



1951–52 Indian general election

General elections were held in India between 25 October 1951 and 21 February 1952, the first national elections after India attained independence in 1947.^{[1][2][3]} Voters elected the 489 members of the first Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament of India. Elections to most of the state legislatures were held simultaneously.^[4]

The elections were conducted under the provisions of the constitution adopted on 26 November 1949. After the adoption of the constitution, the Constituent Assembly continued to act as the interim parliament, while an interim cabinet was headed by Jawaharlal Nehru. An Election Commission was created in 1949 and in March 1950 Sukumar Sen was appointed as the first Chief Election Commissioner. A month later parliament passed the Representation of the People Act which set out how the elections for parliament and state legislatures would be conducted.^[5] The 489 seats of the Lok Sabha were allotted across 401 constituencies in 25 states. There were 314 constituencies electing one member using the first-past-the-post system. 86 constituencies elected two members, one from the general category and one from Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes. There was one constituency with three elected representatives.^[6] The multi-seat constituencies were created as reserved seats for backward sections of society, and were abolished in the 1960s. The constitution at this time also provided for two Anglo-Indian members to be nominated by the President of India.

A total of 1,949 candidates competed for 489 seats in the Lok Sabha. Each candidate was allotted a different coloured ballot box at the polling booth, on which the candidate's name and symbol were written. 16,500 clerks were appointed on a contract of six months to type and collate the electorate rolls and 380,000 reams of paper were used for printing the rolls.^[7] A total of 173,212,343 voters were registered (excluding Jammu and Kashmir) out of a population of 361,088,090 according to the 1951 census, making it the largest election conducted at the time. All Indian citizens over the age of 21 were eligible to vote.

Due to the harsh climate and challenging logistics, the election was held in 68 phases.^[8] A total of 196,084 polling booths were set up, of which 27,527 booths were reserved for women. The majority of voting took place in early 1952, but Himachal Pradesh voted in 1951 as its weather was commonly inclement in February and March, with heavy snow impending free movement.^[9] The remainder of states voted in February–March 1952, except for

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25 October 1951 – 21 February 1952

489 of the 499 seats in the Lok Sabha
245 seats needed for a majority

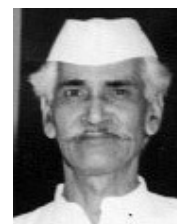
Registered 173,212,343

Turnout 44.87%



CPI

Leader	Jawaharlal Nehru	Ajoy Ghosh
Party	INC	CPI
Seats won	364	16
Popular vote	47,665,951	3,487,401
Percentage	44.99%	3.29%



KMPP

Leader	Narendra Deva	J. B. Kripalani
Party	Socialist	KMPP
Seats won	12	9
Popular vote	11,216,719	6,135,978
Percentage	10.59%	5.79%

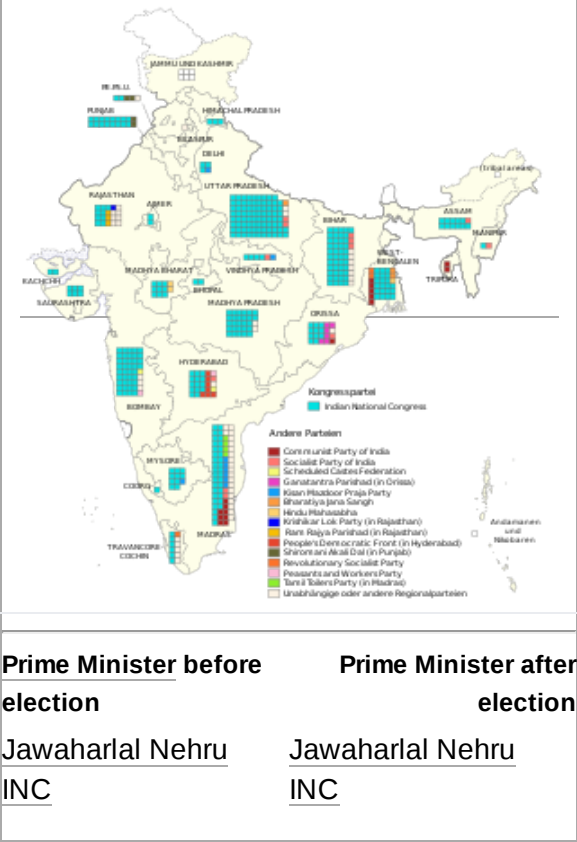
Jammu & Kashmir, where no voting took place for Lok Sabha seats until 1967. The first votes of the election were cast in the tehsil (district) of Chini in Himachal Pradesh.^[10]

The result was a landslide victory for the Indian National Congress (INC), which received 45% of the vote and won 364 of the 489 seats. The second-placed Socialist Party received only 11% of the vote and won twelve seats. Jawaharlal Nehru became the first democratically elected Prime Minister of the country.

Contesting parties

A total of 53 parties and 533 independents contested the 489 seats.^[11]

Several ministers resigned from their posts and formed their own parties to contest the elections. Syama Prasad Mukherjee established the Jana Sangh in October 1951 and Law Minister B. R. Ambedkar revived the Scheduled Castes Federation (which was later named the Republican Party). Congress party president Purushottam Das Tandon resigned from his post because of differences with Nehru.^{[12][13]}



Other parties which started coming to the forefront included the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Parishad, whose prime mover was Acharya Kripalani; the Socialist Party led by Ram Manohar Lohia and Jayaprakash Narayan; and the Communist Party of India. However, these smaller parties were unable to make an electoral stand against the Indian National Congress.

Results

			
Party	Votes	%	Seats
<u>Indian National Congress</u>	47,665,951	44.99	364
<u>Socialist Party</u>	11,216,719	10.59	12
<u>Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party</u>	6,135,978	5.79	9
<u>Communist Party of India</u>	3,487,401	3.29	16
<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	3,246,361	3.06	3
<u>Scheduled Castes Federation</u>	2,521,695	2.38	2
<u>Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad</u>	2,091,898	1.97	3
<u>Krishikar Lok Party</u>	1,489,615	1.41	1
<u>People's Democratic Front</u>	1,367,404	1.29	7
<u>Shiromani Akali Dal</u>	1,047,611	0.99	4
<u>Hindu Mahasabha</u>	1,003,034	0.95	4
<u>Peasants and Workers Party of India</u>	992,187	0.94	2
<u>Forward Bloc (Marxist)</u>	963,058	0.91	1
<u>All India Ganatantra Parishad</u>	959,749	0.91	6
<u>Tamil Nadu Toilers' Party</u>	889,292	0.84	4
<u>Jharkhand Party</u>	749,702	0.71	3
<u>Revolutionary Socialist Party</u>	468,108	0.44	3
<u>Commonweal Party</u>	325,398	0.31	3
<u>Lok Sewak Sangh</u>	309,940	0.29	2
<u>Zamindar Party</u>	291,300	0.27	0
<u>Chota Nagpur Santhal Parganas Janata Party</u>	236,094	0.22	1
<u>Uttar Pradesh Praja Party</u>	213,656	0.20	0
<u>S.K. Paksha</u>	137,343	0.13	0
<u>All India Forward Bloc (Ruikar)</u>	133,936	0.13	0
<u>Kamgar Kisan Paksha</u>	132,574	0.13	0
<u>Tribal Sangha</u>	116,629	0.11	0
<u>Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress</u>	115,893	0.11	1
<u>Kerala Socialist Party</u>	102,098	0.10	0
<u>Indian Union Muslim League</u>	79,470	0.08	1

<u>Revolutionary Communist Party of India</u>	67,275	0.06	0
<u>Justice Party</u>	63,254	0.06	0
<u>All India United Kisan Sabha</u>	60,254	0.06	0
All India Republican Party (RPP)	57,815	0.05	0
All India Republican Party (REP)	44,286	0.04	0
<u>All People's Party</u>	36,851	0.03	0
Tamil Nadu Congress Party	36,158	0.03	0
Khasi-Jaintia Durbar	32,987	0.03	0
<u>Saurashtra Khedut Sangh</u>	29,766	0.03	0
<u>Bolshevik Party of India</u>	25,792	0.02	0
All Manipur National Union	22,083	0.02	0
<u>Uttar Pradesh Revolutionary Socialist Party</u>	20,665	0.02	0
Hill People Party	17,350	0.02	0
<u>Praja Party</u>	16,955	0.02	0
Kuki National Association	12,155	0.01	0
Punjab Depressed Class League	11,789	0.01	0
<u>Pursharathi Panchayat</u>	10,778	0.01	0
<u>Cochin Party</u>	8,947	0.01	0
<u>Kisan Mazdoor Mandal</u>	8,808	0.01	0
<u>Hyderabad State Praja Party</u>	7,646	0.01	0
Gandhi Sevak Seva	7,196	0.01	0
Kisan Janta Sanyukta Party	6,390	0.01	0
National Party of India	3,232	0.00	0
Historical Research	1,468	0.00	0
Independents	16,850,089	15.90	37
Appointed members ^[a]			10
Total	105,950,083	100.00	499
Registered voters/turnout	173,212,343	44.87	
Source: ECI (https://eci.gov.in/files/file/4111-general-election-1951-vol-i-ii/?do=download&r=9734&confirm=1&t=1&csrfKey=6df04992cf2c2fe96a9487465b425663)			

a. Six representing Jammu and Kashmir, two representing Anglo-Indians, one representing Part B tribal

areas in Assam and one representing the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Results by state

State	Total seats	Seats won												
		INC	CPI	SPI	KMPP	PDF	GP	BJS	RRP	SCF	KLP	Others	Ind.	App.
<u>Andaman and Nicobar Islands</u>	1													1
<u>Assam</u>	13	11		1										1
<u>Ajmer</u>	2	2												
<u>Bhopal</u>	2	2												
<u>Bihar</u>	55	45		3								6	1	
<u>Bilaspur</u>	1												1	
<u>Bombay</u>	45	40								1		1	3	
<u>Coorg</u>	1	1												
<u>Delhi</u>	4	3			1									
<u>Himachal Pradesh</u>	3	3												
<u>Hyderabad</u>	25	14		1		7				1		1	1	
<u>Jammu and Kashmir</u>	6													6
<u>Kutch</u>	2	2												
<u>Madhya Bharat</u>	11	9										2		
<u>Madhya Pradesh</u>	29	27											2	
<u>Madras</u>	75	35	8	2	6							9	15	
<u>Manipur</u>	2	1		1										
<u>Mysore</u>	11	10			1									
<u>Orissa</u>	20	11	1	1			6						1	
<u>PEPSU</u>	5	2										2	1	
<u>Punjab</u>	18	16										2		
<u>Rajasthan</u>	20	9						1	3		1		6	
<u>Saurashtra</u>	6	6												
<u>Travancore-Cochin</u>	12	6										2	4	
<u>Tripura</u>	2		2											
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>	86	81		2								1	2	
<u>Vindhya Pradesh</u>	6	4		1	1									
<u>West</u>	34	21	5					2				3		

Bengal														
Anglo-Indians	2													2
Total	499	364	16	12	9	7	6	3	3	2	1	29	37	10

Source: [ECI \(https://web.archive.org/web/20140404203355/http://eci.nic.in/eci_main/StatisticalReports/LS_1951/VOL_1_51_LS.PDF\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20140404203355/http://eci.nic.in/eci_main/StatisticalReports/LS_1951/VOL_1_51_LS.PDF)

Assam

Party	Votes	%	Seats
Indian National Congress	1,210,707	45.74	11
Socialist Party	506,943	19.15	1
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	265,687	10.04	0
Independents	363,670	13.74	0
Other parties	300,120	11.34	0
Total	2,647,127	100.00	12

Bihar

Party	Votes	%	Seats
Indian National Congress	4,573,058	45.77	45
Socialist Party	2,126,066	21.28	3
Jharkhand Party	749,702	7.50	3
Lok Sewak Sangh	309,940	3.10	2
Chota Nagpur Santhal Parganas Janata Party	236,094	2.36	1
Independents	1,306,660	13.08	1
Other parties	690,931	6.91	0
Total	9,992,451	100.00	55

Bombay

Party	Votes	%	Seats
Indian National Congress	5,781,277	50.15	40
Independents	1,380,484	11.97	3
Peasants and Workers Party of India	807,019	7.00	1
Scheduled Caste Federation	511,028	4.43	1
Socialist Party	1,682,494	14.59	0
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	639,788	5.55	0
Other parties	726,200	6.30	0
Total	11,528,290	100.00	45

Madhya Pradesh

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	3,713,537	51.63	27
	Independents	858,407	11.93	2
	<u>Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party</u>	451,749	6.28	0
	<u>Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad</u>	396,661	5.51	0
	<u>Socialist Party</u>	877,392	12.20	0
	Other parties	894,845	12.44	0
Total		7,192,591	100.00	29

Madras

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	7,253,452	36.39	35
	Independents	4,614,210	23.15	15
	<u>Communist Party of India</u>	1,783,407	8.95	8
	<u>Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party</u>	1,952,197	9.79	6
	<u>Tamil Nadu Toilers' Party</u>	889,292	4.46	4
	<u>Commonweal Party</u>	325,398	1.63	3
	<u>Socialist Party</u>	1,055,423	5.29	2
	<u>Forward Bloc (Marxist Group)</u>	332,196	1.67	1
	<u>Indian Union Muslim League</u>	79,470	0.40	1
	Other parties	1,649,116	8.27	0
Total		19,934,161	100.00	75

Orissa

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	1,555,787	42.51	11
	<u>All India Ganatantra Parishad</u>	959,749	26.23	6
	<u>Socialist Party</u>	563,462	15.40	1
	<u>Communist Party of India</u>	211,303	5.77	1
	Independents	316,538	8.65	1
	<u>Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party</u>	52,654	1.44	0
Total		3,659,493	100.00	20

Punjab

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	2,134,586	42.76	16
	<u>Shiromani Akali Dal</u>	569,973	11.42	2
	<u>Zamindar Party</u>	291,300	5.83	0
	<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	279,639	5.60	0

	<u>Communist Party of India</u>	251,623	5.04	0
	Independents	930,383	18.64	0
	Other parties	534,834	10.71	0
Total		4,992,338	100.00	18

Uttar Pradesh

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	9,047,392	52.99	81
	<u>Socialist Party</u>	2,208,678	12.94	2
	Independents	1,936,383	11.34	2
	<u>Hindu Mahasabha</u>	325,601	1.91	1
	<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	1,244,099	7.29	0
	Other parties	2,312,822	13.55	0
Total		17,074,975	100.00	86

West Bengal

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	3,205,162	42.10	24
	<u>Communist Party of India</u>	720,304	9.46	5
	<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	452,279	5.94	2
	<u>Revolutionary Socialist Party</u>	183,005	2.40	2
	<u>Hindu Mahasabha</u>	324,870	4.27	1
	<u>Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party</u>	679,149	8.92	0
	Independents	1,405,747	18.46	0
	Other parties	643,417	8.45	0
Total		7,613,933	100.00	34

Hyderabad

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	1,945,798	40.08	14
	<u>People's Democratic Front</u>	1,367,404	28.17	7
	<u>Socialist Party</u>	651,316	13.42	1
	<u>Scheduled Caste Federation</u>	308,591	6.36	1
	<u>Peasants and Workers Party of India</u>	185,168	3.81	1
	Independents	388,939	8.01	1
	<u>Hyderabad State Praja Party</u>	7,646	0.16	0
Total		4,854,862	100.00	25

Madhya Bharat

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	992,159	50.79	9
	<u>Hindu Mahasabha</u>	122,213	6.26	2
	<u>Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad</u>	278,475	14.25	0
	<u>Socialist Party</u>	268,399	13.74	0
	<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	188,569	9.65	0
	Other parties	103,756	5.31	0
Total		1,953,571	100.00	11

Mysore

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	1,509,075	53.43	10
	<u>Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party</u>	650,658	23.04	1
	<u>Socialist Party</u>	181,430	6.42	0
	Independents	292,472	10.36	0
	Other parties	190,792	6.76	0
Total		2,824,427	100.00	11

Patiala and East Punjab States Union

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	492,408	33.38	2
	<u>Shiromani Akali Dal</u>	477,638	32.38	2
	Independents	311,635	21.13	1
	Other parties	193,431	13.11	0
Total		1,475,112	100.00	5

Rajasthan

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	1,460,971	41.42	9
	Independents	1,028,388	29.16	6
	<u>Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad</u>	331,760	9.41	3
	<u>Krishikar Lok Party</u>	356,630	10.11	1
	<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	107,089	3.04	1
	Other parties	242,119	6.86	0
Total		3,526,957	100.00	20

Saurashtra

Party	Votes	%	Seats
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	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	506,112	66.36	6
	<u>Hindu Mahasabha</u>	99,311	13.02	0
	Independents	58,343	7.65	0
	Other parties	98,939	12.97	0
Total		762,705	100.00	6

Travancore Cochin

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	1,224,533	35.08	6
	Independents	1,265,051	36.24	4
	<u>Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress</u>	115,893	3.32	1
	<u>Socialist Party</u>	459,669	13.17	0
	<u>Revolutionary Socialist Party</u>	220,312	6.31	0
	Other parties	205,018	5.87	0
Total		3,490,476	100.00	11

Ajmer

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	89,761	50.15	2
	<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	28,990	16.20	0
	<u>Communist Party of India</u>	25,128	14.04	0
	<u>Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad</u>	13,624	7.61	0
	<u>Pursharathi Panchayat</u>	10,778	6.02	0
	Independents	10,718	5.99	0
Total		178,999	100.00	2

Bhopal

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	97,292	57.41	2
	<u>Hindu Mahasabha</u>	34,712	20.48	0
	<u>Kisan Mazdoor Mandal</u>	8,808	5.20	0
	<u>Socialist Party</u>	3,329	1.96	0
	Independents	25,316	14.94	—
Total		169,457	100.00	2

Bislaspur

Party		Seats
	Independents	1

Total	1
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Bilaspur constituency was uncontested

Coorg

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	38,063	59.65	1
	Independents	25,750	40.35	0
Total		63,813	100.00	1

Delhi

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	324,214	49.43	3
	<u>Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party</u>	47,735	7.28	1
	<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	169,997	25.92	0
	Independents	83,045	12.66	0
	Other parties	30,909	4.71	0
Total		655,900	100.00	4

Himachal Pradesh

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	117,036	52.44	3
	<u>Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party</u>	27,368	12.26	0
	<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	23,918	10.72	0
	<u>Scheduled Caste Federation</u>	18,988	8.51	0
	<u>Socialist Party</u>	16,780	7.52	0
	Independents	19,099	8.56	0
Total		223,189	100.00	3

Kutch

Party		Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	78,771	65.87	2
	<u>Socialist Party</u>	5,985	5.01	0
	Independents	34,824	29.12	0
Total		119,580	100.00	2

Manipur

Party	Votes	%	Seats
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	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	36,317	23.82	1
	<u>Socialist Party</u>	29,372	19.26	1
	<u>All Manipur National Union</u>	22,083	14.48	0
	<u>Praja Party</u>	16,955	11.12	0
	<u>Communist Party of India</u>	13,184	8.65	0
	<u>Kuki National Association</u>	12,155	7.97	0
	Independents	13,737	9.01	0
	Other parties	8,664	5.68	0
Total		152,467	100.00	2

Tripura

	Party	Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Communist Party of India</u>	96,458	61.29	2
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	40,263	25.58	0
	<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	9,663	6.14	0
	Independents	10,987	6.98	0
Total		157,371	100.00	2

Vindhya Pradesh

	Party	Votes	%	Seats
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	238,220	33.75	4
	<u>Socialist Party</u>	125,480	17.78	1
	<u>Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party</u>	106,071	15.03	1
	<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	89,701	12.71	0
	Independents	94,911	13.45	0
	Other parties	51,455	7.29	0
Total		705,838	100.00	6

Government formation

The speaker of the first Lok Sabha was Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar. The first Lok Sabha also witnessed 677 sittings (3,784 hours), the highest recorded count of the number of sitting hours. The Lok Sabha lasted its full term from 17 April 1952 until 4 April 1957.

Notable losses

First Law Minister B. R. Ambedkar was defeated in the Bombay (North Central)^[14] constituency as Scheduled Castes Federation candidate by his little-known former assistant and Congress Candidate Narayan Sadoba Kajrolkar, who polled 1,38,137 votes compared to Ambedkar's 1,23,576 votes.^{[10]:156} Ambedkar then entered the parliament as a Rajya Sabha member. He contested a by-poll from Bhandara in 1954 in another attempt to enter the Lok Sabha, but again lost to Borkar of Congress.

Acharya Kripalani lost from Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh as a KMPP candidate, but his wife Sucheta Kripalani defeated the Congress candidate Manmohini Sahgal in Delhi.^[15]

See also

- List of members of the 1st Lok Sabha
- Election Commission of India
- 1952 Indian presidential election

References

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