094	53.65	+12.23	19	+10
<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	518,355	11.15	+8.11	0	–1
Other parties	356,278	7.66	–18.72	0	–4
Independents	1,280,356	27.54	–1.62	3	–3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,649,083</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>+2</b>

## Uttar Pradesh

Party	Votes	%	+/–	Seats	+/–
<u>Indian National Congress</u>	10,599,639	46.29	–6.70	70	–11
<u>Praja Socialist Party</u>	3,511,157	15.34	–2.50	4	+2
<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	3,385,247	14.79	+7.50	2	+2
<u>Communist Party of India</u>	383,509	1.67	+1.32	1	+1
<u>Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad</u>	98,138	0.43	–3.12	0	0
Independents	4,918,413	21.48	+10.14	9	+7
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,896,103</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>0</b>

## West Bengal

Party	Votes	%	+/–	Seats	+/–
<u>Indian National Congress</u>	5,031,696	48.20	+6.10	23	–1
<u>Communist Party of India</u>	1,985,181	19.01	+9.55	6	+1
<u>Marxist Forward Bloc</u>	665,341	6.37	+1.85	2	+2
<u>Praja Socialist Party</u>	590,692	5.66	–5.26	2	+2
<u>Hindu Mahasabha</u>	561,741	5.38	+1.11	0	–1
<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	149,351	1.43	–4.51	0	–2
Independents	1,456,098	13.95	–4.51	3	+3
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,440,100</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>+2</b>

## Women performance in elections

Based on the published data from the Election Commission of India (ECI) website.<sup>[4]</sup>

Participation

State/UT	Total seats	Women contestants		Elected	Women contestants (%)	Elected (%)
		Women	Seats			
Andhra Pradesh	43	4	3	3	3.5%	6.9%
Assam	12	2	2	2	6.5%	14.3%
Bihar	53	7	7	5	3.7%	9.4%
Bombay	66	5	5	3	3.11%	4.5%
Kerala	18	1	1	0	1.7%	0
Madhya Pradesh	36	8	6	3	6.6%	8.3%
Madras	41	2	2	1	3.2%	2.4%
Mysore	26	0	0	0	0	0
Manipur	2	0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	20	0	0	0	0	0
Punjab	22	1	1	1	1.3%	4.5%
Rajasthan	22	0	0	0	0	0
Tripura	1	0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	86	6	4	1	2.05%	13.75%
West Bengal	36	5	4	2	11.59%	1.1%
Delhi	5	4	2	1	14.8%	20%
Himachal Pradesh	4	0	0	0	0	0
India	494	45	37	22	2.96%	4.45%

Voting

The first instance of booth capturing in India was recorded in 1957 in the General Elections of that year in Rachiyahi, in Begusarai's Matihani assembly seat.<sup>[5][6][7][8]</sup>

See also

- List of members of the 2nd Lok Sabha
- Election Commission of India
- Booth capturing

- 1957 Indian presidential election

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