



Elections in India

India has a parliamentary system as defined by its constitution, with power distributed between the union government and the states. India's democracy is the largest democracy in the world.^[1]

The President of India is the ceremonial head of state of the country and supreme commander-in-chief for all defense forces in India. However, it is the Prime Minister of India, who is the leader of the party or political alliance having a majority in the national elections to the Lok Sabha (Lower house of the Parliament). The Prime Minister is the leader of the legislative branch of the Government of India. The Prime Minister is the chief adviser to the President of India and the head of the Union Council of Ministers.

India is regionally divided into States (and Union Territories) and each State has a Governor who is the state's head, but the executive authority rests with the Chief Minister who is the leader of the party or political alliance that has won a majority in the regional elections otherwise known as State Assembly Elections that exercises executive powers in that State. The respective State's Chief Minister has executive powers within the State and works jointly with the Prime Minister of India or their ministers on matters that require both State and Central attention. Some Union Territories also elect an Assembly and have a territorial government and other (mainly smaller) Union Territories are governed by an administrator/lieutenant governor appointed by the President of India.

The President of India monitors the rule of law through their appointed governors in each State and on their recommendation can take over the executive powers from the Chief Minister of the State, temporarily when the elected representatives of the State government have failed to create a peaceful environment and has deteriorated into chaos. The President of India dissolves the existing State government if necessary, and a new election is conducted.

Election Commission of India

Election Commission of India

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is an autonomous authority of India which is enacted under the provisions of the Constitution, responsible for monitoring and administering Union and State election processes in India. This body is responsible for ensuring elections are free and fair, without any bias.^[2]

The ECI, established as a permanent Constitutional Body, is entrusted by the Constitution with the superintendence, direction, and control of the entire electoral process for Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice-President of India.

Election ensures the conduct of members pre-elections, during elections, and post-elections are as per the statutory legislation.

All election-related disputes are handled by the Election Commission. The Supreme Court of India has held that where the enacted laws are silent or make insufficient provisions to deal with a given situation in the conduct of elections, the Election Commission has the residuary powers under the Constitution to act as appropriate. The first chief election Commissioner was Sukumar Sen.

The elections for the President and Vice President of India, the Rajya Sabha (council of states) and Lok Sabha (house of the people), State Legislative Assemblies (including Union territories of jammu and kashmir ,Delhi and Puducherry), and State Legislative Councils are conducted by the Election Commission of India .

State Election Commissions

The State Election Commission (SEC) is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering elections to the 3rd tier of governance i.e. the Local Government, which includes the Panchayati Raj Institutions and the Urban Local Bodies. As per the constitutional provision, 'superintendence, direction and control of the conduct of Elections to Urban & Rural Local

bodies vest in State Election Commission.

State Election Commission consists of a State Election Commissioner, who is appointed by the Governor for a fixed tenure of 5 years and cannot be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of a High Court.

The elections to local self-government institutions, such as panchayats and municipalities, are conducted by the respective State Election Commissions (SECs).^[3]

Types of elections

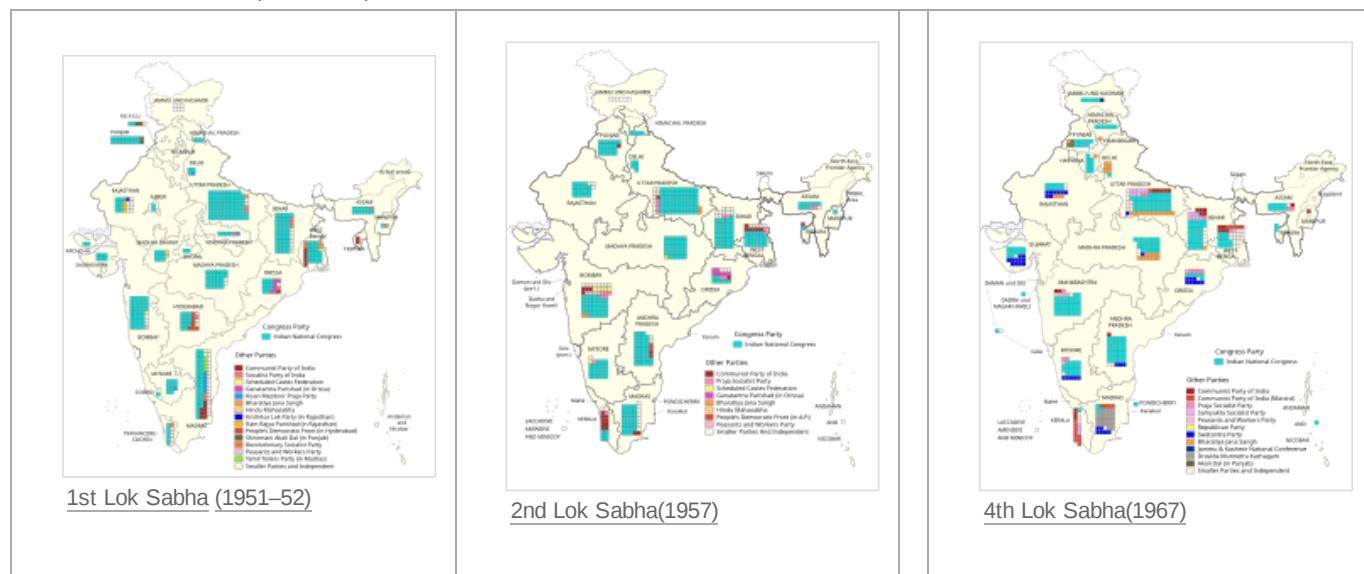
Elections in the Republic of India include elections for

- President of India,
- Vice President of India,
- Members of the Parliament in Rajya Sabha (Upper house) and Lok Sabha (Lower house),
- Members of State Legislative Councils,
- Members of State Legislative Assemblies (includes legislative assemblies of three union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Puducherry)
- Members of local governance bodies (Municipal bodies and Panchayats),
- By-election is held when a seat-holder of a particular constituent dies, resigns, or is disqualified.

Parliamentary general elections (Lok Sabha)

Members of Lok Sabha (House of the People) or the lower house of India's Parliament are elected by being voted upon by all adult citizens of India, who crossed 18 years from a set of candidates who contest in their respective constituencies. Every adult citizen of India can vote only in their constituency. Candidates who win the Lok Sabha elections are called 'Member of Parliament' and hold their seats for five years or until the body is dissolved by the President on the advice of the council of ministers. The house meets in the Lok Sabha Chambers of the Sansad Bhavan in New Delhi, on matters relating to the creation of new laws, removing or improving the existing laws that affect all citizens of India. Elections take place once in 5 years to elect 543 members for the Lok Sabha (Lower house).^[4]

General election results (*Lok Sabha*)



History of Lok Sabha elections

Lok Sabha elections^{[5][6][7][8]}

Lok Sabha (Election)	Total Seats	First		Second		Third					
		Political party	Seats	Percentage of votes	Political party	Seats	Percentage of votes	Political party	Seats	Percentage of votes	
1st (1951–52)	489	Indian National Congress	364	44.99%	Communist Party of India	16	3.29%	Socialist Party	12	10.59%	
2nd (1957)	494	Indian National Congress		47.78%	Communist Party of India		27	Praja Socialist Party		19	10.41%
3rd (1962)	494	Indian National Congress		44.72%	Communist Party of India		29	Swatantra Party		18	7.89%
4th (1967)	520	Indian National Congress		40.78%	Swatantra Party		44	Bharatiya Jana Sangh		35	9.31%
5th (1971)	518	Indian National Congress (R)	352	43.68%	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	25	5.12%	Communist Party of India	23	4.73%	
6th (1977)	542	Janata Party	295	41.32%	Indian National Congress (R)	154	34.52%	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	22	4.29%	
7th (1980)	529	Indian National Congress (Indira)	353	42.69%	Janata Party (Secular)	41	9.39%	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	37	6.24%	
8th (1984)	541	Indian National Congress (Indira)	414	48.12%	Telugu Desam Party	30	4.06%	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	22	5.72%	
9th (1989)	529	Indian National Congress (Indira)	197	39.53%	Janata Dal	143	17.79%	Bharatiya Janata Party	85	11.36%	
10th (1991)	534	Indian National Congress (Indira)	244	36.40%	Bharatiya Janata Party	120	20.07%	Janata Dal	59	11.73%	
11th (1996)	543	Bharatiya Janata Party	161	20.29%	Indian National Congress (Indira)	140	28.80%	Janata Dal	46	8.08%	
12th (1998)	543	Bharatiya Janata Party	182	25.59%	Indian National Congress	141	25.82%	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	32	5.16%	
13th (1999)	543	Bharatiya Janata Party	182	23.75%	Indian National Congress	114	28.30%	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	33	5.40%	
14th (2004)	543	Indian National Congress	145	26.53%	Bharatiya Janata Party	138	22.16%	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	43	5.66%	
15th (2009)	543	Indian National Congress	206	28.55%	Bharatiya Janata Party	116	18.80%	Samajwadi Party	23	3.23%	
16th (2014)	543	Bharatiya Janata Party	282	31.34%	Indian National Congress	44	19.52%	All India Anna Dravida	37	3.31%	

							Munnetra Kazhagam			
17th (2019)	543	Bharatiya Janata Party	303	37.70%	Indian National Congress	52	19.67%	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	24	2.36%
18th (2024)	543	Bharatiya Janata Party	240	36.56%	Indian National Congress	99	21.19%	Samajwadi Party	37	4.58%

State Assembly elections

Members of State Legislative Assembly, are elected directly by voting, from a set of candidates who contest in their respective constituencies. Every adult citizen of India can vote only in their constituency. Candidates who win the State Legislative Assemblies elections are called 'Member of Legislative Assembly' (MLA) and hold their seats for five years or until the body is dissolved by the Governor. The house meets in the respective state, on matters relating to the creation of new laws, removing or improving the existing laws that affect all citizens living in that state.

The total strength of each assembly depends on each State, mostly based on size and population. Similar to the Lok Sabha elections, the leader of the majority party/alliance takes oath as Chief Minister of the State.

The Election Commission conducts the elections and provides voluntary facility to 80 years plus aged electors to vote through ballot papers at their homes depending upon polling booth accessibility. Elections are taken up enthusiastically by major portion of the population who turn out in high numbers. For example, An 83-year-old woman, Dolma, cast her vote at Chasak Bhatori polling station in Pangi area of Chamba district after covering 14 kilometers walking on a snowy road during 2022 assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh.^[9]

Prior to the much awaited Lok Sabha election in 2024, the state assembly elections in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Telangana are an important political event. November 7 and November 17 are the scheduled dates for Chhattisgarh's elections, while Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Telangana will hold their votes on November 17, November 23, and November 30, respectively. The political climate before the national elections is anticipated to be shaped by the outcomes of these elections, which are anticipated to be declared on December 3. Key political players in these states are diverse and competing for domination, such as the Indian National Congress (INC), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and other regional parties. These states differ in the quantity of assembly seats they have; Chhattisgarh has ninety^[10]seats.

Legislative Assembly Elections

State/UT	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
<u>AP</u>	<u>AS 1955 1957</u>	<u>1962 1967</u>	<u>1972 1978</u>	<u>1983 1985 1989</u>	<u>1994 1999</u>	<u>2004 2009</u>	<u>2014 2019</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>AR</u>	—	—	<u>1978</u>	<u>1980 1984</u>	<u>1990 1995 1999</u>	<u>2004 2009</u>	<u>2014 2019</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>AS</u>	<u>1952 1957</u>	<u>1962 1967</u>	<u>1972 1978</u>	<u>1983 1985</u>	<u>1991 1996</u>	<u>2001 2006</u>	<u>2011 2016</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>BR</u>	<u>1952 1957</u>	<u>1962 1967 1969</u>	<u>1972 1977</u>	<u>1980 1985</u>	<u>1990 1995</u>	<u>2000 2005 (Feb) 2005 (Oct)</u>	<u>2010 2015</u>	<u>2020 2025</u>
<u>CG</u>	State didn't exist. Was part of MP. (Established in 2000)					<u>2003 2008</u>	<u>2013 2018</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>DL</u>	<u>1952</u>	—	—	—	<u>1993 1998</u>	<u>2003 2008</u>	<u>2013 2015</u>	<u>2020 2025</u>
<u>GA</u>	—	<u>1963 1967</u>	<u>1972 1977</u>	<u>1980 1984 1989</u>	<u>1994 1999</u>	<u>2002 2007</u>	<u>2012 2017</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>GJ</u>	—	<u>1962 1967</u>	<u>1972 1975</u>	<u>1980 1985</u>	<u>1990 1995 1998</u>	<u>2002 2007</u>	<u>2012 2017</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>HR</u>	—	<u>1967 1968</u>	<u>1972 1977</u>	<u>1982 1987</u>	<u>1991 1996</u>	<u>2000 2005 2009</u>	<u>2014 2019</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>HP</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1972 1977</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1990 1993 1998</u>	<u>2003 2007</u>	<u>2012 2017</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>JK</u>	<u>1951 1957</u>	<u>1962 1967</u>	<u>1972 1977</u>	<u>1983 1987</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>2002 2008</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>JH</u>	State didn't exist. Was part of Bihar. (Established in 2000)					<u>2005 2009</u>	<u>2014 2019</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>KA</u>	Mysore 1952 Mysore 1957	Mysore 1962 Mysore 1967	Mysore 1972 1978	<u>1983 1985 1989</u>	<u>1994 1999</u>	<u>2004 2008</u>	<u>2013 2018</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>KL</u>	1952 Thiru-Kochi 1954 Thiru-Kochi 1957	<u>1960 1965 1967</u>	<u>1970 1977</u>	<u>1980 1982 1987</u>	<u>1991 1996</u>	<u>2001 2006</u>	<u>2011 2016</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>MP</u>	Bhopal 1952 MB 1952 MP 1952 VP 1952 1957	<u>1967</u>	<u>1972 1977</u>	<u>1980 1985</u>	<u>1990 1993 1998</u>	<u>2003 2008</u>	<u>2013 2018</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>MH</u>	—	<u>1962 1967</u>	<u>1972 1978</u>	<u>1980 1985</u>	<u>1990 1995 1999</u>	<u>2004 2009</u>	<u>2014 2019</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>MN</u>	—	<u>1967</u>	<u>1972 1974</u>	<u>1980 1984</u>	<u>1990 1995</u>	<u>2000 2002 2007</u>	<u>2012 2017</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>ML</u>	—	—	<u>1972 1978</u>	<u>1983 1988</u>	<u>1993 1998</u>	<u>2003 2008</u>	<u>2013 2018</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>MZ</u>	—	—	<u>1972 1978 1979</u>	<u>1984 1987 1989</u>	<u>1993 1998</u>	<u>2003 2008</u>	<u>2013 2018</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>NL</u>	—	<u>1964 1969</u>	<u>1974 1977</u>	<u>1982 1987 1989</u>	<u>1993 1998</u>	<u>2003 2008</u>	<u>2013 2018</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>OD</u>	<u>1952 1957</u>	<u>1961 1967</u>	<u>1971 1974 1977</u>	<u>1980 1985</u>	<u>1990 1995</u>	<u>2000 2004 2009</u>	<u>2014 2019</u>	<u>2024</u>

<u>PB</u>	<u>1952</u> <u>1957</u>	<u>1962</u> <u>1967</u> <u>1969</u>	<u>1972</u> <u>1977</u>	<u>1980</u> <u>1985</u>	<u>1992</u> <u>1997</u>	<u>2002</u> <u>2007</u>	<u>2012</u> <u>2017</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>PY</u>	—	<u>1964</u> <u>1969</u>	<u>1974</u> <u>1977</u>	<u>1980</u> <u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u> <u>1991</u> <u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u> <u>2006</u>	<u>2011</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>RJ</u>	<u>1952</u> <u>1957</u>	<u>1962</u> <u>1967</u>	<u>1972</u> <u>1977</u>	<u>1980</u> <u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u> <u>1993</u> <u>1998</u>	<u>2003</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>2013</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>SK</u>	—	—	<u>1979</u>	<u>1985</u> <u>1989</u>	<u>1994</u> <u>1999</u>	<u>2004</u> <u>2009</u>	<u>2014</u> <u>2019</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>TN</u>	Madras <u>1952</u> Madras <u>1957</u>	Madras <u>1962</u> Madras <u>1967</u>	<u>1971</u> <u>1977</u>	<u>1980</u> <u>1984</u> <u>1989</u>	<u>1991</u> <u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u> <u>2006</u>	<u>2011</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>TS</u>	Hyderabad <u>1952</u>				—		<u>2014</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>TR</u> ^[11]	—	<u>1967</u>	<u>1972</u> <u>1977</u>	<u>1983</u> <u>1988</u>	<u>1993</u> <u>1998</u>	<u>2003</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>2013</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>UP</u>	<u>1951</u> <u>1952</u> <u>1957</u>	<u>1962</u> <u>1967</u> <u>1969</u>	<u>1974</u> <u>1977</u>	<u>1980</u> <u>1985</u> <u>1989</u>	<u>1991</u> <u>1993</u> <u>1996</u>	<u>2002</u> <u>2007</u>	<u>2012</u> <u>2017</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>UT</u>	State didn't exist. Was part of UP. (Established in 2000)					<u>2002</u> <u>2007</u>	<u>2012</u> <u>2017</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>WB</u>	<u>1952</u> <u>1957</u>	<u>1962</u> <u>1967</u> <u>1969</u>	<u>1971</u> <u>1972</u> <u>1977</u>	<u>1982</u> <u>1987</u>	<u>1991</u> <u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u> <u>2006</u>	<u>2011</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>2021</u>

By-election

When an elected candidate to either the State Assembly or Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha leaves the office vacant before their term ends, a by-election is conducted to find a suitable replacement to fill the vacant position. It is often referred to in India as Bypolls.

Common reasons for by-elections:

- Resignation by the sitting MP or MLA
- Death of the sitting MP or MLA

But other reasons occur when the incumbent becomes ineligible to continue in office (criminal conviction, failure to maintain a minimum level of attendance in the office, due to election irregularities found later, or when a candidate wins more than one seat and has to vacate one).

Rajya Sabha (Upper House) Elections

The Rajya Sabha, also known as the Council of States, is the upper house of India's Parliament. Candidates are not elected directly by the citizens, but by the Members of Legislative Assemblies and up to 13 can be nominated by the President of India for their contributions to art, literature, science, and social services. Members of the Parliament in Rajya Sabha get a tenure of six years, with one-third of the body facing re-election every two years. Rajya Sabha acts as a second-level review body before a bill becomes an act.^[12]

The Vice President of India is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, who presides over its sessions.

The Legislative proposals (making new laws, removing or appending new conditions to the existing law) are brought before either house of the Parliament in the form of a bill. A bill is the draft of a legislative proposal, which, when passed by both houses of Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) and assented to by the President, becomes an Act of Parliament.

The Constitution of India, however, places some restrictions on the Rajya Sabha which makes the Lok Sabha more powerful in certain areas. For example, it stipulates that Money bills must originate in the Lok Sabha.

Members of Rajya Sabha debate bills sent by the Lok Sabha and can approve, reject or send the bill back to the Lok Sabha for further debate and discussion on the matter, as well as to suggest better changes in the drafted bill. Members of the Rajya Sabha can only make recommendations to the Lok Sabha for money bills within 14 days. If the Rajya Sabha fails to return the money bill in 14 days to the Lok Sabha, that bill is deemed to have passed by both the Houses. Also, if the Lok Sabha rejects any (or all) of the amendments proposed by the Rajya Sabha, the bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses of Parliament of India in the form in which the Lok Sabha finally passes it.

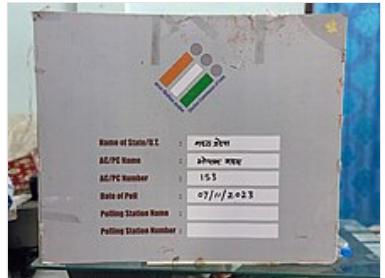
Electoral procedures

Candidates are required to file their nomination papers with the Electoral Commission. Then, a list of candidates is published. No party is allowed to use government resources for campaigning. No party is allowed to bribe the candidates before elections. The government cannot start a project during the election period. Campaigning ends by 6:00 pm two days before the polling day.

The polling is held between 7:00 am and 6:00 pm. The Collector of each district is in charge of polling. Government employees are employed as poll officers at the polling stations. Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) are being used instead of ballot boxes to prevent election fraud. After the citizen votes, his or her left index finger is marked with indelible ink. This practice was instituted in 1962.

Vote from home

The Election Commission of India has granted permission for individuals aged 80 and above and those with physical challenges to cast their votes from the comfort of their homes using ballot papers.^[13] To avail of this facility, eligible individuals must register with the designated booth-level officer at least 10 days prior to the election date. The necessary Form 12-D for facilitating the postal ballot has been submitted well in advance. A dedicated team of five officers, including a polling officer, micro observer, police officer, and photographer, will visit their residences to ensure a smooth and transparent polling process. The entire polling procedure will be documented through photographs and videos. While the option to vote from home is voluntary, the decision cannot be reversed later once an elector chooses this method. Election officials in Bhopal, India, are actively reaching out to the residences of super senior citizens (aged above 80 years) and voters with disabilities to provide assistance in submitting their votes through postal ballots for 2023 Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly elections.^[14]



Privacy Shields for Voting Booth used in India

In the 2024 lok sabha elections, ECI extended the "vote-from-home" option to people aged 85 years and above, and to Persons with Disabilities (PwD), for the first time in the history of the Lok Sabha elections. The goal of this move is to improve participation and accessibility in the electoral process.^{[15][16]}

Indelible ink

Research into indelible ink was commenced by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). In the 1950s, M. L. Goel worked on this research at the Chemical Division of the National Physical Laboratory of India. The ink used contains silver nitrate, which makes it photo-sensitive. It is stored in amber-colored plastic or brown-colored glass bottles. On application, the ink remains on the fingernail for at least two days. It may last up to a month, depending on the person's body temperature and the environment.



A senior citizen above 80 is casting her vote from home in Bhopal

Electronic voting

BHAVIK (EVM) were first used in the 1997 election and became the only method of voting in 2004. The EVMs save time in reporting results. A voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) was introduced on 14 August 2014 in Nagaland.^[17] In the 2014 general election, VVPAT was operational in 8 constituencies (Lucknow, Gandhinagar, Bangalore South, Chennai Central, Jadavpur, Raipur, Patna Sahib and Mizoram) as a pilot project.^{[18][19]} A slip generated by the VVPAT tells a voter to which party or candidate their vote has been given, their name, their constituency and their polling booth.^{[20][21][22][23][24]}

Opposition parties demanded that VVPAT be made mandatory all over India due to allegations against the government of hacking the EVM. Accordingly, Voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) and EVMs were used in every assembly and the general election in India since 2019.^{[25][26]} On 9 April 2019, Supreme Court of India gave the judgement, ordering the Election Commission of India to increase the VVPAT slips vote count to five randomly selected EVMs per assembly constituency, which means the Election Commission of India has to count VVPAT slips of 20,625 EVMs in the 2019 General elections.^{[27][28][29]} VVPAT enables voters to cross-check whether the vote they have given goes to their desired candidate as the VVPAT unit produces a paper slip, additionally called a ballot slip, that contains the name, serial number, and image of the candidate selected by the voter for his vote. Post the 2019 general election, ECI declared that no mismatches between EVM and VVPAT.^[30]



Ink used in Indian elections

NOTA

On 27 September 2013, the Supreme Court of India judged that citizens have the right to cast a negative vote by exercising the "None of the above" (NOTA) option. This was the result of petitioning by the Electoral Commission and the People's Union for Civil Liberties in 2009. In November 2013, NOTA was introduced in five state elections. Even if the number of electors opting for NOTA option is more than the number of votes polled by any of the candidates, the candidate who secures the largest number of votes has to be declared elected.^[31]

Absentee voting

India does not provide general absentee voting.^{[32][33][34]} On 24 November 2010, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 2010 was gazetted to give voting rights to non-resident Indians but a physical presence at the voting booth is still required.^{[35][36][37][38]}

Postal voting

Postal voting in India is done only through the "Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot Papers (ETPB)" system of Election Commission of India, where ballot papers are distributed to the registered eligible voters and they return the votes by post. When the counting of votes commences, these postal votes are counted before those from the Electronic Voting Machines. Only certain categories of people are eligible to register as postal voters. People working in the Union armed forces and state police as well as their spouses, and employees working for the Government of India who are officially posted abroad can register for the postal vote, these are also called the "Service voters". Additionally, people in preventive detention, disabled and those above the age of 80 years old can use postal vote. Prisoners can not vote at all.^{[39][40][41]}



Ink bottle pledge



Voting machine

See also



- [49-O Now replaced with 'NOTA \(None of The Above\)'](#)
- [Booth capturing](#)
- [History of democracy in the Indian-subcontinent](#)
- [Gopala I](#)
- [Election Commission of India](#)
- [Exercise Franchise For Good Governance](#)
- [Legislative Assembly elections in India](#)

- British India - General Elections
 - [1920 Indian general election](#)
 - [1923 Indian general election](#)
 - [1926 Indian general election](#)
 - [1930 Indian general election](#)
 - [1934 Indian general election](#)
 - [1945 Indian general election](#)
- British India - Provincial Elections
 - [1937 Indian provincial elections](#)
 - [1946 Indian provincial elections](#)

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2024 Indian general election

General elections were held in India from 19 April to 1 June 2024 in seven phases, to elect all 543 members of the Lok Sabha.^[a] Votes were counted and the result was declared on 4 June to form the 18th Lok Sabha.^{[2][3]} On 7 June 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi confirmed the support of 293 MPs to Droupadi Murmu, the president of India.^[4] This marked Modi's third term as prime minister and his first time heading a coalition government,^[5] with the Telugu Desam Party of Andhra Pradesh and Janata Dal (United) of Bihar emerging as two main allies.^{[6][7][8]}

More than 968 million people out of a population of 1.4 billion people were eligible to vote, equivalent to 70 percent of the total population.^{[9][10][11]} 642 million voters participated in the election and 312 million of them were women, making it the highest ever participation by women voters.^{[12][13]} This was the largest-ever election, surpassing the previous election, and lasted 44 days, second only to the 1951–52 Indian general election. The legislative assembly elections in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, and Sikkim were held simultaneously with the general election, along with the by-elections for 25 constituencies in 12 legislative assemblies.

Incumbent prime minister Narendra Modi, who completed a second term, ran for a third consecutive term after his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had enjoyed an absolute majority—a minimum of 272 seats—in the 2019 and 2014 elections. The primary opposition was the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), a coalition formed by the Indian National Congress (INC) and many regional parties in 2023. The election was criticised for lack of action on hate speeches by Modi's BJP,^[14] reported electronic voting machine (EVM) malfunctioning,^{[15][16]} and suppression of political opponents of the BJP.^[17]

Opinion surveys of mainstream media outlets projected a decisive victory for the BJP and its coalition, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). However, the BJP won 240 seats, down from the 303 seats it had secured in 2019, and lost its singular majority in the Lok Sabha, whereas the overall NDA secured 293 of the house's 543 seats.^[18] The INDIA coalition outperformed expectations, securing 234 seats, 99 of which were won by the Congress, garnering the party the official opposition status for the first time in 10 years.^{[19][20][21]} Seven independents and ten candidates from non-aligned parties also won seats in the Lok Sabha.^{[22][23][24]}

Background

Contemporary politics and previous elections

India has a multi-party system with two major parties, namely the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Indian National Congress (INC), that dominate politics at the national level. The BJP has governed the country with Narendra Modi at the helm since 2014. The tenure of the 17th Lok Sabha is scheduled to end on 16 June 2024.^[25] The previous general election was held in April–May 2019, after which the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), led by the BJP, formed the union government, with Modi continuing as Prime Minister.^[26] The Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance, comprising of 26 opposition parties, was formed in 2023 to contest against the NDA in the elections.^[27]

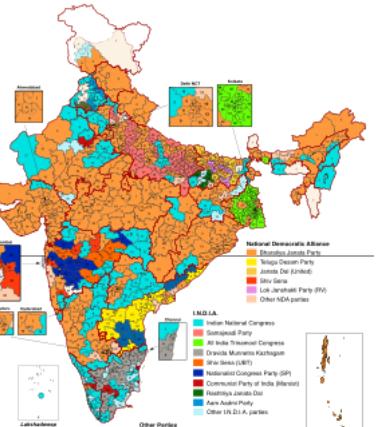
Electoral system

Article 83 of the Constitution of India requires elections to the Lok Sabha to be held once every five years.^[28] The 543 MPs are elected from single-member constituencies using first-past-the-post voting.^[29] The 104th amendment to the constitution abolished the two seats that were reserved for the Anglo-Indian community.^[30]

Indian citizens who are 18 years or older, ordinary residents of the polling area of the constituency and registered to vote (name included in the electoral rolls), possess a valid voter identification card issued by the Election Commission of India or equivalent are eligible to vote.^[31] People convicted of electoral or other offenses and prisoners, are barred from voting.^[32] Indians holding foreign citizenship are not eligible to vote in India. There is no postal or online absentee voting in India; members of the Indian diaspora are required to travel back to their home constituencies in order to cast a ballot.^[33]

For the 2024 election, 968 million people were eligible to vote, an increase of about 150 million people from the 2019 election.^[34] In Arunachal Pradesh, a polling station will be set up for the only registered voter in the village of Malogam, as electoral laws stipulate that voting booths need to be within two kilometres (1.2 mi) from any settlement.^{[35][36]} A polling station was also set up inside the Gir Forest in Gujarat to cater for a single voter, a priest at a Hindu temple.^[37] Polling stations were also set up inside a wildlife sanctuary in Kerala, in a shipping container in Gujarat, and 320 relief camps hosting nearly 59,000 people displaced during violence in Manipur.^{[38][39]}

2024 Indian general election

 19 April – 1 June 2024	
All 543 seats in the Lok Sabha 272 seats needed for a majority	
Opinion polls	
Registered	968,821,926 ^[1] (▲ 6.24%)
Turnout	66.61% (▼ 0.79pp)
 	
Leader	Narendra Modi Mallikarjun Kharge
Party	BJP INC
Alliance	NDA INDIA
Leader since	12 September 2013 26 October 2022
Leader's seat	Varanasi Karnataka (Rajya Sabha)
Last election	37.36%, 303 seats 19.49%, 52 seats
Seats won	240 99
Seat change	▼ 63 ▲ 47
Popular vote	235,973,935 136,759,064
Percentage	36.56% 21.19%
Swing	▼ 0.8 pp ▲ 1.7 pp
Alliance seats	293 234
Seat change	▼ 58 ▲ 112
Alliance percentage	42.5% 40.6%
	

In March 2024, the Supreme Court of India rejected a petition by the Congress party to end the usage of electronic voting machines (EVMs) and revert to paper ballots and manual counting, which was the system used in elections until the late 1990s, with the party citing risks of electoral fraud.^[40] Nearly 5.5 million EVMs were utilized in more than one million polling stations with 15 million election workers and security personnel tasked with managing the conduct of the election.^[41]

For the first time, the Election Commission of India allowed voters with disabilities and those over the age of 85 to cast ballots from their homes.^[42] In Telangana, voting in some areas was extended by an hour more to allow voters to come at a more convenient time.^[43]

Planning

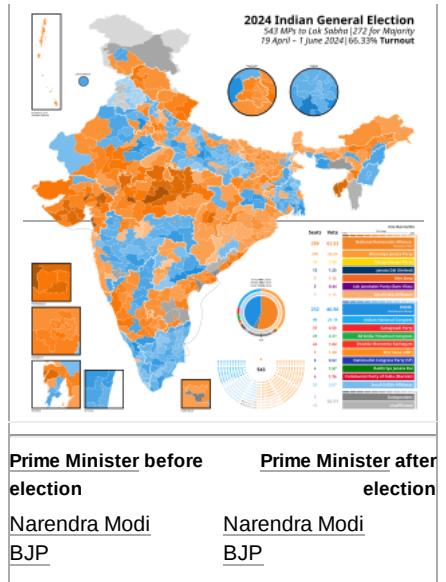
Key processes during a Lok Sabha election involved monitoring campaign expenditure, preventing the circulation of illicit goods, and ensuring adherence to the Model Code of Conduct. In the final 48 hours before voting, campaigns are ceased, and measures are implemented to maintain order and prevent disruptions. On polling day, strict rules are enforced to prevent undue influence and ensure a secure and free election process. After the elections, EVMs are sealed and stored under tight security with Booth Level Officers assisting throughout the process.^[44]

Schedule

The election schedule for the 18th Lok Sabha was announced by the Election Commission of India on 16 March 2024 and with it the Model Code of Conduct came into effect.^{[45][46][47]} The tenure of the 17th Lok Sabha was scheduled to end on 16 June 2024.^[48]

Date summary

Poll event	Phase						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Notification date	20 March	28 March	12 April	18 April	26 April	29 April	7 May
Last date for filing nomination	27 March	4 April	19 April	25 April	3 May	6 May	14 May
Scrutiny of nomination	28 March	5 April	20 April	26 April	4 May	7 May	15 May
Last date for withdrawal of nomination	30 March	8 April	22 April	29 April	6 May	9 May	17 May
Date of poll	19 April	26 April	7 May	13 May	20 May	25 May	1 June
Date of counting of votes	4 June 2024						
No. of constituencies	101½^[b]	87½^[b]	94	96	49	58	57



Prime Minister before election

Narendra Modi

BJP

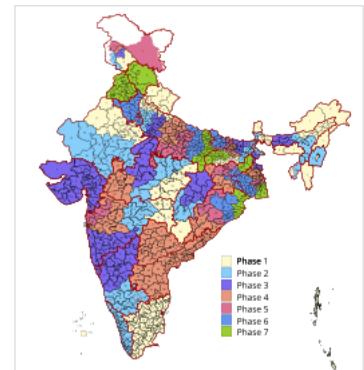
Prime Minister after election

Narendra Modi

BJP



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar announced the schedule for the elections on 16 March 2024



2024 Lok Sabha Election Schedule

Seat summary

Phase-wise polling constituencies in each state

State/Union territory	Total constituencies	Election dates and number of constituencies						
		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 6	Phase 7
		19 April	26 April	7 May	13 May	20 May	25 May	1 June
Andhra Pradesh	25				25			
Arunachal Pradesh	2	2						
Assam	14	5	5	4				
Bihar	40	4	5	5	5	5	8	8
Chhattisgarh	11	1	3	7				
Goa	2			2				
Gujarat	26			26				
Haryana	10						10	
Himachal Pradesh	4							4
Jharkhand	14				4	3	4	3
Karnataka	28		14	14				
Kerala	20		20					
Madhya Pradesh	29	6	6 ^[c]	9 ^[c]	8			
Maharashtra	48	5	8	11	11	13		
Manipur	2	1½ ^[b]	½ ^[b]					
Meghalaya	2	2						
Mizoram	1	1						
Nagaland	1	1						
Odisha	21				4	5	6	6
Punjab	13							13
Rajasthan	25	12	13					
Sikkim	1	1						
Tamil Nadu	39	39						
Telangana	17				17			
Tripura	2	1	1					
Uttar Pradesh	80	8	8	10	13	14	14	13
Uttarakhand	5	5						
West Bengal	42	3	3	4	8	7	8	9
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	1						
Chandigarh	1							1
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	2			2				
Delhi	7							7
Jammu and Kashmir	5	1	1		1	1	1 ^[d]	
Ladakh	1							1
Lakshadweep	1	1						
Puducherry	1	1						
Total constituencies	543	101½	87½	94	96	49	58	57
Total constituencies by end of phase	-	101½	189	284	379	428	486	543
Percentage complete by end of phase	-	18.7	34.8	52.3	69.8	78.8	89.5	100

- a. Repolling at one booth each in the Barasat and Mathurapur constituencies of West Bengal were held on 3 June due to violence.
- b. Polling in Outer Manipur constituency in Manipur was scheduled in two phases.^[50]
- c. Polling in Betul constituency in Madhya Pradesh was rescheduled from 26 April 2024 (Phase 2) to 7 May 2024 (Phase 3) due to death of BSP candidate.^[49]
- d. Polling in Anantnag–Rajouri constituency in Jammu and Kashmir was rescheduled from 7 May 2024 (Phase 3) to 25 May 2024 (Phase 6) due to weather conditions.^[51]

Parties and alliances

The politics of India became increasingly bipolar in the run-up to the 2024 Indian general elections with two major alliances emerging; the incumbent [National Democratic Alliance](#) (NDA) and the opposition [Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance](#) (INDIA). Six parties recognized as national parties contested the 2024 Indian general elections: the BJP, the INC, [Communist Party of India \(Marxist\)](#) (CPI(M)), [Bahujan Samaj Party](#) (BSP), [National People's Party](#) (NPP) and [Aam Aadmi Party](#) (AAP) with all except the BSP being a part of one of the two alliances.^[52] Apart from the national parties, regional parties (who are allotted fixed symbols) and other unrecognized parties and [independents](#) contested the election.^[53]

National Democratic Alliance (NDA)

The NDA is a [big tent](#), mostly [centre-right](#) to [right-wing](#) political alliance led by the BJP.

Party	State/UT	Seats Contested	Seats Won
Bharatiya Janata Party	Uttar Pradesh	75 ^[54]	33
	West Bengal	42	12
	Madhya Pradesh	29	29
	Maharashtra	28	9
	Gujarat	26	25
	Karnataka	25	17
	Rajasthan	25	14
	Tamil Nadu	23	0
	Odisha	21	20
	Bihar	17	12
	Telangana	17	8
	Kerala	16	1
	Jharkhand	13	8
	Punjab	13	0
	Assam	11	9
	Chhattisgarh	11	10
	Haryana	10	5
	Delhi	7	7
	Andhra Pradesh	6	3
	Uttarakhand	5	5
	Himachal Pradesh	4	4
	Arunachal Pradesh	2	2
	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	2	1
	Goa	2	1
	Jammu and Kashmir	2	2
	Tripura	2	2
	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	1
	Chandigarh	1	0
	Ladakh	1	0
	Manipur	1	0
	Mizoram	1	0
	Puducherry	1	0
	Sikkim	1	0
Telugu Desam Party	Andhra Pradesh	17	16
Janata Dal (United)	Bihar	16	12
Shiv Sena	Maharashtra	15	7
Pattali Makkal Katchi	Tamil Nadu	10	0
Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas)	Bihar	5	5
Nationalist Congress Party	Maharashtra	4	1
	Lakshadweep	1	0
Bharath Dharma Jana Sena	Kerala	4	0
Janata Dal (Secular)	Karnataka	3	2
Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar)	Tamil Nadu	3	0
Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam	Tamil Nadu	2	0
Apna Dal (Soneylal)	Uttar Pradesh	2	1
Asom Gana Parishad	Assam	2	1
Jana Sena Party	Andhra Pradesh	2	2
National People's Party	Meghalaya	2	0
Rashtriya Lok Dal	Uttar Pradesh	2	2
All Jharkhand Students Union	Jharkhand	1	1
Hindustani Awam Morcha	Bihar	1	1

441^[55] 240

<u>Naga People's Front</u>	<u>Manipur</u>	1	0
<u>Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party</u>	<u>Nagaland</u>	1	0
<u>Sikkim Krantikari Morcha</u>	<u>Sikkim</u>	1	1
<u>Rashtriya Lok Morcha</u>	<u>Bihar</u>	1	0
<u>Rashtriya Samaj Paksha</u>	<u>Maharashtra</u>	1	0
<u>Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party</u>	<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>	1	0
<u>United People's Party Liberal</u>	<u>Assam</u>	1	1
<u>Independent</u>	<u>Tamil Nadu</u>	1	0
Total		541	293

Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA)

INDIA is a big tent, mostly centre-left to left-wing bloc of opposition parties, which came together to contest against the NDA.^[56]^[57]

INDIA parties seat sharing

Seat sharing under INDIA bloc [58][59][60][61]

Party	States/UTs	Seats contested	
<u>Indian National Congress</u>	Karnataka	28	
	Madhya Pradesh	27	
	Andhra Pradesh	23	
	Gujarat	23	
	Rajasthan	22	
	Odisha	20	
	Maharashtra	17	
	Telangana	17	
	Uttar Pradesh	17	
	Kerala	16	
	Assam	13	
	Chhattisgarh	11	
	Bihar	9	
	Haryana	9	
	Tamil Nadu	9	
	Jharkhand	7	
	Uttarakhand	5	
	Himachal Pradesh	4	
	Delhi	3	
	Arunachal Pradesh	2	
	Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu	2	
	Goa	2	
	Jammu and Kashmir	2	
	Manipur	2	
	Meghalaya	2	
	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	
	Chandigarh	1	
	Ladakh	1	
	Lakshadweep	1	
	Mizoram	1	
	Nagaland	1	
	Puducherry	1	
	Sikkim	1	
	Tripura	1	
<u>Samajwadi Party</u>	Uttar Pradesh	62	37
<u>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	Tamil Nadu		21
<u>Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray)</u>	Maharashtra	21	9
<u>Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar)</u>	Maharashtra	10	8
<u>Rashtriya Janata Dal</u>	Bihar	23	4
	Jharkhand	1	
<u>Aam Aadmi Party</u>	Delhi	4	7
	Gujarat	2	
	Haryana	1	
	Tamil Nadu	2	
<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist)</u>	Andhra Pradesh	1	6
	Bihar	1	
	Rajasthan	1	
	Tripura	1	
	Jharkhand	5	
<u>Jharkhand Mukti Morcha</u>	Odisha	1	6

	<u>Communist Party of India</u>	Tamil Nadu	2	4
		Andhra Pradesh	1	
		Bihar	1	
	<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation</u>	Bihar	3	4
		Jharkhand	1	
	<u>Jammu & Kashmir National Conference</u>	Jammu and Kashmir	3	
	<u>Vikassheel Insaan Party</u>	Bihar	3	
	<u>Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi</u>	Tamil Nadu	2	
	<u>All India Forward Bloc</u>	Madhya Pradesh	1	
	<u>All India Trinamool Congress</u>	Uttar Pradesh	1	
	<u>Assam Jatiya Parishad</u>	Assam	1	
	<u>Bharat Adivasi Party</u>	Rajasthan	1	
	<u>Indian Union Muslim League</u>	Tamil Nadu	1	
	<u>Kongunadu Makkal Desia Katchi</u>	Tamil Nadu	1	
	<u>Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	Tamil Nadu	1	
	<u>Rashtriya Loktantrik Party</u>	Rajasthan	1	
	Total		466	

INDIA parties under regional coalition/outside the alliance

Seats contested by INDIA parties outside the alliance

Parties	States/UTs	Seats contested
<u>All India Trinamool Congress</u>	West Bengal	42
	Assam	4
	Meghalaya	1
<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist)</u>	West Bengal	23
	Kerala	15
	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
	Assam	1
	Jharkhand	1
	Karnataka	1
	Maharashtra	1
	Odisha	1
	Punjab	1
	Telangana	1
<u>Indian National Congress</u>	Kerala	16
	Punjab	13
	West Bengal	13
	Rajasthan	1
<u>All India Forward Bloc</u>	Maharashtra	8
	Andhra Pradesh	5
	Uttar Pradesh	5
	Telengana	3
	West Bengal	3
	Bihar	2
	Delhi	2
	Jammu and Kashmir	2
<u>Communist Party of India</u>	Odisha	1
	Uttar Pradesh	6
	Jharkhand	4
	Kerala	4
	Madhya Pradesh	3
	Punjab	3
	West Bengal	2
	Assam	1
	Chhattisgarh	1
	Maharashtra	1
<u>Bharat Adivasi Party</u>	Odisha	1
	Madhya Pradesh	5
	Rajasthan	5
	Maharashtra	4
	Gujarat	2
	Jharkhand	2
	Andhra Pradesh	1
	Chhattisgarh	1
<u>Aam Aadmi Party</u>	Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu	1
	Punjab	13
	Assam	2
<u>Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi</u>	Telangana	7
	Karnataka	2
	Andhra Pradesh	1
	Kerala	1

	Andhra Pradesh	3	10
<u>Revolutionary Socialist Party</u>	West Bengal	3	
	Punjab	2	
	Kerala	1	
	Telengana	1	
<u>Samajwadi Party</u>	Andhra Pradesh	7	9
	Gujarat	1	
	Odisha	1	
<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation</u>	Andhra Pradesh	1	3
	Odisha	1	
	West Bengal	1	
Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party	Jammu and Kashmir	3	
Indian Union Muslim League	Kerala	2	
<u>Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar)</u>	Haryana	1	2
	Lakshadweep	1	
Kerala Congress	Kerala	1	
Kerala Congress (M)	Kerala	1	
Total		270	

Other notable parties and alliances

BSP leader Mayawati announced that her party will contest the election on its own in most states and ally with other non-BJP, non-Congress parties in a few states.^[63] On 11 May 2023, Biju Janata Dal leader and then Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik said that his party would go alone for the Lok Sabha polls in Odisha after talks with the BJP fell through.^[64]

Party/Alliance	States/UTs	Seats Contested
Recognised Parties		
<u>Bahujan Samaj Party</u>	Uttar Pradesh	80
	West Bengal	5
	Bihar	
	Tamil Nadu	39
	Madhya Pradesh	6
	Andhra Pradesh	25
	Gujarat	24
	Rajasthan	24
	Karnataka	21
	Odisha	
	Kerala	18
	Telangana	
	Punjab	
	Chhattisgarh	11
	Delhi	7
	Uttarakhand	5
	Goa	2
	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
	DNHDD	1
	Puducherry	1
<u>All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	Tamil Nadu	34
	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
	Puducherry	1
<u>YSR Congress Party</u>	Andhra Pradesh	25
<u>Biju Janata Dal</u>	Odisha	21
<u>Bharat Rashtra Samithi</u>	Telangana	17
<u>Shiromani Akali Dal</u>	Punjab	
<u>All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen</u>	Telangana	15
<u>Indian National Lok Dal</u>	Haryana	
<u>Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party</u>	Jammu and Kashmir	
<u>Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam</u>	Tamil Nadu	5
<u>Bodoland People's Front</u>	Assam	4
<u>All India United Democratic Front</u>	Assam	3
<u>Revolutionary Goans Party</u>	Goa	2
<u>Mizo National Front</u>	Mizoram	1
<u>Sikkim Democratic Front</u>	Sikkim	1
<u>Voice of the People Party</u>	Meghalaya	1
<u>United Democratic Party</u>	Meghalaya	1
<u>Zoram People's Movement</u>	Mizoram	1
Unrecognised parties		
<u>Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist)</u>	West Bengal	
	Karnataka	19
	Kerala	8
	Assam	6
	Andhra Pradesh	4
	Delhi	2
	Gujarat	2
	Tamil Nadu	2
	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
	Chhattisgarh	1

	Puducherry	1	
	Rajasthan	1	
	Tripura	1	
	Uttarakhand	1	
<u>Naam Tamilar Katchi</u>	Tamil Nadu	39	40
	Puduchery	1	
<u>Gondwana Ganatantra Party</u>	Madhya Pradesh		
	Chhattisgarh	9	
	Maharashtra		
<u>Azad Samaj Party</u>	Uttar Pradesh		
	Madhya Pradesh		
	Rajasthan	5	
	Chhattisgarh	3	
	Delhi	1	
<u>Vanchit Bahujan Aaghadi</u>	Maharashtra		
<u>Indian Secular Front</u>	West Bengal	8	
<u>Republican Party of India (Athawale)</u>	Maharashtra		
	Andhra Pradesh	8	
	Assam	4	
	Karnataka	4	
	Chhattisgarh	2	
	Manipur	1	
	Rajasthan	1	
	Tripura	1	
<u>Gana Suraksha Party</u>	West Bengal		
	Assam	4	
	Arunachal Pradesh	1	
<u>Social Democratic Party of India</u>	Andhra Pradesh	2	
	Gujarat	2	
<u>Uttarakhand Kranti Dal</u>	Uttarakhand	3	
<u>Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference</u>	Jammu and Kashmir	2	
<u>Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party</u>	Jammu and Kashmir	2	

Candidates

Incumbent Prime Minister Narendra Modi was announced as the prime ministerial candidate of the NDA.^{[65][66]} The INDIA bloc announced that the alliance will decide the Prime Minister after the polls.^{[67][68]}

National Democratic Alliance

The BJP announced its first list of 195 candidates on 2 March 2024^{[69][70]} and the second list of 72 candidates was published in 13 March,^[71] while the third list of nine candidates was announced on 21 March.^[72] The fourth list of 15 candidates was released on 22 March,^[73] followed by the declaration of fifth list of 111 candidates on 24 March. Ultimately, the twentieth list of one candidate was released on 10 May.^[74]

For the first time since 1996, the BJP did not field candidates in the Kashmir division, with analysts and opposition politicians attributing it to popular backlash over the BJP government's revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's autonomy enshrined under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution in 2019.^[75]

Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance

The Congress released its first list of 39 candidates on 8 March 2024.^{[76][77]} Eventually, the twenty-eighth list of one candidate was announced on 7 May.^[78]

The All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) announced its list of 42 candidates for the West Bengal parliamentary seats on 10 March.^[79] In the Left Front, the CPI(M) announced its list first list of 44 candidates contesting from 13 different states on 28 March.^[80]

Major election issues

Unemployment

The issue of unemployment has been a major problem for the Indian economy, especially affecting the youth.^{[81][82]} Unemployment in India has been at a 45-year old high.^[83] According to a 2022 World Bank report, India's youth unemployment rate stood at 23.2%,^[84] whereas the national unemployment hovered around 7%.^[85] In 2023, 42.3% of graduates were unemployed, showing the lack of job growth needed to accommodate the increasing workforce.^[86]

Unemployment took a centre stage in the election campaigns, with the opposition Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance criticising the BJP government's handling of the Indian economy for rising inflation, inequality and unemployment.^[86] As a part of its separate youth manifesto, the Congress-led INDIA bloc promised to fill in the 3 million vacancies in government jobs and bring in the "Right to Apprenticeship", in which any diploma and degree holder up to the age of 25 can demand employment for one year and they will get a one-year salary of ₹100,000 for the term of the job.^[87]

Ram Mandir consecration ceremony and sectarianism

The BJP prepared a pamphlet for the Ram Mandir Inauguration Programmes to connect with families across the nation. After the consecration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, a new era of Hindu nationalistic sentiments have dominated the political sphere in India.^{[88][89]} Modi kept a long-standing political pledge of the reconstruction of the Ram Mandir and was seen to have fulfilled the BJP's manifesto to the nation's Hindu population.^[89] The Hindu nationalist ideology of Modi and the BJP has also garnered substantial support from Hindu community members.^{[90][91]} At the same time, Bollywood productions have been released with themes supporting the Modi government's policies and Hindu nationalist ideologies.^[92] In response to such concerns, BJP spokesperson Mmhonlumo Kikon acknowledged the existence of a "level of threat perception", but said that the party was trying to change that.^[93]

A major controversy was stirred when the opposition Congress Party and its leaders declined an invitation to the Ram Mandir consecration ceremony, saying that the event was politicised into a 'BJP-RSS event'.^[94] Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the invitation was an opportunity for the Congress to 'reduce its sin', and that history would continue to judge it as 'anti-Hindu'.^[95] The four Shankaracharyas also declined attending the event, stating that the ceremony was politicised as a campaign event at the half-built temple.^{[96][97]}

During a campaign rally in Rajasthan on 21 April, Narendra Modi accused the Congress party of prioritizing Muslim access to national wealth and planning to distribute resources among "those who have more children" and "infiltrators" once it was in power, which reflected stereotypes about Muslims reproducing in greater numbers and conspiracy theories pushed by the BJP that Muslims were planning to outnumber Hindus. Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge called Modi's remarks a panic-filled "hate speech" and a ploy to divert attention from the opposition outperforming the BJP during the first phase of the election, while officials in Rajasthan received complaints from the Azad Adhikar Sena and a non-profit organisation demanding Modi's arrest and for his campaign to be suspended.^{[98][99]}

A complaint letter by the Samvidhan Bacchao Nagrik Abhiyan (Save the Constitution Citizens' Campaign) organisation to the Election Commission of India, signed by over 17,400 people, alleged that Modi had violated the Model Code of Conduct and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 by making a speech "aiming at not only appealing to 'communal feelings' but also instigating and aggravating hatred in the Hindus against Muslims".^{[100][101]}

Electoral Bonds

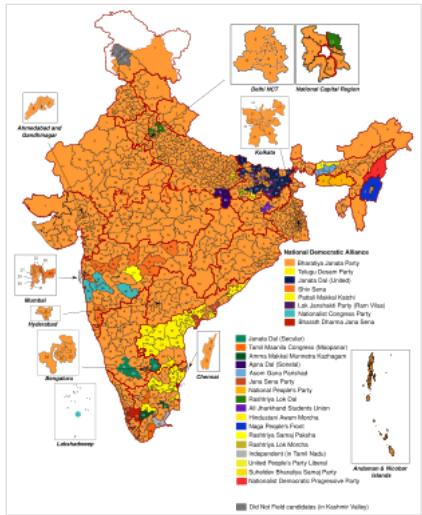
On 15 February 2024, the Supreme Court of India ruled that the Electoral Bond system of campaign financing that was introduced by the Modi government in 2017 which allowed individuals and companies to donate money to political parties anonymously and without limits was unconstitutional, saying that the process allowed donors to assert "influence over policymaking".^[102] On 18 March, the court ordered the State Bank of India (SBI) to provide all records regarding the electoral bonds to the Election Commission of India by 21 March in order to match electoral donors with their recipients and rejected a plea by the Confederation of Indian Industry, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India from divulging the identities of donors. Initial reports suggest that among the leading donors to political parties were some of India's largest firms such as Vedanta Limited, Bharti Airtel, RPSG Group and Essel Mining. It also found that the BJP was the recipient of nearly half of all recorded donations.^[103]

In total, the top five political parties in terms of electoral bonds received are the BJP, which received Rs 6,060.5 crore, the All India Trinamool Congress (TMC), which received Rs 1,609.5 crore, the Congress Party, with Rs 1,421.8 crore, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), which received Rs 1,214.7 crore, and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), which received Rs 775.5 crore.^{[104][105][106]} The biggest buyer of electoral bonds was found to be Santiago Martin, the Tamil Nadu-based head of the lottery firm Future Gaming and Hotel Services Private Limited, who bought bonds worth 13.68 billion rupees (\$163 million) between 2020 and 2024 and made donations to the TMC, the BJP, and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), which rules Tamil Nadu. The biggest single donor to any political party was Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL), a construction firm based in Hyderabad that bought electoral bonds worth over 12 billion rupees (\$144 million) between 2019 and 2024 and made donations to the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), the BJP, and the Congress Party, who alternated in ruling Telangana during that time.^[107]

Some politicians from the opposition have termed Electoral Bonds a "scam" and an "extortion racket".^{[108][109][110]} In response to allegations regarding the electoral bonds, BJP spokesperson Syed Zafar Islam denied that the party had done any wrongdoing and said that its electoral bonds were gained "on merit".^[107] However, Indian political observers have reached the conclusion that either Indian businessmen have been regularly bribing their way out of trouble, or that the BJP-controlled government has been using government agencies to extort them. From the data released by the SBI, it was found that companies gave donations around the time they received major government contracts. Close to half of the top 30 corporate donors were facing investigations by government agencies around the time they purchased electoral bonds.^{[111][112][113]}

Party campaigns

Bharatiya Janata Party



National Democratic Alliance's seat sharing for the election

The national executive meeting of the BJP held on 16 and 17 January 2023 saw the party reaffirm its faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi and extend the tenure of BJP national president J. P. Nadda.^[114]

Charting out the BJP's strategy for the upcoming polls, Modi said in a speech to party workers that they should reach out to every section of society, including the marginalised and minority communities, "without electoral considerations".^[115]

Following the 2023 Legislative Assembly elections, Modi debuted the slogan "Modi Ki Guarantee" for the 2024 polls.^[116] Another slogan used was *Abki Baar 400 Paar* (This Time Surpassing 400),^{[117][118]} referring to the party's goal of winning more than 400 out of 543 seats in the Lok Sabha.^[119] Having been used by the BJP in previous elections, including the 2019 general election with some changes,^[120] election analysts have said that the path for the BJP to achieve this goal will likely be by winning more seats in the south of India than in previous elections.^[121]

The party held political rallies in multiple states with national leadership including Modi, BJP President J. P. Nadda and Amit Shah campaigning actively.^{[122][123][124]}

During a campaign rally, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath described the election as a contest between "devotees of Ram" and "anti-Ram forces" and urged voters to select the former. Modi also accused the opposition of plotting to raze the Ram Mandir temple once they were in power.^[125]

During a campaign rally in Rajasthan on 21 April, Narendra Modi accused the Congress party of prioritizing Muslim access to national wealth and planning to distribute resources among "those who have more children" and "infiltrators" once it was in power, which reflected stereotypes about Muslims reproducing in greater numbers and conspiracy theories pushed by the BJP that Muslims were planning to outnumber Hindus. Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge called Modi's remarks a panic-filled "hate speech" and a ploy to divert attention from the opposition outperforming the BJP during the first phase of the election, while officials in Rajasthan received complaints from the Azad Adhikar Sena and a non-profit organisation demanding Modi's arrest and for his campaign to be suspended.^{[98][99]} Following Modi's speech, the BJP posted an animated video on its official Instagram account reiterating Modi's claims and showing Rahul Gandhi holding a copy of the Congress Party's election manifesto that morphs into the symbol of the All-India Muslim League. After being flagged by multiple users, the video was taken down less than 24 hours after its publication.^[126] A similar video posted on X towards voters in Karnataka was also ordered taken down by the Electoral Commission and led to police opening cases against senior BJP leaders.^[127]

A complaint letter by the Samvidhan Baccho Nagrik Abhiyan (Save the Constitution Citizens' Campaign) organisation to the Election Commission of India, signed by over 17,400 people, alleged that Modi had violated the Model Code of Conduct and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 by making a speech "aiming at not only appealing to 'communal feelings' but also instigating and aggravating hatred in the Hindus against Muslims".^{[100][101]}

On 14 April 2024, the BJP invited foreign diplomats posted in the country as well as 25 overseas political parties including the Conservative and the Labour parties of the United Kingdom, the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU) and the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) of Germany and the Awami League of Bangladesh to observe the party's electoral campaign.^{[128][129]} This initiative is part of the "Know BJP" campaign, aimed at external outreach and familiarisation with the election process. As part of this program, BJP president J. P. Nadda met with envoys from 13 countries.^{[130][131]}

Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance

The bloc's first joint rally was held in Patna, Bihar on 3 March 2024. The rally saw, among others, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, party leader Rahul Gandhi, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, former Bihar deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, and senior Left leaders Sitaram Yechury and D. Raja. Kharge attacked Kumar for frequently changing alliances and criticised the BJP for not fulfilling its promise of jobs and neglecting the country's poor and the majority.^[132]

The alliance jointly held a rally at Shivaji Park in Mumbai on 17 March, a day after the end of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. The rally was attended by Gandhi, SS(UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray, NCP(SP) leader Sharad Pawar, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, and DMK leader and Tamil Nadu chief minister M. K. Stalin, among many others.^[133] At the rally, Gandhi said that he was compelled to launch his yatra due to rising inflation and unemployment in the nation.^[134]

A few days after arrest of Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in connection with the alleged Delhi liquor scam on 22 March,^[135] the opposition alliance held a protest rally against the same in Ramlila Maidan, Delhi on 31 March, where opposition leaders alleged the corruption case on him and his subsequent arrest to be a "fabrication with political motives" and a "witch hunt".^{[136][137][138]} At the rally, named "Loktantra Bachao" (Save Democracy), amid current events, the opposition tried to frame the election as being "democracy vs dictatorship".^[139]

Indian National Congress

The Congress campaign was launched from Nagpur at a huge rally in which over 1 million people were expected to have attended on 28 December 2023.^[140] This rally also marked the 138th Congress Foundation Day and was being held to energise party cadres for the 2024 general election.^[141] Party workers from all over the state were called to join the rally.^{[141][142]}

On 14 January, the party launched its Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra,^[143] a sequel to the Bharat Jodo Yatra held the previous year.^[144] The yatra started in Thoubal, Manipur and ended in Mumbai on 16 March 2024.^[143] It covered 6,713 kilometres (4,171 miles) across 14 states.^[145]

Rahul Gandhi warned that the whole of India will be on fire if the BJP wins the 2024 parliamentary elections and changes the Constitution, during an address at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan.^{[146][147][148][149]}

Crowdfunding

The Congress started a crowdfunding campaign known as *Donate for Desh* (Donate for the Country) ahead of the general elections. It formally launched the campaign's digital version on 18 December 2023 at a dedicated website. It claimed to be inspired from Mahatma Gandhi's Tilak Swaraj Fund (1920–21). The physical version of the campaign, which be done via door-to-door collection drives, was launched on 28 December.^{[150][151]}

The campaign received ₹1.45 crore (US\$170,000) on its first day, with the top five states in amount of donations being Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Karnataka.^[152]



Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra logo & slogan

By the end of 2023, the campaign received around ₹9 crore (US\$1.1 million), with 30% of the funds being collected from Telangana and Maharashtra alone.^[153]

The campaign had collected about ₹20 crore (US\$2.4 million) according to the party when on 28 January, it rebranded its crowdfunding campaign to *Donate for Nyay* (Donate for Justice), in line with Rahul Gandhi's ongoing *Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra*.^[154] The ensuing crowdfunding campaign collected four crores in 4 days.^[155]



Attendees display banners at the gathering

Funding issues

On 16 February 2024, the Congress Party alleged that the *Income Tax Department* (IT) ordered the freezing of bank accounts by the Congress Party containing 2.1 billion rupees (\$25.3 million) as part of an ongoing legal dispute.^[156] The Congress Party's treasurer Ajay Maken later added that tax authorities imposed a 2.1-billion rupee (\$25 million) *lien* on 13 February, "virtually sealed" its bank accounts and confiscated 1.1 billion rupees (\$14 million). The party's leader *Rahul Gandhi* complained that the restrictions had rendered the party unable to campaign properly, adding that "Our entire financial identity has been erased." Gandhi also accused Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah of conducting a "criminal action" against the party, which the BJP denied. His mother and former Congress leader *Sonia Gandhi* also alleged that the tax issues are "part of the systemic efforts to cripple" the party. An appeal is currently pending in the Supreme Court.^[157]

According to the IT Department's official sources, it has recovered ₹135 crore from the Congress for breaking the legislation exempting political parties from paying taxes, rather than freezing the party's bank accounts as the opposition party had claimed.^[158] The party received notices from the IT department again on 29 March asking it to pay ₹1,823.08 crore (US\$218 million). The Congress accused the BJP of engaging in "tax terrorism" and alleged that the BJP is in serious violation of *income-tax laws* and that the IT department should raise a demand of ₹4,617.58 crore (US\$553 million) crore from the BJP for such violations.^[159]

Communist Party of India (Marxist)

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) began their election campaign in Kerala after announcing 15 candidates in the state.^[160]

Rashtriya Janata Dal

The *Rashtriya Janata Dal* began its campaign with its *Jan Vishwas Yatra* ("People's Trust Yatra") on 20 February 2024. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav launched the yatra from *Muzaffarpur* in *Bihar*. The yatra lasted until 1 March 2024 and covered 33 districts.^{[161][162]} In *Siwan* on 23 February, Yadav termed the BJP "a dustbin" which takes in other parties that have become "garbage".^{[163][164]}

Aam Aadmi Party

The election period also coincided with investigations by authorities into state officials belonging to opposition parties, such as *Delhi* Chief Minister and *Aam Aadmi Party* leader *Arvind Kejriwal*, who is under investigation for alleged corruption in the allocation of liquor licences, and *Jharkhand* Chief Minister *Hemant Soren*, who was arrested in February 2024 for allegedly facilitating an illegal land sale. The *Enforcement Directorate* is also investigating four chief ministers not allied with the BJP on various charges, while investigations have been closed on former opposition politicians who have since joined the BJP. Hartosh Singh Bal, a journalist for the current affairs magazine *The Caravan* told *Agence France-Presse* that the move by government agencies indicated their behavior as "handmaidens of the ruling party to cow down the political opposition".^[156]

Following *Kejriwal's arrest* on 21 March over the liquor license scam charges, Delhi's finance minister *Atishi Marlena Singh* accused the BJP of orchestrating a "political conspiracy" against Kejriwal.^[165] His arrest also led to clashes between party leaders, supporters and the police on 22 March.^[166] *Rahul Gandhi*, reacting to Kejriwal's arrest, said that a "scared dictator" wants to create a "dead democracy", without naming anyone.^[167] After he was released on bail and allowed to vote, Kejriwal urged citizens to vote "vote against dictatorship".^[168] He then returned to prison as part of his bail conditions.^[169]

The BJP-led government has been known to use Enforcement Directorate raids to target opposition politicians critical of it, with 95% of cases registered being against opposition leaders.^{[170][171][172]} Since 2014, 25 opposition leaders facing corruption charges have joined the BJP, with 23 of them having their inquiries closed or frozen after joining the ruling party.^[173] This has led the Congress Party to compare the trend to a "washing machine" in one of its campaign videos.^[126]

Shiv Sena

After an intraparty dispute that led to the splitting of the *Shiv Sena* party based in *Maharashtra*, the Supreme Court of India barred the *Shiv Sena (UBT)* faction which joined the I.N.D.I.A. alliance from using the party's historic bow-and-arrow symbol as its electoral symbol in balloting and awarded it instead to the *Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena* wing which joined the NDA. This led the UBT faction to adopt a torch as its electoral symbol.^[174]

Party manifestos

Bharatiya Janata Party

The BJP proposed a 'GYAN' formula consisting of four segments – Garib (poor), Yuva (youth), Annadata (farmers) and Nari (women) in its manifesto.^[175] The Bharatiya Janata Party started a campaign to gather public recommendations and suggestions for the advancement of the State and the country, which will be incorporated into the party's manifesto titled 'Modi ki guarantee' for the 2024 general elections.^{[176][177][178][179][180][181][182]}

- **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam:** In order to assure women's representation in the legislatures of the states and the national leadership, the BJP pledged to systematically implement the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam.
- **Lakhpatti Didi:** 30,000,000 rural women are being empowered to become "Lakhpatti Didis".
- **Free ration:** Under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, the BJP announced that it would give 800,000,000 citizens free rations for the next five years.
- **Increasing MSP:** on crops on a periodic basis was pledged in the manifesto. 6,000 rupees in annual financial support under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana.
- **Free electricity:** The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana's free power for low-income homes was another pledge in the manifesto.

- **3 Crore house:** In the PM Housing Scheme, the BJP manifesto pledges to build 30,000,000 houses, people with disabilities will now be given priority, and care will be taken to make sure they are housed in accordance with their unique requirements.
- **For youngsters:** BJP pledge to enact laws to stop the leak of competitive test question papers. Increase the startup ecosystem's reach to encourage youth entrepreneurship. Expanding job prospects in the manufacturing sector. Creating jobs through the development of infrastructure. Creating jobs through growing the tourism industry.
- **For truck drivers:** Construction of modern buildings with facilities which allows truck drivers to rest, park, and have access to clean drinking water and food on all national highways.
- **One Nation, One Election:** In its manifesto, or Sankalp Patra, the BJP includes "One Nation, One Election," for the general elections. This implies that simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and all the state assemblies may take place in 2029.^[183]
- **Uniform Civil Code:** The manifesto includes the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).^[184]
- **Free Ayushman for all senior citizens:** Under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, all senior citizens would be eligible for free, high-quality healthcare up to Rs 5 Lakhs.
- **US\$5 trillion economy:** The BJP pledges to increase India's GDP to US\$5 trillion by 2025 and \$10 trillion by 2032. The Ministry of Finance has predicted that India's economy will rank third overall in the world.^{[185][186]} Earlier in 2018 and then again in 2019, Modi had stated the goal of the country reaching a GDP of US\$5 trillion by 2022 and 2024 respectively, which went unrealized.^{[187][188]}
- **United Nations Security Council:** committed to securing India's UN Security Council permanent membership.
- **Crack down on terrorism:** Initiatives to create partnership to eliminate global terror and crack down on terror funding.
- **Left wing extremism:** Fighting Left-Wing Extremism by promoting growth and utilizing a variety of approaches.
- **Third-largest economic power:** India will rank as the country with the third-largest GDP. India's rank rose from the 11th to the 5th largest GDP in the last ten years.
- **Man on Moon and Bharatiya Antariksha Station:** to establish a permanent Bharatiya Antariksha Station and send a man to the moon.

Indian National Congress

The Congress released their group-specific manifesto promises for the general election in the month of March.^[189] The manifesto focuses on five major segments of the population and promises them:

- **Youth Manifesto:** formal employment for a year to under 25 graduate students, filling of 3,000,000 government job vacancies, transparency in government job recruitment, ₹5,000 crore (US\$605,000) fund for startups, standardisation of the government recruitment exam process, and social security for gig workers.^{[190][191][192]}
- **Women Manifesto:** ₹100,000 in financial assistance to women from poor families, 50% of new government job recruitments to women, double central government's contribution to the salary of anganwadi, ASHA, and midday meal workers, legal assistance in every panchayat, and at least one hostel for working women in district headquarters.^{[193][194]}
- **Farmers Manifesto:** legal guarantee on MSP for farmers, waiving off of farmers' loans, an import-export policy favourable to them, removal of GST from agricultural commodities, and payments directly into farmers' bank accounts within 30 days in case of crop loss.^[195]
- **Labourers Manifesto:** Universal healthcare coverage for workers, increasing national minimum wage to ₹400 (US\$4.8) per day from the current ₹172 (US\$2.1) per day, an urban employment guarantee law similar to MGNREGA in the rural areas, life and accident insurance for informal sector workers.^{[196][197]}
- **Caste census:** The Congress party declared that, if it wins the election, it will conduct a comprehensive census called to survey the population, socio-economic conditions, and representation in governance institutions. It also promised to bring in legislation to eliminate the 50% cap on reservations for SC, ST, and backward classes and to protect tribal forest rights.^[198] Rahul Gandhi's call for "jitni abadi, utna haq" (distribution of public resources proportionate to the population) and the combined demands of the opposition parties (SP, RJD, and Congress) for a caste census.^[199]

The complete manifesto titled *Nyay Patra* (Hindi: न्याय पत्र, lit. 'Justice Paper') was released on 5 April 2024.^{[200][201]} Some noticeable points in the manifesto include (apart from above promises released earlier) the:

- Introduction of a law to recognize civil unions between couples belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Implementation of the Rajasthan Model of cashless insurance up to 2,500,000 for universal healthcare.
- Prohibitions on dumping of effluents into water bodies across India.
- Increasing of forest cover as India has lost the second – highest forest cover after Brazil between 2015 and 2020.
- Establishment of community sports centers at every block and municipality level as well as multi – sport center at every district level.
- Establishment of government medical colleges – cum – hospitals in all districts of India.
- Abolition of the Agnipath Scheme and a return to the normal recruitment processes followed by the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- Waiving of student education loans as a one – time measure outstanding as of 15 March 2024.
- Provision of one day in a week to discuss the agenda suggested by the opposition benches in each House of Parliament.
- Non – intervention with personal choices of food and dress, to love and marry, and to travel and reside in any part of India. All laws and rules that interfere unreasonably with personal freedoms will be repealed.
- Decriminalisation of the offence of defamation and provide, by law, a speedy remedy by way of civil damages.
- Rejection of the 'One Nation One Election' idea.
- Establishment of a National Judicial Commission (NJC) responsible for the selection and appointment of judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court.
- Amending of the Constitution to create two divisions in the Supreme Court: a Constitutional Court and a Court of Appeal. The Constitutional Court consisting of the seven most senior judges will hear and decide cases involving the interpretation of the Constitution and other cases of legal significance or national importance. The Court of Appeal will be the final court of appeal that will, sitting in Benches of three judges each, hear appeals from the High Court and National Tribunals.
- Elimination of the "Angel tax" and all other exploitative tax schemes that inhibit investment in new micro, small companies and innovative start-ups.

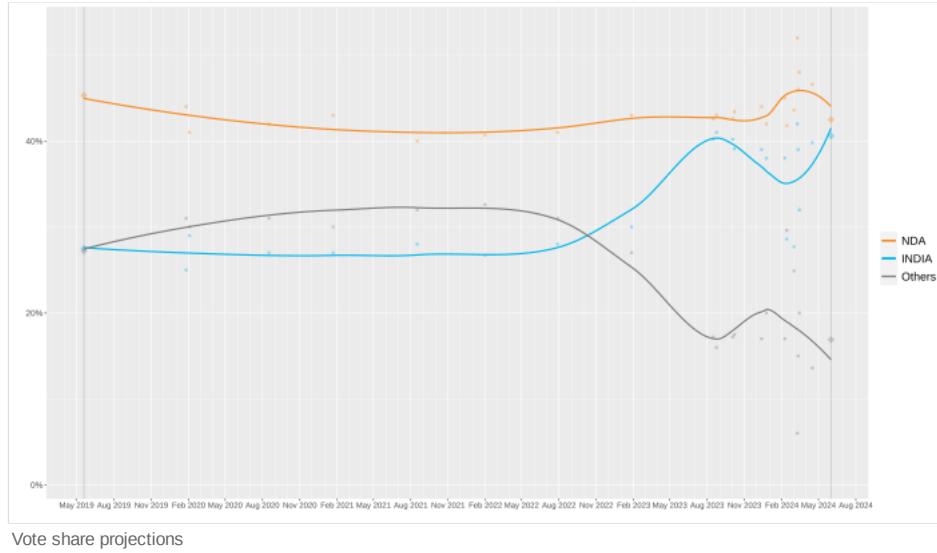
Misinformation

Narendra Modi, on 21 April during an election campaign rally in Rajasthan, falsely claimed that former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh once said "Muslims have the first right on the country's resources". However, Singh's speech also mentioned backward communities, including scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, Other Backward Classes, women, children, and minorities.^[202] Modi falsely claimed that Rahul Gandhi had not named Gautam Adani and Mukesh Ambani throughout the elections. Gandhi had mentioned Adani and Ambani about 25 times.^[203]

In April 2024, BBC reported that AI and deepfake videos were allegedly used by both the BJP and the opposition parties in the 2024 elections.^[204] In June 2024, Time noted throughout the elections, associates and supporters of the BJP circulated fake news in order to discredit its opponents and spread hatred against religious minorities.^[205]

Surveys and polls

Opinion polls



Polling agency	Date published	Sample size	Margin of error	Vote share projections			Lead
				NDA	INDIA	Others	
ABP News-CVoter	April 2024 ^[206]	57,566	±3–5%	46.6	39.8	13.6	6.8
News 18	March 2024 ^[207]	118,616	±4%	48	32	20	16
ABP News-CVoter	March 2024 ^[208]	41,762 ^[209]	±5%	46	39	15	7
Times Now-ETG	March 2024 ^[210]	323,357 ^[211]	±3%	52	42	6	10
Zee News-Matrize	February 2024 ^[212]	167,843	±2%	43.6	27.7	24.9	15.9
India Today-CVoter	February 2024 ^[213]	149,092 ^[214]	±3–5%	45	38	17	8
Times Now-ETG	February 2024 ^[215]	156,843 ^[216]	±2%	41.8	28.6	29.6	13.2
ABP News-CVoter	December 2023 ^[217]	200,000	±3–5%	42	38	20	4
Times Now-ETG	December 2023 ^{[218][219]}	147,231 ^[220]	±3%	44	39	17	5
India TV-CNX	October 2023 ^{[221][222]}	54,250	±3%	43.4	39.1	17.5	4.3
Times Now-ETG	October 2023 ^[223]	135,100 ^[224]	±3%	42.6	40.2	17.2	2.4
	August 2023 ^{[225][226]}	110,662 ^[227]	±3%	42.6	40.2	17.2	2.4
India Today-CVoter	August 2023 ^[228]	160,438	±3–5%	43	41	16	2
Formation of the big-tent INDIA opposition bloc							
India Today-CVoter	January 2023 ^[229]	140,917	±3–5%	43	30	27	13
2019 election results				45.3%	27.5%	27.2%	NDA

Polling agency	Date published	Sample size	Margin of error	Seat projections			Lead
				NDA	INDIA	Others	
2024 election results				293	234	16	NDA
TV9 Bharatvarsh - People's Insight - Polstrat	April 2024 ^[230]	2,500,000	3%	362	149	32	NDA
ABP News-CVoter	April 2024 ^[206]	57,566	±3–5%	373	155	15	NDA
Times Now-ETG	April 2024 ^[231]	271,292 ^[232]	±3%	384	118	41	NDA
News18	March 2024 ^[233]	118,616 ^[234]	±4%	411	105	27	NDA
ABP News-CVoter	March 2024 ^[235]	41,762	±5%	366	156	21	NDA
India TV-CNX	March 2024 ^[236]	162,900 ^[237]	±3%	378	98	67	NDA
Times Now-ETG	March 2024 ^[238]	323,357	±3%	358–398	110–130	40–50	NDA
Zee News-Matrize	February 2024 ^[212]	167,843	±2%	377	93	73	NDA
India Today-CVoter	February 2024 ^[239]	149,092 ^[240]	±3–5%	335	166	42	NDA
Times Now-ETG	February 2024 ^[241]	156,843	±2%	366	104	73	NDA
ABP-CVoter	December 2023 ^[217]	200,000	±3–5%	295–335	165–205	35–65	NDA
Times Now-ETG	December 2023 ^{[218][219]}	147,231	±3%	319–339	148–168	52–61	NDA
India TV-CNX	October 2023 ^{[221][222]}	54,250	±3%	315	172	56	NDA
Times Now-ETG	October 2023 ^[223]	135,100	±3%	297–317	165–185	57–65	NDA
	August 2023 ^{[242][226]}	110,662	±3%	296–326	160–190	56–64	NDA
India Today-CVoter	August 2023 ^[228]	160,438	±3–5%	306	193	54	NDA
Formation of the big-tent INDIA opposition bloc							
India Today-CVoter	January 2023 ^[243]	140,917	±3–5%	298	153	92	NDA
2019 election results				353	91	99	NDA

Exit polls

The Election Commission of India banned the publication of all exit polls starting 48 hours before Phase 1 of the election until the end of Phase 7. This was intended to prevent exit polls from earlier phases affecting voter decisions in later phases. The ban ended after the close of Phase 7 voting at 18:30 IST on 1 June 2024.^[244]

Polling agency	NDA	INDIA	Others	Lead
2019 election results	353	91	99	81
ABP News-CVoter ^[245]	368±15	167±15	8±4	96
Agni News Services ^[246]	242	264	37	HUNG
Dainik Bhaskar ^[246]	316±34	173±28	41±8	44
DB Live ^[247]	221±20	275±15	38±10	3
India Today-Axis My India ^[248]	381±20	148±18	14±6	109
India News-Dynamics ^[246]	371	125	47	99
India TV-CNX ^[249]	386±15	134±15	33±5	96
NDTV-Jan Ki Baat ^[250]	377±15	151±10	15±5	105
News18-CNBC ^[251]	362±8	132±8	47±5	90
News 24-Today's Chanakya ^[246]	400±15	107-11	36±9	128
News Nation ^[246]	360±18	161±8	22±1	88
Republic TV-Matrize ^[246]	360±8	126±8	30	88
Republic TV-PMarq ^[246]	359	154	30	87
Times Now-ETG ^[246]	358	152	33	86
TV9 Bharatvarsh - People's Insight - Polstrat ^[252]	346	162	35	74
2024 election results	293	234	16	21

Voting

- The Phase 1 voting was conducted on 19 April 2024.^{[253][254]} Re-polling in 11 polling stations of Inner Manipur was held on 22 April due to violence.^{[255][256]} Re-polling was conducted for eight polling stations in Arunachal Pradesh on 24 April due to reports of violence and EVM damage.^{[257][258]}
- The Phase 2 voting was conducted on 26 April 2024.^{[259][260]} Re-polling was conducted on 29 April for a polling station in Chamarajanagar due to violence and EVM damage^{[261][262]} and for six polling stations in Outer Manipur on 30 April due to violence, EVM damage and forced voting allegedly carried out by unidentified armed individuals.^{[263][264]} Re-polling was also conducted for a polling station in Ajmer on 2 May 2024 due to misplaced voters' register.^{[265][266]}
- The Phase 3 voting was conducted on 7 May 2024. The voter turnout for the third phase of Lok Sabha elections reached 65.68%. In this phase, 17.24 crore (172,400,000) citizens, comprising 8.85 crore (88,500,000) men and 8.39 crore (83,900,000) women, were eligible to cast their votes.^[267]
- The Phase 4 voting was conducted on 13 May 2024, where 96 constituencies voted.^[268]
- The Phase 5 voting was conducted on 20 May 2024, where 49 constituencies voted.^[125]
- The Phase 6 voting was conducted on 25 May 2024, where 58 constituencies voted.^[269]
- The Phase 7 voting was conducted on 1 June 2024, where 57 constituencies voted.^[270] Repolling at one booth each in the Barasat and Mathurapur constituencies of West Bengal were held on 3 June due to violence.^[271]



Polling officials carrying electronic voting machine (EVMs) and other election related materials for the 5th Phase of the General Elections at Serampore, West Bengal on 19 May 2024.



A senior citizen is casting his vote from home in Bhopal

Incidents

During Phase 1 of the election, violence broke out outside a polling station in Thamanpokpi in Manipur.^{[272][273]} Clashes between BJP and TMC party workers were reported in the Cooch Behar, Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri constituencies of West Bengal,^{[274][275]} and one Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel was found dead in a polling booth in Cooch Behar.^{[276][277]} In Chhattisgarh, one CRPF personnel was killed during polling.^{[278][279]} Clashes between VCK and BJP cadres were reported in Chidambaram constituency in Tamil Nadu, where two VCK cadres and one BJP cadre were injured.^{[280][281]}

During Phase 2 of voting, eight voters in Kerala died of heat stroke while voting.^{[282][283]} In Manipur, two CRPF personnel were killed and two more were seriously injured in a militant attack in Bishnupur district,^{[284][285]} a man was killed in a gunfight between two unidentified groups in the Kangpokpi and Imphal East districts,^{[286][287]} and incidents of EVM vandalism, voter intimidation and coercion were reported in two polling stations in Ukhrul.^{[288][289]}

A complaint letter by the *Samvidhan Bacchao Nagrik Abhiyan* (Save the Constitution Citizens' Campaign) organisation to the Election Commission of India, signed by over 17,400 people, alleged that Modi had violated the Model Code of Conduct and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 by making a speech "aiming at not only appealing to 'communal feelings' but also instigating and aggravating hatred in the Hindus against Muslims".^{[290][291]}

During Phase 6 of voting, Mehbooba Mufti, who is contesting the Anantnag–Rajouri constituency in Jammu and Kashmir for the Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party, said several of her party workers were detained by police to prevent them from voting. In West Bengal, TMC workers blocked the car of BJP candidate Agnimitra Paul while she was on her way to vote in the Medinipur constituency.^[292] Prashant Jagdev, the BJP candidate for the 2024 Odisha Legislative Assembly election in Begunia, was arrested on suspicion of vandalising an EVM.^[293]

During Phase 7 of voting, a mob looted election material from a polling booth and dumped it into a pond in Kultali, Jaynagar in West Bengal. Clashes erupted between BJP and TMC supporters in Sandeshkhali.^[294] In Uttar Pradesh, at least 33 election workers, including security and sanitation staff, died of heat stroke, along with a voter waiting in line in Ballia.^[295] State election officials subsequently stated that compensation of 1.5 million rupees (\$18,000) would be given to the families of the deceased workers.^[296] At least ten election related deaths were also reported in Bihar that day.^[297] In response to the ongoing heatwave, ECI chief Rajiv Kumar said they had learned a lesson and "should have completed the election at least one month before".^[298]

Instances of EVM malfunctioning and removal of candidates belonging to the opposition were reported throughout the elections.^[299] On 18 April, the Supreme Court asked the ECI to look into reported EVM malfunctioning in Kerala.^[16] 150 EVMs were replaced in Assam after reported malfunctioning.^[300] In Varanasi, about 33 nominations challenging Narendra Modi were rejected, of which 8 applicants claimed that the process was rigged in favour of the BJP.^[17]

On 4 June, former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said there was a discrepancy in EVM numbers while former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav accused the administration of carrying out arrests of his party workers in order to stop them from counting votes.^[301]

Voter turnout

642 million people voted in the election including 312 million women voters, making it the highest ever participation in a single election.^{[12][13]}

State/UT	Total		Voter turnout by phase									
			Phase 1 19 April		Phase 2 26 April		Phase 3 ^[306] 7 May		Phase 4 13 May		Phase 5 20 May	
	Seats	Turnout (%)	Seats	Turnout (%)	Seats	Turnout (%)	Seats	Turnout (%)	Seats	Turnout (%)	Seats	Turnout (%)
Andhra Pradesh	25	81.86 ▲	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	81.86	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	2	77.68 ▼	2	77.68	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	14	81.62 ▲	5	78.25	5	81.17	4	85.45	—	—	—	—
Bihar	40	56.19 ▼	4	49.26	5	59.45	5	59.14	5	58.21	5	56.
Chhattisgarh	11	72.17 ▲	1	68.29	3	76.24	7	71.98	—	—	—	—
Goa	2	76.06 ▲	—	—	—	—	2	76.06	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	26	60.13 ▼	—	—	—	—	25	60.13	—	—	—	—
Haryana	10	64.80 ▼	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	70.90 ▼	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	14	66.19 ▼	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	66.01	3	63.
Karnataka	28	70.64 ▲	—	—	14	69.56	14	71.84	—	—	—	—
Kerala	20	71.27 ▼	—	—	20	71.27	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	29	66.87 ▼	6	67.75	6	58.59	9	66.74	8	72.05	—	—
Maharashtra	48	61.29 ▲	5	63.71	8	62.71	11	63.55	11	62.21	13	56.
Manipur	2	80.47 ▼	1½	76.10	½	84.85	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2	76.60 ▲	2	76.60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1	56.87 ▼	1	56.87	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	57.72 ▼	1	57.72	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Odisha	21	74.51 ▲	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	75.68	5	73.
Punjab	13	62.80 ▼	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	25	61.34 ▼	12	57.65	13	65.03	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	1	79.88 ▼	1	79.88	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	39	69.72 ▼	39	69.72	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telangana	17	65.67 ▲	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	65.67	—	—
Tripura	2	80.92 ▼	1	81.48	1	80.36	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	80	56.92 ▼	8	61.11	8	55.19	10	57.55	13	58.22	14	58.
Uttarakhand	5	57.22 ▼	5	57.22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	42	79.29 ▼	3	81.91	3	76.58	4	77.53	8	80.22	7	78.
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	64.10 ▼	1	64.10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	67.98 ▼	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	2	71.31 ▲	—	—	—	—	2	71.31	—	—	—	—
Delhi	7	58.69 ▼	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu and Kashmir	5	58.58 ▲	1	68.27	1	72.22	—	—	1	38.49	1	59.
Ladakh	1	71.82 ▲	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	71.
Lakshadweep	1	84.16 ▼	1	84.16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry	1	78.90 ▼	1	78.90	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	543	66.33 ▼	101½	66.14	87½	66.71	93	65.68	96	69.16	49	62.

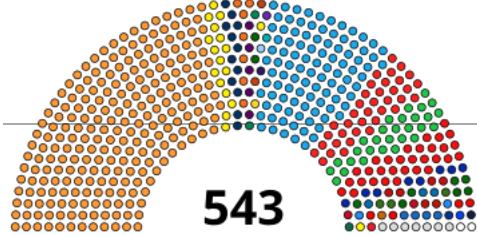
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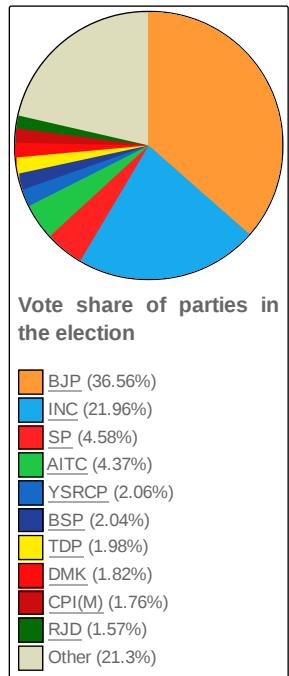
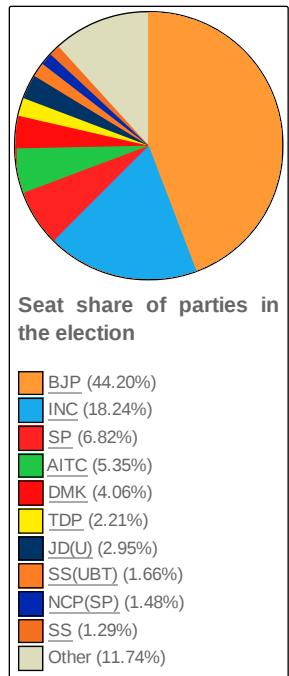
Following the first round, the BJP won its first seat after Mukesh Dalal, its candidate for Surat constituency in Gujarat, was elected unopposed following rejection and withdrawal of other candidates.^{[307][308]} No voting was held in the constituency, as the ECI had certified the results two weeks prior due to the absence of rival candidates.^[309]

The overall election result was described in several media sources as a "shock" to Narendra Modi,^{[310][311]} with the BJP falling short of its expectations of winning 400 seats.^[312] Though pre-poll predictions were for an overwhelming majority for the BJP, the INDIA bloc performed much better than exit polls had predicted it to,^[313] with upset victories in major states such as Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and West Bengal.^[314] The BJP had to rely on the 28 cumulative seats won by the Andhra Pradesh-based Telugu Desam Party led by Chandrababu Naidu and the Bihar-based Janata Dal (United) led by Nitish Kumar in order for the NDA to retain its majority in the Lok Sabha.^{[315][316][317]}

By alliance and party



Party or alliance	Votes	%	Seats	+/-
NDA	Bharatiya Janata Party ^[318]	235,973,935	240	-63
	Telugu Desam Party	12,775,270	16	+13
	Janata Dal (United)	8,039,663	12	-4
	Shiv Sena	7,401,447	7	-11
	Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas)	2,810,250	5	+5
	Janata Dal (Secular)	2,173,701	2	+1
	Jana Sena Party	1,454,138	2	+2
	Rashtriya Lok Dal	893,460	2	+2
	All Jharkhand Students Union	458,677	1	0
	Nationalist Congress Party	2,059,179	1	-4
	United People's Party Liberal	488,995	1	+1
	Sikkim Krantikari Morcha	164,396	1	+1
	Apna Dal (Soneylal)	808,245	1	-1
	Asom Gana Parishad	1,298,707	1	+1
	Hindustani Awam Morcha	494,960	1	+1
	Pattali Makkal Katchi	1,879,689	0	0
	Bharath Dharma Jana Sena	505,753	0	0
	Tamil Maanila Congress	410,401	0	0
	Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam	521,787	0	0
	National People's Party	417,930	0	-1
	Naga People's Front	299,536	0	-1
	Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party	350,967	0	-1
	Rashtriya Lok Morcha	253,876	0	0
	Rashtriya Samaj Paksha	467,282	0	0
	Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party	340,188	0	0
	Independents	342,882	0	-1
<i>Total</i>			293	-60
INDIA	Indian National Congress	136,759,064	99	+47
	Samajwadi Party	29,549,381	37	+32
	All India Trinamool Congress	28,213,393	29	+7
	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	11,754,710	22	-2
	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	11,342,553	4	+1
	Rashtriya Janata Dal	10,107,402	4	+4
	Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray)	9,567,779	9	+9
	Aam Aadmi Party	7,147,800	3	+2
	Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) NCPSP	5,921,162	8	+8
	Communist Party of India	3,157,184	2	0
	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	2,652,955	3	+2
	Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation	1,736,771	2	+2
	Indian Union Muslim League	1,716,186	3	0



Jammu and Kashmir National Conference	1,147,041	2	-1
Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi	990,237	2	+1
Bharat Adivasi Party	1,257,056	1	+1
Kerala Congress	364,631	1	0
Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	542,213	1	+1
Rashtriya Loktantrik Party RLTP	596,955	1	0
Revolutionary Socialist Party	587,363	1	0
All India Forward Bloc	289,941	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party	435,980	0	0
Vikasheel Insaan Party	1,187,455	0	0
Assam Jatiya Parishad	414,441	0	0
Kerala Congress (Mani)	277,365	0	0
<i>Total</i>		234	+143
YSR Congress Party YSRCP	13,316,039	4	-18
Shiromani Akali Dal SAD	1,814,318	1	-1
All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen AIMIM	1,400,215	1	-1
Zoram People's Movement ZPM	208,552	1	+1
Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) ASPKR	691,820	1	+1
Voice of the People Party	571,078	1	+1
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam ADMK	8,952,587	0	-1
Bahujan Samaj Party	13,153,818	0	-10
Karnataka Rashtra Samithi	51,529	0	0
Biju Janata Dal BJD	9,413,379	0	-12
Uttama Prajaakeeya Party	40,491	0	0
Bharat Rashtra Samithi BHRS	3,657,237	0	-9
Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar)	521,749	0	0
Indian National Lok Dal	226,975	0	0
Jannayak Janta Party	113,827	0	0
Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam	1,128,616	0	0
Gondwana Ganatantra Party		0	0
All India United Democratic Front AIUDF	625,954	0	-1
Revolutionary Goans Party	64,578	0	0
Sikkim Democratic Front	77,171	0	0
Bodoland People's Front	777,570	0	0
Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party	350,967	0	-1
Mizo National Front	140,264	0	-1
United Democratic Party (Meghalaya)	44,563	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (Bhim)	23,268	0	0
Other parties		0	-2
Independents		7	-1
None of the above	6,372,220	-	-
Total		543	0
Valid votes	638,934,799	99.00	
Invalid/blank votes	6,428,646	1.00	
Total votes	645,363,445	100.00	
Registered voters/turnout	968,821,926	66.61	

Source: ECI (<https://results.eci.gov.in/PcResultGenJune2024/index.htm>)

Results by Region

Region	Seats			
		NDA	INDIA	Others
North India	151	83	72	6
West India	78	45	31	2
Central India	40	39	1	0

<u>East India</u>	118	72	45	1
<u>Northeast India</u>	25	16	7	2
<u>South India</u>	131	49	77	5
Total	543	293	234	16

By state or union territory

State/Union Territory	Seats	NDA	INDIA	Others
<u>Andaman and Nicobar Islands</u>	1	1	0	0
<u>Andhra Pradesh</u>	25	21	0	4
<u>Arunachal Pradesh</u>	2	2	0	0
<u>Assam</u>	14	11	3	0
<u>Bihar</u>	40	30	9	1
<u>Chandigarh</u>	1	0	1	0
<u>Chhattisgarh</u>	11	10	1	0
<u>Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu</u>	2	1	0	1
<u>Delhi</u>	7	7	0	0
<u>Goa</u>	2	1	1	0
<u>Gujarat</u>	26	25	1	0
<u>Haryana</u>	10	5	5	0
<u>Himachal Pradesh</u>	4	4	0	0
<u>Jammu and Kashmir</u>	5	2	2	1
<u>Jharkhand</u>	14	9	5	0
<u>Karnataka</u>	28	19	9	0
<u>Kerala</u>	20	1	19	0
<u>Ladakh</u>	1	0	0	1
<u>Lakshadweep</u>	1	0	1	0
<u>Madhya Pradesh</u>	29	29	0	0
<u>Maharashtra</u>	48	17	30	1
<u>Manipur</u>	2	0	2	0
<u>Meghalaya</u>	2	0	1	1
<u>Mizoram</u>	1	0	0	1
<u>Nagaland</u>	1	0	1	0
<u>Odisha</u>	21	20	1	0
<u>Puducherry</u>	1	0	1	0
<u>Punjab</u>	13	0	10	3
<u>Rajasthan</u>	25	14	11	0
<u>Sikkim</u>	1	1	0	0
<u>Tamil Nadu</u>	39	0	39	0
<u>Telangana</u>	17	8	8	1
<u>Tripura</u>	2	2	0	0
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>	80	36	43	1
<u>Uttarakhand</u>	5	5	0	0
<u>West Bengal</u>	42	12	30	0
Total	543	293	234	16

Aftermath

Narendra Modi called the NDA's lead "a historical feat in India's history", while Congress party president Mallikarjun Kharge said the election was a "moral and political loss" for Modi and a "win for democracy" and the public.^[319] In a speech to his supporters on 4 June, Modi said that the NDA would form a third consecutive government.^[320] Following a meeting with other members of the NDA on 5 June, Modi was formally endorsed to become prime minister again.^[321] On 7 June, he was selected as leader of the NDA^[322] and was inaugurated as prime minister on 9 June.^[323] On 10 June, Modi unveiled his 71-member cabinet, of which the BJP took 61 portfolios, including foreign affairs, home affairs, finance and defence, while the Telugu Desam Party and Janata Dal (United) took two ministries each, with the rest going to other members of the NDA.^[324] The BJP's Om Birla was reelected for a second term as Speaker of the Lok Sabha on 26 June.^[325]

Independent MPs from Sangli and Purnia Vishal Patil and Pappu Yadav, both of whom are primary members of the Congress party, extended their support to it after the election, effectively increasing the opposition alliance's tally to 236.^{[326][327][328]} On 8 June, the leadership of the Congress Party unanimously nominated Rahul Gandhi to become Leader of the Opposition, a position which had been vacant since 2014.^[329] He formally assumed the post on 25 June.^[330]

Reactions

International

Leaders and officials of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Comoros, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Eswatini, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, the Maldives, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Moldova, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor Leste, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States, Vietnam, Yemen and Zambia congratulated Modi on the victory.^{[331][332][333][334][335][336][337][338]}

Stock markets

The benchmark BSE Sensex and Nifty50 indices hit intraday record highs and the Indian rupee strengthened after the exit polls were released. However, on the day results were announced, Indian stock markets crashed.^[339] Rahul Gandhi subsequently called for an investigation, saying that Modi, Amit Shah and finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had misled investors into buying stocks before the release of the election results on 4 June in anticipation of a landslide victory by the BJP.^[340]

See also

- [2024 elections in India](#)
- [2024 Rajya Sabha elections](#)
- [2024 Speaker of the Lok Sabha election](#)
- [Elections in India](#)
- [Election Commission of India](#)

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2024 elections in India

The **2024 elections in India** includes the general election and elections to the Rajya Sabha, to state legislative assemblies, to Panchayats and urban local bodies.

General election

A national election occurred between 19 April and 1 June 2024, to constitute the 18th Lok Sabha.^{[1][2][3][4]}

2024 Indian elections

← 2022 2023 2024

2025 2026 →

General election year 2024

Incumbent Prime Minister	Narendra Modi (NDA)
Next Lok Sabha	18th
Rajya Sabha elections	
Overall control	Bharatiya Janata Party
Seats contested	65
Net seat change	TBD (NDA +4)
Lok Sabha elections	
Seats contested	543
State elections	
States contested	8
Net state change	TBD
State by-elections	
Seats contested	47
Net seat change	TBD
Local elections	
Seats contested	107
Net seat change	TBD

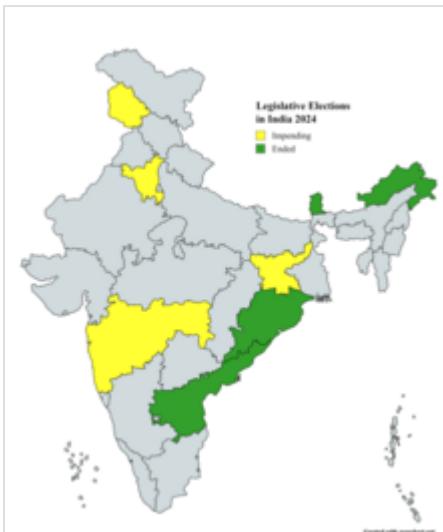
Date*	Election	Government before		Prime Minister before election	Government after		Elected Prime Minister
19 April – 1 June 2024	<u>Lok Sabha</u>	<u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u>		<u>Narendra Modi</u>	<u>National Democratic Alliance</u>		<u>Narendra Modi</u>

Lok Sabha by-elections

S.No	Date	Constituency	State/UT	MP before election	Party before election	Reason	Elected MP	Party after election
1	TBA	<u>Wayanad</u>	<u>Kerala</u>	<u>Rahul Gandhi</u>	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	Resignation of <u>Rahul Gandhi</u> [5]	TBD	TBD

Legislative assembly elections

Indian media reporting indicate elections for the following state legislative assemblies are due in 2024.[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)



The Impending Legislative Assembly elections in India, 2024

Date(s)	State	Government before	Chief Minister before	Government after	Elected Chief Minister	Maps
19 April 2024	Arunachal Pradesh	Bharatiya Janata Party	Pema Khandu	Bharatiya Janata Party	Pema Khandu	
	Sikkim	Sikkim Krantikari Morcha	Prem Singh Tamang	Sikkim Krantikari Morcha	Prem Singh Tamang	
13 May 2024	Andhra Pradesh	YSR Congress Party	Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy	Telugu Desam Party	N. Chandrababu Naidu	
13 May – 1 June 2024	Odisha	Biju Janata Dal	Naveen Patnaik	Bharatiya Janata Party	Mohan Charan Majhi	
Before September 2024	Jammu and Kashmir	President's Rule				
October 2024*	Haryana	Bharatiya Janata Party	Nayab Singh Saini	TBD		
	Maharashtra	Bharatiya Janata Party	Eknath Shinde			
		Shiv Sena				
November/December 2024*	Jharkhand	Nationalist Congress Party	Hemant Soren			
		Jharkhand Mukti Morcha				
		Indian National Congress				

* Tentative schedule per assembly tenure. Source: Elections in India^[10]

Legislative Assembly by-elections

Assam

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA
TBD	11	Dholai	Parimal Suklabaidya		Bharatiya Janata Party	Elected to Lok Sabha on 4 June 2024	TBD
	31	Sidli	Joyanta Basumatary		United People's Party Liberal		
	32	Bongaigaon	Phani Bhushan Choudhury		Asom Gana Parishad		
	77	Behali	Ranjit Dutta		Bharatiya Janata Party		
	88	Samaguri	Rakibul Hussain		Indian National Congress		

Bihar

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA			
1 June 2024	195	Agiaon	Manoj Manzil		Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation	Disqualified on 16 February 2024 ^[11]	Shiv Prakash Ranjan	Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation		
10 July 2024	60	Rupauli	Bima Bharti	Janata Dal (United)		Resigned on 11 April 2024 ^[12]	TBD			
TBD	196	Tarari	Sudama Prasad	Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation			Elected to Lok Sabha on June 4 2024	TBD		
	203	Ramgarh	Sudhakar Singh	Rashtriya Janata Dal						
	227	Imamganj	Jitan Ram Manjhi	Hindustani Awam Morcha						
	232	Belaganj	Surendra Prasad Yadav	Rashtriya Janata Dal						

Chhattisgarh

Date	Constituency	Previous MLA	Reason	Elected MLA

TBD	51	Raipur City South	Brijmohan Agrawal		Bharatiya Janata Party	Elected to Lok Sabha on June 4 2024	TBD
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Delhi

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA
TBA	53	Badarpur	Ramvir Singh Bidhuri	Bharatiya Janata Party		Elected to Lok Sabha on June 4 2024	TBD

Gujarat

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA	
7 May 2024	26	Vijapur	C. J. Chavda	Indian National Congress		Resigned on 19 January 2024 ^[13]	C. J. Chavda	Bharatiya Janata Party
	83	Porbandar	Arjun Modhwadia			Resigned on 4 March 2024 ^[14]	Arjun Modhwadia	
	85	Manavadar	Arvindbhai Jinabhai Ladani			Resigned on 6 March 2024 ^[15]	Arvindbhai Jinabhai Ladani	
	108	Khambhat	Chirag Patel			Resigned on 19 December 2023 ^[16]	Chirag Patel	
	136	Vaghodiya	Dharmendrasinh Vaghela		Independent	Resigned on 25 January 2024 ^[17]	Dharmendrasinh Vaghela	
TBA	7	Vav	Geni Thakor	Indian National Congress		Elected to Lok Sabha on 4 June 2024	TBA	
	87	Visavadar	Bhupendra Bhayani	Aam Aadmi Party		Resigned on 13 December 2023 ^[18]	TBA	

Haryana

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA	
25 May 2024	21	Karnal	Manohar Lal Khattar		Bharatiya Janata Party	Resigned on 13 March 2024 ^[19]	Nayab Singh Saini	Bharatiya Janata Party

Himachal Pradesh

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA		Reason	Elected MLA	
1 June 2024	18	Dharamshala	Sudhir Sharma	Indian National Congress	Disqualified on 29 February 2024 ^[20]	Sudhir Sharma	Bharatiya Janata Party
	21	Lahaul and Spiti	Ravi Thakur			Anuradha Rana	Indian National Congress
	37	Sujanpur	Rajinder Rana			Ranjit Singh	Indian National Congress
	39	Barsar	Inder Dutt Lakhanpal			Inder Dutt Lakhanpal	Bharatiya Janata Party
	42	Gagret	Chaitanya Sharma			Rakesh Kalia	Indian National Congress
	45	Kutlehar	Davinder Kumar Bhutto			Vivek Sharma	Indian National Congress
	10	Dehra	Hoshyar Singh			TBD	
10 July 2024	38	Hamirpur	Ashish Sharma	Independent	Resigned on 22 March 2024 ^[21]	TBD	
	51	Nalagarh	K.L. Thakur			TBD	

Jharkhand

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA	Party
20 May 2024	31	Gandey	Sarfraz Ahmad	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha		Resigned on 1 January 2024 ^[22]	Kalpana Soren	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha

Karnataka

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA	
7 May 2024	36	Shorapur	Raja Venkatappa Naik	Indian National Congress	Died on 24 February 2024 ^[23]	Raja Venugopal Naik	Indian National Congress	
TBD	83	Shiggaon	Basavaraj Bommai	Bharatiya Janata Party	Elected to Lok Sabha on 4 June 2024	TBD	TBD	
	95	Sandur	E. Tukaram	Indian National Congress			TBD	
	185	Channapatna	H. D. Kumaraswamy	Janata Dal			TBD	

Kerala

Date	Constituency	Previous MLA	Reason	Elected

						MLA
TBD	88	Devikulam	A. Raja	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	Election annulled ^[24]	TBD
	56	Palakkad	Shafi Parambil	Indian National Congress	Elected to Lok Sabha on 4 June	TBD
	61	Chelakkara	K. Radhakrishnan	Communist Party of India (Marxist)		TBD

Madhya Pradesh

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA	Party
10 July 2024	123	Amarwara	Kamlesh Shah			Resigned on 29 March 2024	TBD	
TBD	156	Budhni	Shivraj Singh Chouhan			Elected to Lok Sabha on 4 June	TBD	

Meghalaya

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA	Party
TBD	56	Gambegre	Saleng A. Sangma			Indian National Congress	Elected to Lok Sabha on 4 June	

Punjab

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA	
10 July 2024	34	Jalandhar West	Sheetal Angural			Aam Aadmi Party	Resigned on 28 March 2024 ^[25]	
TBA	44	Chabbewal	Raj Kumar Chabbewal			Resigned on 15 March 2024 ^[26]	TBD	
	10	Dera Baba Nanak	Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa					
	84	Gidderbaha	Amrinder Singh Raja Warring			Elected to Lok Sabha on 4 June 2024		
	103	Barnala	Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer					
			Aam Aadmi Party					

Rajasthan

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA	
26 April 2024	165	Bagidora	Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya			Resigned on 19 February 2024 ^[27]	Jaikrishn Patel	Bharat Adivasi Party

TBD	<u>27</u>	<u>Jhunjhunu</u>	<u>Brijendra Singh Ola</u>	Elected to Lok Sabha on 4 June 2024	TBD	
	<u>88</u>	<u>Dausa</u>	<u>Murari Lal Meena</u>			
	<u>97</u>	<u>Deoli-Uniara</u>	<u>Harish Chandra Meena</u>			
	<u>110</u>	<u>Khinwsar</u>	<u>Hanuman Beniwal</u>			<u>Rashtriya Loktantrik Party</u>
	<u>161</u>	<u>Chorasi</u>	<u>Rajkumar Roat</u>			<u>Bharat Adivasi Party</u>

Sikkim

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA
TBD	<u>7</u>	<u>Soreng-Chakung</u>	Prem Singh Tamang	<u>Sikkim Krantikari Morcha</u>		Resigned on 14 June 2024	<u>TBD</u>
	<u>11</u>	<u>Namchi-Singhithang</u>	Krishna Kumari Rai			Resigned on 13 June 2024	<u>TBD</u>

Tamil Nadu

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA	
19 April 2024	<u>233</u>	<u>Vilavancode</u>	<u>S. Vijayadharani</u>	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	Resigned on 24 February 2024 ^[28]	Tharhai Cuthbert	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	
10 July 2024	<u>75</u>	<u>Vikravandi</u>	<u>N. Pugazhenthi</u>	<u>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	Died on 6 April 2024 ^[29]		<u>TBD</u>	

Telangana

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA	
13 May 2024	<u>71</u>	<u>Secunderabad Cantonment</u>	<u>G. Lasya Nanditha</u>	<u>Bharat Rashtra Samithi</u>	Died on 23 February 2024 ^[30]	Sri Ganesh	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	

Tripura

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA	
19 April 2024	<u>7</u>	<u>Ramnagar</u>	Surajit Datta	<u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u>	Died on 27 December 2023 ^[31]	Dipak Majumder	<u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u>	

Uttarakhand

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA
10 July 2024	33	Manglaur	<u>Sarwat Karim Ansari</u>		Bahujan Samaj Party	Died on 30 October 2023 ^[32]	TBD
	4	Badrinath	<u>Rajendra Singh Bhandari</u>		Indian National Congress	Resigned on 17 March 2024 ^[33]	
TBD	7	Kedarnath	<u>Shaila Rani Rawat</u>		Bharatiya Janata Party	Died on 9 July 2024 ^[34]	TBD

Uttar Pradesh

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA			Reason	Elected MLA			
13 May 2024	136	Dadraul	<u>Manvendra Singh</u>		<u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u>	Died on 5 January 2024 ^[35]	Arvind Kumar Singh	<u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u>		
20 May 2024	173	Lucknow East	<u>Ashutosh Tandon</u>			Died on 9 November 2023 ^[36]	O.P. Srivastava			
25 May 2024	292	Gainsari	<u>Shiv Pratap Yadav</u>		<u>Samajwadi Party</u>	Died on 28 January 2024 ^[37]	Rakesh Kumar Yadav	<u>Samajwadi Party</u>		
1 June 2024	403	Duddhi	<u>Ramdular Gaur</u>		<u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u>	Disqualified on 15 December 2023 ^[38]	Vijay Singh			
TBD	16	Meerapur	<u>Chandan Chauhan</u>		<u>Rashtriya Lok Dal</u>	Elected to Lok Sabha on 4 June 2024	TBD			
	29	Kundarki	<u>Zia Ur Rehman</u>		<u>Samajwadi Party</u>		TBD			
	56	Ghaziabad	<u>Atul Garg</u>		<u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u>		TBD			
	71	Khair	<u>Anoop Pradhan</u>				TBD			
	110	Karhal	<u>Akhilesh Yadav</u>		<u>Samajwadi Party</u>		TBD			
	213	Sishamau	<u>Haji Irfan Solanki</u>		<u>Samajwadi Party</u>	Disqualified Elected to Lok Sabha on 4 June 2024	TBD			
	256	Phulpur	<u>Praveen Patel</u>		<u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u>		TBD			
	273	Milkipur	<u>Awadhesh Prasad</u>		<u>Samajwadi Party</u>		TBD			
	277	Katehari	<u>Lalji Verma</u>		<u>NISHAD Party</u>		TBD			
	397	Majhawan	<u>Vinod Kumar Bind</u>				TBD			

West Bengal

Date	Constituency		Previous MLA		Reason	Elected MLA	
7 May 2024	62	Bhagabangola	Idris Ali	Trinamool Congress	Died on 16 February 2024 ^[39]	Reyat Hossain Sarkar	Trinamool Congress
1 June 2024	113	Baranagar	Tapas Roy		Resigned on 4 March 2024 ^[40]	Sayantika Banerjee	
10 July 2024	35	Raiganj	Krishna Kalyani	Bharatiya Janata Party	Resigned on 27 March 2024 ^[41]		
	90	Ranaghat Dakshin	Mukut Mani Adhikari		Resigned on 19 April 2024 ^[42]		
	94	Bagdah	Biswajit Das	Trinamool Congress	Died on 20 February 2022 ^{[43][a]}		
	167	Maniktala	Sadhan Pande		Elected to Lok Sabha on 4 June 2024		
TBD	5	Sitai	Jagadish Chandra Barma Basunia				
	14	Madarihat	Manoj Tigga	Bharatiya Janata Party			
	104	Naihati	Partha Bhowmick				
	121	Haroa	Haji Nurul Islam	Trinamool Congress			
	236	Medinipur	June Malia				
	251	Taldangra	Arup Chakraborty				

Local body elections

Andhra Pradesh

Date	Municipal Corporation	Government before	Government after	
TBD	Kakinada Municipal Corporation	Telugu Desam Party	TBD	
	Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation			
	Mangalagiri Tadepalle Municipal Corporation	Did not exist		
	Srikakulam Municipal Corporation			

Assam

Date	Autonomous Council	Government before	Government after

8 January 2024	Dima Hasao Autonomous Council	Bharatiya Janata Party	Bharatiya Janata Party	
	Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council			
TBD	Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council	Sammilita Gana Shakti	TBD	
	Mising Autonomous Council			
	Bodo Kachari Welfare Autonomous Council	Did not exist		
	Kamatapur Autonomous Council			
	Matak Autonomous Council			
	Moran Autonomous Council			

Chhattisgarh

Date	Municipal corporation	Government before	Government after
TBD	Ambikapur Municipal Corporation	Indian National Congress	TBD
	Bilaspur Municipal Corporation		
	Chirmiri Municipal Corporation		
	Dhamtari Municipal Corporation		
	Durg Municipal Corporation Durg		
	Jagdalpur Municipal Corporation		
	Korba Municipal Corporation		
	Raigarh Municipal Corporation		
	Raipur Municipal Corporation		
	Rajnandgaon Municipal Corporation		

Gujarat

Date	Municipal corporation	Government before	Government after
TBD	Junagadh Municipal Corporation	Bharatiya Janata Party	TBD

Haryana

Date	Municipal corporation	Government before	Government after
TBD	Gurugram Municipal Corporation	Bharatiya Janata Party	TBD
	Faridabad Municipal Corporation		
	Rohtak Municipal Corporation		
	Karnal Municipal Corporation		
	Hisar Municipal Corporation		

Panipat Municipal Corporation	
Yamunanagar Municipal Corporation	
Manesar Municipal Corporation	<i>Did not exist</i>

Jammu and Kashmir

Date	Municipal corporation	Government before	Government after
TBD	Jammu Municipal Corporation	Bharatiya Janata Party	<i>TBD</i>
	Srinagar Municipal Corporation	Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party	

Jharkhand

Date	Municipal Corporation	Government before	Government after	
TBD	Adityapur Municipal Corporation	Bharatiya Janata Party	<i>TBD</i>	
	Giridih Municipal Corporation			
	Hazaribagh Municipal Corporation			
	Medininagar Municipal Corporation			
	Ranchi Municipal Corporation			
	Chas Municipal Corporation	<i>did not exist</i>		
	Deoghar Municipal Corporation			
	Dhanbad Municipal Corporation			
	Jamshedpur Municipal Corporation			

Karnataka

Date	Municipal corporation	Government before	Government after
TBD	Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike	Bharatiya Janata Party	<i>TBD</i>
	Mysuru City Corporation		
	Shivamogga City Corporation		
	Tumakuru City Corporation		
	Davanagere City Corporation		
	Mangalore City Corporation		

Maharashtra

Date	Municipal corporation	Government before	Government after
TBD	Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation	Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) (MVA)	<i>TBD</i>
	Thane Municipal Corporation		

	<u>Ulhasnagar Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Aurangabad Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Jalgaon Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Ahmednagar Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Kolhapur Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Bhiwandi-Nizampur Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Nanded-Waghala Municipal Corporation</u>	<u>Indian National Congress (MVA)</u>	
	<u>Malegaon Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Latur Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Parbhani Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation</u>	<u>Nationalist Congress Party (MVA)</u>	
	<u>Vasai-Virar City Municipal Corporation</u>	<u>Bahujan Vikas Aghadi</u>	
	<u>Pune Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Nagpur Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Nashik Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Solapur Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Amravati Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Akola Municipal Corporation</u>	<u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u>	
	<u>Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Panvel Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Chandrapur Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Sangli-Miraj-Kupwad Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Dhule Municipal Corporation</u>		
	<u>Ichalkaranji Municipal Corporation</u>		<i>did not exist</i>
	<u>Jalna Municipal Corporation</u>		

Manipur

Date	Municipal Corporation/ Autonomous Council	Government before	Government after
TBD	<u>Imphal Municipal Corporation</u>	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	<i>TBD</i>
	<u>Chandel Autonomous District Council</u>		
	<u>Sadar Hills Autonomous District Council</u>		
	<u>Tamenglong Autonomous District Council</u>		

<u>Manipur North Autonomous District Council</u>	<u>Naga People's Front</u>
<u>Ukhrul Autonomous District Council</u>	
<u>Churachandpur Autonomous District Council</u>	<u>Independent</u>

Meghalaya

Date	Autonomous Council	Government before	Government after
TBD	Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council	<u>National People's Party</u>	<i>TBD</i>
	Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council		

Odisha

Date	Municipal corporation	Government before	Government after
TBD	Rourkela Municipal Corporation	<i>did not exist</i>	<i>TBD</i>
	Sambalpur Municipal Corporation		

Punjab

Date	Municipal corporation	Government before	Government after
TBD	Amritsar Municipal Corporation	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	<i>TBD</i>
	Jalandhar Municipal Corporation		
	Patiala Municipal Corporation		
	Ludhiana Municipal Corporation		
	Phagwara Municipal Corporation	<u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u> ^[46]	

Rajasthan

Date	Municipal corporation	Government before	Government after
TBD	Bikaner Municipal Corporation	<u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u>	<i>TBD</i>
	Udaipur Municipal Corporation		
	Bharatpur Municipal Corporation	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	
	Alwar Municipal Corporation	<i>did not exist</i>	

Uttarakhand

Date	Municipal corporation	Government before	Government after
TBD	Dehradun Municipal Corporation	<u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u>	<i>TBD</i>
	Rishikesh Municipal Corporation		
	Rudrapur Municipal Corporation		

Kashipur Municipal Corporation		
Haldwani Municipal Corporation		
Haridwar Municipal Corporation	Indian National Congress	
Kotdwara Municipal Corporation		
Roorkee Municipal Corporation	Independent	
Srinagar Municipal Corporation	<i>did not exist</i>	

West Bengal

Date	Municipal Corporation	Government before	Government after
TBD	Durgapur Municipal Corporation	Trinamool Congress	TBD
	Howrah Municipal Corporation		

See also

- [2023 elections in India](#)
- [2024 Rajya Sabha elections](#)
- [2025 elections in India](#)

Notes

- a. The seat fell vacant due to the death of sitting MLA Sadhan Pande on 20th February 2022. However, bypolls to the seat couldn't be held even after 6 months of Pande's death (according to Indian law) because BJP candidate Kalyan Chaubey filed an [election petition](#) in the [Calcutta High Court](#) alleging irregularities in polling during [2021 polls](#) & demanded a recount of votes. The [Representation of the People Act, 1951](#) forbids holding any polls to the seat until any election petition concerning that seat hasn't been resolved at the court.^[44] On 29 April 2024, Choubey withdrew his election petition from the court.^[45]

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Lok Sabha

The **Lok Sabha**, also known as the **House of the People**, is the lower house of India's bicameral Parliament, with the upper house being the Rajya Sabha. Members of the Lok Sabha are elected by an adult universal suffrage and a first-past-the-post system to represent their respective constituencies, and they hold their seats for five years or until the body is dissolved by the President on the advice of the council of ministers. The house meets in the Lok Sabha Chambers of the Parliament House, New Delhi.

The maximum membership of the House allotted by the Constitution of India is 552^[1] (Initially, in 1950, it was 500.) Currently, the house has 543 seats which are filled by the election of up to 543 elected members. Between 1952 and 2020, two additional members of the Anglo-Indian community were also nominated by the President of India on the advice of the Government of India, which was abolished in January 2020 by the 104th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019.^{[2][3]} The new parliament has a seating capacity of 888 for Lok Sabha.^[4]

A total of 131 seats (24.03%) are reserved for representatives of Scheduled Castes (84) and Scheduled Tribes (47). The quorum for the House is 10% of the total membership. The Lok Sabha, unless sooner dissolved, continues to operate for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting. However, while a proclamation of emergency is in operation, this period may be extended by Parliament by law or decree.^{[5][6]}

An exercise to redraw Lok Sabha constituencies' boundaries is carried out by the Boundary Delimitation Commission of India every decade based on the Indian census, the last of which was conducted in 2011.^[7] This exercise earlier also included redistribution of seats among states based on demographic changes but that provision of the mandate of the commission was suspended in 1976 following a constitutional

Lok Sabha	
18th Lok Sabha	
 सत्यमेव जयते	लोक सभा LOK SABHA HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE
Type	Lower house of the Parliament of India
Term limits	5 years
Leadership	
President	Droupadi Murmu since 25 July 2022
Speaker	Om Birla, BJP since 17 June 2019
Deputy Speaker	Vacant since 24 June 2024
Prime Minister	Narendra Modi, BJP since 26 May 2014
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs	Kiren Rijiju, BJP since 10 June 2024
Leader of the House	Narendra Modi, BJP since 26 May 2014
Deputy Leader of the House	Vacant
Leader of Opposition	Rahul Gandhi, INC since 9 June 2024
Deputy Leader of Opposition	Vacant
Secretary General	Utpal Kumar Singh since 30 November 2020
Structure	
Seats	543

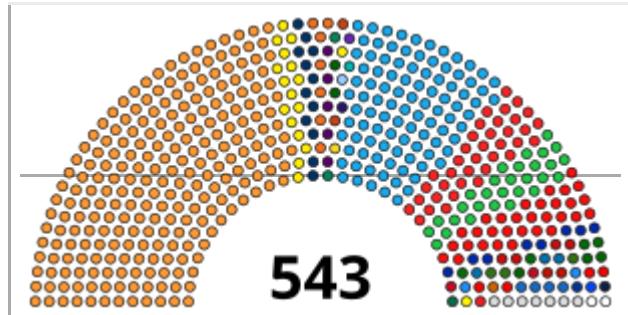
amendment to incentivize the family planning program which was being implemented.^[8] The 18th Lok Sabha was elected in May 2024 and is the latest to date.^[9]

The Lok Sabha proceedings are televised live on channel Sansad TV, headquartered within the premises of Parliament.^[10]

History

A major portion of the Indian subcontinent was under British rule from 1858 to 1947.^[11] During this period, the office of the Secretary of State for India (along with the Council of India) was the authority through whom British Parliament exercised its rule in the Indian subcontinent, and the office of Viceroy of India was created, along with an Executive Council in India, consisting of high officials of the British government. The Indian Councils Act 1861 provided for a Legislative Council consisting of the members of the Executive Council and non-official members. The Indian Councils Act 1892 established legislatures in each of the provinces of British India and increased the powers of the Legislative Council. Although these Acts increased the representation of Indians in the government, their power remained limited, and the electorate very small. The Indian Councils Act 1909 admitted some Indians to the various councils. The Government of India Act 1919 further expanded the participation of Indians in the administration, creating the Central Legislative Assembly, for which Parliament House, New Delhi, was built and opened in 1927.^[12]

The Government of India Act 1935 introduced provincial autonomy and proposed a federal structure in India.^[13] The Indian Independence Act 1947, passed by the British parliament on 18 July 1947, divided British India (which did not include the Princely States) into two newly independent countries, India and Pakistan, which were to be dominions under the Crown until they had each enacted a new constitution. The Constituent Assembly was divided into two for the separate nations, with each new Assembly having sovereign powers transferred to it for the respective dominion.



Political groups

Government (293)

- NDA (293)
 - ■ BJP (240)
 - ■ TDP (16)
 - ■ JD(U) (12)
 - ■ SHS (7)
 - ■ LJP(RV) (5)
 - ■ JD(S) (2)
 - ■ JSP (2)
 - ■ RLD (2)
 - ■ AD(S) (1)
 - ■ AGP (1)
 - ■ AJSU (1)
 - ■ HAM(S) (1)
 - ■ NCP (1)
 - ■ SKM (1)
 - ■ UPPL (1)

Opposition (249)

- INDIA (237)
 - ■ INC (98)
 - ■ SP (37)
 - ■ AITC (29)
 - ■ DMK (22)
 - ■ SS(UBT) (9)
 - ■ NCP(SP) (8)
 - ■ CPI(M) (4)
 - ■ RJD (4)
 - ■ AAP (3)
 - ■ IUML (3)
 - ■ JMM (3)
 - ■ CPI (2)

The Constitution of India was adopted on 26 November 1949 and came into effect on 26 January 1950, proclaiming India to be a sovereign, democratic republic. This contained the founding principles of the law of the land which would govern India in its new form, which now included all the princely states which had not acceded to Pakistan.

According to Article 79 (Part V-The Union.) of the Constitution of India, the Parliament of India consists of the President of India and the two Houses of Parliament known as the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and the House of the People (Lok Sabha).^[14]

- █ CPI(ML)L (2)
- █ JKNC (2)
- █ VCK (2)
- █ BAP (1)
- █ VPP (1)
- █ KEC (1)
- █ MDMK (1)
- █ RLP (1)
- █ RSP (1)
- █ IND (3)

Others (12)

- █ YSRCP (4)
- █ ASP(KR) (1)
- █ SAD (1)
- █ AIMIM (1)
- █ ZPM (1)
- █ IND (4)

Vacant (1)

- █ Vacant (1)^[a]

Elections

<u>Voting system</u>	<u>First past the post</u>
<u>First election</u>	<u>25 October 1951 – 21 February 1952</u>
<u>Last election</u>	<u>19 April – 1 June 2024</u>
<u>Next election</u>	<u>2029</u>

Meeting place



Lok Sabha Chamber, Parliament House, Sansad Marg, New Delhi, Delhi, India – 110 001

28°37'3"N 77°12'30"E

Website

sansad.in/ls (<https://sansad.in/ls>)

The Lok Sabha (Lower house of the People) was duly constituted for the first time on 17 April 1952 after the first General Elections held from 25 October 1951 to 21 February 1952.^[15]

List

Formation of Lok Sabha over time

Lok Sabha	Commenced Date	Prime Minister
First	13 May 1952	Jawaharlal Nehru
Second	April 1957	
Third	April 1962	Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi
Fourth	March 1967	
Fifth	March 1971	Indira Gandhi
Sixth	March 1977	Morarji Desai and Charan Singh
Seventh	January 1980	Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi
Eighth	December 1984	Rajiv Gandhi
Ninth	December 1989	V. P. Singh and Chandra Shekhar
Tenth	June 1991	P. V. Narasimha Rao
Eleventh	May 1996	Atal Bihari Vajpayee, H. D. Deve Gowda and I. K. Gujral
Twelfth	March 1998	
Thirteenth	October 1999	Atal Bihari Vajpayee
Fourteenth	May 2004	
Fifteenth	May 2009	Manmohan Singh
Sixteenth	May 2014	
Seventeenth	May 2019	Narendra Modi
Eighteenth	June 2024	

Qualifications

Article 84 (under Part V. – The Union)^[16] of Indian Constitution sets qualifications for being a member of Lok Sabha, which are as follows:

1. They should be a citizen of India, and must subscribe before the Election Commission of India, an oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

[**Constitution**](#)

[Constitution of India](#)

[**Rules**](#)

[The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha \(\[http://www.164.100.47.194/loksabha/rules/RULES-2010-P-FINAL_1.pdf\]\(http://www.164.100.47.194/loksabha/rules/RULES-2010-P-FINAL_1.pdf\)\) \(English\)](http://www.164.100.47.194/loksabha/rules/RULES-2010-P-FINAL_1.pdf)

2. They should not be less than 25 years of age.
3. They possess other such qualifications as may be prescribed in that behalf by or under any law made by the Parliament.
4. They should not be proclaimed criminal i.e. they should not be a convict, a confirmed debtor or otherwise disqualified by law; and
5. They should have their name in the electoral rolls in any part of the country.

However, a member can be disqualified from being a member of Parliament:

1. If they hold the office of profit;
2. If they are of unsound mind and stand so declared by a competent court
3. If they are an undischarged insolvent;
4. If they are not a citizen of India, or have voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign State, or are under any acknowledgement of allegiance or adherence to a foreign State;
5. If they are violating party discipline (as per the Tenth Schedule of the constitution); disqualified under Representation of People Act.

A seat in the Lok Sabha will become vacant in the following circumstances (during the normal functioning of the House):

1. When the holder of the seat, by writing to the Speaker, resigns.
2. When the holder of the seat is absent from 60 consecutive days of proceedings of the House, without prior permission of the Speaker.
3. When the holder of the seat is subject to any disqualifications mentioned in the Constitution or any law enacted by Parliament.
4. A seat may also be vacated when the holder stands disqualified under the 'Anti-Defection Law'.

Furthermore, as per *article 101* (Part V.—The Union)^[17] of the Indian Constitution, a person cannot be:

1. A member of both Houses of Parliament and provision shall be made by Parliament by law for the vacation by a person who is chosen a member of both Houses of his seat in one House or the other.
2. A member both of Parliament and of a House of the Legislature of a State.

System of elections in Lok Sabha

Members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected by the people of India, based on universal suffrage. Elections are by the people directly to the Lok Sabha and each state is divided into territorial constituencies under two provisions of the Constitution:

1. Each state is allotted several seats in the Lok Sabha in such a manner that the ratio between that number and its population was as close to uniform as possible. This provision does not apply to states having a population of less than 6 million. The number of seats per state has been frozen under the constitutional amendment of 1976.
2. Each state is divided into territorial constituencies in such a manner that the ratio between the population of each constituency and the number of seats allotted to it (in each case, one) remain the same throughout the state. This principle is upheld by the boundary reviews mentioned above.

Notes:

1. The expression "population" while distributing seats among states refers to the population ascertained at the census of 1971, per the Constitutional Amendment of 1976.^[18]
2. The expression "population" while distributing constituencies within a state refers to the population ascertained at the census of 2011.^[18]

Powers

The Lok Sabha has certain powers that make it more powerful than the Rajya Sabha.

- Motions of no confidence against the government can be introduced and passed in the Lok Sabha. If passed by a majority vote, the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers resign collectively. The Rajya Sabha has no power over such a motion and hence has no real power over the executive. This is because the Constitution of India has only made the Union Council of ministers responsible to the Lok Sabha, not to the Rajya Sabha.
- Money bills can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha, and upon being passed, are sent to the Rajya Sabha, where it can be deliberated on for up to 14 days. If not rejected by the Rajya Sabha, or 14 days lapse from the introduction of the bill in the Rajya Sabha without any action by the House, or recommendations made by the Rajya Sabha are not accepted by the Lok Sabha, the bill is considered passed. The budget is presented in the Lok Sabha by the Finance Minister in the name of the President of India.
- In matters about non-financial (ordinary) bills, after the bill has been passed by the House where it was originally tabled (Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha), it is sent to the other house, where it may be kept for a maximum period of 6 months. If the other House rejects the bill or a period of 6 months elapses without any action by that House, or the House that originally tabled the bill does not accept the recommendations made by the members of the other house, it results in a deadlock. This is resolved by a joint session of both Houses, presided over by the speaker of the Lok Sabha and decided by a simple majority. Though the Constitution has placed both houses on the same footing in this regard, in reality, it is the Lok Sabha's opinions that mostly prevail—due to its bigger numerical strength.
- Equal Powers with the Rajya Sabha in initiating and passing any Bill for Constitutional Amendment (by a majority of the total membership of the House and at least two-thirds majority of the members present and voting).
- Equal Powers with the Rajya Sabha in initiating and passing a motion for the impeachment of the President (by two-thirds of the membership of the House).
- Equal Powers with the Rajya Sabha in the impeachment process (initiating and passing a motion for the removal) of the judges of the Supreme Court and the state High Courts (by a majority of the membership of the House and at least two-thirds majority of the members present and voting), who then can be removed by the President of India.
- Equal Powers with the Rajya Sabha in initiating and passing a resolution declaring war or national emergency (by two-thirds majority) or constitutional emergency (by simple majority) in a state.
- If the Lok Sabha is dissolved before or after the declaration of a National Emergency, the Rajya Sabha becomes the sole Parliament. It cannot be dissolved. This is a limitation on the Lok Sabha. But there is a possibility that the president can exceed the term to not more than 1 year under the proclamation of emergency and the same would be lowered down to six-month if the said proclamation ceases to operate.

In conclusion, the Lok Sabha is more powerful than the Rajya Sabha in almost all matters. Even in those matters in which the Constitution has placed both Houses on an equal footing, the Lok Sabha has more influence due to its greater numerical strength. This is typical of parliamentary democracies, many of which have a lower house that is more powerful than the upper.

Procedure

Procedure in the House

The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha and Directions issued by the Speaker from time to time there under regulate the procedure in Lok Sabha. The items of business, a notice of which is received from the Ministers/ Private Members and admitted by the Speaker, are included in the daily List of Business which is printed and circulated to members in advance.

Sessions

The period during which the House meets to conduct its business is called a session. The Constitution empowers the President to summon each House at such intervals that there should not be more than a six-month gap between the two sessions. Hence the Parliament must meet at least twice a year. But, three sessions of Lok Sabha are held in a year:

- Budget session: February to May.
- Monsoon session: July to September.
- Winter session: November to mid-December.

When in session, Lok Sabha holds its sittings usually from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. On some days the sittings are continuously held without observing lunch break and are also extended beyond 6 p.m. depending upon the business before the House. Lok Sabha does not ordinarily sit on Saturdays and Sundays and other closed holidays.

Question Hour

The first hour of every sitting is called Question Hour. Asking questions in Parliament is the free and unfettered right of members, and during Question Hour they may ask questions of ministers on different aspects of administration and government policy in the national and international spheres. Every minister whose turn it is to answer questions has to stand up and answer for his department's acts of omission or commission.

Questions are of three types—Starred, Unstarred, and Short Notice. A Starred Question is one to which a member desires an oral answer in the House and which is distinguished by an asterisk mark. An unstarred question is not called for oral answer in the house and on which no supplementary questions can consequently be asked. An answer to such a question is given in writing. A minimum period of notice for starred/unstarred questions is 10 clear days. If the questions given notice are admitted by the Speaker, they are listed and printed for an answer on the dates allotted to the Ministries to which the subject matter of the question pertains.

The normal period of notice does not apply to short-notice questions that relate to matters of urgent public importance. However, a short-notice question may be answered only on short notice if so permitted by the Speaker and the Minister concerned is prepared to answer it at shorter notice. A short-notice question is taken up for answer immediately after the Question Hour, popularly known as Zero Hour.

Zero Hour

The time immediately following the Question Hour has come to be known as "Zero Hour". It starts at around noon (hence the name) and members can, with prior notice to the Speaker, raise issues of importance during this time. Typically, discussions on important Bills, the Budget, and other issues of national importance take place from 2 p.m. onwards.

Business after Question Hour

After the Question Hour, the House takes up miscellaneous items of work before proceeding to the main business of the day. These may consist of one or more of the following: Adjournment Motions, Questions involving breaches of Privileges, Papers to be laid on the Table, Communication of any messages from Rajya Sabha, Intimations regarding President's assent to Bills, Calling Attention Notices, Matters under Rule 377, Presentation of Reports of Parliamentary Committee, Presentation of Petitions, miscellaneous statements by Ministers, Motions regarding elections to Committees, Bills to be withdrawn or introduced.

Main business

The main business of the day may be consideration of a bill or financial business or consideration of a resolution or a motion.

Legislative business

Legislative proposals in the form of a bill can be brought forward either by a minister or by an individual member. In the former case, it is known as a government bill and in the latter case, it is known as a private members' bill. Every bill passes through three stages—each called readings—before it is passed. To become law it must be passed by both the houses of Parliament, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, and then assented to by the president.

Financial business

The presentation, discussion of, and voting on the annual general and railways budgets—followed by the passing of the appropriations Bill and the finance bill—is a long, drawn-out process that takes up a major part of the time of the House during its budget session every year.

Motions and resolutions

Among other kinds of business that come up before the House are resolutions and motions. Resolutions and motions may be brought forward by the government or by individual members. The government may move a resolution or a motion for obtaining the sanction to a scheme or opinion of the house on an important matter of policy or a grave situation. Similarly, an individual member may move a resolution or motion to draw the attention of the house and the government to a particular problem. The last two and half hours of

sitting every Friday are generally allotted for the transaction of individual members' business. While private members' bills are taken up on one Friday, private members' resolutions are taken up on the succeeding Friday, and so on.

Parliamentary committees

Most of the business of drafting a bill or amendments is initially discussed and debated in the parliamentary committees. Since the time for legislation is limited, the work of all departments of the government and any special focus tasks are delegated to the committees, wherein the committees shall prepare the initial draft of the bill/amendment for consideration by both the houses. They consist of members of both houses.

There are primarily two kinds of parliamentary committees based on their nature:-

- Parliament Standing Committees (PSC) – Permanent in nature, reconstituted from time to time with every new election.
 - Department based
 - Others
- Ad hoc committees – Created for a specific purpose and ceases to exist when that purpose is achieved.

Half-an-Hour discussion

A half-an-hour discussion can be raised on a matter of sufficient public importance which has been the subject of a recent question in Lok Sabha irrespective of the fact whether the question was answered orally or the answer was laid on the Table of the House and the answer which needs elucidation on a matter of fact. Normally not more than half an hour is allowed for such a discussion. Usually, the half-an-hour discussion is listed on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays only. In one session, a member is allowed to raise not more than two half-hour discussions. During the discussion, the member, who has given notice, makes a short statement, and not more than four members, who have intimated earlier and have secured one of the four places on the ballot, are permitted to ask a question each for further elucidating any matter of fact. Thereafter, the minister makes replies. There is no formal motion before the house nor voting.

Discussion on matters of urgent public importance

Members may raise discussions on matters of urgent public importance with the permission of the Speaker. Such discussions may take place two days a week. No formal motion is moved in the House nor is there any voting on such a discussion.

Debate in the House

After the member who initiates discussion on an item of business has spoken, other members can speak on that item of business in such order as the Speaker may call upon them. Only one member can speak at a time and all speeches are directed to the chair. A matter requiring the decision of the House is decided to employ a question put by the Speaker on a motion made by a member.

Division

A division is one of the forms in which the decision of the House is ascertained. Normally, when a motion is put to the House members for and against it indicate their opinion by saying "Aye" or "No" from their seats. The chair goes by the voices and declares that the motion is either accepted or rejected by the House. If a member challenges the decision, the chair orders that the lobbies be cleared. Then the division bell is rung and an entire network of bells installed in the various parts and rooms in Parliament House and Parliament House Annexe rings continuously for three and a half minutes. Members and Ministers rush to the Chamber from all sides. After the bell stops, all the doors to the Chamber are closed and nobody can enter or leave the Chamber till the division is over. Then the chair puts the question for a second time and declares whether in its opinion the "Ayes" or the "Noes", have it. If the opinion so declared is again challenged, the chair asks the votes to be recorded by operating the Automatic Vote Recording Equipment.

Automatic vote recording system

With the announcement of the Speaker for recording the votes, the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha presses the button of a keyboard. Then a gong sounds, serving as a signal to members for casting their votes. To vote, each member present in the chamber has to flip a switch and then operate one of the three pushbuttons fixed in their seat. The push switch must be kept pressed simultaneously until the gong sounds for the second time after 10 seconds. There are two indicator boards installed in the wall on either side of the Speaker's chair in the chamber. Each vote cast by a member is flashed here. Immediately after the votes are cast, they are totalled mechanically and the details of the results are flashed on the result indicator boards installed in the railings of the Speakers and diplomatic galleries.

Divisions are normally held with the aid of automatic vote recording equipment. Where so directed by the Speaker in terms of the relevant provision in the Rules of Procedure etc. In the Lok Sabha, divisions may be held either by the distribution of 'Aye'/No' and 'Abstention' slips to members in the House or by the members recording their votes by going into the lobbies. There is an indicator board in the machine room showing the name of each member. The result of the division and vote cast by each member with the aid of automatic vote recording equipment also appear on this board and immediately a photograph of the indicator board is taken. Later the photograph is enlarged and the names of members who voted 'Ayes' and for 'Noes' are determined with the help of the photograph and incorporated in Lok Sabha debates.

Publication of debates

Three versions of Lok Sabha debates are prepared: the Hindi version, the English version, and the original version. Only the Hindi and English versions are printed. The original version, in cyclostyled form, is kept in the Parliament Library for record and reference. The Hindi version contains proceedings (all questions asked and answers are given thereto and speeches made) in Hindi and verbatim Hindi translation of proceedings in English or regional languages. The English version contains proceedings in English and the English translation of the proceedings take place in Hindi or any regional language. The original version, however, contains proceedings in Hindi or English as they actually took place in the House and also the English/Hindi translation of speeches made in regional languages.

If conflicting legislation is enacted by the two Houses, a joint sitting is held to resolve the differences. In such a session, the members of the Lok Sabha would generally prevail, since the Lok Sabha includes more than twice as many members as the Rajya Sabha.

Officers of Lok Sabha

Speaker and Deputy Speaker

As per *Article 93* of the Indian Constitution, the Lok Sabha has a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker. In the Lok Sabha, both presiding officers — the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker — are elected from among its members by a simple majority of members present and voting in the House. No specific qualifications are prescribed for being elected Speaker; the Constitution only requires that Speaker should be a member of the House. But an understanding of the Constitution and the laws of the country and the rules of procedure and conventions of Parliament is considered a major asset for the holder of the office of the Speaker. Vacation and resignation of, and removal from, the offices of Speaker and Deputy Speaker are mentioned under Article 94 of the Constitution of India. As per *Article 94* of the Indian Constitution, a Speaker or a Deputy Speaker should vacate their office, a) if they cease to be a member of the House of the People, b) they resign, or c) is removed from office by a resolution of the House passed by a majority.

The Speaker of Lok Sabha is both a member of the House and its Presiding Officer. The Speaker conducts the business in the House. They decide whether a bill is a money bill or not. They maintain discipline and decorum in the house and can punish a member for their unruly behaviour by suspending them. They permit the moving of various kinds of motions and resolutions like the motion of no confidence, motion of adjournment, motion of censure and calling attention notice as per the rules. The Speaker decides on the agenda to be taken up for discussion during the meeting. It is the Speaker of the Lok Sabha who presides over joint sittings called in the event of disagreement between the two Houses on a legislative measure. Following the 52nd Constitution amendment, the Speaker is vested with the power relating to the disqualification of a member of the Lok Sabha on grounds of defection. The Speaker makes obituary references in the House, formal references to important national and international events, and the valedictory address after every Session of the Lok Sabha and also when the term of the House expires. Though a member of the House, the Speaker does not vote in the House except on those rare occasions when there is a tie at the end of a decision. To date, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha has not been called upon to exercise this unique casting vote. While the office of Speaker is vacant due to absence/resignation/removal, the duties of the office are performed by the Deputy Speaker or, if the office of Deputy Speaker is also vacant, by such member of the House of the People as the President may appoint for the purpose. The Lok Sabha has also a separate non-elected Secretariat staff.^[19]

Shri G. V. Mavalankar was the first Speaker of Lok Sabha (15 May 1952 – 27 February 1956) and Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar was the first Deputy Speaker (30 May 1952 – 7 March 1956). In the 17th Lok Sabha, Om Birla is the current Speaker.^[20]

Secretariat

The Secretariat of Lok Sabha was set up according to the provisions contained in Article 98 of the Constitution. The said Article, which provides for a separate secretarial staff for each House of Parliament, reads as follows:- 98. Secretariat of Parliament – Each House of Parliament shall have a separate secretarial

staff: Provided that nothing in this clause shall be construed as preventing the creation of posts common to both Houses of Parliament. (2) Parliament may by law regulate the recruitment and the conditions of service of persons appointed to the secretarial staff of either House of Parliament.^[21]

The Lok Sabha Secretariat functions under the overall guidance and control of the Speaker. The main activities of the Secretariat *inter alia* include the following:

(i) providing secretarial assistance and support to the effective functioning of the House of the People (Lok Sabha) possible to Members of Lok Sabha; (ii) providing amenities as admissible to Members of Lok Sabha; (iii) servicing the various Parliamentary Committees; (iv) preparing research and reference material and bringing out various publications; (v) recruitment of manpower in the Lok Sabha Secretariat and attending to personnel matters; & (vi) preparing and publishing a record of the day-to-day proceedings of the Lok Sabha and bringing out such other publications, as may be required concerning the functioning of the Lok Sabha and its Committees, among other things.

In the discharge of his constitutional and statutory responsibilities, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is assisted by the Secretary-General, who holds the rank equivalent to the Cabinet Secretary to the Government of India. The Secretary-General, in turn, is assisted by senior functionaries at the level of Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary and other officers and staff of the Secretariat.^[22] Since November 2020, the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha is Utpal Kumar Singh, IAS.^[23]

Lok Sabha general elections

Each Lok Sabha is constituted after a general election:

Lok Sabha	General Election
<u>1st Lok Sabha</u>	<u>1951–52 Indian general election</u>
<u>2nd Lok Sabha</u>	<u>1957 Indian general election</u>
<u>3rd Lok Sabha</u>	<u>1962 Indian general election</u>
<u>4th Lok Sabha</u>	<u>1967 Indian general election</u>
<u>5th Lok Sabha</u>	<u>1971 Indian general election</u>
<u>6th Lok Sabha</u>	<u>1977 Indian general election</u>
<u>7th Lok Sabha</u>	<u>1980 Indian general election</u>
<u>8th Lok Sabha</u>	<u>1984 Indian general election</u>
<u>9th Lok Sabha</u>	<u>1989 Indian general election</u>
<u>10th Lok Sabha</u>	<u>1991 Indian general election</u>
<u>11th Lok Sabha</u>	<u>1996 Indian general election</u>
<u>12th Lok Sabha</u>	<u>1998 Indian general election</u>
<u>13th Lok Sabha</u>	<u>1999 Indian general election</u>
<u>14th Lok Sabha</u>	<u>2004 Indian general election</u>
<u>15th Lok Sabha</u>	<u>2009 Indian general election</u>
<u>16th Lok Sabha</u>	<u>2014 Indian general election</u>
<u>17th Lok Sabha</u>	<u>2019 Indian general election</u>
<u>18th Lok Sabha</u>	<u>2024 Indian general election</u>

Statewise representation

As of 26 January 2020, the Lok Sabha is composed of 543 members [24] made up of up to 524 members representing the people of 28 states and 19 members representing people of 8 Union territories based on their population. While maximum seats can now go up to 550 even though maximum size of the Lok Sabha as outlined in the Constitution of India , at its commencement, was 552 members because after The Constitution (One Hundred and Fourth Amendment) Act, 2019, Article 334 (b) of the Constitution of India was maintained at seventy years. See the table below for details:

State/ UT*	Seats^[25]
<u>Andaman and Nicobar Islands*</u>	1
<u>Andhra Pradesh</u>	25
<u>Arunachal Pradesh</u>	2
<u>Assam</u>	14
<u>Bihar</u>	40
<u>Chandigarh*</u>	1
<u>Chhattisgarh</u>	11
<u>Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu*</u>	2
<u>Delhi (NCT)*</u>	7
<u>Goa</u>	2
<u>Gujarat</u>	26
<u>Haryana</u>	10
<u>Himachal Pradesh</u>	4
<u>Jammu and Kashmir*</u>	5
<u>Jharkhand</u>	14
<u>Karnataka</u>	28
<u>Kerala</u>	20
<u>Ladakh*</u>	1
<u>Lakshadweep*</u>	1
<u>Madhya Pradesh</u>	29
<u>Maharashtra</u>	48
<u>Manipur</u>	2
<u>Meghalaya</u>	2
<u>Mizoram</u>	1
<u>Nagaland</u>	1
<u>Odisha</u>	21
<u>Puducherry*</u>	1
<u>Punjab</u>	13
<u>Rajasthan</u>	25
<u>Sikkim</u>	1
<u>Tamil Nadu</u>	39
<u>Telangana</u>	17
<u>Tripura</u>	2
<u>Uttarakhand</u>	5
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>	80
<u>West Bengal</u>	42

Total	543
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Membership by party

No. of Lok Sabha MP's party-wise:

As of 11 June 2024

Alliance	Party	No. of MPs	Leader of the Party
Government <u>NDA</u> Seats: 293	<u>BJP</u>	240	<u>Narendra Modi</u>
	<u>TDP</u>	16	<u>Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu</u>
	<u>JD(U)</u>	12	<u>Dileshwar Kamait</u>
	<u>SHS</u>	7	<u>Shrikant Shinde</u>
	<u>LJP(RV)</u>	5	<u>Chirag Paswan</u>
	<u>JD(S)</u>	2	<u>H. D. Kumaraswamy</u>
	<u>JSP</u>	2	<u>Vallabhaneni Balashowry</u>
	<u>RLD</u>	2	<u>TBD</u>
	<u>AD(S)</u>	1	<u>Anupriya Patel</u>
	<u>AGP</u>	1	<u>Phani Bhusan Choudhury</u>
	<u>AJSU</u>	1	<u>Chandra Prakash Choudhary</u>
	<u>HAM(S)</u>	1	<u>Jitan Ram Manjhi</u>
	<u>NCP</u>	1	<u>Sunil Tatkare</u>
	<u>SKM</u>	1	<u>Indra Hang Subba</u>
	<u>UPPL</u>	1	<u>Joyanta Basumatary</u>
I.N.D.I.A. Seats: 237	<u>INC</u>	98	<u>Rahul Gandhi</u>
	<u>SP</u>	37	<u>Akhilesh Yadav</u>
	<u>AITC</u>	29	<u>Sudip Bandyopadhyay</u>
	<u>DMK</u>	22	<u>T. R. Baalu</u>
	<u>SS(UBT)</u>	9	<u>Arvind Sawant</u>
	<u>NCP(SP)</u>	8	<u>Supriya Sule</u>
	<u>CPI(M)</u>	4	<u>TBD</u>
	<u>RJD</u>	4	<u>Misa Bharti</u>
	<u>AAP</u>	3	<u>TBD</u>
	<u>IUML</u>	3	<u>E. T. Mohammed Basheer</u>
	<u>JMM</u>	3	<u>Joba Majhi</u>
	<u>CPI</u>	2	<u>K. Subbarayan</u>
	<u>CPI(ML)L</u>	2	<u>TBD</u>
	<u>JKNC</u>	2	<u>Mian Altaf Ahmed</u>
	<u>VCK</u>	2	<u>Thol. Thirumavalavan</u>
	<u>KEC</u>	1	<u>Thomas Chazhikadan</u>
	<u>MDMK</u>	1	<u>Durai Vaiko</u>
	<u>RLP</u>	1	<u>Hanuman Beniwal</u>
	<u>RSP</u>	1	<u>N. K. Premachandran</u>
	<u>Independent</u>	3	

Unaligned Seats: 13	<u>YSRCP</u>	4	P. V. Midhun Reddy
	<u>AIMIM</u>	1	Asaduddin Owaisi
	<u>ASP(KR)</u>	1	Chandrashekhar Azad
	<u>SAD</u>	1	Harsimrat Kaur Badal
	<u>VPP</u>	1	Ricky AJ Syngkon
	<u>ZPM</u>	1	Richard Vanlalhmangaiha
	<u>Independent</u>	4	
	Vacant	1	<u>Wayanad</u>
Total		543	

See also

- [List of constituencies of the Lok Sabha](#)
- [Parliament of India](#)
- [Rajya Sabha](#)

Further reading

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Notes

- a. Wayanad seat which was vacated by Rahul Gandhi after he was elected from both Wayanad and Rae Bareli.

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External links

- [Lok Sabha website](http://loksabha.nic.in/) (<http://loksabha.nic.in/>)
 - [General Elections 2019](https://eci.gov.in/general-election/general-elections-2019/) (<https://eci.gov.in/general-election/general-elections-2019/>)
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Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lok_Sabha&oldid=1234047670"

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Rajya Sabha

The **Rajya Sabha**, also known as the **Council of States**, is the upper house of the bicameral Parliament of India. As of 2023, it has a maximum membership of 250, of which 238 are elected by the legislatures of the states and union territories using single transferable votes through open ballots, while the president can appoint 12 members for their contributions to art, literature, science, and social service.^[1] The total allowed capacity is 250 (238 elected, 12 appointed) according to article 80 of the Indian Constitution.^[2] The current potential seating capacity of the Rajya Sabha is 245 (233 elected, 12 appointed), after the Jammu and Kashmir (Reorganisation) Act. The maximum seats of 250 members can be filled up at the discretion and requirements of the house of Rajya Sabha.

Members sit for staggered terms lasting six years, with about a third of the 238 designates up for election every two years, in even-numbered years.^[3] Unlike the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha is a continuing chamber and hence not subject to dissolution. However, the Rajya Sabha, like the Lok Sabha, can be prorogued by the president.

The Rajya Sabha has equal footing in legislation with the Lok Sabha, except in the area of supply, where the latter has overriding powers. In the case of conflicting legislation, a joint sitting of the two houses can be held, where the Lok Sabha would hold a greater influence because of its larger membership. The vice president of India (currently, Jagdeep Dhankhar) is the ex-officio chairman of the Rajya Sabha, who presides over its sessions. The deputy chairman, who is elected from amongst the house's members, takes care of the day-to-day matters of the house in the absence of the chairman. The Rajya Sabha held its first sitting on 13 May 1952.^[4]

The Rajya Sabha meets in the eponymous chamber in Parliament House in New Delhi. Since 18 July 2018, the Rajya Sabha has the facility for simultaneous interpretation in all the 22 scheduled languages of India.^[5] The Rajya Sabha proceedings are televised live on channel Sansad TV, headquartered within the premises of Parliament.^[6]

Qualifications

Article 84 of the Constitution lays down the qualifications for membership of Parliament. A member of the Rajya Sabha must:^{[7][8]}

- Be a citizen of India.
- Make and subscribe before some person authorized in that behalf by the Election Commission an oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule to the Constitution.
- Be at least 30 years old.
- Be elected by the Legislative Assembly of States and Union territories by means of single transferable vote through proportional representation.^[9]
- Not be a proclaimed criminal.
- Not be a subject of insolvency, i.e. they should not be in debt that they are not capable of repaying in a current manner and should have the ability to meet their financial expenses.
- Not hold any other office of profit under the Government of India.
- Not be of unsound mind.
- Possess such other qualifications as may be prescribed in that behalf by or under any law made by Parliament.

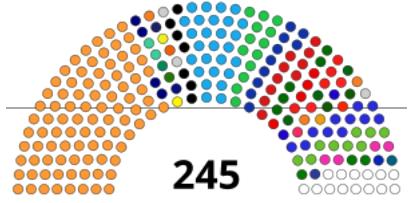
In addition, twelve members are nominated by the president of India having special knowledge in various areas like arts and science. However, they are not entitled to vote in presidential elections as per Article 55 of the Constitution.

Limitations

The Constitution of India places some restrictions on the Rajya Sabha, and the Lok Sabha (the lower house, House of the People) is more powerful in certain areas.

Money bills

The definition of a money bill is given in Article 110 of the Constitution of India. A money bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha by a minister and only on the recommendation of the president of India. When the Lok Sabha passes a money bill then the Lok Sabha sends the money bill to the Rajya Sabha for 14 days during which it can make recommendations. Even if the Rajya Sabha fails to return the money bill in 14 days to the Lok Sabha, that bill is deemed to have passed by both houses. Also, if the Lok Sabha rejects any (or all) of the amendments proposed by the Rajya Sabha, the bill is deemed to have been passed by both houses of Parliament in the form the Lok Sabha finally passes it. Hence, the Rajya Sabha can only give recommendations

Rajya Sabha	
	राज्य सभा RAJYA SABHA COUNCIL OF STATES सत्यमेव जयते
Type	
Type	Upper house of the Parliament of India
Term limits	6 years
Leadership	
President	Droupadi Murmu since 25 July 2022
Chairman	Jagdeep Dhankhar since 11 August 2022
Deputy Chairman	Harivansh Narayan Singh, JD(U) since 9 August 2018
Prime Minister	Narendra Modi, BJP since 26 May 2014
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs	Kiren Rijiju, BJP since 10 June 2024
Leader of the House	Jagat Prakash Nadda, BJP since 24 June 2024
Deputy Leader of the House	Nirmala Sitharaman, BJP since 24 June 2024
Leader of the Opposition	Mallikarjun Kharge, INC since 16 February 2021
Deputy leader of the Opposition	Pramod Tiwari, INC since 13 March 2023
Secretary General	Pramod Chandra Mody since 12 November 2021
Structure	
Seats	245 (233 Elected + 12 Nominated)
 245	
Political groups	Government (107)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NDA (107) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BJP (90) ▪ JD(U) (4) ▪ NCP (2) ▪ JD(S) (1) ▪ SHS (1) ▪ RLD (1) ▪ PMK (1) ▪ AGP (1) ▪ NPP (1) ▪ RPI(A) (1)

for a money bill, but the Rajya Sabha cannot amend a money bill. This is to ensure that the Rajya Sabha must not add any non-money matters to the money bill. There is no joint sitting of both the houses for money bills, because all final decisions are taken by the Lok Sabha.^{[10][11]}

Joint Sitting of the Parliament

Article 108 provides for a joint sitting of the two houses of Parliament in certain cases. A joint sitting can be convened by the president of India when one house has either rejected a bill passed by the other house, has not taken any action on a bill transmitted to it by the other house for six months, or has disagreed with the amendments proposed by the Lok Sabha on a bill passed by it. Considering that the numerical strength of the Lok Sabha is more than twice that of the Rajya Sabha, the Lok Sabha tends to have a greater influence in a joint sitting of Parliament. A joint session is chaired by the speaker of the Lok Sabha. Also, because the joint session is convened by the president on the advice of the government, which already has a majority in the Lok Sabha, the joint session is usually convened to get bills passed through a Rajya Sabha in which the government has a minority.^[12]

Joint sessions of Parliament are a rarity, and have been convened three times in the last 71 years, for passage of a specific legislative act, the latest time being in 2002:

- 1961: *Dowry Prohibition Act, 1958*
- 1978: *Banking Services Commission (Repeal) Act, 1977*
- 2002: *Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002*

No-confidence motion

Unlike the Lok Sabha, members of the Rajya Sabha cannot bring to the house a no-confidence motion against the government.

Powers

In the Indian quasi-federal structure, the Rajya Sabha is representative of the States and Union territories in the union legislature (hence the name, Council of States). For this reason, the Rajya Sabha has powers that protect the rights of States against the Union government.

Union-State relations

The Constitution empowers the Parliament of India to make laws on the matters reserved for States. However, this can only be done if the Rajya Sabha first passes a resolution by a two-third majority granting such a power to the Union Parliament. The Union government cannot make a law on a matter reserved for States without any authorisation from the Rajya Sabha.

The Union government reserves the power to make laws directly affecting the citizens across all the States whereas, a single state in itself reserves the power to make rules and governing laws of their region. The Rajya Sabha plays a vital role in protecting the States' culture and interests.

Creation of All-India services

The Rajya Sabha, by a two-thirds supermajority, can pass a resolution empowering the Indian government to create more all-India services common to both the union and the states.

Membership by party

Members of the Rajya Sabha by their political party (as of 21 June 2024):

- ■ UPPL (1)
- ■ TMC(M) (1)
- ■ IND (2)

Official Opposition (87)

- INDIA (87)
- ■ INC (26)
- ■ AITC (13)
- ■ AAP (10)
- ■ DMK (10)
- ■ LF (6)
- ■ CPI(M) (4)
- ■ CPI (2)
- ■ RJD (5)
- ■ SP (4)
- ■ JMM (3)
- ■ NCP(SP) (2)
- ■ SS(UBT) (2)
- ■ IUML (2)
- ■ AGM (1)
- ■ KC(M) (1)
- ■ MDMK (1)
- ■ IND (1)

Other opposition (29)

- YSRCP (11)
- BJD (9)
- BRS (4)
- AIADMK (3)
- BSP (1)
- MNF (1)

Nominated (7)

- NOM (7)

Vacant (15)

- Vacant (15)

Elections

Voting system	238 members by <u>single transferable vote</u> by state legislatures, 12 appointed by the President
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First election 1952

Last election 2024

Next election 2025

Meeting place



Rajya Sabha Chamber, Sansad Bhavan,
118, Rafi Marg, New Delhi, Delhi, India -
110001

Website

Alliance	Party	MPs	Floor leader
NDA Seats: 114	BJP	90	Jagat Prakash Nadda
	JD(U)	4	Sanjay Kumar Jha
	NCP	2	Praful Patel
	JD(S)	1	H. D. Deve Gowda
	SHS	1	Milind Deora
	RLD	1	Jayant Chaudhary
	PMK	1	Anbumani R.
	AGP	1	B.P Baishya
	TMC(M)	1	G. K. Vasan
	NPP	1	W. Kharlukhi
	RPI(A)	1	Ramdas Athawale
	UPPL	1	Rwngwra Narzary
	IND	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kartikeya Sharma ▪ R. Dharmar
	NOM	7	None
I.N.D.I.A Seats: 87	INC	26	M. Kcharge
	AITC	13	Derek O'Brien
	AAP	10	Sanjay Singh
	DMK	10	Tiruchi Siva
	RJD	5	P.C. Gupta
	CPI(M)	4	Elamaram Kareem
	SP	4	Ram Gopal Yadav
	JMM	3	Shibu Soren
	NCP(SP)	2	Sharad Pawar
	SS(UBT)	2	Sanjay Raut
	CPI	2	Binoy Viswam
	IUML	2	P.V. Abdul Wahab
	MDMK	1	Vaiko
	AGM	1	Ajit Kumar Bhuyan
	KC(M)	1	Jose K. Mani
	IND	1	Kapil Sibal
Unaligned Seats: 29	YSRCP	11	V.Vijayasai Reddy
	BJD	9	Sasmit Patra
	BRS	4	K. R. Suresh Reddy
	AIADMK	3	M.Thambidurai
	BSP	1	Ramji Gautam
	MNF	1	K. Vanlavenna
Vacant		15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assam (2) ▪ Bihar (2) ▪ Haryana (1) ▪ Jammu and Kashmir (4) ▪ Madhya Pradesh (1) ▪ Maharashtra (2) ▪ Rajasthan (1) ▪ Telangana (1) ▪ Tripura (1)
Total	245		—

sansad.in/rs (https://sansad.in/rs)
Constitution
Constitution of India
Rules
The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) (https://rajyasabha.nic.in/rsnew/rs_rule/rules_pro.pdf) (English)

Composition

Seats are allotted in proportion to the population of each state or union territory. Certain states may even have more representatives than states more populous than them, because in past they too had high population. For example, Tamil Nadu has 18 representatives for 72 million inhabitants (in 2011) whereas Bihar (104 million) and West Bengal (91 million) only have 16. As the members are elected by the state legislature, some small union territories, those without legislatures, cannot have representation. Hence, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Ladakh and Lakshadweep do not send any representatives. Twelve members are nominated by the president.^{[13][14]}

As per the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution of India on 26 January 1950, the Rajya Sabha was to consist of 216 members, of which 12 members were to be nominated by the president and the remaining 204 elected to represent the states.^[14] The present sanctioned strength of the Rajya Sabha in the Constitution of India is 250, which can be increased by constitutional amendment. However, the present strength is 245 members according to the Representation of People Act, 1951,

which can be increased up to 250 by amending the act itself, of whom 233 are representatives of the states and union territories and 12 are nominated by the president.^[14] The 12 nominated members of the Rajya Sabha are persons who are eminent in particular fields and are well-known contributors in the particular field.

Number of members by state/union territory

															26 (3) 28 (4)
Sikkim	1	BJP	1		BJP	1									30 (1)
Tamil Nadu	18	DMK	10		IND	1		DMK	10	AIADMK	3				25 (6) 26 (6) 28 (6)
					PMK	1		MDMK	1	TMC(M)	1				
								INC	1						24 (3) 26 (2) 28 (2)
Telangana	7	BRS	7							BRS	7				28 (1)
Tripura	1	BJP	1		BJP	1									24 (10) 26 (10) 28 (11)
Uttar Pradesh	31	BJP	25		BJP	25		SP	3	BSP	1				24 (1) 26 (1) 28 (1)
								RLD	1						24 (5) 26 (5) 29 (6)
Uttarakhand	3	BJP	3		BJP	3									24(4) 26(1) 28(5)
West Bengal	16	TMC	13		BJP	2		INC	0						24 (69) 25 (08) 26 (73) 27 (04) 28 (75) 29 (10)
Presidential nominees	10	BJP	5	NOM	5							2			
Total	245	BJP	95		116		92		Others			Vac.			
									33			6			

Officers

Leader of the House

Besides the chairman (vice-president of India) and the deputy chairman, there is also a position called *leader of the House*. This is a cabinet minister – the prime minister if they are a member of the House or another nominated minister. The leader has a seat next to the chairman, in the front row.

Leader of the Opposition

Besides the leader of the House, who is the government's chief representative in the House, there is also a leader of the opposition (LOP) – leading the opposition parties. The function was only recognized in the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of the Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977. This is commonly the leader of the largest non-government party and is recognized as such by the chairman.

Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Rajya Sabha was set up under the provisions contained in Article 98 of the Constitution. The said Article, which provides for a separate secretarial staff for each house of Parliament, reads as follows:- 98. Secretariat of Parliament – Each House of Parliament shall have a separate secretarial staff: Provided that nothing in this clause shall be construed as preventing the creation of posts common to both Houses of Parliament. (2) Parliament may by law regulate the recruitment and the conditions of service of persons appointed to the secretarial staff of either House of Parliament.^[16]

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat functions under the overall guidance and control of the chairman. The main activities of the Secretariat *inter alia* include the following:

(i) providing secretarial assistance and support to the effective functioning of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha); (ii) providing amenities as admissible to Members of Rajya Sabha; (iii) servicing the various Parliamentary Committees; (iv) preparing research and reference material and bringing out various publications; (v) recruitment of manpower in the Sabha Secretariat and attending to personnel matters; and (vi) preparing and publishing a record of the day-to-day proceedings of the Rajya Sabha and bringing out such other publications, as may be required concerning the functioning of the Rajya Sabha and its Committees.^[16]

In the discharge of their constitutional and statutory responsibilities, the chairman of the Rajya Sabha is assisted by the secretary-general, who holds the rank equivalent to the cabinet secretary to the government of India. The secretary-general, in turn, is assisted by senior functionaries at the level of secretary, additional secretary, joint secretary and other officers and staff of the secretariat. The present secretary-general is Pramod Chandra Mody.^{[17][18]} In the winter 2019 session, uniforms of Rajya Sabha marshals were restyled from traditional Indian attire comprising turbans to dark navy blue and olive green military-style outfits with caps.^{[19][20]}

Media

Sansad TV (STV) is a 24-hour parliamentary television channel owned and operated jointly by both houses of Indian Parliament. The channel aims to provide in-depth coverage and analysis of parliamentary affairs, especially its functioning and policy development. During sessions, Sansad TV provides live coverage and presents an analysis of the proceedings of the house as well as other day-to-day parliamentary events and developments.

Earlier both houses of parliament had their own channels named Rajya Sabha TV and Lok Sabha TV Respectively.^[21]

See also

- [Lok Sabha](#)
- [List of current members of the Rajya Sabha](#)
- [State legislative councils of India](#)

- Secretary General of the Rajya Sabha

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■



State legislative assemblies of Malaysia

(Redirected from [State Legislative Assemblies](#))

A **state legislative assembly** ([Malay: Dewan Undangan Negeri, DUN](#); also known simply as **state assembly**) is the legislative branch of the [state governments](#) in each of the 13 [Malaysian states](#). Members of a state legislative assembly comprises elected representatives from [single-member constituencies](#) during state elections through the [first-past-the-post system](#).

The assemblies have powers to enact state laws as provided for by the [Constitution of Malaysia](#). The majority party in each assembly forms the state government, and the leader of the majority party becomes [Menteri Besar](#) (for states with hereditary rulers) or [Chief Minister](#) (for states without hereditary rulers) of the state.

The state legislative assemblies are [unicameral](#), unlike the [bicameral Parliament of Malaysia](#). The [hereditary rulers](#) or [Yang di-Pertua Negeri](#) (governors) are vested with powers to dissolve their respective state legislative assemblies on the advice of the menteri besar or chief minister. Once dissolved, elections must be carried out within an interim period of sixty (60) days. Prior to 2018, state elections are previously held simultaneously with the federal parliamentary elections, with the exception of [Sarawak](#).

List of state legislative assemblies in Malaysia

The list excludes [Kuala Lumpur](#), [Putrajaya](#) and [Labuan](#) as [Federal Territories](#) do not have state legislative assemblies and are governed directly by the federal government under the [Ministry of Federal Territories](#) together with local authorities, namely the [Kuala Lumpur City Hall](#), [Putrajaya Corporation](#) and [Labuan Corporation](#) respectively.

State (and Assembly)	Seats (2018)	Population (2020)	Population/seat	Governing party / coalition	Government Leader	Speaker	Opposition party / coalition	Opposition Leader
Johor (15th)	56	4,009,670	71,601	BN+PH	Onn Hafiz Ghazi	Mohd Puad Zarkashi ^[1]	PN	Sahrudin Jamal
Kedah (15th)	36	2,131,427	59,206	PN	Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor	Zubir Ahmad	PH	Bau Wong Bau Eng
Kelantan (15th)	45	1,792,501	39,833	PN	Mohd Nassuruddin Daud	Mohd Amar Abdullah	BN+PH	Mohd Syahbuddin Hashim
Malacca (15th)	28	998,428	35,658	BN+PH	Ab Rauf Yusoh	Ibrahim Durum	PN	Mohd Yadzil Yaakub
Negeri Sembilan (15th)	36	1,199,974	33,333	PH+BN	Aminuddin Harun	Mk Ibrahim Abdul Rahman	PN	Mohamad Hanifah Abu Baker
Pahang (15th)	42	1,591,295	37,888	BN+PH	Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail	Mohd Sharkar Shamsudin	PN	Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man
Penang (15th)	40	1,740,405	43,510	PH+BN	Chow Kon Yeow	Law Choo Kiang	PN	Muhammad Fauzi Yusoff
Perak (15th)	59	2,496,041	42,306	BN+PH	Saarani Mohamad	Mohamad Zahir Abdul Khalid	PN	Razman Zakaria
Perlis (15th)	15	284,885	18,992	PN	Mohd Shukri Ramli	Rus'sele Eizan	PH	Gan Ay Ling
Sabah (16th)	73	3,418,785	46,833	GRS	Hajiji Noor	Kadzim M. Yahya	WARISAN	Shafie Apdal
Sarawak (19th)	82	2,453,677	29,923	GPS	Abang Abdul Rahman Zohari Abang Open	Mohamad Asfia Awang Nassar	PH	Chong Chieng Jen
Selangor (15th)	56	6,994,423	124,900	PH+BN	Amirudin Shari	Lau Weng San	PN	Azmin Ali
Terengganu (15th)	32	1,149,440	35,920	PN	Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar	Mohd Nor Hamzah	N/A	

Lists of State Assembly Representatives in Malaysia

- [List of Malayan State and Settlement Council Representatives \(1954–59\)](#)
- [List of Malaysian State Assembly Representatives \(1959–64\)](#)
- [List of Malaysian State Assembly Representatives \(1964–69\)](#)
- [List of Malaysian State Assembly Representatives \(1969–74\)](#)
- [List of Malaysian State Assembly Representatives \(1974–78\)](#)
- [List of Malaysian State Assembly Representatives \(1978–82\)](#)
- [List of Malaysian State Assembly Representatives \(1982–86\)](#)
- [List of Malaysian State Assembly Representatives \(1986–90\)](#)
- [List of Malaysian State Assembly Representatives \(1990–95\)](#)
- [List of Malaysian State Assembly Representatives \(1995–99\)](#)
- [List of Malaysian State Assembly Representatives \(1999–2004\)](#)
- [List of Malaysian State Assembly Representatives \(2004–08\)](#)
- [List of Malaysian State Assembly Representatives \(2008–13\)](#)

- [List of Malaysian State Assembly Representatives \(2013–18\)](#)
- [List of Malaysian State Assembly Representatives \(2018–23\)](#)
- [List of Malaysian State Assembly Representatives \(2023–present\)](#)

Women

- [Women in state legislative assemblies of Malaysia](#)

See also

- [Politics of Malaysia](#)
- [List of state by-elections in Malaysia](#)

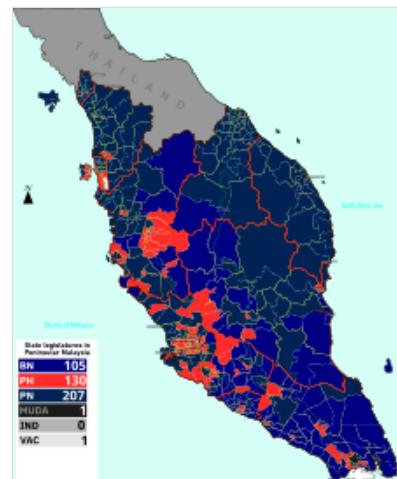
Notes



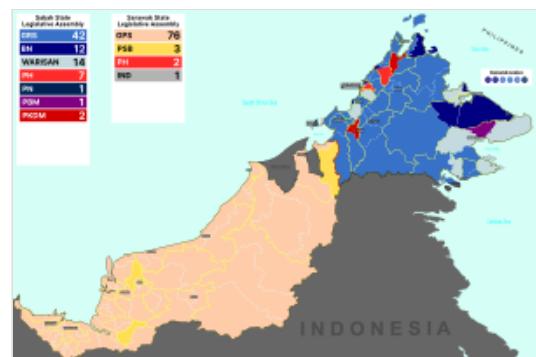
State Assembly constituencies (marked in blue border) in peninsular Malaysia for 2018-23 session.

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By party affiliation.



State legislative assembly constituencies in Sabah and Sarawak, by party affiliation.



Election Commission of India

The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is a constitutional body established by the Constitution of India empowered to conduct free and fair elections in India. The Election commission is headed by a Chief Election Commissioner and consists of two other Election Commissioners.

Structure

Since 1950, the Election Commission of India was a single member body with only the Chief Election Commissioner. As per *The Election Commissioner Amendment Act, 1989*, the Commission was made a multi-member body with two additional election commissioners who were appointed to the commission for the first time on 16 October 1989. On 1 January 1990, the post of election commissioners were abolished again.^[6] The Election Commission was once again made as a three member body on 1 October 1993.^[3] The commission is headquartered at Nirvachan Sadan in New Delhi.^[3] The Election commission is headed by a Chief Election Commissioner and consists of two other Election Commissioners. They are further assisted by Directors General, Principal Secretaries, and Secretaries.^{[3][7]} The chief election commissioner does not have overruling powers and any decision is taken by the opinion of the majority among the three.^{[3][8]}

At the states and union territories, the Election Commission is assisted by the Chief Electoral Officer of the state or union territory (CEO), who leads the election machinery in the states and union territories. At the district and constituency levels, the District Magistrates/District Collectors (in their capacity as District Election Officers), Electoral Registration Officers and Returning Officers perform election work.^[3]

Appointment and term of office

The appointment and term of the election commissioner is prescribed in the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. As per the Section 7 of the act, an election commissioner is appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a selection committee headed by the Prime Minister of India and consisting of the Leader of the Opposition in

Election Commission of India



Official logo^[1]

Constitutional Body overview

Formed	25 January 1950 (celebrated as National Voters' Day)
Jurisdiction	India
Headquarters	Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi ^[2] 28°37'26"N 77°12'40"E
Employees	~300 ^[3]
Constitutional Body executives	Rajiv Kumar ^[4] , Chief Election Commissioner of India Gyanesh Kumar ^[5] , Election Commissioner of India Sukhbir Singh Sandhu ^[5] , Election Commissioner of India
Website	eci.gov.in (http://eci.gov.in) (only accessible in India)

Lok Sabha and a member of the Union Council of Ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister.^[9] They were earlier appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. In March 2023, the Supreme Court of India ruled that the appointments shall be made by a committee consisting of the Prime Minister, leader of opposition and the Chief Justice of India and the process would be in place until a new law is enacted with regards to the same.^[10] The new law enacted in 2023, replaced the Chief Justice with a member appointed by the Prime Minister in the selection committee.^[11]

The term of the CEC can be a maximum of six years from the date on which he/she assumes his office. However, the CEC retires from office if he/she attains the age of sixty-five years before the expiry of the term.^[6] While the CEC can only be removed by office through the process of impeachment requiring two-thirds majority of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha to be present and voting for the same, election commissioners can be removed by the President on the recommendation of the CEC.^[6]

Powers and functions

The Election Commission of India is a body constitutionally empowered to conduct free and fair elections to the national, the State Legislative Assemblies, State Legislative Councils and the offices of the President and Vice-President.^{[3][12]} The Election Commission operates under the powers granted by Article 324 of the Constitution and subsequently enacted Representation of the People Act.^{[13][14]} The state election commissions are responsible for conducting local body elections in the respective states.^[6] The election commission decides the dates for the filing of nominations, voting, counting and announcement of results.^{[15][16]}

It issues a Model Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates to ensure that the elections are conducted in a free and fair manner.^[17] The Code of Conduct was issued for the first time in 1971 for the 5th Lok Sabha elections and has revised it from time to time. It lays down guidelines for the conduct of political parties and candidates during an election period.^[18] Instances of violation of the code by various political parties and misuse of official machinery by the candidates are dealt according to the law.^[19]

A law for the registration process for political parties was enacted in 1989.^[20] The registration ensures that the political parties are recognized as national, state and regional parties. The election commission has the right to allot symbols to the political parties depending on the status. The same symbol cannot be allocated to two political parties even if they do not contest in the region.^[21]

The commission prepares electoral rolls and updates the voter list. To prevent electoral fraud, Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) were introduced in 1993. However certain legal documents such as ration cards have been allowed for voting in certain situations.^[22]

The commission is empowered to prohibit the dissemination or publication of voting trends that seek to influence voters by opinion polls or exit polls.^{[23][24][25]}

The Election Commission is responsible for scrutinizing and accepting the applications of the candidates willing to contest in the elections. A person can be disqualified from contesting the elections if incorrect or incomplete information is provided in the affidavits and if he/she has been convicted by any court in India in which a jail term of two or more years has been awarded.^[26] In 2017, the Election Commission supported the case for a lifetime ban on convicted felons from contesting elections in an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court.^{[27][28]}

The Election Commission sets limits on poll related expenditure by the candidates during election campaigns. The commission appoints officers of Indian Revenue Service from the Income Tax Department as Election Observers.^{[29][30]} The commission takes details of the candidate's assignment in an affidavit at the time of submitting the nomination paper, and they are also required to give details of their expenditure within 30 days of the declaration of results.^[31]

The election commission operates various electronic media including websites and mobile applications for enabling various functions such as addressing grievances, checking electoral rolls, disseminating information on candidates, announcement of results and monitoring of assigned tasks.^{[32][33]}

Voting

Voting in India is done using Electronic voting machines (EVMs) and there are provisions for Postal voting and special arrangements for the disabled.^[3]



Electronic voting machines (EVMs) with Voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT)

Electronic voting machines (EVM) were introduced by the Election Commission to reduce malpractices and improve efficiency. The EVMs were first trialed in 1982 in the by-election to Paravur assembly constituency in Kerala in a limited number of polling stations.^[34] After successful testing and legal inquiries, the commission decided to introduce these voting machines on a large scale.^[3] EVMs are manufactured by two public sector undertakings, Bharat Electronics and Electronics Corporation of India Limited.^[35] Voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) was introduced on a trial basis in a by-poll in September 2013 in Noksen (Assembly Constituency) in Nagaland.^[36] It was later used in various Legislative elections and in eight Lok Sabha constituencies in 2014 Indian general election.^[37]



NOTA Voting Symbol in India

In 2014, none of the above (NOTA) was also added as an option on the voting machines which is now a mandatory option to be provided in any election.^{[38][39]} The specific symbol for NOTA, a ballot paper with a black cross across it, was introduced on 18 September 2015.^[40] Photo electoral rolls with photographs of the candidates on the EVMs were first introduced in the 2015 Bihar Legislative Assembly election.^{[41][42]}

Election Commission organised an open hackathon on 3 June 2017 encouraging people to attempt hacking of EVMs used by the commission in various Indian elections.^[43] While none of them participated, functioning of the EVM and VVPAT machines were demonstrated in the event.^[44]

Postal voting in India is done only through Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot Papers (ETPB). Ballot papers are distributed to the registered eligible voters who return the votes by post. Postal votes are counted first before the counting of votes from the EVM. Only certain categories of people are eligible to register as postal voters. Employees working in the union armed forces and state police as well as their spouses, and those working for the Government of India who are officially posted abroad can register for the postal vote.

People in preventive detention can use postal vote while prisoners are not allowed to vote.^[45] The Election Commission of India has granted permission for individuals aged 80 and above and those with physical challenges to cast their votes from their homes.^[46]

The Election Commission of India did not have data with regards to disabilities of voters as ascertained by a RTI application filed in 2014.^[47] The Election commission offered sign language support to assist voters with speech and hearing impairment.^[48]

See also

- [History of democracy in the Indian-subcontinent](#)
- [States Election Commission \(India\)](#)

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External links

- Election Commission of India [Official Portal](https://www.eci.gov.in) (<https://www.eci.gov.in>)
 - [National Voters Service Portal](https://www.nvsp.in/) (<https://www.nvsp.in/>)
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Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Election_Commission_of_India&oldid=1232317067"

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2019 Indian general election

General elections were held in India in seven phases from 11 April to 19 May 2019 to elect the members of the 17th Lok Sabha. Votes were counted and the result was declared on 23 May.^{[1][2][3][4]} Around 912 million people were eligible to vote, and voter turnout was over 67 per cent – the highest ever, as well as the highest ever participation by women voters until 2024 Indian general election.^{[5][6][7][c]}

The Bharatiya Janata Party received 37.36% of the vote, the highest vote share by a political party since the 1989 general election, and won 303 seats, further increasing its substantial majority.^[9] In addition, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won 353 seats.^[10] The BJP won 37.76%^[11] of votes, while the NDA's combined vote was 45% of the 603.7 million votes that were polled.^{[12][13]} The Indian National Congress won 52 seats, failing to get 10% of the seats needed to claim the post of Leader of the Opposition.^[14] In addition, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) won 91 seats, while other parties won 98 seats.^[15]

Legislative assembly elections in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim were held simultaneously with the general election,^{[16][17]} as well as by-elections of twenty-two seats of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.^[18]

Electoral system

All 543 elected MPs are elected from single-member constituencies using first-past-the-post voting. The President of India appoints an additional two members from the Anglo-Indian community if he believes that community is under-represented.^[19]

Eligible voters must be Indian citizens, 18 or older, an ordinary resident of the polling area of the constituency and registered to vote (name included in the electoral rolls), possess a valid voter identification card issued by the Election Commission of India or an equivalent.^[20] Some people convicted of electoral or other offences are barred from voting.^[21]

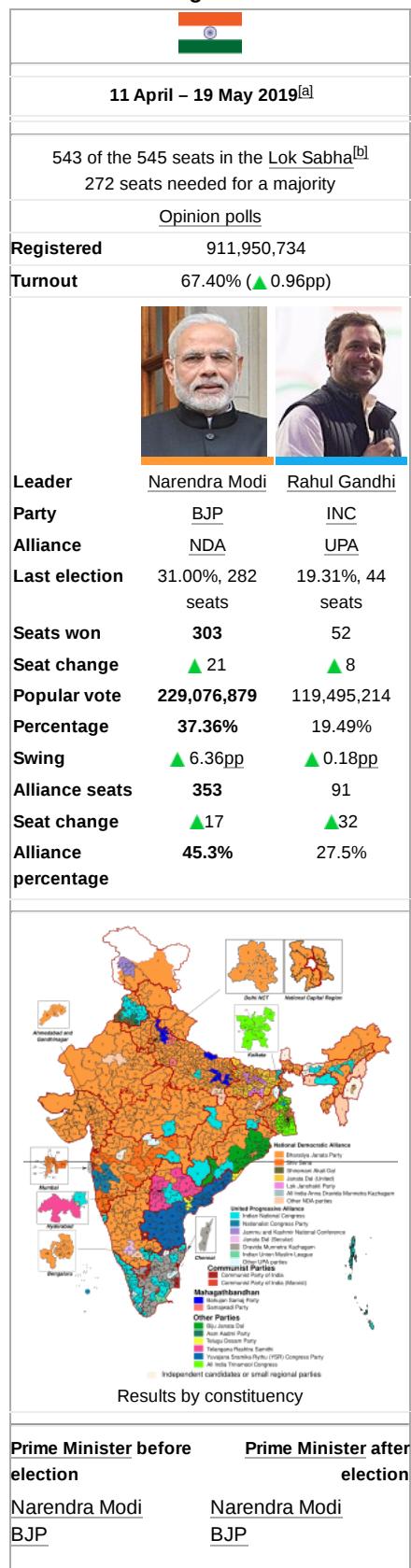
The elections are held on schedule and as per the Constitution of India that mandates parliamentary elections once every five years.^[22]

Election schedule

The election schedule was announced by Election Commission of India (ECI) on 10 March 2019, and with it the Model Code of Conduct came into effect.^{[23][24]}

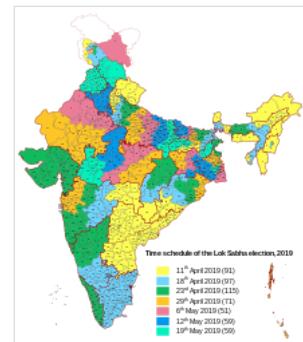
The election was scheduled to be held in seven phases. In Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, the election was held in all seven phases. The polling for the Anantnag constituency in the state of Jammu and Kashmir was held in three phases, due to violence in the region.^{[25][26]}

2019 Indian general election



Phase-wise polling constituencies in each state

State/Union territory	Total constituencies	Election dates and number of constituencies						
		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 6	Phase 7
		11 April	18 April	23 April	29 April	6 May	12 May	19 May
Andhra Pradesh	25	25						
Arunachal Pradesh	2	2						
Assam	14	5	5	4				
Bihar	40	4	5	5	5	5	8	8
Chhattisgarh	11	1	3	7				
Goa	2			2				
Gujarat	26			26				
Haryana	10						10	
Himachal Pradesh	4							4
Jammu and Kashmir	6	2	2	$\frac{1}{3}$ ^[n 1]	$\frac{1}{3}$ ^[n 1]	$1\frac{1}{3}$ ^[n 1]		
Jharkhand	14				3	4	4	3
Karnataka	28		14	14				
Kerala	20			20				
Madhya Pradesh	29				6	7	8	8
Maharashtra	48	7	10	14	17			
Manipur	2	1	1					
Meghalaya	2	2						
Mizoram	1	1						
Nagaland	1	1						
Odisha	21	4	5	6	6			
Punjab	13						13	
Rajasthan	25				13	12		
Sikkim	1	1						
Tamil Nadu	39			$38^{[n 2]}$				
Telangana	17	17						
Tripura	2	1		$1^{[n 3]}$				
Uttar Pradesh	80	8	8	10	13	14	14	13
Uttarakhand	5	5						
West Bengal	42	2	3	5	8	7	8	9
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	1						
Chandigarh	1						1	
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1			1				
Daman and Diu	1			1				
Delhi	7						7	
Lakshadweep	1	1						
Puducherry	1		1					
Constituencies	543	91	95	$116\frac{1}{3}$	$71\frac{1}{3}$	$50\frac{1}{3}$	59	59
Total constituencies by end of phase	542	91	186	$302\frac{1}{3}$	$373\frac{2}{3}$	424	483	$542^{[n 2]}$
% complete by end of phase			17%	34%	56%	69%	78%	89%
Result	543			23 May 2019				



Election schedule

1. Polling in Anantnag was scheduled over three days.

2. Polling in [Vellore](#) was cancelled, with the election later held on 5 August 2019. ([see below](#))

3. Polling in [Tripura East](#) was rescheduled from 18 to 23 April.

Rescheduled voting, cancellations

- [Vellore, Tamil Nadu](#): Over ₹11 crore (US\$1.3 million) in cash was seized in Vellore from DMK leaders – a regional party in Tamil Nadu. According to *The News Minute*, this cash is alleged to have been for bribing the voters.^[27] Based on the evidence collected during the raids, the Election Commission of India cancelled the 18 April election date in the [Vellore constituency](#). The DMK leaders denied wrongdoing and alleged a conspiracy.^[28]

- Tripura East, Tripura: The Election Commission of India deferred polling from 18 to 23 April due to the law and order situation.^[29] The poll panel took the decision following reports from the Special Police Observers that the circumstances were not conducive for holding free and fair elections in the constituency.^[30]

Campaign

Issues

Allegations of undermining institutions

The opposition parties accused the NDA government of destroying democratic institutions and processes.^[31] Modi denied these allegations, and blamed Congress and the communists for undermining institutions including the police, the CBI, and the CAG, and cited the murder of BJP activists in Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.^[32] The Congress party, along with other opposition parties and a group of retired civil servants, accused the ECI of being compromised, and implied that they endorsed the model code of conduct violations by Narendra Modi and other BJP political leaders during their campaigns.^[33] Another group of 81 retired civil servants, judges and academics disputed these allegations, made counter-allegations, and stated that the ECI acted fairly and similarly in alleged violations by either side. The group stated that such political attacks on the ECI were a "deliberate attempt to denigrate and delegitimise the democratic institutions".^[34]

Economic performance

According to The Times of India, the major economic achievements of the incumbent NDA government included an inflation rate less than 4 per cent, the GST reform, and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. Its programs, in recent years, that have positively touched many among the Indian masses, include the Jan Dhan Yojana, rural cooking gas and electricity for homes.^[35] According to the IMF, the Indian economy has been growing in recent years, its GDP growth rate is among the highest in the world for major economies, and India is expected to be the fastest growing major economy in 2019–2020 and 2020–2021, with real GDP projected to grow at 7.3 per cent.^{[36][37][38]} The GDP growth data has been disputed^[35] by a group of Indian social scientists, economists and the political opposition's election campaign, while a group of Indian chartered accountants has defended the data, the GDP calculation methodology, and questioned the motivations of those disputing the recent Indian GDP statistics.^[39]

The opposition's election campaign has claimed that both the demonetisation and GST law have "seriously hit small business, farmers and casual labour", states The Times of India.^{[35][40]} The incumbent has claimed that they inherited a country from the previous Congress-led government that was "a legacy of policy paralysis, corruption and economic fragility", and that the BJP-led government policies have placed India on better economic fundamentals and a fast gear.^[41] Modi claims that his government pursued demonetisation in the national interest, his government has identified and de-registered 338,000 shell companies, identified and recovered ₹130,000 crore (US\$16 billion) in black money since 2014, and almost doubled India's tax base.^{[42][43]} The Congress party disputes the incumbents' claims, and has alleged that BJP offices have "become hubs of creating black money", and seeks a judicial inquiry into the Rafale deal with France and BJP's role in corruption.^[44]

National security and terrorism

In response to the 2019 Pulwama attack, the Indian Air Force conducted airstrikes inside Pakistan — for the first time since the 1971 Indo-Pakistani war. The ongoing conflict with Pakistan became a significant factor in the election. The opposition parties accused of politicising the army, whilst the BJP countered their accusations by stating that such allegations raised by them were adversely affecting the morale of armed forces.^[45]

According to the Pew Research Center, both before and after the outbreak of recent India-Pakistan tensions, their 2018 and 2019 surveys suggest that the significant majority of the voters consider Pakistan as a "very serious threat" to their country, and terrorism to be a "very big problem".^{[46][47]}

Unemployment

According to the Pew Research Center, a majority of Indian voters consider the lack of employment opportunities as a "very big problem" in their country. "About 18.6 million Indians were jobless and another 393.7 million work in poor-quality jobs vulnerable to displacement", stated the Pew report.^[47]

A report on unemployment prepared by the National Sample Survey Office's (NSSO's) periodic labour force survey, has not been officially released by the government. According to Business Today, this report is the "first comprehensive survey on employment conducted by a government agency after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced demonetisation move in November 2016". According to this report, the 2017–2018 "usual status"^[d] unemployment rate in India is 6.1 per cent, which is a four-decade high.^{[48][d]} The government has claimed that the report was not final.^[53] According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) – a United Nations agency, unemployment is rising in India and the "unemployment rate in the country [India] will stand at 3.5 percent in 2018 and 2019 – the same level of unemployment seen in 2017 and 2016", instead of dropping to 3.4 per cent as it had previously projected.^[54] According to the ILO's World Employment Social Outlook Report, the unemployment rate in India has been in the 3.4 to 3.6 per cent range over the UPA-government led 2009–2014 and the NDA-government led 2014–2019 periods.^[54]

Opposition parties claimed in their election campaign that the unemployment in India had reached crisis levels. The NDA government has denied the existence of any job crisis.^[55] Prime minister Narendra Modi claimed that jobs are not lacking but the accurate data on jobs has been lacking.^{[56][57]}

The opposition has attacked the NDA government's performance with the NSSO reported 6.1 per cent unemployment data. Modi and his government have questioned this job statistics report, stating that "most surveys that try to capture unemployment rate are skewed since these did not cover the unorganised sector, which accounts for 85–90 per cent of jobs [in India]".^[58]

Agrarian and rural distress

The Congress party campaign highlighted "agrarian distress" as an election issue.^[59] The BJP campaign highlighted that the Congress party had been in power for five generations of the Nehru dynasty and its past promises and campaign issues have been empty. It claimed that the recent farmer loan waivers by Congress have not reached "even 10% of the farmers" nor has it helped the financial situation of the farmers. BJP highlights that its "Kisan Samman Nidhi" helps the small farmers at the time of seed planting through a direct deposit of ₹6000 to their accounts.^[60] The opposition accused this as being an attempt to lure voters.^[61]

According to *The Times of India*, a group of farmer associations demanded that the 2019 election manifesto of competing political parties should promise to "keep agriculture out of the World Trade Organization (WTO)" and that the interests of Indian farmers must not be compromised in global trade treaties.^[62] They also demanded loan waivers and income support for the agriculture sector.^[62] According to the *Business Standard* and the United Nation's *Food and Agriculture Organization*, India has witnessed record crop harvests in recent years including 2017 when its farmers grew more foodgrains than ever before.^{[63][64]} However, the farmers consider the "low remunerative prices" they receive in the free market to be too low and a need for the Indian government to establish higher minimum support prices for agricultural products. These farmers consider this an issue for the 2019 general elections.^[63]

Dynasty politics

The BJP highlighted that the Congress party has relied on Rahul Gandhi for leadership since 2013, its lack of internal party institutions and claimed that whenever Congress has been in power, the freedom of press and Indian government institutions have "taken a severe beating".^{[65][66]} During the election campaign, its leaders mentioned the Emergency of 1975, the nepotism, corruption and widespread abuses of human rights under the Congress rule in the past.^{[65][67][68]} Congress-led alliance leader H. D. Kumaraswamy – the son of a former prime minister of India and the former chief minister of Karnataka, countered that "India developed because of dynasty politics", stating that "dynasty politics are not the main issue, rather country's problems are".^[69] The Congress alleged hypocrisy by the BJP, claiming that the BJP itself forms alliances with dynasty-based parties such as the Akali Dal in Punjab, and that family relatives of senior BJP leaders such as Rajnath Singh and Arun Jaitley have been in politics too.^[70]

According to an IndiaSpend report published by the BloombergQuint, the smaller and regional parties such as the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, Lok Jan Sakti Party, Shiromani Akali Dal, Biju Janata Dal and Samajwadi Party have higher densities of dynasty-derived candidates and elected representatives in recent years.^{[71][72]} While both the Congress and the BJP have also nominated candidates from political dynasties, states the report, the difference between them is that in Congress "top party leadership has been handed down from generation to generation within the same [Nehru Gandhi dynasty] family", while there has been a historic non-dynastic diversity in the top leadership within the BJP. According to the report, while BJP has also nominated candidates from political dynasties, its better public relations operation "can leap to its defence when attacked on the same grounds".^[71] In contrast to the IndiaSpend report, analysis of Kanchan Chandra, a prominent professor of Politics, of the 2004, 2009 and 2014 general elections included a finding that the Congress party has had about twice or more dynastic parliamentarians than the BJP at those elections, and higher than all major political parties in India except the Samajwadi Party.^{[73][e]} Many of these dynastic politicians in India who inherit the leadership positions have never held any jobs and lack state or local experience, states Anjali Bohlken – a professor and political science scholar, and this raises concerns of rampant nepotism and appointments of their own friends, relatives and cronies if elected.^[74] The BJP targeted the Congress party in the 2019 elections for alleged nepotism and a family dynasty for leadership.^{[65][71]}

Campaign controversies

Income tax raids

In April 2019, raids conducted by the Income Tax Department found bundles of unaccounted for cash amounting to ₹281 crore (US\$34 million), along with liquor and documentary evidence in premises of people with close connections to Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath of the Congress. Modi has highlighted this evidence to attack the Congress in its election campaign, alleging corruption is part of Congress party's culture.^{[75][76]}

Social media abuses and fake news

According to *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, the election attracted a systematic attempt to spread misinformation through social media.^{[77][78]} Facebook said that over a hundred of these advocacy accounts spreading disinformation were traced to "employees of the Pakistani military public relations wing".^{[77][78]} Some others have been linked to the INC and BJP.^{[77][78]}

Political parties spent over ₹53 crore (US\$6.4 million) with the largest spending by BJP on digital platforms for online ads. The BJP placed 2,500 ads on Facebook while the Congress placed 3,686 ads.^[79] According to a study by Vidya Narayanan and colleagues at the Oxford Internet Institute, social media was used by all the major parties and alliances, and all of them linked or posted divisive and conspiratorial content and images. According to Narayanan, "a third of the BJP's images, a quarter of the INC's images, and a tenth the SP-BSP's images were catalogued as divisive and conspiratorial".^{[80][81]} The Narayanan et al. study added that "we observed very limited amounts of hate speech, gore or pornography in either platform samples" by BJP, Congress or SP-BSP, but the election did include proportionally more polarising information on social media than other countries except for the US presidential election in 2016.^[81]

About 50,000 fake news stories were published during the recent Lok Sabha elections and shared 2 million times, according to a study conducted by fact-checking startup Logically.^[82]

In September 2019, the BBC launched the Trusted News Initiative to help combat election-related disinformation, citing the 2019 general elections as a motivating factor.^[83]

EC actions under Article 324

Election Commission curtailed West Bengal campaigning by one day, after a bust of 19th century Bengali icon Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was vandalised during 7th phase poll violence.^[84]

Party campaigns

- 12 January 2019 – Prime Minister Modi launched the BJP's election campaign.^[85]
- 14 February 2019 – The INC president Rahul Gandhi launched his campaign from Lal Dungri village in Gujarat's Dharampur.^[86]
- 24 March 2019 – The Aam Aadmi Party began its campaign in Delhi.^{[87][88]}
- 2 April 2019 – The Trinamool Congress party launched its campaign from Dinhata, Coochbehar.^[89]

- 7 April 2019 – Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party began campaigning together as an alliance (*Mahagathbandhan*) along with regional parties such as the Rashtriya Lok Dal.^[90] Their first joint campaign started in Deoband in Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.^{[91][92]}

Party manifestos

Highlights of the Congress manifesto

The Congress released its manifesto, titled *Congress Will Deliver* on 3 April.^{[93][94]} Some of its highlights:^{[93][95][96]}

- Introduce a Nyuntam Aay Yojana welfare program wherein ₹72,000 (US\$860) per year will be transferred directly to the bank account of a woman-member in each family in the poorest 20 per cent households.
- Create 1 million "Seva Mitra" jobs in rural and urban local government bodies. Fill all 400,000 central government vacancies before March 2020, and encourage state governments to fill their 2,000,000 vacancies. Enact a law that requires all non-government controlled employers with over 100 employees to implement an apprentice program.
- Enact a permanent National Commission on Agricultural Development and Planning and introduce a "Kisan Budget" (Farmer Budget) in the parliament every year. Waive all farmer loans in all states with any amounts outstanding.
- Enact a Right to Homestead Act that will provide free land to every household that does not own a home.
- Enact a Right to Healthcare Act and guarantee every citizen free diagnostics, free medicines, free hospitalisation, and free out-patient care. Double spending on healthcare to 3 per cent of its GDP by 2024.
- Double spending on education to 6 per cent of its GDP by 2024.
- Revise the national GST law from three tax tiers to a single moderate rate of tax. Reduce taxes on exported products to zero. Exempt from the GST essential goods and services that are currently not exempt. Enact a new Direct Taxes Code.
- Augment and rapid construction of national highways. Modernise Indian railway infrastructure. Promote green energy. Manufacturing promotion.
- Increase defence spending.
- Enact a National Election Fund, wherein public funds will be distributed to recognised political parties to run their campaign
- Preserve special status and special rights to natives of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and 35A.^[96]
- Amend the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958. End the Sedition law (Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code).

Highlights of the BJP manifesto

The BJP released its manifesto sub-titled *Sankalpit Bharat, Sashakt Bharat* (lit. "Resolute India, Empowered India") on 8 April.^{[97][98]} Some of its highlights:^{[96][98][99]}

- Implementation of a nationwide NRC exercise^[100] to identify & deport undocumented immigrants, an immigrant being defined in this context as a person who is unable to provide documentary evidence of his/her residency in India prior to 26 March 1971 or that of his/her immediate ancestors (parents & grandparents) in case of being born after the previously mentioned date, preceded by an amendment in citizenship laws that will allow only undocumented Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi & Christian immigrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh & Afghanistan who entered India before 31 December 2014 to automatically obtain Indian citizenship.^{[101][102]}
- End special status and special rights to natives of by abrogating Article 370 and Article 35A of the Constitution of India.^[96]
- Double farmer incomes by 2022 by completing all major and micro-irrigation infrastructure projects, opening adequate markets and modern farm produce storage centres, implement minimum price supports for farmer produce, farmer loans and all-weather rural roads. Introduce a pension bill for small and marginal farmers to provide social security after 60 years of age.
- Bring all secondary schools under the national board quality purview. Invest ₹100,000 crore (US\$12 billion) in higher education, open new and increase seats at existing engineering, management and law schools. Establish skills and innovations centre at block-level in every town. Enhance higher education opportunities for women by introducing financial support and subsidies programs. Source 10 per cent of government procurement from companies with more than 50 per cent female employees.
- Ensure a *pucca* (lit. brick-solid, modern) house, safe potable water, toilet, LPG gas cylinder, electricity, and banking account for every family. Reduce the percentage of families living under the poverty line to a single digit by 2024.
- Double the length of national highways. Improve fuel quality by mandating 10 per cent ethanol in petrol. Scale renewable energy capacity to 175 GW.
- Electrify and convert to broad gauge all railway tracks.
- Establish 150,000 health and wellness centres. Start 75 new medical colleges. Raise doctor-to-population ratio to 1:1400. Triple childcare facilities. Achieve 100 per cent immunisation of all babies.
- Raise India's ranking further in "ease of doing business". Double exports, introduce single-window compliance procedures for all businesses.
- Reduce air pollution by eliminating all *crop residue burning*.
- Digitise paperwork and proceedings, modernise the courts.
- Launch and promote a National Digital Library with e-books and leading journals to provide free knowledge accessible to all students. Launch a "Study in India" program to bring foreign students to institutes of higher education.
- Privatisation of defence, space and agriculture sector for development of India.
- Zero tolerance for terrorism, fund resources to strengthen national security, guarantee veterans, and soldier welfare, modernise police forces.

Other parties

Other national and regional parties released their manifestos too:

- The Tamil Nadu-based regional parties AIADMK and DMK released their manifesto on 18 March 2019, with each promising to release the seven Tamils jailed after being found guilty for their role in the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, a former Congress party leader and prime minister of India. The AIADMK promised to press for the political rights of the Tamil people in the Eelam region of Sri Lanka, while the DMK has promised Indian citizenship to all Sri Lankan expats. According to the Deccan Herald, the AIADMK has promised a cash transfer of ₹18,000 (US\$220) per year to "all families below the poverty level, destitute women, widows without income, differently-abled, landless agricultural labourers, rural and urban manual labourers and destitute senior citizens". The AIADMK also promised to raise the tax exemption limit and revisions to the GST law. The DMK promised a probe into Rafale fighter jet deal, and a plan to distribute free sanitary napkins to working women along with starting martial arts schools for girls.^[103]

- Biju Janata Dal (BJD) released its manifesto on 9 April 2019. It promised a ₹100,000 (US\$1,200) zero-interest crop loan to farmers every year, a ₹500,000 (US\$6,000) zero-interest loan to women-run self-help groups, 75 per cent jobs reservation in Odisha-based companies to Odisha youth, free education to all girls and a marriage assistance grant of ₹25,000 (US\$300) to daughters of poor families. It also promised to complete two expressways.^[104]
- Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPIM) manifesto promised to raise the minimum wage to ₹216,000 (US\$2,600) per year, an old age pension of ₹72,000 (US\$860) per year and universal public distribution of 35 kilograms of foodgrains per family. It also stated the restoration of inheritance tax and an increase in the taxes on individuals and corporations.^[105] It also promised spending 6 per cent of GDP on education, enacting a Right to Free Health Care with 3.5 per cent of GDP on health in the short term and 5 per cent in the long term, introduction of price controls on essential drugs, breaking monopoly of drug multinationals, as well as enact a Right to Guaranteed Employment in urban areas.^[106]
- Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) promised to open talks with Pakistan on terrorism. It also promised to expand trade and political relationship with Russia, and seek to weaken Russia's ties with China and Pakistan.^[107]
- Samajwadi Party promised an annual pension of ₹36,000 (US\$430) to poor families in a form of a cash transfer to women. It has also proposed a new property tax of 2 per cent on homes valued above ₹25,000,000 (US\$300,000) as well as raising income taxes on the affluent. It also promised to create 100,000 new jobs every year.^[108]
- Telugu Desam Party released its manifesto on 5 April 2019. It promised zero-interest loans to farmer without any caps, a grant of ₹15,000 (US\$180) per year to each farmer as investment support, a grant of ₹100,000 (US\$1,200) to each family with a daughter in the year of her marriage, an unemployment allowance of ₹3,000 (US\$36) for any youth who has completed intermediate education, and free laptops to all students at the intermediate level.^[109]
- AITMC's manifesto was released on 27 March 2019. It promised a judicial probe into demonetisation, a review of GST law, and sought to bring back the Planning Commission. It also promised free medical care, expanding the "100-day work scheme" currently operating in India to "200-day work scheme" along with a pay increase.^[110]
- Aam Aadmi Party released its manifesto on 25 April 2019 promising full statehood for Delhi to give the Delhi government control over police and other institutions.^[111] The manifesto promised 85 per cent reservations in the Delhi-based colleges and jobs for the voters of Delhi and their families.^{[112][113]}

Campaign finance

Several organisations offered varying estimates for the cost of the election campaign. The Centre for Media Studies in New Delhi estimated that the election campaign could exceed \$7 billion.^[114] According to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), an election watchdog, in the financial year 2017–18 BJP received ₹4,370,000,000 (US\$52 million), about 12 times more donations than Congress and five other national parties combined.^[114]

The electoral bonds in denominations ranging from 1,000 rupees to 10 million rupees (\$14 to \$140,000) can be purchased and donated to a political party. The bonds don't carry the name of the donor and are exempt from tax.^{[115][f]} Factly – an India data journalism portal, traced the electoral bond donations for 2018 under India's Right to Information Act. According to Factly, electoral bonds worth about ₹10,600,000,000 (US\$130 million) were purchased and donated in 2018. According to Bloomberg, this accounted for 31.2 per cent of political donations in 2018, while 51.4 per cent of the total donated amount were each below ₹20,000 (US\$240) and these too were from unknown donors. About 47 per cent of the donations to political parties were from known sources.^[115] Between 1 January and 31 March 2019, donors bought ₹17,100,000,000 (US\$200 million) worth of electoral bonds and donated.^[119] The spending in elections boosts national GDP, and the 2009 election spending contributed about 0.5 per cent to GDP.^[120]

According to the Centre for Media Studies, the BJP spent over ₹280 billion (or 45%) of the ₹600 billion spent by all political parties during the polls.^[121] Congress questioned the BJP over its poll expenditure.^[122]

Parties and alliances

Political alliances

With the exception of 2014, no single party has won the majority of seats in the Lok Sabha since 1984, and therefore, forming alliances is the norm in Indian elections.

There were three main national pre-poll alliances. They are the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) headed by the BJP, the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) headed by the INC and the Left Front of the communist leaning parties.

The INC did not form alliances in states where it was in direct contest with the BJP. These states included Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. It formed alliances with regional parties in Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Jharkhand, and Kerala.^[123]

The left parties, most notably the Communist Party of India (Marxist) contested on its own in its strongholds West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala, confronting both NDA and UPA. In Tamil Nadu, it was part of the Secular Progressive Alliance led by DMK while it was allied with the Jana Sena Party in Andhra Pradesh.^[124]

In January 2019, Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party announced a grand alliance (Mahagathbandhan) to contest 76 out of the 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh leaving two seats, namely Amethi and Rae Bareli, for INC and another two for other political parties.^[125]

Political parties

More than 650 parties contested in these elections. Most of them were small with regional appeal. The main parties were the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Indian National Congress (INC) and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)). This was the first time that BJP (437) contested more seats than Congress (421) in the Lok Sabha elections.^{[126][127]}

Candidates

Altogether 8,039 candidates were in the fray for 542 parliamentary constituencies, i.e., 14.8 candidates per constituency on an average, according to PRS India, an NGO.^[128]

About 40% of the candidates fielded by the Bharatiya Janata Party had a criminal case against them. The key opposition party Indian National Congress was not far behind with 39% of the candidates having criminal charges while the proportion exceeded 50% for some political parties, according to the Association of Democratic Reforms analysis.^[129]

Parties and alliances contesting for the 2019 elections

Parties	States/UTs	Seats contested			Seats won		
		2019	2014	Swing	2019	2014	Swing
<u>Aam Aadmi Party</u>	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1			0		
	Bihar	3			0		
	Chandigarh	1			0		
	Goa	2			0		
	Haryana	3	35		0	1	-3
	NCT OF Delhi	7			0		
	Odisha	1			0		
	Punjab	13			1		
	Uttar Pradesh	4			0		
<u>All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU)</u>	Jharkhand	1			1	0	+1
<u>All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	Tamil Nadu	22			1	37	-36
<u>All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen</u>	Bihar	1	3		0		
	Maharashtra	1			1	2	+1
	Telangana	1			1		
<u>All India Trinamool Congress</u>	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1			0		
	Assam	8			0		
	Bihar	1			0		
	Jharkhand	6	62		0	22	-12
	Odisha	3			0		
	Tripura	1			0		
<u>All India United Democratic Front</u>	Assam	3			1	3	-2
<u>Apna Dal (Soneylal)</u>	Uttar Pradesh	2			2	0	+2
<u>Bahujan Samaj Party</u>	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1			0	10	+10
	Andhra Pradesh	3			0		
	Arunachal Pradesh	0			0		
	Assam						
	Bihar	35			0		
	Chandigarh	1			0		
	Chhattisgarh	11			0		
	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1			0		
	Daman & Diu	1			0		
	Goa						
	Gujarat	25			0		
	Haryana	8			0		
	Himachal Pradesh	4			0		
	Jammu & Kashmir	2			0		
	Jharkhand	14			0		
	Karnataka	28			0		
	Kerala	16			0		
	Lakshadweep						
	Madhya Pradesh	25			0		
	Maharashtra	44			0		
	Manipur						
	Meghalaya						
	Mizoram						
	Nagaland-						
	NCT OF Delhi	5			0		
	Odisha	17			0		
	Puducherry	1			0		
	Punjab	1			0		
	Rajasthan	22			0		
	Sikkim						

	Tamil Nadu	35		0			
	Telangana	5		0			
	Tripura						
	Uttar Pradesh	38		10			
	Uttarakhand	4		0			
	West Bengal	36		0			
<u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u>	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1		0			
	Andhra Pradesh	25		0			
	Arunachal Pradesh	2		2			
	Assam	10		9			
	Bihar	17		17			
	Chandigarh	1		1			
	Chhattisgarh	11		9			
	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1		0			
	Daman & Diu	1		1			
	Goa	2		1			
	Gujarat	26		26			
	Haryana	10		10			
	Himachal Pradesh	4		4			
	Jammu & Kashmir	6		3			
	Jharkhand	13		11			
	Karnataka	27		25			
	Kerala	15		0			
	Lakshadweep	1		0			
	Madhya Pradesh	29	436	28			
	Maharashtra	25		23			
	Manipur	2		1			
	Meghalaya	2		0			
	Mizoram	1		0			
	Nagaland-						
	NCT OF Delhi	7		10			
	Odisha	21		8			
	Puducherry						
	Punjab	3		2			
	Rajasthan	24		24			
	Sikkim	1		0			
	Tamil Nadu	5		0			
	Telangana	17		4			
	Tripura	2		2			
	Uttar Pradesh	76		62			
	Uttarakhand	5		5			
	West Bengal	42		18			
<u>Biju Janata Dal</u>	Odisha	21		12	20	-8	
<u>Communist Party Of India</u>	Andhra Pradesh	2	49	0	2	1	+1
	Assam	2		0			
	Bihar	2		0			
	Chhattisgarh	1		0			
	Gujarat	1		0			
	Haryana	1		0			
	Jharkhand	3		0			
	Karnataka	1		0			
	Kerala	4		0			
	Lakshadweep	1		0			
	Madhya Pradesh	4		0			
	Maharashtra	2		0			
	Manipur	1		0			

	Odisha	1			0				
	Punjab	2			0				
	Rajasthan	3			0				
	Tamil Nadu	2			2				
	Telangana	2			0				
	Uttar Pradesh	11			0				
	West Bengal	3							
<u>Communist Party Of India (MARXIST)</u>	Andhra Pradesh	2			0				
	Assam	2			0				
	Bihar	1			0				
	Himachal Pradesh	1			0				
	Jharkhand	2			0				
	Karnataka	1			0				
	Kerala	14			1				
	Lakshadweep	1			0				
	Madhya Pradesh	1	69		0				
	Maharashtra	1			0				
	Odisha	1			0				
	Punjab	1			0				
	Rajasthan	3			0				
	Tamil Nadu	2			2				
	Telangana	2			0				
	Tripura	2			0				
	Uttarakhand	1							
	West Bengal	31							
<u>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	Tamil Nadu	24			24	0	+24		
<u>Independent</u>	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	9	3443		0	4	3	+1	
	Andhra Pradesh	99			0				
	Arunachal Pradesh	2			0				
	Assam	44			1				
	Bihar	230			0				
	Chandigarh	13			0				
	Chhattisgarh	54			0				
	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4			1				
	Daman & Diu	1			0				
	Goa	4			0				
	Gujarat	197			0				
	Haryana	85			0				
	Himachal Pradesh	18			0				
	Jammu & Kashmir	36			0				
	Jharkhand	101			0				
	Karnataka	264			1				
	Kerala	115			0				
	Lakshadweep	0			0				
	Madhya Pradesh	175			0				
	Maharashtra	418			1				
	Manipur	5			0				
	Meghalaya	3			0				
	Mizoram	3			0				
	Nagaland-	1			0				
	NCT OF Delhi	43			0				
	Odisha	31			0				
	Puducherry	8			0				
	Punjab	45			0				
	Rajasthan	111			0				
	Sikkim	2			0				

	Tamil Nadu	542		0			
	Telangana	299		0			
	Tripura	9		0			
	Uttar Pradesh	284		0			
	Uttarakhand	17		0			
	West Bengal	100		0			
<u>Indian National Congress</u>	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1		1			
	Andhra Pradesh	25		0			
	Arunachal Pradesh	2		0			
	Assam	14		3			
	Bihar	9		1			
	Chandigarh	1		0			
	Chhattisgarh	11		2			
	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1		0			
	Daman & Diu	1		0			
	Goa	2		1			
	Gujarat	26		0			
	Haryana	10		0			
	Himachal Pradesh	4		0			
	Jammu & Kashmir	5		0			
	Jharkhand	7		1			
	Karnataka	21		1			
	Kerala	16		15			
	Lakshadweep	1	421	0			
	Madhya Pradesh	29		1			
	Maharashtra	25		1			
	Manipur	2		0			
	Meghalaya	2		1			
	Mizoram						
	Nagaland-	1		0			
	NCT OF Delhi	7		0			
	Odisha	18		1			
	Puducherry	1		1			
	Punjab	13		8			
	Rajasthan	25		0			
	Sikkim	1		0			
	Tamil Nadu	9		8			
	Telangana	17		3			
	Tripura	2		0			
	Uttar Pradesh	67		1			
	Uttarakhand	5		0			
	West Bengal	40		2			
<u>Indian Union Muslim League</u>	Andhra Pradesh	3		0			
	Kerala	2	9	2			
	Maharashtra	3		0			
	Tamil Nadu	1		1			
<u>Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (NC)</u>	Jammu & Kashmir	3			3	0	+3
<u>Janata Dal (Secular)</u>	Arunachal Pradesh	2	9	0	1	2	-1
	Karnataka	7		1			
<u>Janata Dal (United)</u>	Bihar	17		16			
	Jammu & Kashmir	1		0			
	Lakshadweep	1		0			
	Madhya Pradesh	1	25	0	16	2	+14
	Manipur	1		0			
	Punjab	1		0			
	Uttar Pradesh	3		0			

	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	Bihar	4	13			0	1	2	-1
		Jharkhand	4				1			
		Odisha	1				0			
		West Bengal	4				0			
	Kerala Congress(M)	Kerala	1				1		1	0
	Lok Janshakti Party	Bihar	6				6		6	0
	Mizo National Front (MNF)	Meghalaya	1				1		0	+1
	Naga People's Front	Manipur	1				1		0	+1
	National People's Party	Arunachal Pradesh	1	11			0	1	1	0
		Assam	7				0			
		Manipur	1				0			
		Meghalaya	1				1			
		Nagaland	1				0			
	Nationalist Congress Party	Assam	2	34			0	5	6	-1
		Bihar	5				0			
		Gujarat	3				0			
		Lakshadweep	1				1			
		Maharashtra	19				4			
		Manipur	1				0			
		Punjab	2				0			
		Uttar Pradesh	1				0			
	Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP)	Nagaland	1				1		0	+1
	Rashtriya Loktantrik Party	Rajasthan	1				1		0	+1
	Revolutionary Socialist Party	Kerala	1	6			1	1	1	0
		West Bengal	4				0			
	Samajwadi Party	Andhra Pradesh	2	49			0	5	5	0
		Assam	1				0			
		Bihar	1				0			
		Jharkhand	1				0			
		Madhya Pradesh	2				0			
		Maharashtra	4				0			
		Odisha	1				0			
		Uttar Pradesh	37				5			
	Shiromani Akali Dal	Punjab	10				2		4	-2
	Shivsena	Bihar	14	98			0	18	18	0
		Chhattisgarh	9				0			
		Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2				0			
		Haryana	3				0			
		Jammu & Kashmir	3				0			
		Karnataka	2				0			
		Madhya Pradesh	5				0			
		Maharashtra	22				18			
		Punjab	6				0			
		Rajasthan	4				0			
		Telangana	1				0			
		Uttar Pradesh	11				0			
		West Bengal	16				0			
	Sikkim Krantikari Morcha	Sikkim	1				1		0	+1
	Telangana Rashtra Samithi	Telangana	16				9		11	-2
	Telugu Desam Party	Andhra Pradesh	25				3		15	-12
	Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi	Andhra Pradesh	3	7			0	1	0	+1
		Karnataka	2				0			
		Kerala	1				0			
		Tamil Nadu	1				1			
	Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party	Andhra Pradesh	25				22		8	+14
	All India N.R. Congress	Puducherry	1				0		1	-1

Pattali Makkal Katchi	Tamil Nadu	7					1	-1
Rashtriya Janata Dal	Bihar	19	21				4	-4
	Jharkhand	2					3	-3
Rashtriya Lok Samta Party	Bihar	5					1	-1
Sikkim Democratic Front	Sikkim	1					1	-1
Swabhimani Paksha	Maharashtra	2					2	-2
Indian National Lok Dal	Haryana	10					0	0
Aap Aur Hum Party	Bihar	1						
	Bihar	4	5					
Aam Adhikar Morcha	Jharkhand	1						
	Bihar	1						
Akhil Bhartiya Apna Dal	Chandigarh	1	5					
	Madhya Pradesh	2						
	Punjab	1						
Adim Bhartiya Dal	Haryana	1						
Akhil Bhartiya Gondwana Party	Madhya Pradesh	4	5					
	Uttar Pradesh	1						
	Jharkhand	1						
Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha	Madhya Pradesh	1	5					
	Odisha	3						
Akhil Bhartiya Mithila Party	Bihar	1						
Akhil Bhartiya Jharkhand Party	Jharkhand							
	West Bengal	1						
Jharkhand Party	Jharkhand	4						
	Bihar	1						
Akhil Bharatiya Jan Sangh	Gujarat	1						
	Haryana	1	6					
	Maharashtra	1						
	NCT OF Delhi	1						
	Uttar Pradesh	1						
Akhil Bharatiya Muslim League (Secular)	Karnataka	1	2					
	Telangana	1						
Akhil Bharatiya Manavata Paksha	Maharashtra	1	2					
	NCT OF Delhi	1						
Akhil Bhartiya Navnirman Party	Uttar Pradesh	1						
Atulya Bharat Party	NCT OF Delhi	1	2					
	Uttar Pradesh	1						
Aajad Bharat Party (Democratic)	Madhya Pradesh	2	6					
	Uttar Pradesh	4						
Akhil Bharatiya Sena	Maharashtra	1						
Akhil Bhartiya Sarvadharma Samaj Party	Maharashtra	1						
Andhra Chaitanya Party	Andhra Pradesh	1						
Adarshwaadi Congress Party	Uttar Pradesh	1						
Adhunik Bharat Party	Uttar Pradesh	2						
Aadarsh Janata Sewa Party	Haryana	1						
Ahila India Dhayaga Makkal Munnetra Katchi	Tamil Nadu	1						
Asli Deshi Party	Bihar	4						
Aadarsh Sangram Party	Uttar Pradesh	1						
Apna Dal United Party	Uttar Pradesh	1						
Adhikar Vikas Party	Chhattisgarh	1	2					
	Madhya Pradesh	1						
Asom Gana Parishad	Assam	3	4					
	Telangana	1						
Akhil Hind Forward Bloc (Krantikari)	Bihar	2						
Akhand Hind Party	Maharashtra	1						
Ahimsa Socialist Party	Tamil Nadu	1						

All India Forward Bloc	Andhra Pradesh	2			
	Arunachal Pradesh	1			
	Assam	3			
	Bihar	4			
	Chandigarh	1			
	Haryana	2			
	Himachal Pradesh	3			
	Jammu & Kashmir	1	34		
	Jharkhand	4			
	Madhya Pradesh	2			
	NCT OF Delhi	1			
	Odisha	2			
	Telangana	1			
	Uttar Pradesh	5			
	West Bengal	3			
All India Hindustan Congress Party	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1			
	Gujarat	1	4		
	Karnataka	1			
	Madhya Pradesh	1			
All India Jana Andolan Party	West Bengal	1			
All India Labour Party	West Bengal	1			
All India Minorities Front	Maharashtra	1	2		
	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Agila India Makkal Kazhagam	Kerala	1			
	Puducherry	1	4		
	Tamil Nadu	2			
All Indians Party	Sikkim	1			
All India Praja Party	Andhra Pradesh	3			
All Indian Rajiv Congress Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
All India Ulama Congress	Madhya Pradesh	1			
All India Uzhavargal Uzhaippalargal Katchi	Tamil Nadu	1			
Akila India Vallalar Peravai	Tamil Nadu	1			
Asom Jana Morcha	Assam	4			
Aam Janta Party (India)	Uttar Pradesh	7			
Aam Janta Party Rashtriya	Bihar	3			
Apki Apni Party (Peoples)	Haryana	7	21		
	Maharashtra	3			
	NCT OF Delhi	6			
	Uttar Pradesh	5			
Akhil Bhartiya Ekata Party	Maharashtra	1			
Akhil Bhartiya Lok Dal	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Apna Kisan Party	Bihar	1			
Akhand Samaj Party	Uttar Pradesh	2			
AI-Hind Party	Uttar Pradesh	2			
All India Peoples' Front (Radical)	Uttar Pradesh	1			
All Pensioner'S Party	Tamil Nadu	1			
Aasra Lokmarch Party	Maharashtra	2			
Amra Bangalee	Jharkhand	2	10		
	Tripura	2			
	West Bengal	6			
Anaithu Makkal Katchi	Tamil Nadu	1			
Azad Mazdoor Kissan Party	Karnataka	1			
Aadarsh Mithila Party	Bihar	2			
Anaithu Makkal Puratchi Katchi	Tamil Nadu	2			
Ambedkar Yug Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Anaithu India Makkal Katchi		1			

Anjaan Aadmi Party	NCT OF Delhi	1			
Ambedkar National Congress	Andhra Pradesh	2	21		
	Bihar	1			
	Chandigarh	1			
	Gujarat	2			
	Jharkhand	1			
	Maharashtra	4			
	NCT OF Delhi	1			
	Odisha	2			
	Punjab	2			
	Telangana	5			
Annadata Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Andaman & Nicobar Janta Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Aihra National Party	Jharkhand	3	8		
	Karnataka	1			
	Telangana	1			
	West Bengal	3			
Adarsh Nyay Rakshak Party	Madhya Pradesh	1			
Ahinsa Samaj Party	Madhya Pradesh	1			
Anti Corruption Dynamic Party	Maharashtra	1	11		
	Puducherry	1			
	Tamil Nadu	7			
	Telangana	2			
Apna Desh Party	Gujarat	2			
Ambedkarite Party Of India	Andhra Pradesh	1	77		
	Bihar	2			
	Chhattisgarh	11			
	Gujarat	1			
	Himachal Pradesh	1			
	Jharkhand	4			
	Karnataka	1			
	Kerala	3			
	Madhya Pradesh	8			
	Maharashtra	16			
	Odisha	6			
	Punjab	4			
	Rajasthan	15			
	Tamil Nadu	1			
	Telangana	1			
	Tripura	1			
	West Bengal	1			
Apna Samaj Party		1			
All Peoples Party	Andhra Pradesh	1			
Ambedkarist Republican Party	Maharashtra	2			
Andhra Rastra Praja Samithi	Andhra Pradesh	1			
Akhand Rashtrawadi Party	Madhya Pradesh	1	4		
	NCT OF Delhi	2			
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Autonomous State Demand Committee	Assam	1			
Assam Dristi Party	Assam	1			
Akhil Bharat Samagra Kranti Party	Chhattisgarh	1			
Adarsh Samaj Party	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Ambedkar Samaj Party	Karnataka	4	8		
	Uttar Pradesh	4			
All India Puratchi Thalaivar Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam	Tamil Nadu	1			
Aarakshan Virodhi Party	Madhya Pradesh	2	4		

	Rajasthan	2			
Awami Samta Party	Uttar Pradesh	3			
Anna Ysr Congress Party	Andhra Pradesh	2			
B. C. United Front	Andhra Pradesh	1			
Bharatiya Aavaam Ekta Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
	Bihar	1	2		
Bahujan Azad Party	Maharashtra	1			
Bahujan Samyak Party (Mission)	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Bahujan Awam Party	Uttar Pradesh	4			
Bharatiya Aam Awam Party	Bihar	1			
	Telangana	3	4		
Bhartiya Anarakshit Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Bhartiya Azad Sena	Jharkhand	1			
	Bihar	5	6		
Bharatiya Bahujan Congress	Gujarat	1			
Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh	Karnataka	2			
Bharat Bhrashtachar Mitaoparty	Bihar	1			
Bhartiya Bhaichara Party	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Bharatiya Bahujan Samta Party	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Bharath Dharma Jana Sena	Kerala	4			
Bharatrashta Democratic Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Bhartiya Gana Parishad	Assam	4			
Bhartiya Amrit Party	Madhya Pradesh	2			
Bharatiya Bahujan Parivartan Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Bharatiya Jan Morcha Party	Madhya Pradesh	1			
Bharatiya Praja Surjya Paksha	Maharashtra	8			
Bharatiya Rashtravadi Samanta Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
	Bihar	1	3		
Bharatiya Samta Samaj Party	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Bharatiya Sarvodaya Kranti Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Bhartiya Janta Dal (Integrated)	NCT OF Delhi	1			
Bharatiya National Janta Dal	West Bengal	1			
	Bihar	2			
Bhartiya Lokmat Rashtrevadi Party	Chhattisgarh	1			
	Jharkhand	1	7		
	Madhya Pradesh	1			
	Maharashtra	1			
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Bhartiya Manvadhiakaar Federal Party		1			
Bhartiya Naujawan Inklav Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
	Karnataka	2	5		
Bhartiyabahujankranti Dal	Maharashtra	3			
Bharatiya Bahujan Party	Chhattisgarh	1			
	Chhattisgarh	2	3		
Bharat Bhoomi Party	Karnataka	1			
Bhartiya Dalit Party	Bihar	3			
Bhartiya Hind Fauj	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Bhartiya Janta Dal	Uttar Pradesh	1			
	Haryana	2	4		
Bhartiya Janraj Party	Punjab	2			
Bahujan Maha Party	Andhra Pradesh	1	20		
	Gujarat	1			
	Haryana	1			
	Karnataka	2			
	Madhya Pradesh	1			
	Maharashtra	13			

		Uttar Pradesh	1			
Bharat Nirman Party	Bihar	1				
Bhartiya Harit Party	Uttar Pradesh	1				
Bharatiya Peoples Party	Karnataka	1				
Bharatiya Rashtravadi Paksha	Gujarat	1				
Bharatiya Sampuran Krantikari Party	Uttar Pradesh	1				
Bhartiya Sarvodaya Party	Jharkhand	1				
	Uttarakhand	1	2			
Bhartiya Insan Party	Bihar	1		3		
	NCT OF Delhi	2				
Bharat Jan Aadhar Party	Maharashtra	4				
Bharatiya Jan Kranti Dal (Democratic)	Bihar	4				
	Jharkhand	1		7		
	Karnataka	1				
	Uttar Pradesh	1				
Bhartiya Jan Nayak Party	Uttar Pradesh	4				
Bhartiya Jan Samman Party	Chandigarh	1		2		
	Haryana	1				
Bhartiya Jan Sampark Party	Madhya Pradesh	1				
Bhartiya Jan Satta Party	Rajasthan	1				
Bundelkhand Kranti Dal	Uttar Pradesh	1				
Bhartiya Kisan Party	Chandigarh	4				
	Haryana	1				
	Maharashtra	5		15		
	NCT OF Delhi	1				
	Rajasthan	1				
	Uttar Pradesh	3				
Bharatiya Kisan Parivartan Party	Uttar Pradesh	1				
Bhartiya Krishak Dal	Uttar Pradesh	4				
Bhartiya Kisan Union Samaj Party	Uttar Pradesh	1				
Bhartiya Kranti Vir Party	Bihar	1				
Bihar Lok Nirman Dal	Bihar	8				
Baliraja Party	Bihar	2				
	Maharashtra	4	7			
	Uttar Pradesh	1				
Bhartiya Lok Seva Dal	Jharkhand	1				
	Punjab	7	10			
	Uttar Pradesh	2				
Bharat Lok Sewak Party	NCT OF Delhi	3		4		
	Uttar Pradesh	1				
Bhartiya Manavadhikaar Federal Party	Chandigarh	1				
	Gujarat	1				
	Jharkhand	1	9			
	Maharashtra	5				
	Odisha	1				
Bharateeya Manavadhikar party	West Bengal	2				
Bharatiya Momin Front	Bihar	7		8		
	Jharkhand	1				
Bharatiya Majdoor Janta Party	Uttar Pradesh	1				
Bahujan Mukti Party	Assam	1	120			
	Bihar	12				
	Chandigarh	1				
	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1				
	Gujarat	6				
	Haryana	5				
	Himachal Pradesh	1				

	Jharkhand	5			
	Karnataka	1			
	Madhya Pradesh	9			
	Maharashtra	35			
	Odisha	5			
	Punjab	6			
	Rajasthan	2			
	Telangana	7			
	Uttar Pradesh	10			
	Uttarakhand	2			
	West Bengal	6			
Bharatiya Minorities Suraksha Mahasangh	Jharkhand	1	2		
Bhartiya Manav Samaj Party	Maharashtra	1			
	Madhya Pradesh	1	3		
	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Bhartiya Mitra Party	Bihar	3			
Bahujan Nyay Dal	Bihar	3	4		
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Bhartiya Nojawan Dal	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Bhartiya Navodaya Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Bharatiya Nyay-Adhikar Raksha Party	West Bengal	7			
Bhartiya Navjawan Sena (Paksha)	Maharashtra	3			
Bhartiya New Sanskar Krantikari Party	Bihar	1			
Bhartiya Pragatisheel Congress	NCT OF Delhi	1			
Bhartiya Panchyat Party	Jharkhand	2			
Bodoland Peoples Front	Assam	1			
Bharat Prabhat Party	Bihar	2			
	Chandigarh	1			
	Chhattisgarh	1			
	Haryana	5			
	Jharkhand	2			
	Karnataka	2			
	Madhya Pradesh	8	53		
	Maharashtra	5			
	NCT OF Delhi	2			
	Odisha	2			
	Punjab	5			
	Uttar Pradesh	16			
	West Bengal	2			
Bharatiya Prajagala Kalyana Paksha	Karnataka	2			
Bhapase Party	Maharashtra	1			
Bharatiya Rashtriya Morcha	Bihar	1	2		
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Bahujana Raajyam Party (Phule Ambedkar)	Telangana	1			
Bharat Rakshak Party (Democratic)	Rajasthan	2			
Bhartiya Republican Party (Insan)	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Bahujan Republican Socialist Party	Gujarat	1	27		
	Maharashtra	26			
Bhartiya Rashtrawadi Party	Chandigarh	1			
Bhartiya Shakti Chetna Party	Chhattisgarh	5	35		
	Gujarat	1			
	Haryana	5			
	Himachal Pradesh	1			
	Madhya Pradesh	11			
	Maharashtra	1			
	Punjab	1			

	Uttar Pradesh	10		
Bahujan Suraksha Dal	Gujarat	1		
Bhartiya Sarvjan Hitey Samaj Party	Chhattisgarh	1		
	Chhattisgarh	2		
	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1		
Bhartiya Tribal Party	Gujarat	6	19	
	Madhya Pradesh	1		
	Maharashtra	5		
	Rajasthan	4		
Bahujan Samaj Party (AMBEDKAR)	Chandigarh	1	5	
	Punjab	4		
Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi	Maharashtra	1		
Bajjikanchal Vikas Party	Bihar	7		
Bhartiya Vanchitsamaj Party	Uttar Pradesh	1		
Corruption Abolition Party	NCT OF Delhi	1		
Christian Democratic Front	Tamil Nadu	1		
Challengers Party	NCT OF Delhi	2		
Chandigarh Ki Aawaz Party	Chandigarh	1		
Communist Party Of India (MARXIST-LENINIST) (LIBERATION)	Andhra Pradesh	2		
	Bihar	4		
	Jharkhand	2		
	Odisha	2		
	Puducherry	1	18	
	Punjab	3		
	Tamil Nadu	2		
	Uttar Pradesh	3		
	Uttarakhand	1		
	West Bengal	2		
Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) CPI(M)(L)		4		
Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Red Star		4		
Communist Party Of India (Marxist–Leninist) Red Star	Andhra Pradesh	1		
	Chandigarh	2		
	Jharkhand	3		
	Karnataka	2		
	Kerala	4		
	Madhya Pradesh	1	25	
	Maharashtra	2		
	Odisha	5		
	Rajasthan	1		
	Tamil Nadu	1		
	Uttar Pradesh	2		
	West Bengal	5		
Chhattisgarh Swabhiman Manch	Chhattisgarh	1	2	
	Maharashtra	1		
Chhattisgarh Vikas Ganga Rashtriya Party	Chhattisgarh	1	2	
	Madhya Pradesh	1		
Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Dal	Uttar Pradesh	1		
Dalita Bahujana Party	Telangana	3		
Democratic Corruption Liberation Front		1		
Democratic Party of India (Ambedkar)	Punjab	1	3	
Desh Janhit Party	Maharashtra	1		
Daksha Party	Haryana	1		
Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam	Tamil Nadu	4		
Desiya Makkal Sakthi Katchi	Maharashtra	1	9	
	Tamil Nadu	8		
Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party,	Jammu & Kashmir	2		

Democratic Party Of India		1			
Democratic Prajakranthi Party Secularist	Karnataka	1			
Dalit Soshit Pichhara Varg Adhikar Dal	Haryana	1			
	Maharashtra	1	3		
	Rajasthan	1			
Desiya Uzhavar Uzhaipalar Kazhagam	Tamil Nadu	3			
Engineers Party	Karnataka	1			
Ekta Samaj Party	NCT OF Delhi	1			
Ezhuchi Tamilargal Munnetra Kazhagam	Tamil Nadu	3			
Forward Democratic Labour Party	Chhattisgarh	1			
Fauji Janta Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Freethought Party Of India	Odisha	3			
Gareeb Aadmi Party	Karnataka	1			
Gondvana Gantantra Party	Chhattisgarh	9			
	Madhya Pradesh	9			
	Maharashtra	2	23		
	Odisha	1			
	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Garvi Gujarat Party	Gujarat	3			
Garib Janshakti Party	Bihar	2			
Gujarat Janta Panchayat Party	Gujarat	1			
Ganasangam Party Of India	Tamil Nadu	3			
Gorkha Rashtriya Congress	West Bengal	1			
Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular)	Bihar	3			
Hamari Apni Party	Maharashtra	1			
Hardam Manavtawadi Rashtriya Dal	Andhra Pradesh	1			
Hind Congress Party	Haryana	1	2		
	Punjab	1			
Hindu Samaj Party		1			
Hindustan Janta Party	Karnataka	3	7		
	Maharashtra	4			
Hindusthan Praja Paksha	Maharashtra	1			
Himachal Jan Kranti Party	Himachal Pradesh	1			
Hindusthan Nirman Dal	Assam	5			
	Bihar	2			
	Gujarat	9			
	Jammu & Kashmir	1			
	Jharkhand	2			
	Madhya Pradesh	8	47		
	Maharashtra	2			
	Odisha	2			
	Rajasthan	1			
	Uttar Pradesh	14			
	Uttarakhand	1			
Hamro Sikkim Party	Sikkim	1			
Hind Samrajya Party	Bihar	1			
Hindustan Shakti Sena	Chandigarh	1	9		
	Punjab	8			
Hum Bhartiya Party	Jharkhand	1			
	Maharashtra	5			
	NCT OF Delhi	1	9		
	Punjab	1			
	Telangana	1			
Hum Sabki Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Indian Christian Front	Karnataka	2	4		
	Tamil Nadu	2			

Indian Democratic Republican Front	Punjab	1	2		
	West Bengal	1			
Indian Gandhiyan Party	Kerala	1	2		
	Uttar Pradesh				
Indian Indira Congress (R)	Rajasthan	1			
	Andhra Pradesh	1	4		
Indian Labour Party (Ambedkar Phule)	Karnataka	3			
Ilantamilar Munnani Kazhagam	Tamil Nadu	1			
Indian New Congress Party	Karnataka	4			
Independent People'S Party	Jammu & Kashmir	1			
Indian National League	Uttar Pradesh	2			
	Andhra Pradesh	4			
India Praja Bandhu Party	Chhattisgarh	1	11		
	Telangana	6			
Indigenous People'S Front Of Tripura	Tripura	2			
Indian Peoples Green Party	Rajasthan	2			
Indian Rakshaka Nayakudu Party	Telangana	1			
Indian Unity Centre	West Bengal	2			
Inqalab Vikas Dal	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Jan Adesh Akshuni Sena	Uttar Pradesh	1			
	Bihar	6			
Jan Adhikar Party	Madhya Pradesh	3			
	Maharashtra	7	19		
	Uttar Pradesh	3			
Jan Adhikar Party (Loktantrik)	Bihar	1			
Jharkhand Anushilan Party	West Bengal	1			
Janta Dal Rashtravadi	Bihar	3			
Jamat-E-Seratul Mustakim	West Bengal	2			
Jago Hindustan Party	Bihar	3			
Jharkhand Party (Secular)	Jharkhand	1			
Janhit Bharat Party	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Jharkhand Party	Jharkhand	4			
Jai Hind Party	Bihar	1			
Jai Hind Samaj Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
	Haryana	1			
Jai Jawan Jai Kisan Party	Punjab	3	4		
Jannayak Janta Party	Haryana	7			
Janhit Kisan Party	Bihar	2			
	Uttar Pradesh	6	8		
Jammu & Kashmir Pir Panjal Awami Party	Jammu & Kashmir	1			
Jai Lok Party	Madhya Pradesh	1			
Jai Maha Bharath Party	Maharashtra	1			
	NCT OF Delhi	1	3		
	Sikkim	1			
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (Ulgulan)		1			
Janata Congress	Jharkhand	2			
	Madhya Pradesh	3			
	Maharashtra	1	7		
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Jana Jagruti Party	Andhra Pradesh	7			
Janata Party	Bihar	4			
	Jharkhand	1			
Jharkhand Party (Naren)	West Bengal	1	2		
Janvadi Party(Socialist)	Bihar	1			
	Uttar Pradesh	1	2		
Janapaalana Party (Democratic)	Andhra Pradesh	1			

<u>Jai Prakash Janata Dal</u>	Bihar	5	11		
	Jharkhand	2			
	NCT OF Delhi	2			
	Odisha	2			
<u>Jharkhand People's Party</u>	Jharkhand		4		
	Jharkhand People's Party	1			
<u>Janta Raj Party</u>	Uttar Pradesh	2			
<u>Janral Samaj Party</u>	Chandigarh	1	5		
	Punjab	4			
<u>Janta Raj Vikas Party</u>	Bihar	1			
<u>Jan Shakti Dal</u>	Uttar Pradesh	2			
<u>Jansatta Dal Loktantrik</u>	Uttar Pradesh	2			
<u>Jan Shakti Ekta Party</u>	Uttar Pradesh	1			
<u>Jan Samman Party</u>	Madhya Pradesh	1	3		
	NCT OF Delhi	1			
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
<u>Jan Sangh Party</u>	West Bengal	1			
<u>Janasena Party</u>	Andhra Pradesh	17	24		
	Telangana	7			
<u>Jan Satya Path Party</u>	Gujarat	4			
<u>Jai Swaraj Party</u>	Telangana	1			
<u>Jan Seva Sahayak Party</u>	Uttar Pradesh	2			
<u>Jansatta Party</u>	Uttar Pradesh	2			
<u>Jan Sangharsh Virat Party</u>	Gujarat	2	5		
	Jharkhand	1			
	Rajasthan	1			
	West Bengal	1			
<u>Janta Kranti Party (Rashtravadi)</u>	Uttar Pradesh	2			
<u>Justice Party</u>		1			
<u>Jai Vijaya Bharathi Party</u>	Karnataka	1			
<u>Jantantrik Vikas Party</u>	Bihar	3			
<u>Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik)</u>	Jharkhand	2			
<u>Jwala Dal</u>	Uttar Pradesh	1			
<u>Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party</u>	Bihar	1			
	Jammu & Kashmir	5			
	NCT OF Delhi	1			
	Tamil Nadu	1			
<u>Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party +</u>	Jammu & Kashmir	2			
<u>Jammu & Kashmir People Conference</u>	Jammu & Kashmir	3			
<u>Kamatapur People'S Party (United)</u>	West Bengal	6			
<u>Kerala Congress</u>	Kerala	1			
<u>Kannada Chalavali Vatal Paksha</u>	Karnataka	1			
<u>Kisan Raj Party</u>	Madhya Pradesh	1			
<u>Kisan Raksha Party</u>	Uttar Pradesh	1			
<u>Karnataka Jantha Paksha</u>	Karnataka	2			
<u>Karnataka Karmikara Paksha</u>	Karnataka	4			
<u>Kalinga Sena</u>	Jharkhand	1	5		
	Odisha	4			
<u>Kisan Majdoor Berojgar Sangh</u>	Uttar Pradesh	1			
<u>Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Party</u>	Uttar Pradesh	4			
<u>Karnataka Pragnyavantha Janatha Party</u>	Karnataka	1			
<u>Kisan Party Of India</u>	Madhya Pradesh	2			
<u>Karnataka Praja Party (Raithaparva)</u>	Karnataka	2			
<u>Kranti Kari Jai Hind Sena</u>	Karnataka	1	5		
	Maharashtra	4			
<u>Kartavya Rashtriya Party</u>	Uttar Pradesh	1			

Krupaa Party	Odisha	3			
Kanshiram Bahujan Dal	NCT OF Delhi	1	5		
	Uttar Pradesh	4			
Khusro Sena Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Kalyankari Jantantrik Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Lok Chetna Dal	Bihar	1			
Lok Gathbandhan Party	Gujarat	1	7		
	Uttar Pradesh	6			
<u>Lok Insaaf Party</u>	Punjab	3			
Lok Jan Sangharsh Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Loktantrik Jan Swaraj Party	Bihar	1			
Lok Jan Vikas Morcha	Bihar	2			
<u>Lok Dal</u>	Uttar Pradesh	5			
Lokjagar Party	Maharashtra	1			
Loktantrik Janshakti Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Lokpriya Samaj Party	Haryana	1			
<u>Loktanter Suraksha Party</u>	Haryana	2			
Loktantrik Rashrtavadi Party	Gujarat	1			
Lok Sewa Dal	Bihar	1			
Loksangram	Maharashtra	1			
<u>Maharashtra Swabhimaan Paksh</u>	Maharashtra	2			
Makkal Sananayaga Kudiyarasu Katchi	Tamil Nadu	1			
<u>Manipur People'S Party</u>	Manipur	1			
<u>Moulik Adhikar Party</u>	Bihar	1	13		
	Uttar Pradesh	12			
Mera Adhikaar Rashtriya Dal	Uttar Pradesh	2			
<u>Marxist Communist Party Of India (United)</u>	Andhra Pradesh	1	6		
	Kerala	1			
	Rajasthan	1			
	Telangana	3			
Mazdoor Dalit Kisaan Mahila Gareeb Party (Hindustani)	Uttar Pradesh	1			
<u>Minorities Democratic Party</u>	Madhya Pradesh	2	3		
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Manipur Democratic Peoples's Front	Manipur	1			
Mundadugu Praja Party	Andhra Pradesh	4			
Mahamukti Dal	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Mahasankalp Janta Party	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Makkalatchi Katchi	Tamil Nadu	2			
Manav Kranti Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Maharashtra Kranti Sena	Maharashtra	2			
Majdoor Kisan Union Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Mazdoor Kirayedar Vikas Party	NCT OF Delhi	5			
<u>Marxist Leninist Party Of India (Red Flag)</u>	Karnataka	1	3		
	Maharashtra	2			
Mithilanchal Mukti Morcha	Bihar	1			
<u>Makkal Needhi Maiam</u>	Puducherry	1	38		
	Tamil Nadu	37			
<u>Manvadhirak National Party</u>	Gujarat	2	4		
	Jammu & Kashmir	2			
Manavtawadi Samaj Party	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Madhya Pradesh Jan Vikas Party	Madhya Pradesh	3			
Mulnibasi Party of India	West Bengal	2			
<u>Moolniwasi Samaj Party</u>	Bihar	2	3		
	Jharkhand	1			
Maanavvaadi Janta Party	Bihar	2			
Manuvadi Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			

Mahila & Yuva Shakti Party	Haryana	1		
New All India Congress Party	Gujarat	2		
National Apni Party	NCT OF Delhi	1		
Nationalist People'S Front	Rajasthan	1		
Nirbhay Bharteey Party	Gujarat	1		
National Bhrashtachar Mukt Party	Uttar Pradesh	1		
Navsarjan Bharat Party	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1		
National Dalitha Dhal Party	Andhra Pradesh	1		
National Development Party	Karnataka	1		
New Democratic Party of India	West Bengal	3		
Navbharat Ekta Dal	Himachal Pradesh	1		
North East India Development Party	Manipur	2		
Nagrik Ekta Party	Uttar Pradesh	4		
National Fifty Fifty Front	Uttar Pradesh	1		
Naam Indiar Party	Tamil Nadu	2		
Nationalist Janshakti Party	Uttar Pradesh	2		
National Jagaran Party	Bihar	1		
National Labour Party	Kerala	1		
National Lokmat Party	Uttar Pradesh	1		
Nationalist Justice Party	Punjab	4		
National Nava Kranthi Party	Andhra Pradesh	1		
Navbharat Nirman Party	Maharashtra	1		
Nav Praja Rajyam Party	Telangana	1		
National Republican Congress	Assam	2		
The National Road Map Party Of India	Assam	1	2	
	NCT OF Delhi	1		
Nav Samaj Party	Andhra Pradesh	1		
Netaji Subhash Chander Bose Rashtriya Azad Party	Uttar Pradesh	1		
Naam Tamilar Katchi	Puducherry	1	38	
	Tamil Nadu	37		
Naitik Party	Maharashtra	2	6	
	Uttar Pradesh	4		
Navarang Congress Party	Andhra Pradesh	3	5	
	Jammu & Kashmir	2		
Navodayam Party	Andhra Pradesh	2		
Navnirman Party	Haryana	1		
Navataram Party	Andhra Pradesh	1		
New India Party	Telangana	2		
National Women'S Party	Madhya Pradesh	1	3	
	Telangana	1		
Nawan Punjab Party	Punjab	1		
National Youth Party	NCT OF Delhi	2		
Odisha Pragati Dal	Odisha	1		
Proutist Bloc, India	Bihar	1		
	Karnataka	2		
	Madhya Pradesh	1	9	
	Maharashtra	1		
	NCT OF Delhi	3		
	Odisha	1		
PC			3	
Peace Party	Maharashtra	3		
	Uttar Pradesh	11	14	
Puducherry Development Party	Puducherry	1		
Peoples Democratic Party	Jammu & Kashmir	1	5	
	Kerala	2		
Party For Democratic Socialism	West Bengal	5		

People's Party Of India(secular)	Tamil Nadu	2	3			
People'S Union Party	Maharashtra	1				
Punjab Ekta Party	Punjab	3	3			
Pichhra Samaj Party	Uttar Pradesh	1				
Prajatantra Aadhar Party	Gujarat	1				
Prem Janata Dal	Telangana	1				
Prahar Janshakti Party	Maharashtra	1				
Purvanchal Janta Party (Secular)	Assam	6	14			
	Jharkhand	1				
	Karnataka	1				
	Odisha	1				
	Tamil Nadu	2				
	West Bengal	3				
Pragatisheel Lok Manch	Uttarakhand	1				
Punjab Labour Party	Punjab	1				
Public Mission Party	Bihar	2				
Pragatisheel Manav Samaj Party	Uttar Pradesh	3				
Pravasi Nivasi Party	Kerala	1				
Peoples Party Of India (Democratic)	Bihar	9	56			
	Chhattisgarh	1				
	Gujarat	2				
	Haryana	6				
	Himachal Pradesh	1				
	Jharkhand	4				
	Madhya Pradesh	7				
	Maharashtra	6				
	NCT OF Delhi	5				
	Punjab	2				
	Rajasthan	2				
	Uttar Pradesh	8				
	Uttarakhand	1				
People'S Party Of Arunachal	Arunachal Pradesh	2				
Pyramid Party Of India	Andhra Pradesh	20	48			
	Gujarat	2				
	Karnataka	6				
	NCT OF Delhi	5				
	Punjab	1				
	Tamil Nadu	2				
	Telangana	11				
	West Bengal	1				
Prajatantrik Samadhan Party	Madhya Pradesh	1				
Poorvanchal Rashtriya Congress	Madhya Pradesh	1	2			
	Rajasthan	1				
Peoples Representation For Identity And Status Of Mizoram (Prism) Party	Mizoram	1	6			
	NCT OF Delhi	5				
Prithviraj Janshakti Party	Uttar Pradesh	3				
Prabuddha Republican Party	Maharashtra	4	5			
	Rajasthan	1				
Praja Shanthi Party	Andhra Pradesh	4				
Praja Satta Party	Karnataka	1	2			
	Telangana	1				
Pragatishil Samajwadi Party (Lohia)	Bihar	8	82			
	Haryana	8				
	Jammu & Kashmir	1				
	Karnataka	2				
	Madhya Pradesh	9				

	Maharashtra	1			
	Odisha	2			
	Rajasthan	1			
	Tamil Nadu	2			
	Uttar Pradesh	47			
	Uttarakhand	1			
Pichhara Samaj Party United	Jharkhand	1	2		
	Madhya Pradesh	1			
Proutist Sarva Samaj	Bihar	1			
	Jharkhand	2			
	Karnataka	1	7		
	Rajasthan	2			
	Uttar Pradesh				
Pragatisheel Samaj Party	Uttar Pradesh	3			
Prajaa Swaraaj Party	Telangana	1			
Purvanchal Mahapanchayat	Bihar	2	3		
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Parivartan Samaj Party	Madhya Pradesh	1			
	NCT OF Delhi	1	3		
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Rashtriya Ambedkar Dal	Uttar Pradesh	1			
<u>Radical Democrats</u>	Andhra Pradesh	1			
Rashtriya Aadarsh Member Party	Madhya Pradesh	1			
Raita Bharat Party	Karnataka	1			
Rajnaitik Vikalp Party	Bihar	1			
Rashtriya Ahinsa Manch	West Bengal	1			
Rashtriya Aamjan Party	Madhya Pradesh	1			
<u>Rajyadikara Party</u>	Andhra Pradesh	1			
Rashtrawadi Party of India,	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Rashtriya Independent Morcha	Odisha	1			
Rashtriya Janasachetan Party (R.J.P.)	West Bengal	5			
Rashtriya Jansanchar Dal		1			
<u>Rashtriya Janta Party</u>	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Rashtriya Janwadi Party (Socialist)	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Rashtriya Mahan Gantantra Party	Bihar	3			
Rashtriya Mahila Party		1			
Rashtriya Matadata Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Rashtriya Naujawan Dal	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Rashtriya Sahara Party	Haryana	1	3		
	Punjab	2			
Rastriya Aam Jan Seva Party	Maharashtra	1			
Rastriya Insaaf Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Rashtriya Vikas Party	Haryana	1			
Rayalaseema Rashtra Samithi	Andhra Pradesh	1			
Rashtriya Bahujan Congress Party	Maharashtra	1			
Rashtriya Bhagidari Samaj Party	Haryana	1			
Rashtriya Bharatiya Jan Jan Party	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Rashtriya Backward Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Republican Bahujan Sena	Maharashtra	1			
Rashtriya Dal United	Bihar	1			
Real Democracy Party	Gujarat	1			
Rashtriya Garib Dal	Haryana	1	2		
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Rashtriya Gondvana Party	Chhattisgarh	1			
Rashtriya Jansena Party	Maharashtra	1			
<u>Rashtriya Hind Sena</u>	Bihar	6			

Rashtriya Jansabha Party	Chhattisgarh	7			
Rashtriya Jan Adhikar Party	NCT OF Delhi	1	2		
	West Bengal	1			
Rashtriya Jan Adhikar Party (United)	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Rashtriya Janadikar Suraksha Party	West Bengal	6			
Rashtriya Jatigt Aarakshan Virodhi Party	Haryana	1			
Rashtriya Jantantrik Bharat Vikas Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Rashtriya Jan Gaurav Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Rashtriya Janhit Sangharsh Party	Manipur	1			
Rashtriya Jankranti Party	Chandigarh	1	3		
	Jammu & Kashmir	1			
	Telangana	1			
Rashtriya Janmat Party	Uttar Pradesh	1	2		
Rashtriya Jansurajya Party	Maharashtra	2			
<u>Rashtriya Janshakti Party (Secular)</u>	Maharashtra	2	7		
	Punjab	1			
Rashtriya Jansambhavna Party	Bihar	7	13		
	Karnataka	1			
	Maharashtra	2			
	NCT OF Delhi	1			
	Rajasthan	1			
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Rashtriya Jansangharsh Swaraj Party	Jharkhand	2			
Rashtriya Janutthan Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Rashtravadi Kranti Dal	Maharashtra	1			
Rashtriya Kranti Party	Rajasthan	1	5		
	Uttar Pradesh	4			
Rashtriya Krantikari Samajwadi Party	Andhra Pradesh	1	4		
	Madhya Pradesh	1			
	Rajasthan	1			
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Rashtriya Lok Sarvadikar Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
<u>Rashtriya Lok Dal</u>	Uttar Pradesh	3			
Rashtriya Lokswraj Party	Chandigarh	1	8		
	Haryana	6			
Rashtriya Mazdoor Ekta Party	Haryana	1	3		
	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Rashtriya Mangalam Party	Rajasthan	1			
Rashtriya Maratha Party	Maharashtra	5			
Revolutionary Marxist Party of India	Haryana	1	2		
Rashtra Nirman Party	Haryana	1	5		
	Madhya Pradesh	1			
	NCT OF Delhi	3			
Rashtriya Nav Nirman Bharat Party	Gujarat	1			
Republican Paksha (Khoripa)	Chhattisgarh	1			
Rashtriya Praja Congress (Secular)	Andhra Pradesh	1			
Rashtriya Pragati Party	Bihar	1			
<u>Republican Party Of India</u>	Bihar	1	8		
	Haryana	1			
	Karnataka	1			
	Tamil Nadu	1			
	Telangana	1			
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Republican Party Of India (Kamble)	Goa	1			
<u>Republican Party Of India (A)</u>	Andhra Pradesh	5	33		
	Assam	3			

	Bihar	2			
	Chandigarh	3			
	Haryana	1			
	Jharkhand	2			
	Karnataka	3			
	Madhya Pradesh	4			
	NCT OF Delhi	5			
	Punjab	1			
	Tamil Nadu	2			
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
	West Bengal	1			
<u>Republican Party Of India (KHOBRAGADE)</u>	Andhra Pradesh	1	2		
	Telangana	1			
<u>Republican Party of India (Reformist)</u>	Madhya Pradesh	1	2		
<u>Republican Party Of India (Karnataka)</u>	Karnataka	4			
<u>Republican Party of India Ektavadi</u>	Haryana	1			
<u>Rashtriya Power Party</u>	Gujarat	2	3		
	Rajasthan	1			
<u>Republican Sena</u>	Karnataka	4			
<u>Rashtriya Rashtrawadi Party</u>	Bihar	1			
	Haryana	1			
	Madhya Pradesh	1	7		
	NCT OF Delhi	3			
	Rajasthan	1			
<u>Rashtriya Apna Dal</u>	Madhya Pradesh	1	2		
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
<u>Rashtrawadi Shramjeevi Dal</u>	Uttar Pradesh	1			
<u>Rashtriya Sangail Party</u>	Jharkhand	1			
<u>Rashtriya Sahyog Party</u>	Bihar	1			
<u>Rashtriya Samaj Paksha</u>	Gujarat	1			
	Karnataka	2			
	Kerala	1	12		
	Madhya Pradesh	1			
	Punjab	1			
	Uttar Pradesh	6			
<u>Rashtriya Samanta Dal</u>	Uttar Pradesh	2			
<u>Rashtriya Samrasta Party</u>	NCT OF Delhi	3			
<u>Rashtriya Samta Party (Secular)</u>	Bihar	4	5		
	Jharkhand	1			
<u>Rashtravadi Party (Bharat)</u>	Uttar Pradesh	1			
<u>Revolutionary Socialist Party Of India(Marxist)</u>		1			
<u>Rashtriya Samajwadi Party (Secular)</u>	Gujarat	1	2		
	Maharashtra	1			
<u>Rashtra Sewa Dal</u>	Bihar	1			
<u>Rashtriya Shoshit Samaj Party</u>	Madhya Pradesh	2	7		
	Uttar Pradesh	5			
<u>Rashtriya Samta Vikas Party</u>	Rajasthan	1			
<u>Rashtriya Sarjan Vikas Party</u>	Bihar	2			
<u>Rashtriya Azad Manch</u>	Himachal Pradesh	2			
<u>Rashtriya Janvikas Party (Democratic)</u>	Bihar	1			
<u>Right to Recall Party</u>	Gujarat	4	14		
	Jharkhand	1			
	Karnataka	1			
	Madhya Pradesh	1			
	Maharashtra	1			
	NCT OF Delhi	2			

	Rajasthan	3			
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
<u>Rashtriya Ulama Council</u>	Bihar	1	10		
	Maharashtra	4			
	Uttar Pradesh	5			
<u>Rashtravadi Janata Party</u>	Bihar	2	4		
	West Bengal	2			
Rashtriya Viklang Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Rashtriya Vyapari Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Rashtra Vikas Zumbes Party	Gujarat	1			
Rashtrawadi Chetna Party		1			
Sathi Aur Aapka Faisala Party	Bihar	2			
Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar)(Simranjit Singh Mann)	Punjab	2			
<u>Samaj Adhikar Kalyan Party</u>	Chandigarh	1	6		
	Punjab	5			
Samajwadi Samaj Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Sabse Achchhi Party	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Sarvshreshth Dal	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Saman Aadmi Saman Party	Madhya Pradesh	1			
Sabka Dal United	Uttar Pradesh	3			
Swatantra Bharat Paksha	Maharashtra	3			
Sabhi Jan Party	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Samaj Bhalai Morcha		1			
<u>Swarna Bharat Party</u>	Assam	1	3		
	Maharashtra	1			
	Rajasthan	1			
<u>Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party</u>	Bihar	5	24		
	Uttar Pradesh	19			
<u>Socialist Party (India)</u>	Madhya Pradesh	1	3		
	Punjab	1			
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
<u>Shiromani Akali Dal (Taksali)</u>	Punjab	1			
<u>Secular Democratic Congress</u>	Karnataka	1	4		
	Kerala	2			
	Telangana	1			
<u>Social Democratic Party Of India</u>	Andhra Pradesh	1	14		
	Karnataka	1			
	Kerala	10			
	Tamil Nadu	1			
	West Bengal	1			
<u>Samajwadi Forward Bloc</u>	Andhra Pradesh	1	11		
	Karnataka	1			
	Kerala	1			
	Maharashtra	1			
	Tamil Nadu	1			
	Telangana	6			
Saaf Party	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Sangharsh Sena	Maharashtra	1			
Shane Hind Fourn	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Shiromani Akali Dal(Taksali)		1			
Shri Janta Party	Madhya Pradesh	1			
Smart Indians Party	Madhya Pradesh	4			
Samajwadi Janata Dal Democratic	Bihar	1			
Samajwadi Jan Parishad	West Bengal	1			
<u>Swatantra Jantaraj Party</u>	Madhya Pradesh	1	9		
	Uttar Pradesh	8			

Samajwadi Janata Party(Karnataka)	Karnataka	1			
Social Justice Party Of India	Telangana	3			
Sajag Samaj Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Sanjhi Virasat Party	NCT OF Delhi	1			
Sankhyanupati Bhagidari Party	Bihar	2			
Samata Kranti Dal	Odisha	1			
Satya Kranti Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Shiromani Lok Dal Party		1			
Sarjan Lok Shakti Party	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Samrat Ashok Sena Party	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Samajik Nyaya Party	Haryana	2			
Samta Vikas Party	Madhya Pradesh	1			
Socialist Janata Party	NCT OF Delhi	1			
Swaraj Party (Loktantrik)	Bihar	2			
Sapaks Party	Bihar	1	12		
	Haryana	1			
	Madhya Pradesh	10			
Samajtantric Party Of India	West Bengal	1			
Samaanya Praja Party	Andhra Pradesh	1			
Sarvadhamaram Party (MADHYA PRADESH)	Chhattisgarh	1	2		
	Madhya Pradesh	1			
Sanman Rajkiya Paksha	Maharashtra	1			
Sikkim Republican Party	Sikkim	1			
Sarvodaya Prabhat Party	NCT OF Delhi	1			
Shakti Sena (Bharat Desh)	Chhattisgarh	1			
Shoshit Samaj Dal	Bihar	7			
Samata Samadhan Party	Madhya Pradesh	1			
Samdarshi Samaj Party	Uttar Pradesh	2			
Sanatan Sanskriti Raksha Dal	Madhya Pradesh	1	7		
	Maharashtra	2			
	NCT OF Delhi	3			
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Satya Bahumat Party	Himachal Pradesh	1	7		
	NCT OF Delhi	3			
	Rajasthan	2			
	Uttar Pradesh	1			
Subhashwadi Bhartiya Samajwadi Party (Subhas Party)	Uttar Pradesh	3			
Socialist Unity Centre Of India (COMMUNIST)	Andhra Pradesh	2	114		
	Assam	6			
	Bihar	8			
	Chhattisgarh	2			
	Gujarat	2			
	Haryana	4			
	Jharkhand	5			
	Karnataka	7			
	Kerala	9			
	Madhya Pradesh	3			
	Maharashtra	1			
	NCT OF Delhi	1			
	Odisha	8			
	Puducherry	1			
	Punjab	1			
	Rajasthan	1			
	Tamil Nadu	4			
	Telangana	2			
	Tripura	1			

	Uttar Pradesh	3		
	Uttarakhand	1		
	West Bengal	42		
Sikkim United Front (SUF)	Sikkim	1		
Sunder Samaj Party	Chhattisgarh	1		
	Bihar	1		
Samagra Utthan Party	Madhya Pradesh	5	7	
	Uttar Pradesh	1		
Svatantra Bharat Satyagrah Party	Gujarat	2		
	Chhattisgarh	1		
Sarvodaya Bharat Party	Gujarat	1		
	Madhya Pradesh	1	8	
	Maharashtra	2		
	Uttar Pradesh	3		
Sarva Janata Party	Karnataka	3		
Sarv Vikas Party	Uttarakhand	1		
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Party	Gujarat	4		
	Chandigarh	1		
Sarjan Sewa Party	Punjab	1	2	
Swarnim Bharat Inquilab	Madhya Pradesh	1		
	Chhattisgarh	1		
Swabhiman Party	Himachal Pradesh	2	3	
Swatantra Samaj Party	Bihar	1		
	Bihar	1		
Sanyukt Vikas Party	Gujarat	3	6	
	NCT OF Delhi	1		
	Uttar Pradesh	1		
Tamil Nadu Ilango Katchi	Tamil Nadu	16		
Telangana Communist Party Of India	Telangana	1		
The Future India Party	Tamil Nadu	1		
Telangana Jana Samithi	Telangana	2		
Tamil Maanila Congress (MOOPANAR)	Tamil Nadu	1		
Tamizhaga Murpokku Makkal Katchi	Tamil Nadu	1		
Tola Party	Haryana	1		
Telangana Prajala Party	Telangana	1		
Telangana Sakalajanula Party	Telangana	1		
Tamil Telugu National Party	Tamil Nadu	1		
Telangana Yuva Shakti	Telangana	1		
Tripura Peoples Party	Tripura	1		
Universal Brotherhood Movement	Tamil Nadu	1		
United Democratic Front Secular	Uttar Pradesh	1		
United Democratic Party	Meghalaya	1		
Uttarakhand Kranti Dal	Uttarakhand	4		
Uttarakhand Kranti Dal (Democratic)	Uttarakhand	4		
Uttarakhand Parivartan Party	Uttarakhand	1		
Ulzaipali Makkal Katchy	Tamil Nadu	6		
United People's Party, Liberia	Assam	2		
	NCT OF Delhi	1		
Uttarakhand Pragatisheel Party	Uttarakhand	1	2	
Uttar Pradesh Navnirman Sena	Jharkhand	1		
Uttama Prajaakeeya Party	Karnataka	27		
United States Of India Party	Tamil Nadu	1		
Vanchit Bahujan Aaghadi	Maharashtra	46		
Vikassheel Insaan Party	Bihar	4		
Vishwa Jana Party	Andhra Pradesh	2		
Vishwa Manav Samaj Kalyan Parishad	Uttar Pradesh	1		

Vikas Insaaf Party	Uttar Pradesh	2				
Vivasayigal Makkal Munnetra Katchi	Tamil Nadu	1				
Voters Party International	Assam	7	20			
	Bihar	6				
	Jharkhand	1				
	NCT OF Delhi	1				
	Uttar Pradesh	5				
Vyavastha Parivartan Party	Gujarat	4				
Vanchitsamaj Insaaf Party	Uttar Pradesh	3				
Vishva Shakti Party	Jharkhand	2	3			
	Madhya Pradesh	1				
Vanchit Samaj Party	Bihar	4				
Voters Party	Haryana	2				
Wazib Adhikar Party	Bihar	1				
Welfare Party Of India	West Bengal	2				
Yuva Jan Jagriti Party	Gujarat	6				
Yuva Krantikari Party	Bihar	4				
Yekikrutha Sankshema Rashtriya Praja Party	Telangana	1				
Yuva Sarkar	Gujarat	2				
Yuva Vikas Party	Uttar Pradesh	1				

Voter statistics

According to the ECI, 900 million people were eligible to vote, with an increase of 84.3 million voters since the last election in 2014,^{[130][131]} making it the largest-ever election in the world.^[132] 15 million voters aged 18–19 years became eligible to vote for the first time.^{[133][134]} 468 million eligible voters were males, 432 million were females and 38,325 identified themselves belonging to third gender. Total 71,735 overseas voters also enrolled.

The residents of the former enclaves exchanged under the 2015 India-Bangladesh boundary agreement voted for the first time.^[135]

Electronic voting machines and security

The ECI deployed a total of 1.74 million voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) units and 3.96 million electronic voting machines (EVM) in 1,035,918 polling stations.^{[136][137][138][139]} Approximately 270,000 paramilitary and 2 million state police personnel provided organisational support and security at various polling booths.^[140] On 9 April 2019, the Supreme Court ordered the ECI to increase VVPAT slips vote count to five randomly selected EVMs per assembly constituency, which meant that the ECI had to count VVPAT slips of 20,625 EVMs before it could certify the final election results.^{[141][142][143]}

Voting

In the first phase, 69.58 per cent of the 142 million eligible voters cast their vote to elect their representatives for 91 Lok Sabha seats.^[144] The voter turnout was 68.77 per cent in the same constituencies in the 2014 general elections.^[144] In the second phase, 156 million voters were eligible to vote for 95 Lok Sabha seats and the turnout was 69.45 per cent, compared to 69.62 per cent in 2014.^[144] For the third phase, 189 million voters were eligible to elect 116 Lok Sabha representatives.^[144] According to ECI, the turnout for this phase was 68.40 per cent, compared to 67.15 per cent in 2014.^[144] In the fourth of seven phases, 65.50 per cent of the 128 million eligible voters cast their vote to elect 72 representatives to the Indian parliament while the turnout for the same seats in the 2014 election was 63.05 per cent.^[144] The fifth phase was open to 87.5 million eligible voters, who could cast their vote in over 96,000 polling booths.^[145] In the sixth phase, 64.40 per cent of the 101 million eligible voters cast their vote in about 113,000 polling stations.^[146]

Turnout

The final turnout stood at 67.11 per cent, the highest ever turnout recorded in any of the general elections till date. The percentage is 1.16 per cent higher than the 2014 elections whose turnout stood at 65.95 per cent.^[147] Over 600 million voters polled their votes in 2019 Indian General elections.

Phase-wise voter turnout details

State/UT	Total		Voter turnout by phase ^{[144][g]}									
			Phase 1 11 April		Phase 2 18 April		Phase 3 23 April		Phase 4 29 April		Phase 5 6 May	
	Seats	Turnout (%)	Seats	Turnout (%)	Seats	Turnout (%)	Seats	Turnout (%)	Seats	Turnout (%)	Seats	Total Turnout (%)
Andhra Pradesh	25	79.70 ▲	25	79.70 ▲	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	2	78.47 ▲	2	78.47 ▲	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	14	81.52 ▲	5	78.27 ▼	5	81.19 ▲	4	85.11 ▲	—	—	—	—
Bihar	40	57.33 ▲	4	53.44 ▲	5	62.92 ▲	5	61.21 ▲	5	59.18 ▲	5	57.33
Chhattisgarh	11	71.48 ▲	1	66.04 ▲	3	74.95 ▲	7	70.73 ▲	—	—	—	—
Goa	2	74.94 ▼	—	—	—	—	2	74.94 ▼	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	26	64.11 ▲	—	—	—	—	26	64.11 ▲	—	—	—	—
Haryana	10	70.34 ▼	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	70.22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu and Kashmir ^[h]	6	44.97 ▼	2	57.38 ▲	2	45.66 ▼	1/3	13.68 ▼	1/3	10.32 ▼	1 1/3	19.33
Jharkhand	14	66.80 ▲	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	64.97 ▲	4	65.
Karnataka	28	68.63 ▲	—	—	14	68.80 ▲	14	68.47 ▲	—	—	—	—
Kerala	20	77.67 ▲	—	—	—	—	20	77.67 ▲	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	29	71.10 ▲	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	74.90 ▲	7	69.
Maharashtra	48	60.79 ▲	7	63.04 ▼	10	62.85 ▲	14	62.36 ▼	17	57.33 ▲	—	—
Manipur	2	82.75 ▲	1	84.20 ▼	1	81.24 ▲	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2	71.43 ▲	2	71.43 ▲	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1	63.12 ▲	1	63.12 ▲	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	83.09 ▼	1	83.09 ▼	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Odisha	21	73.06 ▼	4	73.82 ▼	5	72.56 ▲	6	71.62 ▼	6	74.38 ▼	—	—
Punjab	13	65.96	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	25	66.34 ▲	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	68.17 ▲	12	63.
Sikkim	1	78.81 ▼	1	78.81 ▼	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu ^[i]	38	72.02 ▼	—	—	38	72.02 ▼	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telangana	17	62.71	17	62.71	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura	2	83.20 ▼	1	83.21 ▼	—	—	1	83.19 ▲	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	80	59.21 ▲	8	63.92 ▼	8	62.46 ▲	10	61.42 ▼	13	59.11 ▲	14	58.
Uttarakhand	5	61.48 ▼	5	61.48 ▼	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	42	81.76 ▼	2	83.80 ▲	3	81.72 ▲	5	81.97 ▼	8	82.84 ▼	7	80.
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	65.08 ▼	1	65.08 ▼	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	70.62	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	79.59 ▼	—	—	—	—	1	79.59 ▼	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	1	71.83 ▼	—	—	—	—	1	71.83 ▼	—	—	—	—
Delhi	7	60.51 ▼	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	1	84.96 ▼	1	84.96 ▼	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry	1	81.21 ▼	—	—	1	81.21 ▼	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	542	67.11 ▲	91	69.58 ▲	95	69.45 ▼	116 1/3	68.40 ▲	71 1/3	65.50 ▲	50 1/3	

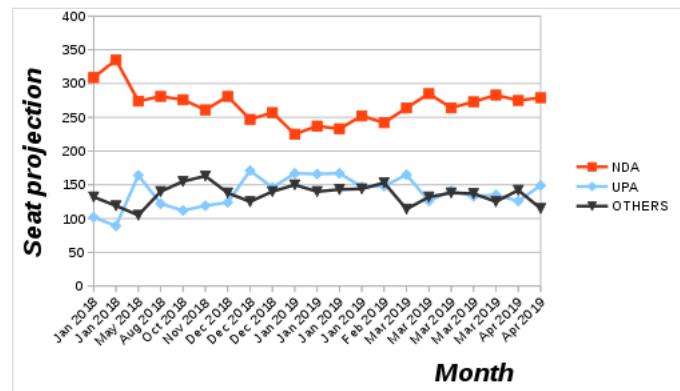
State/UT-wise voter turnout details

State/UT	Total electors	Total voters	Total turnout	Total seats
Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)	318,471	207,398	65.12%	1
Andhra Pradesh	39,405,967	31,674,526	80.38%	25
Arunachal Pradesh	803,563	659,766	82.11%	2
Assam	22,050,059	17,992,753	81.60%	14
Bihar	71,216,290	40,830,453	57.33%	40
Chandigarh (UT)	646,729	456,637	70.61%	1
Chhattisgarh	19,016,462	13,622,625	71.64%	11
Dadra & Nagar Haveli (UT)	250,029	198,984	79.58%	1
Daman & Diu (UT)	121,740	87,473	71.85%	1
Goa	1,136,113	853,724	75.14%	2
Gujarat	45,152,373	29,128,364	64.51%	26
Haryana	18,057,010	12,701,029	70.34%	10
Himachal Pradesh	5,330,154	3,859,940	72.42%	4
Jammu & Kashmir	7,922,538	3,562,744	44.97%	6
Jharkhand	22,404,856	14,966,781	66.80%	14
Karnataka	51,094,530	35,159,448	68.81%	28
Kerala	26,204,836	20,397,168	77.84%	20
Lakshadweep (UT)	55,189	47,026	85.21%	1
Madhya Pradesh	51,867,474	36,928,342	71.20%	29
Maharashtra	88,676,946	54,111,038	61.02%	48
Manipur	1,959,563	1,620,451	82.69%	2
Meghalaya	1,914,796	1,367,759	71.43%	2
Mizoram	792,464	500,347	63.14%	1
Nagaland	1,213,777	1,007,437	83.00%	1
NCT of Delhi	14,327,649	8,682,366	60.60%	7
Odisha	32,497,762	23,817,169	73.29%	21
Puducherry (UT)	973,410	790,895	81.25%	1
Punjab	20,892,673	13,777,295	65.94%	13
Rajasthan	48,955,813	32,476,481	66.34%	25
Sikkim	434,128	353,415	81.41%	1
Tamil Nadu	59,941,832	43,419,753	72.44%	39
Telangana	29,708,615	18,646,856	62.77%	17
Tripura	2,614,718	2,154,550	82.40%	2
Uttar Pradesh	146,134,603	86,531,972	59.21%	80
Uttarakhand	7,856,318	4,861,415	61.88%	5
West Bengal	70,001,284	57,230,018	81.76%	42
India	911,950,734	614,684,398	67.40%	543

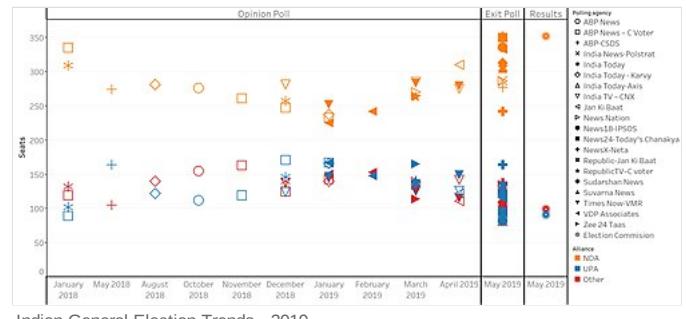
Surveys and polls

Opinion polls

Various organisations carried out [opinion polling](#) to gauge voting intentions in India. The results of such polls are displayed in this list. The date range for these opinion polls is from the [previous general election](#), held in April and May 2014, to the present day. The ECI banned the release of [exit polls](#) from 11 April to 19 May, the last phase of the elections.^[148] The commission also banned the publication or broadcast in the media of predictions made by astrologers and tarot card readers.^[149]



Number of seats projected in opinion polls per alliance over time.



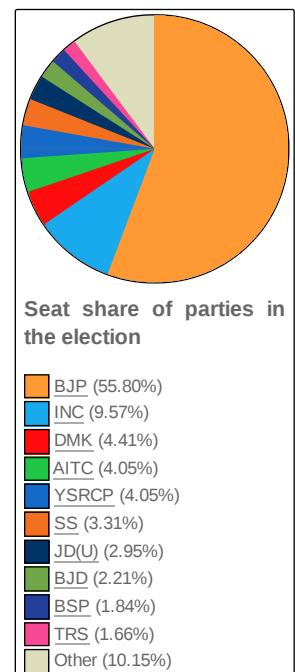
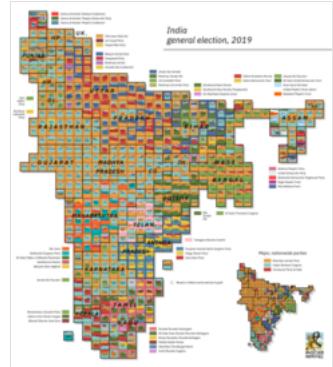
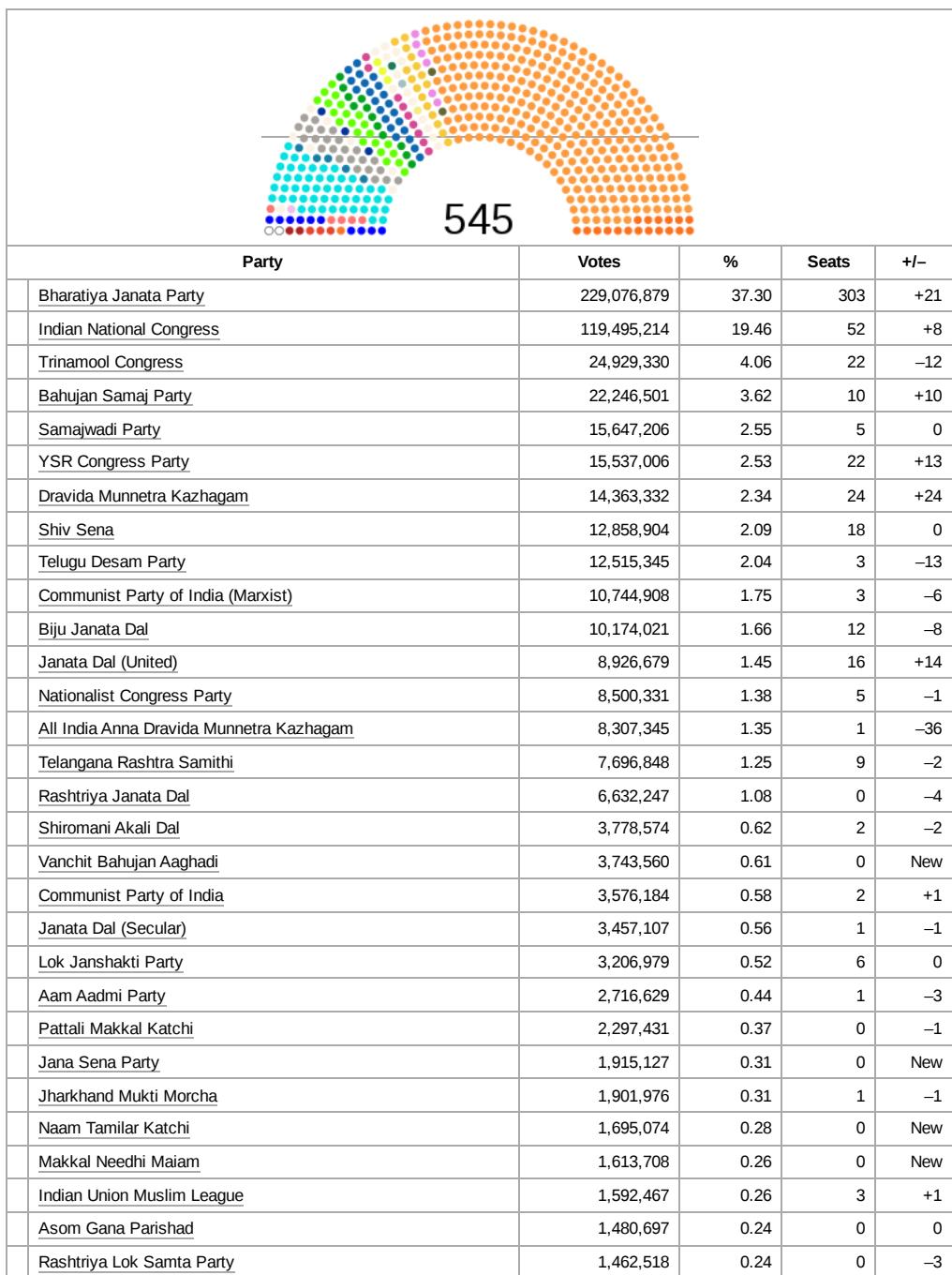
Poll type	Date published	Polling agency	NDA	UPA	Others	Majority	Ref
			NDA	UPA	Others	Majority	Ref
Opinion polls	8 April 2019	Times Now-VMR	279	149	115	7	[150]
	6 April 2019	India TV-CNX	275	126	142	3	[151]
	Mar 2019	Times Now-VMR	283	135	125	11	[152]
	Mar 2019	News Nation	270	134	139	Hung	[153]
	Mar 2019	CVoter	264	141	138	Hung	
	Mar 2019	India TV-CNX	285	126	132	13	[154]
	Mar 2019	Zee 24 Taas	264	165	114	Hung	[155]
	Feb 2019	VDP Associates	242	148	153	Hung	[156]
	Jan 2019	Times Now-VMR	252	147	144	Hung	[157]
	Jan 2019	ABP News-CVoter	233	167	143	Hung	[158]
	Jan 2019	India Today-Karvy	237	166	140	Hung	[159]
	Jan 2019	VDP Associates	225	167	150	Hung	[160]
	Dec 2018	India Today	257	146	140	Hung	[161]
	Dec 2018	ABP News-CVoter	247	171	125	Hung	[162]
	Dec 2018	India TV-CNX	281	124	138	9	[163]
	Nov 2018	ABP News-CVoter	261	119	163	Hung	[164]
	Oct 2018	ABP News	276	112	155	4	[165]
	Aug 2018	India Today-Karvy	281	122	140	9	[166]
	May 2018	ABP News-CSDS	274	164	105	2	[167]
	Jan 2018	CVoter	335	89	119	63	
	Jan 2018	India Today	309	102	132	37	[168]

Exit polls

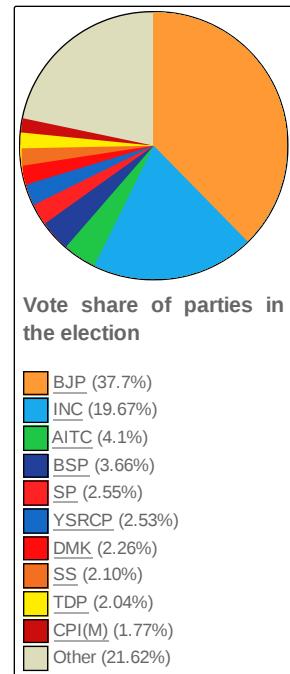
Poll type	Date published	Polling agency	NDA	UPA	Others	Majority	Ref
			NDA	UPA	Others	Majority	Ref
Exit polls		India Today-Axis	352 ± 13	93 ± 15	82 ± 13	70 ± 13	[169]

<u>News24-Today's Chanakya</u>	350 ± 14	95 ± 9	97 ± 11	68 ± 14	[170]
<u>News18-IPSOS CNN-IBN-IPSOS</u>	336	82	124	64	[171][172]
<u>VDP Associates</u>	333	115	94	61	[173]
<u>Sudarshan News</u>	313	121	109	41	[174]
<u>Times Now-VMR</u>	306 ± 3	132 ± 3	104 ± 3	34 ± 3	[175]
<u>Suvarna News</u>	305	124	102	33	[174]
<u>India TV-CNX</u>	300 ± 10	120 ± 5	122 ± 6	28 ± 10	[176]
<u>India News-Polstrat</u>	287	128	127	15	[177]
<u>CVoter</u>	287	128	127	15	[172]
<u>News Nation</u>	286	122	134	14	[178]
<u>ABP-CSDS</u>	277	130	135	5	[169]
<u>NewsX-Neta</u>	242	164	137	Hung	[172]

Results



Rashtriya Lok Dal	1,447,363	0.24	0	0
All India United Democratic Front	1,402,088	0.23	1	-2
All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen	1,201,542	0.20	2	+1
Apna Dal (Sonelal)	1,039,478	0.17	2	New
Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular)	956,501	0.16	0	New
Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam	929,590	0.15	0	0
Swabhiman Paksha	834,380	0.14	0	-1
Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik)	750,799	0.12	0	0
Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation	711,715	0.12	0	0
Revolutionary Socialist Party	709,685	0.12	1	0
Vikassheel Insaan Party	660,706	0.11	0	New
Rashtriya Loktantrik Party	660,051	0.11	1	New
All Jharkhand Students Union	648,277	0.11	1	+1
Jannayak Janta Party	619,970	0.10	0	New
Bharatiya Tribal Party	539,319	0.09	0	New
Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi	507,643	0.08	1	+1
Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party	500,510	0.08	1	New
Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi	491,596	0.08	0	0
Lok Insaaf Party	469,784	0.08	0	New
Bodoland People's Front	446,774	0.07	0	0
National People's Party	425,986	0.07	1	0
Kerala Congress (M)	421,046	0.07	1	0
United People's Party Liberal	416,305	0.07	0	New
Bahujan Mukti Party	405,949	0.07	0	0
Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist)	403,835	0.07	0	0
Ambedkarite Party of India	381,070	0.06	0	0
Bharath Dharma Jana Sena	380,847	0.06	0	New
Naga People's Front	363,527	0.06	1	0
Pragatishil Samajwadi Party (Lohia)	344,546	0.06	0	New
All India Forward Bloc	322,507	0.05	0	0
Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party	313,925	0.05	0	0
Punjab Ekta Party	296,620	0.05	0	New
Maharashtra Swabhiman Paksha	281,578	0.05	0	New
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	280,356	0.05	3	+3
United Democratic Party	267,256	0.04	0	0
All India N.R. Congress	247,956	0.04	0	-1
Indian National Lok Dal	240,258	0.04	0	-2
Mizo National Front	224,286	0.04	1	New
Tamil Maanila Congress	220,849	0.04	0	New
Gondwana Ganatantra Party	210,088	0.03	0	0
Jansatta Dal (Loktantrik)	203,369	0.03	0	New
Social Democratic Party of India	169,680	0.03	0	0
Sikkim Krantikari Morcha	166,922	0.03	1	+1
Nawan Punjab Party	161,645	0.03	0	New
Kerala Congress	155,135	0.03	0	New
Sikkim Democratic Front	154,489	0.03	0	-1
Peoples Party of India (Democratic)	153,103	0.02	0	New
Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference	133,612	0.02	0	0
Hindusthan Nirman Dal	122,972	0.02	0	0
Uttama Prajaakeeya Party	120,800	0.02	0	New
Bhartiya Shakti Chetna Party	105,997	0.02	0	0
Voters Party International	105,972	0.02	0	New
587 other parties with fewer than 100,000 votes	5,343,894	0.87	0	-
Independents	16,485,773	2.68	4	+1
None of the above	6,522,772	1.06	-	-
Appointed Anglo-Indians			2	-



Total	614,172,823	100.00	545	0
Valid votes	614,172,823	99.92		
Invalid/blank votes	511,575	0.08		
Total votes	614,684,398	100.00		
Registered voters/turnout	911,950,734	67.40		

Source: ECI (<https://eci.gov.in/files/file/13539-33-constituency-wise-detailed-result/>), ECI (<https://eci.gov.in/files/file/13569-18-partywise-seat-won-valid-votes-polled-in-each-state/>)

Aftermath

Reactions

National

Indian National Congress party leaders such as Rahul Gandhi and others conceded defeat and congratulated Modi and his party.^[179] Other opposition parties and political leaders such as Sharad Pawar,^[180] Mamata Banerjee and Omar Abdullah,^[181] congratulated PM Modi and BJP for their victory.



Rahul Gandhi speaks at a press conference after the announcement of results as seen from The Ridge, Shimla

International

The leaders of Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, China, Comoros, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, North Korea, Nigeria, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Portugal, Qatar, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe congratulated Narendra Modi and the BJP on their victory.^[183]

Government formation

- 23 May 2019: PM Narendra Modi wins a second term with an overwhelming majority.
- 30 May 2019: PM Narendra Modi is sworn in as Prime Minister of India with 24 Cabinet Ministers, 9 MoS (Independent Charge) and 24 MoS.^[184]

Swearing-in ceremony

Narendra Modi, parliamentary leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, started his tenure after his oath of office as the 16th Prime Minister of India on 30 May 2019. Several other ministers were also sworn in along with Modi. The ceremony was noted by media for being the first ever oath of office of an Indian Prime Minister to have been attended by the heads of all BIMSTEC countries.

Impact

The benchmark BSE Sensex and Nifty50 indices hit intraday record highs and the Indian rupee strengthened after the exit polls and on the day the election results were announced.^[185]

Timeline

Electoral timelines are as below:^[186]

March 2019

- **10 March 2019: The Election Commission of India announced election scheduled to the 17th Lok Sabha.**^[186]
 - The Model Code of Conduct comes into force.^[187]
 - 18 March 2019: Issue of notification for the 1st poll day.^[186]
 - 19 March 2019: Issue of notification for the 2nd poll day.^[186]
 - 25 March 2019: Last date for filing nominations for the 1st poll day.^[186]
 - 26 March 2019: Last date for filing nominations for the 2nd poll day.^[186]
 - Scrutiny of nominations filed for the 1st poll day.^[186]
 - 27 March 2019: Scrutiny of nominations filed for the 2nd poll day.^[186]
 - 28 March 2019: Issue of notification for the 3rd poll day.^[186]
 - Last day for withdrawal of candidature filed for the 1st poll day.^[186]

- 29 March 2019: Last day for withdrawal of candidature filed for the 2nd poll day.^[186]

April 2019

- 2 April 2019: Issue of notification for the 4th poll day.^[186]
- **3 April 2019: Indian National Congress released their manifesto titled *Congress Will Deliver*.**^[188]
- 4 April 2019: Last date for filing nominations for the 3rd poll day.^[186]
- 5 April 2019: Scrutiny of nominations filed for the 3rd poll day.^[186]
- **8 April 2019: Bharatiya Janata Party released its manifesto titled *Sankalpit Bharat, Sashakt Bharat*.**^{[189][190]}
 - Last day for withdrawal of candidature filed for the 3rd poll day.^[186]
 - 9 April 2019: Last date for filing nominations for the 4th poll day.^[186]
 - 10 April 2019: Issue of notification for the 5th poll day.^[186]
 - Scrutiny of nominations filed for the 4th poll day.^[186]
 - **11 April 2019: Polling held at 91 parliamentary constituencies spanning over 20 states for the first poll day.**^[186]
 - 12 April 2019: Last day for withdrawal of candidature filed for the 4th poll day.^[186]
 - 16 April 2019: Issue of notification for the 6th poll day.^[186]
 - **18 April 2019: Polling held at 95 parliamentary constituencies spanning over 13 states for the second poll day.**^[186] (Vellore constituency election cancelled due to illegal cash deposit from Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam candidate.)
 - Last date for filing nominations for the 5th poll day.^[186]
 - 20 April 2019: Scrutiny of nominations filed for the 5th poll day.^[186]
 - 22 April 2019: Issue of notification for the 7th poll day.^[186]
 - Last day for withdrawal of candidature filed for the 5th poll day.^[186]
 - **23 April 2019: Polling held at 117 parliamentary constituencies spanning over 14 states for the third poll day.**^[186]
 - Last date for filing nominations for the 6th poll day.^[186]
 - 24 April 2019: Scrutiny of nominations filed for the 6th poll day.^[186]
 - 26 April 2019: Last day for withdrawal of candidature filed for the 6th poll day.^[186]
 - **29 April 2019: Polling held at 71 parliamentary constituencies spanning over 9 states for the fourth poll day.**^[186]
 - Last date for filing nominations for the 7th poll day.^[186]
 - 30 April 2019: Scrutiny of nominations filed for the 7th poll day.^[186]

May 2019

- 2 May 2019: Last day for withdrawal of candidature filed for the 7th poll day.^[186]
- **6 May 2019: Polling held for 51 parliamentary constituencies in more than 7 states for the fifth polling day.**^[186]
- **12 May 2019: Polling held for 59 parliamentary constituencies in more than 7 states the sixth polling day.**^[186]
- **19 May 2019: Polling held at 59 parliamentary constituencies in more than 8 states the seventh polling day.**^[186]
- **23 May 2019: Counting of votes and declaration of results for all polling days.**^[186]

See also

- List of members of the 17th Lok Sabha
- 2019 Indian Rajya Sabha elections
- 2019 elections in India
- Politics of India

Notes

- The election for the Vellore constituency was delayed and took place on 5 August 2019.
- Two seats were reserved for Anglo-Indians and filled through Presidential nomination.
- In 9 states and union territories of India – such as Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala and Uttarakhand – more women turned out to vote than men in 2019.^[8]
- The unemployment data in India is not collected on a monthly or an annual basis, rather it is determined through a sample survey once every 5 years, with a few exceptions. The survey methodology is unlike those in major world economies, and sub-classifies unemployment into categories such as "usual status unemployment" and "current status unemployment" based on the answers given by the individuals interviewed. Its methodology and results have been questioned by various scholars.^{[49][50][51]} The report and the refusal of the BJP government to release it has been criticised by economist Surjit Bhalla.^[50] According to Bhalla, the survey methodology is flawed and its results absurd, because the sample survey-based report finds that India's overall population has declined since 2011–12 by 1.2 per cent (contrary to the Census data which states a 6.7 per cent increase). The report finds that India's per cent urbanisation and urban workforce has declined since 2012, which is contrary to all other studies on Indian urbanisation trends, states Bhalla.^[50] According to NSSO's report's data, "the Modi government has unleashed the most inclusive growth anywhere, and at any time in human history" – which is as unbelievable as the unemployment data it reports, states Bhalla.^[50] The NSSO report suggests the inflation-adjusted employment income of casual workers has dramatically increased while those of the salaried wage-earners has fallen during the 5-years of BJP government.^[50] The NSSO has also

changed the sampling methodology in the latest round, state Bhalla and Avik Sarkar,^[52] which is one of the likely sources of its flawed statistics and conclusions.^[50]

- e. According to Chandra: in 2009 after the persistently dynastic Samajwadi party, the larger Biju Janata Dal ranked next, followed by the Congress party. In 2004 and 2014, Congress ranked second.^[74]
- f. Stanley Kochanek in 1987 published about the "briefcase politics" tradition in Indian politics during the decades when the Congress party dominated Indian national politics.^[116] Similarly, Rajeev Gowda and E Sridharan in 2012 have discussed the history of campaign financing laws in India and the role of black money in Indian elections.^[117] Devesh Kapur and Milan Vaishnav discuss the rise of "briefcase" black money donations in India triggered by the 1969 campaign financing bans proposed and enacted by Indira Gandhi, and the campaign finance law reforms thereafter through 2017. They call the recent reforms as yielding "greater transparency than ever before, though limited".^[118]
- g. ▲▼ indicate change from the 2014 elections.
- h. Polling in Anantnag was scheduled over three days.
- i. Tamil Nadu has 39 constituencies. Polling in Vellore was cancelled and later held on 5 August 2019.

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2014 Indian general election

General elections were held in India in nine phases from 7 April to 12 May 2014 to elect the members of the 16th Lok Sabha.^[1] With 834 million registered voters, they were the largest-ever elections in the world until being surpassed by the 2019 election. Around 23.1 million or 2.71% of the total eligible voters were aged 18–19 years.^[2] A total of 8,251 candidates contested the 543 elected Lok Sabha seats.^[3] The average election turnout over all nine phases was around 66.40%, the highest ever in the history of Indian general elections until 2019 election.^[3]

The results were declared on 16 May, 15 days before the 15th Lok Sabha completed its constitutional mandate on 31 May 2014.^[4] The counting exercise was held at 989 counting centers.^[3] The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) received 31% of the vote and won 282 seats, while its National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won a total of 336 seats. Although the Indian National Congress (INC) was defeated by a landslide, the BJP's vote share was the lowest by a party winning a majority of seats since independence,^[5] The BJP won 31.2% votes, while NDA's combined vote share was 38.5%. However, the governing coalition had the largest majority since the 1984 elections, and it was the first time since 1984 that a party had won enough seats to govern without the support of other parties.^{[6][7][8]}

In contrast, the result was the worst-ever performance by the Indian National Congress (INC), which had ruled India for most of its post-independence history. The INC received 19.3% of the vote and won only 44 seats, with its wider alliance, the United Progressive Alliance, winning a total of just 59.^{[9][10][11]} In order to become the official opposition party in India, a party must have 55 seats; as a result, there was no official opposition party.^{[12][13]}

Background

As per the requirements of the Indian Constitution, elections to the Lok Sabha must be held at an interval of five years or whenever parliament is dissolved by the president. The previous election, to the 15th Lok Sabha, was conducted in April–May 2009, and its term would have naturally expired on 31 May 2014. The election to the 16th Lok Sabha was organised and conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and was held in multiple phases, to better handle the large electoral base and security concerns.

Since the last general election in 2009, the anti-corruption movement by Anna Hazare, and other similar moves by Baba Ramdev and Arvind Kejriwal (founder of Aam Aadmi Party), gathered momentum and political interest.^[14] Kejriwal went on to form a separate political party, Aam Aadmi Party, in November 2012. The 2012 presidential election resulted in Pranab Mukherjee of Indian

2014 Indian general election

7 April 2014 – 12 May 2014		
543 of the 545 seats in the Lok Sabha 272 seats needed for a majority		
Opinion polls		
Registered 834,082,814		
Turnout 66.44% (▲ 8.23pp)		
Leader	<u>Narendra Modi</u>	<u>Rahul Gandhi</u>
Party	<u>BJP</u>	<u>INC</u>
Alliance	<u>NDA</u>	<u>UPA</u>
Last election	18.80%, 116 seats	28.55%, 206 seats
Seats won	282	44
Seat change	▲ 166	▼ 162
Popular vote	171,660,230	106,935,942
Percentage	31.00%	19.31%
Swing	▲ 12.20pp	▼ 9.24pp
Alliance seats	336	59
Seat change	▲ 177	▼ 203
Alliance percentage	38.5%	23.0%

National Congress becoming the president. Andhra politics was further shaken following the death of its chief minister, Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy. His son, Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy, then broke from the INC and founded the YSR Congress Party, taking several politicians with him.

The final session of parliament started on 6 February and ended on 21 February. Amongst the agenda in the final session was passing The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill, 2013 in tackling corruption and the creation of Telangana.^[15]

Organisation

Spending limit

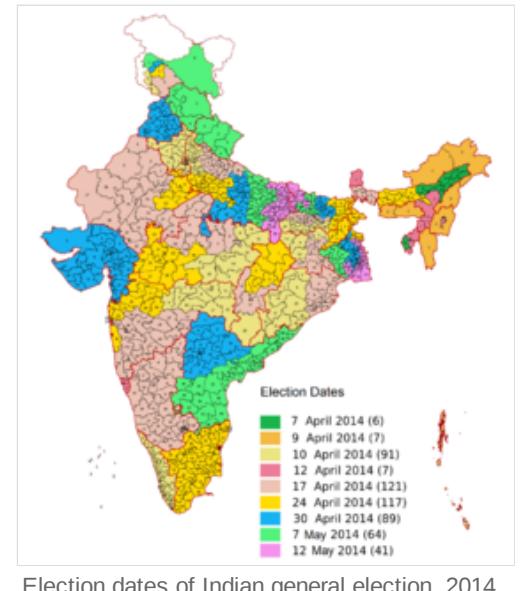
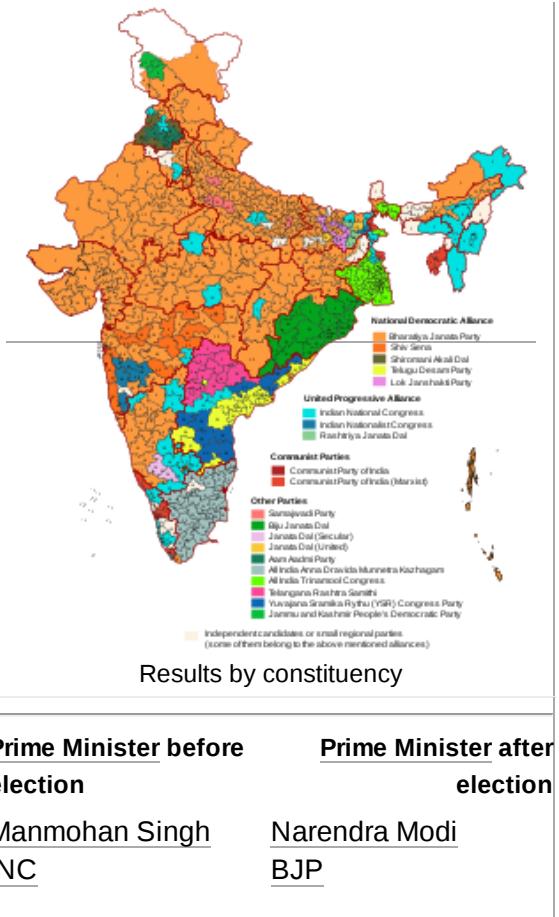
The Cabinet of India revised the limit of election expenditure by a candidate for parliamentary constituencies to ₹7 million (US\$84,000) in bigger states and to ₹5.4 million (US\$65,000) in smaller states and all union territories except Delhi.^[16] This revision of the ceiling on the elections were attributed to the increase in the number of electors and polling stations as well as the increase in the cost inflation index.

Accessibility

Satyendra Singh, a doctor with a disability,^[17] showed the lack of preparedness by the Election Commission of India (ECI) towards electors with disabilities through the Right to Information Act.^[18] The Chief Electoral Officer in Delhi, Vijay Dev then started a campaign on providing accessibility for the disabled, along with him. Singh conducted sensitisation workshops for election officers and helped in setting up a registration link for voters with disabilities to register to vote and provide their requirements.^[19]

Election Schedule

The Chief Election Commissioner of India (CEC), V. S. Sampath, announced the polling schedule on 5 March. Voting was scheduled to be held in nine phases from 7 April to 12 May, and the results of the election were announced on 16 May.^{[20][21]} Simultaneous elections were held for the Vidhan Sabha of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana and Sikkim.^[22]



Phase-wise polling constituencies in each state

State/Union territory	Total constituencies	Election dates and number of constituencies								
		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 6	Phase 7	Phase 8	Phase 9
		7 April	9 April	10 April	12 April	17 April	24 April	30 April	7 May	12 May
Andhra Pradesh	42							17	25	
Arunachal Pradesh	2		2							
Assam	14	5		3		6				
Bihar	40		6		7	7	7	7	6	
Chhattisgarh	11			1		3	7			
Goa	2				2					
Gujarat	26							26		
Haryana	10		10							
Himachal Pradesh	4								4	
Jammu and Kashmir	6		1		1	1	1	2		
Jharkhand	14		5		5	4				
Karnataka	28				28					
Kerala	20		20							
Madhya Pradesh	29		9		10	10				
Maharashtra	48		10		19	19				
Manipur	2	1			1					
Meghalaya	2	2								
Mizoram	1	1								
Nagaland	1	1								
Odisha	21		10		11					
Punjab	13							13		
Rajasthan	25				20	5				
Sikkim	1			1						
Tamil Nadu	39					39				
Tripura	2	1		1						
Uttar Pradesh	80		10		11	12	14	15	18	
Uttarakhand	5								5	
West Bengal	42				4	6	9	6	17	
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1		1							
Chandigarh	1		1							
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1						1			
Daman and Diu	1						1			
Delhi	7		7							

Lakshadweep	1			1						
Puducherry	1						1			
Constituencies	543	6	7	92	5	122	117	89	64	41
Total states/UTs polling on this day	2	5	14	3	13	12	9	7	3	
Total constituencies by end of phase	6	13	105	110	232	349	438	502	543	
% complete by end of phase	1%	2%	19%	20%	43%	64%	81%	92%	100%	
		States/UTs	Constituencies							
Number of states and UTs polling in single phase		21		167						
Number of states and UTs polling in two phases		5		92						
Number of states and UTs polling in three phases		5		116						
Number of states and UTs polling in five phases		2		48						
Number of states and UTs polling in six phases		2		120						
Total	35		543							
Result				16 May 2014						

Campaign

Issues

Important issues during the campaign included high inflation, lack of jobs, economic slow down, corruption, security and terrorism, religious division and communalism, and infrastructure such as roads, electricity and water.^{[23][24][25]} In a survey by Zee News, inflation was indicated to be the main issue in the election.^[26]

Economy

Bloomberg highlighted India's slowing economy amidst a record high current account deficit and a falling rupee in summer 2013. It pointed out a lack of infrastructure investment and a government increasingly likely to give subsidies that the national finances cannot afford just before the election. Other points it mentioned were stagnant policymaking and an inefficient bureaucracy.^[27] The economy was the main issue in the campaign.^[28] The lack of a clear mandate as a result of the election could lead to an increase in the price of gold in the country.^{[29][30]} Modi also brought up the issue of farmer suicides that resulted from high debt and poor yield on their crops.^[31] Former Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha criticised the incumbent Chidambaram in saying that he had a "habit that he will get a strong economy, and he will ruin it before he leaves... Shri Chidambaram will be remembered in history as a spoiler, as someone who specialises in sub-five per cent growth rate, for his hubris, arrogance".^[32]

Price rise

The price of onions, a staple in Indian cuisine, faced a dramatic increase.^[33] In the lead up to the election, consumer price inflation increased more than expected while, paradoxically, industrial production fell by more than expected, causing a dilemma amid slowing growth.^[34] The price of salt was also indicative of general food inflation.^[35]

Corruption

During the UPA-2 government, a number of scams came to public attention, deteriorating the image of the government among the common man. These scams included coal scam, 2G spectrum case, AgustaWestland Chopper scam and CWG scam.

Celebrity candidates

Celebrity candidates from non-political spheres were nominated in the election. These included: Raj Babbar (INC), Bhaichung Bhutia (AITC), Biswajit Chatterjee (AITC), Sandhya Roy (AITC), Smriti Irani (BJP), Jaaved Jaafri (AAP), Prakash Jha (JD(U)), Mohammad Kaif (INC), Kamaal Rashid Khan (SP), Vinod Khanna (BJP), Ravi Kishan (INC), Kirron Kher (BJP), Bappi Lahiri (BJP), Hema Malini (BJP), Mahesh Manjrekar (MNS), Bhagwant Mann (AAP), Nandan Nilekani (INC), Gul Panag (AAP), Jaya Prada (RLD), Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (BJP), Paresh Rawal (BJP), Rakhi Sawant (RAP), Indranil Sen (AITC), Moon Moon Sen (AITC), Vijay Kumar Singh (BJP), Shatrughan Sinha (BJP), P. C. Sorcar Jr. (BJP), Babul Supriyo (BJP), Manoj Tiwari (BJP), Innocent Vincent (LDF-IND), Nagma (INC), Dev (AITC), and Siddhanta Mahapatra (BJD).^{[36][37][38][39]}

Parties and alliances

National Democratic Alliance

The constituents of the National Democratic Alliance and the seats they contested and won are shown at the right in the table: The NDA garnered an overwhelming number of 336 seats in this election. This has propelled it to form the government in the country.^{[40][41][42][43][44]}

Bharatiya Janata Party

Organisation

Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi was appointed to lead the Bharatiya Janata Party's campaign after a party conclave in Goa.^{[45][46]} This came amid controversy as L. K. Advani opposed the decision and resigned from his party posts, only to later rescind his resignation.^[47] Murli Manohar Joshi and Sushma Swaraj were part of the team for the campaign. Rajnath Singh, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani were the mentors for the BJP's campaign.^[48] A 12-member committee, led by Modi, was appointed at the Goa conclave which included M. Venkaiah Naidu, Nitin Gadkari, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh and Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar.^[48]

Key leader's constituencies

Modi contested the election from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh^[49] and Vadodara in Gujarat.^[50] In Varanasi, the sizeable Muslim minority population was viewed by the media as an important voter target and the BJP's minority cell leader Salim Mohammad took part in campaigning.^[51] Advani wanted to contest from Bhopal but later agreed to contest again from his incumbent seat Gandhinagar.^[52] He also rejected a proposal to be appointed to the Rajya Sabha in favour of running in the election.^[53] Advani was given the Gandhinagar seat because Modi wanted him to contest from Gujarat, according to Rajnath Singh.^[54] Arun Jaitley contested for the Lok Sabha for the first time (having previously been a Rajya Sabha member)^[55] from Amritsar against former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh.^[56] The move was controversial as incumbent MP from Amritsar Navjot Singh Sidhu was unhappy in not being allocated the constituency. Yet he said that as Jaitley was his

Party	Seats	
	Contested	Won
<u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u>	427	282
<u>Telugu Desam Party</u>	30	16
<u>Shiv Sena</u>	20	18
<u>Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam</u>	14	0
<u>Shiromani Akali Dal</u>	10	4
<u>Pattali Makkal Katchi</u>	8	1
<u>Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	7	0
<u>Lok Janshakti Party</u>	7	6
<u>Rashtriya Lok Samta Party</u>	3	3
<u>Apna Dal</u>	2	2
<u>Haryana Janhit Congress (BL)</u>	2	0
<u>Swabhiman Paksha</u>	2	1
<u>Indhiya Jananayaga Katchi</u>	1	0
<u>Puthiya Needhi Katchi</u>	1	0
<u>Kongunadu Makkal Desia Katchi</u>	1	0
<u>All India N.R. Congress</u>	1	1
<u>Republican Party of India (A)</u>	1	0
<u>Rashtriya Samaj Paksha</u>	1	0
<u>Revolutionary Socialist Party (Bolshevik)</u>	1	0
<u>Kerala Congress (Nationalist)</u>	1	0
<u>National People's Party</u>	1	1
<u>Naga People's Front</u>	1	1
<u>Mizo National Front</u>	1	0
National Democratic Alliance	543	336

"guru" he would accept the decision, but would not run from any other constituency. The reason for not allocating the ticket to Sidhu was said to be because of his spat with the Shiromani Akali Dal Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal and party President Sukhbir Singh Badal, as well as other BJP personnel.^[57] Jaswant Singh was denied nomination from Barmer constituency so he decided instead to contest the seat as an independent.^[58]

Campaign and Issues

The BJP released its manifesto on 7 April 2014. The party promised to set up a Price Stabilization Fund and to evolve a single 'National Agriculture Market' to check price rise and go for e-Governance, policy-driven governance and simplification of the tax regime to prevent corruption. It wanted to encourage labour-intensive manufacturing, focus on traditional employment bases of agriculture, the upgrade of infrastructure and housing and self-employment opportunities for job creation. Harnessing satellite technology; setting up National Optical-Fibre Network up to the village level; Diamond Quadrilateral project – of High Speed Train network were among several other things that the party promised.^[59] The Himachal Pradesh BJP attacked the UPA's "one rank, one pension" scheme as an "election stunt," according to the convenor of the BJP's ex-servicemen cell, Brigadier (Retired) Lal Chand Jaswal. The move followed the BJP raising the issue in the previous years and Modi's announcement at an ex-servicemen's rally at Rewari on 15 September 2013 and at Sujanpur on 17 February.^[60] Modi also criticised the INC and Rahul Gandhi for giving a ticket to former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan despite his indictment in the Adarsh Housing Society scam in Mumbai.^[61] He further criticised Gandhi's comments about his governance of Gujarat at rally in Bijapur.^[62] At a rally in Gurgaon, Haryana, part of the wider National Capital Region, Modi said: "People gave ruling Congress 60 years, I just need 60 months to prove that the BJP is the best option for India" and alleged that the INC was protecting Robert Vadra, the son-in-law of Sonia Gandhi, after he was said to have "sold farmers land" and made money. "Robert Vadra's empty bank account was credited with \$8.30m (Rs 500 million) in just three months. BJP wants answers".^[63] He also criticised the INC's Nandan Nilekani as he had "squandered crores of rupees in giving a unique identity (Aadhaar) to millions of people, which even the Supreme Court questioned, as it did not address the security concerns".^[64]

Amongst the social media, individuals came up with satirical takes on sports, movies (in Hindi and English) and songs, amongst other things, in support of the BJP campaign slogan that were premised on "*Aab ki baar, Modi sarkar*" ([This time, [we will have a] Modi government]).^[65] Modi was noted for focusing, in his rallies across the country, on the 23 million first-time come-of-age voters.^[66] By the last day of campaigning on 10 May, Narendra Modi had undertaken the largest mass outreach in India's electoral history by travelling about 300,000 km for 437 public meetings in 25 states and 1350 innovative 3D rallies according to the BJP.^[67]

In regards to foreign relations of India, Modi in a rally in Arunachal Pradesh, a state which borders China with a history of border disputes, swore to protect the country^[68] and criticised "Chinese expansionism".^[69] He also highlighted the importance of diplomats discussing issues like trade facilitation and promoting Indian business abroad.^[70]

Others

Lok Janshakti Party

Lok Janshakti Party leader Ram Vilas Paswan announced on 30 January that the LJP, RJD and INC will jointly contest the election from Bihar's constituencies.^[71] He later announced on 27 February that he will instead join the NDA. LJP contested polls with the BJP and Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP) on 40 seats with 30 seats for BJP, three seats for RLSP and seven seats for LJP. LJP and RLSP won all the seats allotted to them with BJP winning 22 seats. The election was seen by many BJP leaders as a show of strength after fallout with JD(U). After the election results, Nitish Kumar was forced to resign from the post of Chief Minister after being marginalized to just 2 seats.^[72]

Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam

Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMKD), led by Tamil film actor Vijayakanth joined the NDA on 26 February.^[73]

Lok Satta Party

On 10 April, while campaigning in Telangana, Jayaprakash Narayan of the Lok Satta Party stated that while his party had a few differences of opinion with the BJP manifesto, they had decided to support the NDA in the "national interest".^[74] On the other hand, Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan contested from the Malkajgiri. Malkajgiri had 2,953,915 eligible voters in the election making it the largest parliamentary constituency of the country in terms of number of voters.^[75]

Shiv Sena, Swabhimani Paksha and Rashtriya Samaj Paksha

The Swabhimani Paksha (SWP) a political party of Swabhimani Shetkari Saghtana (SSS) joined the Shiv Sena-BJP-Republican Party of India (A) alliance in February. The SSS, which represents the interests of farmers in western Maharashtra was offered two seats – Madha in Solapur, where NCP leader Sharad Pawar sits, and Hathkanangale, the seat of SSS leader Raju Shetti. Shetti also sought Baramati but this was rejected by the Shiv Sena and BJP, who decided to leave a seat each from their quotas of 22 and 26 to accommodate SSS.^[76] Rashtriya Samaj Paksha also joined the alliance in January.^[77] In addition to the aforementioned four parties that were contesting from Maharashtra, RSP was also in the alliance.^[78]

Shiromani Akali Dal

Shiromani Akali Dal contested 10 out of 13 seats in Punjab.

United Progressive Alliance

The constituents of the United Progressive Alliance and the seats they contested and won are shown at the right in the table: This election turned out to be an unprecedented disaster for the UPA as they garnered the lowest number of seats in their history.

In March, the INC, RJD and NCP announced that they would jointly contest in Bihar.^[90] The INC contested 12 seats, NCP fought on 1 seat and the RJD, being a regional party, would seek the rest of 27 seats.

Indian National Congress

The Indian National Congress had announced, on the fourth anniversary of the second United Progressive Alliance government, that its campaign for the election would be led by incumbent Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, INC chairperson Sonia Gandhi and general secretary Rahul Gandhi.^[91] Rahul Gandhi was appointed to head a six-member committee to formulate and implement alliances, the party manifesto and general publicity for the election.^[92]

In response to sagging opinion poll numbers for the general election, the INC sought to fast-track a decision on separating Telangana from Andhra Pradesh, create a coalition government with the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the Rashtriya Janata Dal in Jharkhand, sought to take credit for the Food Security Bill and passing Land Acquisition Bill.^[93]

Prime Minister candidate

Incumbent Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that he would not return to his role should the INC get a majority or plurality.^[94] Rahul Gandhi told Dainik Bhaskar that he was "ready to take charge" of any responsibility the party gave him and he added that: "My focus for India is a long term vision, where all Indians are treated with equality, respect and are given equal opportunities."^[95] At the party meeting it was decided not to name a prime ministerial candidate amid fears it would turn the election into a presidential one. This was criticised by the BJP. Gandhi would instead lead the party's campaign.^[96] He also called the election a turning point.^[97] Sonia Gandhi then said that the party will face upcoming

Party	Seats	
	Contested	Won
Indian National Congress ^[79]	464	44
Rashtriya Janata Dal ^{[80][81]}	28	4
Nationalist Congress Party ^{[82][83]}	23	6
Rashtriya Lok Dal ^[84]	8	0
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha ^{[85][86]}	4	2
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference ^[87]	3	0
Mahan Dal ^[84]	3	0
Indian Union Muslim League ^[88]	2	2
Socialist Janata ^[88]	1	0
Kerala Congress (M) ^[88]	1	1
Bodoland People's Front ^[89]	1	0
United Progressive Alliance	538	59

challenges and the election with a "lot of determination;" she added that the election would be a battle for India. "Divisive forces are stretching social fabric to breaking point. Opposition's way is to spread disharmony. There's a face hidden behind the mask of compassion."^[98]

Rahul Gandhi

In January, in an interview, Gandhi admitted that some Congress members may have been involved in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots and further stated that Modi's government was responsible for pushing the 2002 riots while the Congress government in 1984 tried to stop the anti Sikh riots.^[99] Fellow UPA member, Praful Patel said that the 2002 matter should be put to rest.^[100] As Gandhi was reported to have sought an early declaration of the party's candidates, the INC was scheduled to hold its first meeting of the central election committee on 13 February to finalise all their candidates by the end of the month. Similarly, the screening committees for several unnamed part of the country had already occurred so as to shortlist the candidates.^[101] On 8 March, its list of 194 candidates was announced, including 35% of candidates that were below the age of 50 years.^[102] The INC was reported to be concerned by the possibility of a reduced mandate in Gandhi's seat of Amethi (Lok Sabha constituency) amidst an unusual challenge by his high-profile competitor, the BJP's Smriti Irani. It even led to his mother, Sonia, campaigning there for the first time in 10 years.^[103]

Opinion polls

The INC dismissed the opinion polls pointing to a NDA plurality as misleading and partisan.^[104] In its manifesto the party promised "inclusive growth" and that it would initiate a raft of welfare schemes, including a right to healthcare for all and pensions for the aged and disabled.^[105] Manmohan Singh, Sonia and Rahul Gandhi's INC campaigning included scheduled stops in Odisha^[106] and, on 20 April, in Maharashtra prior to the third phase.^[107] Rahul Gandhi claimed in a rally in Chhattisgarh that Modi would "divide the nation into pieces, and make people fight against each other."^[108]

Media

During the election, former prime ministerial aide Sanjaya Baru published "The Accidental Prime Minister: The Making and Unmaking of Manmohan Singh" in which he criticised Singh as not being fully in charge of his government in having to compete with the dynastic INC leader, Sonia Gandhi, for influence within his own cabinet. Singh's office retorted in saying it is "smacks of fiction and coloured views of a former adviser."^[109] After Baru said "it is no secret that Sonia Gandhi was the super prime minister," Priyanka Vadra replied "I think Manmohan Singh ji is the super PM."^[110]

Others

Jammu & Kashmir National Conference

Minister for New and Renewable Energy and Jammu & Kashmir National Conference chairman Farooq Abdullah, controversially, told a rally in Srinagar that in regards to Modi becoming prime minister "if it happens then Kashmir will not remain a part of India. I say it publicly. Kashmiris will not accept a communal person". He added before going to a scheduled rally in Magam that "those who vote for Modi should drown themselves in sea".^[111]

Nationalist Congress Party

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) was in alliance with the INC in the states of Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Maharashtra.^{[81][112][113]}

Rashtriya Janata Dal

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Lalu Prasad Yadav said of the BJP's ruling chances that "Modi and Advani can never become the prime minister in their lifetime. Secular forces in this country would never allow the saffron outfit to come to power". In relation to the INC's Rahul Gandhi he said that Gandhi wants to bring change to the country; he added in relation to Digvijay Singh that he was a "good man".^[114]

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) contested polls in alliance with INC and RJD in Jharkhand.^[115] JMM and INC contested in four and ten seats each, respectively. JMM leader Shibu Soren will run from Dumka, while the other three party's seats could come from Rajmahal, Giridih and the purpose-built city of Jamshedpur.^[116]

Left parties

Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Communist Party of India

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) declared their campaign slogan as "Reject Congress, Defeat BJP."^[117] On 3 April, the party published its fourth list of candidates for a total of 94 candidates.^[118]

In West Bengal, CPI (M) contested as part of the Left Front. 32 out of the 42 Left Front candidates in West Bengal came from the CPI (M), while 20 of its candidates were running for the first time.^[119] In Kerala, the CPI (M) contested as a constituent of the Left Democratic Front. In the list of the 15 CPI (M) candidates in Kerala released in mid-March, four were incumbent Lok Sabha members and five others were independents.^{[120][121]} The Kollam seat was allocated to M. A. Baby after the RSP left the LDF and joined the United Democratic Front.^[122]

In Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Odisha and Tamil Nadu, the CPI (M) made an electoral pact with the CPI and other left parties.^{[123][124][125][126][127][128][129]} In Andhra Pradesh, however, no agreement could be reached between the CPI (M) and the CPI due to differences on the Telangana issue; CPI (M) opposed bifurcation, while the CPI supported creating Telangana.^[130] In Telangana region, CPI contested one seat (in alliance with Indian National Congress^[131]), while CPI (M) contested two seats.

Other parties

Aam Aadmi Party

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), formed in 2012, contested 432 seats and won 4 seats.^[132] The party's manifesto focused on anti-corruption measures.^[133] Earlier in 2013, the party had made an impressive electoral debut by winning the second highest number of seats in the Delhi Legislative Assembly elections. After forming a short-lived minority government in Delhi, AAP was seen as a major challenger to the other political parties.^[134] However, the party lost deposits on 413 seats,^[132] surpassing the record of Doordarshi Party, which had lost deposit on 321 seats in 1991.^[135] AAP's leader Arvind Kejriwal unsuccessfully contested against the BJP's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi from Varanasi.^[136] Its spokesperson Prashant Bhushan argued that AAP's national debut performance was better than that of the winning party BJP in its first national elections in 1984.^[137]

All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) opted not to join any alliance and contested all seats in the state of Tamil Nadu and the union territory of Puducherry on its own.^[138] Party General Secretary J. Jayalalithaa told a March rally that she would modernise the armed forces by enhancing their capabilities so that they were on par with the superpowers. In saying so, she criticised the UPA's governance, including its economic, diplomatic, and defence policies, adding that the modernization of the armed forces was hindered by the steady curtailment of its funding.^[139] The party won an unprecedented 37 out of the 40 parliamentary constituencies it contested and emerged as the third-largest party in the 16th Lok Sabha of the Indian Parliament. It was a massive victory that no other regional political party had ever achieved in the history of general elections.

All India Forward Bloc

On 21 March, the All India Forward Bloc released its first list of candidates that covered 38 seats in West Bengal, Maharashtra, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Odisha, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Delhi. According to the party's Secretary Debabrata Biswas the main objective of the party was "to strengthen and unite the Left, democratic and secular forces to achieve an alternative policy for reconstruction of the

country.^{[140][141]} In West Bengal the party contested the election as part of the Left Front.^[119] To defend the two West Bengal seats that it won in 2009, the party decided to field incumbent MP Narahari Mahato in the Purulia seat and a new candidate in the Cooch Behar seat.^[140]

Bahujan Samaj Party

On 19 March, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Mayawati declared that the party would contest the election on its own and fielded candidates in all 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh. Mayawati was confident that the BSP would seek a mandate to form a government with support of secular parties.^[142] The party secured the third highest vote share in the Country and yet did not win a single seat.^[143]

Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation

At a press conference held on 10 March, General Secretary of the party Dipankar Bhattacharya said his party would field 85 candidates in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jharkhand and Puducherry.^[144]

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) opted not to join an UPA pre-poll alliance and contested all seats in Tamil Nadu with its own regional alliance. Party leader Karunanidhi announced Democratic Progressive Alliance (DPA) with local parties like VCK, MMK, IUML and Puthiya Tamizhagam. DMK was not able to secure even a single seat throughout the country.

Janata Dal (United)

The media speculated that Modi still had a chance of gaining in Bihar at the expense of Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal. Whilst the BJP were in coalition with JD(U), Modi was not allowed to speak at rallies in the party by mutual understanding and was only allowed for special events such as a funeral or party conclave, even Modi's flood relief aid to Bihar was termed communal. Bihar was seen as test case for Modi's popularity if the BJP could increase its tally at the expense of the JD(U). There was also speculation that Lalu Prasad Yadav could make a relative comeback after the 2010 provincial election if he is not convicted over the fodder scam. It also suggested that this would be an eager race as it could determine if Kumar's decision to leave the NDA in June 2013 was prudent and if he has any national political scope left; while for Modi it would give crucial seats to the BJP and be able to attract potential allies as Bihar is largely based on caste politics.^{[145][146]} In January 2014, Kumar referred to Gandhi's stand against corruption as a "farce" after hearing of a meeting between Gandhi and RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav despite Yadav being out on bail, after being convicted in the fodder scam. He termed their alliance as "natural" and stated that them coming together was no surprise.^[147]

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen

Asaduddin Owaisi announced 5 candidates from the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) participated in various parliamentary constituencies of Telangana State. Asaduddin Owaisi - Hyderabad Narla Mohan Rao - Secunderabad Divakar Dharanikota Sudhakar - Malkajgiri P.V.N. Reddy - Nandyal, Andhra Pradesh (from 2014 onwards) Guahati Mothilal - Bhongir

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena

The Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) announced its first list of seven candidates. Six of them contested against candidates of Shiv Sena. The party, however, also supported Modi's prime ministerial candidature. The move read as an implicit acceptance of the BJP's Nitin Gadkari's call not to contest against the NDA and to support its own candidates.^[148]

Nav Bharat Democratic Party

Nav Bharat Democratic stepped into the political arena with 9 candidates spread across Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. The party was established by RK Misra.^[149]

Samajwadi Party

Samajwadi Party president Mulayam Singh Yadav claimed that the Third Front government will be formed in the center with the help of his party.^[150] To counter the "Modi-effect" on other constituencies near Varanasi, Yadav decided to contest from Azamgarh and Mainpuri.^[151] The party decided not to field any candidates against the INC's Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi from Rai Bareily and Amethi, respectively, in response to the INC's decision not to field any candidates against Mulayam Singh Yadav and Dimple Yadav from Mainpuri and Kannauj, respectively.^[152]

Sikkim Democratic Front

On 10 March, the Sikkim Democratic Front declared that its incumbent MP, Prem Das Rai, would run for re-election. The party also released a list of 32 candidates for the 2014 Sikkim Legislative Assembly election that will be held simultaneously with the election.^[153]

All India Trinamool Congress

All India Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee declared that the party would contest all 42 seats in West Bengal by itself, making this the first occurrence of the party contesting a general election in West Bengal without an alliance with either of the two largest parties, BJP and INC.^[154] Banerjee told a rally in Cooch Behar district, near the international border with Bangladesh, that she would take up the issue of the border enclaves upon ascertaining the views of the local people living in the adversely possessed areas. She further noted that she had opposed the central government's agreement in 2011 over the Teesta treaty of water-sharing between the two countries on the grounds of receding waters affecting drinking water availability.^[155]

YSR Congress Party

Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy's YSR Congress Party fielded candidates across Andhra Pradesh (Rayalaseema & Coastal Andhra) and some districts of Telangana.^[156] The party fielded several bureaucrats, businessmen and relatives of politicians for Lok Sabha seats in Andhra Pradesh (Rayalaseema & Coastal Andhra), including D. Kishore Rao, the former secretary of the Gujarat Human Rights Commission.^[157] In a statement in March, Reddy stated that he would ally himself with whoever would win the election.^[156]

Surveys and polls

Opinion polls

Opinion polls generally showed the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to be the front runner in the election with the emergence of Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) as the single largest party.

When conducted	Ref	Polling organisation/agency	Sample size	UPA	NDA	LF	Other
Jan–Mar 2013	[158]	Times Now-CVoter	No sample size provided	128	184	—	—
Apr–May 2013	[159]	Headlines Today-CVoter	120,000	209 (without Modi) 155(with Modi)	179(without Modi) 220 (with Modi)	—	—
May 2013	[160]	ABP News-Nielsen	33,408	136	206	—	—
Jul 2013	[161]	The Week – Hansa Research	No sample size provided	184	197	—	162
Jul 2013	[162]	CNN-IBN and The Hindu by CSDS	19,062[163]	149–157	172–180	—	208–224
Jul 2013	[164]	Times Now-India Today-CVoter	36,914	134 (INC 119)	156 (BJP 131)	—	—
Aug–Oct 2013	[165]	Times Now-India TV-CVoter	24,284	117 (INC 102)	186 (BJP 162)	—	240
Dec 2013 – Jan 2014	[166]	India Today-CVoter	21,792	103 (INC 91)	212 (BJP 188)	—	228
Dec 2013 – Jan 2014	[167]	ABP News-Nielsen	64,006[168]	101 (INC 81)	226 (BJP 210)	—	216
Jan 2014	[169]	CNN-IBN-Lokniti-CSDS	18,591[170]	107 – 127 (INC 92 – 108)	211 – 231 (BJP 192 – 210)	—	205
Jan–Feb 2014	[171]	Times Now-India TV-CVoter	14,000[172]	101 (INC 89)	227 (BJP 202)	—	215
Feb 2014	[168]	ABP News-Nielsen	29,000	92	236	29	186
Feb 2014	[173]	CNN-IBN-Lokniti-CSDS	29,000	119 – 139 (INC 94 – 110)	212 – 232 (BJP 193 – 213)	105–193	
March 2014	[174]	NDTV- Hansa Research	46,571	128	230	55	130
March 2014	[175]	CNN-IBN-Lokniti-CSDS	20,957	111–123	234–246	174–198	
April 2014	[176]	NDTV- Hansa Research	24,000[177]	111 (INC 92)	275 (BJP 226)	157	

Exit polls

The Election Commission of India banned the publication of all exit polls starting 48 hours before Phase 1 of the election until the end of Phase 9. This was intended to prevent exit polls from earlier phases affecting voter decisions in later phases. The ban ended after the close of Phase 9 voting at 6:30pm IST on 12 May 2014.^[178]

When conducted	Ref	Polling organisation/agency	Constituencies polled	UPA	NDA	LF	Other
April/May 2014 (post-poll)	[179]	CNN-IBN-Lokniti-CSDS	287 ^[180]	92–102 (INC 72–82)	270–282 (BJP 230–242)		125–171
April/May 2014 (exit+post-poll)	[181]	India Today – Cicero	543 ^[182]	110–120	261–283		150–162
April/May 2014 (exit+post-poll)	[181][183]	News 24-Today's Chanakya	479 ^[184]	61–79 (INC 48–66)	326–354 (BJP 277–305)		122–144

Publish Date	Ref	Polling Organisation	NDA	UPA	Other
12 May 2014	[181]	CNN-IBN – CSDS – Lokniti	276	97	148
	[181][182]	India Today – Cicero	272	115	156
	[181][183]	News 24 – Chanakya	340	70	133
	[181]	Times Now – ORG	249	148	146
	[181][185]	ABP News – Nielsen	274	97	165
	[181]	India TV – CVoter	289	101	148
14 May 2014	[186][187]	NDTV – Hansa Research	279	103	161
	[188]	CNN-IBN – CSDS	280	97	148
12 May 2014	[181]	Poll of Polls	283	105	149

Controversies

During the course of the campaign, several controversies arose with parties being accused by one another and the Election Commission of India of violating Election Commission of India's Model Code of Conduct that is in force during the election.

In the run-up to the election the media in India was criticised for its establishment ties between family owners and political parties. It caused self-censorship and editorial dismissals at certain media outlets.^[189]

India Today temporarily suspended its CVoter opinion poll in late February after a News Express sting operation suggesting Polling Agencies like Ipsos and CVoter fudged the numbers to show BJP candidate Narendra Modi in the lead.^[190]

Voting

In total there were 1.4 million electronic voting machines in 930,000 voting centres. The voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) system which enables EVM to record each vote cast by generating the EVM slip, was introduced in 8 constituencies of Lucknow, Gandhinagar, Bangalore South, Chennai Central, Jadavpur, Raipur, Patna Sahib and Mizoram as a pilot project.^{[191][192][193][194][195][196][197][198]} Also, Braille ballot sheets for the blind were arranged at polling stations. The scale of the election required 1.1 million of civil servants and 5.5 million civilian employees to handle the election. It was the first election that had the "none of the above" option and allowed Non-Resident Indians to vote; though only in India.^[108] Security was increased during the election, particularly as the Communist Party of India (Maoist) (CPI (Maoist)) called for a boycott of the election.^[199] On 12 April, even though there was no voting this day, a vehicle in Chhattisgarh hit a CPI (Maoist) landmine resulting in the deaths of two bus drivers and five election officials, with four more injured, while travelling from Kurnool to Bijapur in preparation for the fifth phase of voting. On the same day, within an hour, they also ambushed a vehicle resulting in the deaths of five paramilitary soldiers in the Darbha forest.^[200] The election was the longest and the most expensive general election in the history of the country, with the Election Commission of India estimating that the election did cost the exchequer ₹ 3500 crore (US\$577 million), excluding the expenses incurred for security and by the individual political parties.^[201] Parties were expected to spend ₹ 30,500 crore (US\$5 billion) in the election, according to the Centre for Media Studies. This was three times the amount spent in the previous election in 2009, and was then the world's second highest after the US\$7 billion spent on the 2012 US presidential election.^[202]

The election reportedly boosted the hospitality sector as, according to ASSOCHAM, tourist arrivals from the countries such as the US, UK, France, Singapore and the U.A.E. have gone up by 10–15 percent, while the movement of domestic tourists jumped by 62%.^[203]

Turnout

Based on data from Election Commission India^[204]

State/UT	Total Electors	Total Voters	Total Turnout	Total seats
Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)	269,360	190,328	70.66%	1
Andhra Pradesh	64,938,750	48,358,545	74.47%	42
Arunachal Pradesh	759,387	596,956	78.61%	2
Assam	18,885,274	15,085,883	79.88%	14
Bihar	63,761,796	35,885,366	56.28%	40
Chandigarh (UT)	615,214	453,455	73.71%	1
Chhattisgarh	17,623,049	12,255,579	69.54%	11
Dadra & Nagar Haveli (UT)	196,617	165,286	84.06%	1
Daman & Diu (UT)	111,827	87,233	78.01%	1
Goa	1,060,777	817,000	77.02%	2
Gujarat	40,603,104	25,824,003	63.60%	26
Haryana	16,097,749	11,495,150	71.41%	10
Himachal Pradesh	4,810,071	3,098,501	64.42%	4
Jammu & Kashmir	7,202,163	3,566,863	49.52%	6
Jharkhand	20,326,743	12,982,940	63.87%	14
Karnataka	46,212,109	31,038,888	67.17%	28
Kerala	24,326,649	17,975,893	73.89%	20
Lakshadweep (UT)	49,922	43,239	86.61%	1
Madhya Pradesh	48,118,040	29,639,796	61.60%	29
Maharashtra	80,717,283	48,718,844	60.36%	48
Manipur	1,774,325	1,412,637	79.62%	2
Meghalaya	1,567,241	1,078,058	68.79%	2
Mizoram	702,170	433,201	61.69%	1
Nagaland	1,182,948	1,038,910	87.82%	1
NCT OF Delhi	12,711,236	8,271,766	65.07%	7
Orissa	29,196,041	21,532,275	73.75%	21
Puducherry (UT)	901,357	740,017	82.10%	1
Punjab	19,608,008	13,845,132	70.61%	13
Rajasthan	42,969,447	27,110,044	63.09%	25
Sikkim	370,611	308,967	83.37%	1
Tamil Nadu	55,114,505	40,620,440	73.70%	39
Tripura	2,388,819	2,023,859	84.72%	2
Uttar Pradesh	138,965,820	81,092,302	58.35%	80
Uttarakhand	7,129,939	4,391,890	61.66%	5
West Bengal	62,833,128	51,622,555	82.16%	42
India	834,082,814	554,175,255	66.44%	543

■ Phase 1: 7 April

Turnout was 75% in Assam and 84% in Tripura.^[205] Assam's INC Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi said that "there is no Narendra Modi magic in Assam. The Congress has been winning every form of elections since 2001 in Assam, and we are going to repeat the performance this time." Additionally, the borders with Bangladesh and Bhutan were closed for security reasons.^[206]

■ Phase 2: 9 and 11 April

The turnouts were recorded at 82.5% in Nagaland, 71% in Arunachal Pradesh, 66% in Meghalaya and 70% in Manipur.^{[207][208]} Mizoram's voting was deferred to 11 April,^[209] where the turnout was 60%.^[210]

■ Phase 3: 10 April

About 110 million of people were eligible to vote for 91 seats. The turnout was 76% in Kerala, 64% in Delhi, 55.98% in Madhya Pradesh, 54.13% in Maharashtra, 65% in Uttar Pradesh and 66.29% in Jammu.^[199] Kerala and Chandigarh set new voter turnout records. A higher proportion of eligible electors voted in 2014 than in 2009.^[211]

■ Phase 4: 12 April

Voter turnout set new records or were near record levels with 75% in Goa, 75% in Assam, 81.8% in Tripura and 80.97%^[212] in Sikkim (including the 2014 Sikkim Legislative Assembly election).^[213] West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee nearly cancelled the polls in her region after initially refusing to changes to the appointments of civil service departments, but was forced to constitutionally do so.^[214]

■ Phase 5: 17 April

The largest voting day involved nearly 200 million eligible voters,^[215] 1,769 candidates for 121 seat. The voting turnout in Uttar Pradesh was 62%, West Bengal was 80%, over 70% in Odisha, 69% in Jammu and Kashmir, 54% in Madhya Pradesh and 62% in Jharkhand.^[216] Manipur had 74%^[215] and Maharashtra had a 61.7% turnout.^[217] In Karnataka, the average voting was up on 65% against 58% in the previous election, though urban voters were lower.^{[218][219]} In Chhattisgarh, the voter turnout was 63.44% compared to 57.6% in 2009, while Rajasthan recorded a 63.25% voter turnout, compared to 48.09% in 2009.^[220] In Bihar's seven constituencies, the turnout was 56%, compared to 39% in 2009.^[221] In one of six constituencies from Jammu and Kashmir, Udhampur, the turnout of 70% was significantly higher than the 2009 figure of 45%.^[222] Overall across India, the turnout on the day was over 65%^[215] and nearly all constituencies had a higher voter turnout than 2009.^[222]

■ Phase 6: 24 April

The second largest voting day entailed 180 million eligible voters across 201,735 voting centres to elect 117 members of parliament from 2,098 candidates.^[223] Tamil Nadu set a new voter turnout record for Lok Sabha elections with 73%, while West Bengal experienced the highest voter turnout for the day at 82%.^[224] As compared to that, urban centres such as Mumbai and Chennai saw lower voter turnouts, but bettered their figures from previous years. Mumbai witnessed a 53% turnout, compared to 41% in 2009.^[225] The rural areas of Maharashtra saw over 60% turnout, Madhya Pradesh had 64%, Uttar Pradesh had over 60%, Chhattisgarh had about 66%, Assam had over 70%.^[226] Bihar has about 60%, Jharkhand had 63.4%, Rajasthan had about 60% and Pudhucherry had about 82%.^{[223][227]} One of six constituencies from Jammu and Kashmir, Anantnag, had the lowest turnout of 28%, after a boycott call by separatists,^[228] an attack on 22 April that killed three people,^[229] and with thousands of Kashmiri Pandits protesting in the afternoon that their names were missing from the electoral roll.^[230] As with previous phases, the overall voter turnout for the day was higher than 2009.^[231] In both Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the turnout was about 9% higher, while Uttar Pradesh saw a 13% increase.^{[223][226]}

■ Phase 7: 30 April

The 7th phase of voting entailed about 140 million eligible voters to elect 89 members of parliament from 1,295 candidates in 7 states and 2 Union Territories.^[232] Punjab set a new record in its voter turnout for general elections with 73%.^[233] Gujarat saw the highest jump in voter turnout for the day with 62% turnout compared to 48% turnout in 2009 Lok Sabha elections. The nine constituencies in West Bengal reported over 81% turnout.^[234] Uttar Pradesh witnessed 57% turnout compared to 48% in 2009, while Bihar saw 60% compared to 52% in 2009.^[232] One of six constituencies from Jammu

and Kashmir, eligible to vote in this phase, had the lowest turnout for the day at 26% compared to 25.55% in 2009, after a boycott call by separatists.^[235] Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh, which will become India's new state on 2 June 2014, saw nearly 72% turnout to elect Lok Sabha members as well as its first state government.^[234] The aggregate turnout so far in the first 7 phases for 438 parliamentary seats has been 66.20%, significantly more than 57.41% figure in 2009 general elections.^[233]

■ Phase 8: 7 May

The 8th phase saw voting for 64 Lok Sabha seats in 7 states with 897 candidates competing.^[236] Along with the general elections, polls were also held for the first Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh excluding Telangana region.^[237] The voter turnout was high, with West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh each setting their respective general election voter turnout records. West Bengal recorded 81% polling compared to 78% for 2009.^[236] Andhra Pradesh recorded nearly 76% voter turnout.^[238] Himachal Pradesh saw about 66% turnout compared to 58% for 2009.^[239] Uttarakhand also set a new voter turnout record with 62% compared to 53% in 2009.^[240] The 2 constituencies of Jammu & Kashmir that voted witnessed a 49.9% turnout,^[236] while constituencies of Bihar saw 58% compared to 45% in 2009.^[240] Uttar Pradesh experienced a 55.5% turnout compared to 43.4% in 2009.^[241]

■ Phase 9: 12 May

The 9th and last phase of voting entailed over 90 million eligible voters to elect 41 members of parliament from 606 candidates in 3 states.^[242] The 6 seats in Bihar saw a voter turnout of 58%, compared to 46% in 2009.^[242] Uttar Pradesh's 18 constituencies witnessed a 55.3% turnout, compared to 46.6% in 2009.^[243] In West Bengal, the 17 constituencies that voted, saw a turnout of about 80% compared to 82% in 2009.^[243]

The 2014 general elections, according to the Election Commission of India, recorded a cumulative total of 66.38% voter turnout, or 551.3 million out of 814 million eligible people casting their vote, according to provisional figures.^[244] The 2014 turnout surpassed India's previous highest voter turnout record of 64% in 1984 general elections.^{[242][245]} The voter turnout in 2009 general elections was 58.19%, while 2004 general elections saw a voter turnout of 56.98%.^[245] The 2014 general elections entailed 8,202 candidates competing for 543 seats.^[246]

Re-polls

Many locations required re-polling for various reasons. There was re-polling on 9 polling stations in Orissa on 25 April.^{[247][248]} The Election Commission ordered re-polls in 52 polling booths (30 in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana, 11 in Uttar Pradesh and 11 in West Bengal) because of complaints of booth capturing, rigging, violence or as demanded by the locals. The re-poll was held on 13 May. In Uttar Pradesh, re-polls were held in 3 polling booths in Muzaffarnagar, 7 in Ferozabad and 1 in Badaun.^{[249][250]} Re-polling also occurred on 14 May in Arunachal Pradesh and on 15 May in the states of Nagaland and Haryana.^{[251][252][253][254]} The Left parties and BJP alleged mass rigging and booth capturing by Trinamool Congress at thousands of polling stations in West Bengal.^{[255][256][257][258]} AAP demanded re-polling in 108 booths.^{[252][259]}

Congress demanded re-polling at 1,344 polling stations in Nagaland.^[260] Re-polling was done in two polling stations in Tamil Nadu on 10 May and in 3 polling stations in Andhra Pradesh(Rayalaseema & Coastal Andhra) on 13 May.^{[261][262][263][264]} In Bihar, there was re-polling on 2 polling stations of Sitamarhi on 11 May and 3 polling stations in Muzaffarnagar went to re-polling on 13 May.^{[264][265][266][267]} On 15 May, there was re-polling in one booth in Tamil Nadu, and at 5 booths in West Bengal, Bihar, Nagaland.^{[251][268][269][270][271][272][273][274]} It was reported that not a single voter turned up for a re-poll at 5 polling stations in Nagaland on 15 May.^{[275][276]} On 12 May, the Bombay High court declined to order supplementary polling for voters in Maharashtra whose names were missing from the electoral rolls. There were speculated to be as many as 100,000 voters missing from the electoral roll in Pune and as many as 200,000 missing from electoral roll in Mumbai.^{[277][278][279][280][281]}

Voting pattern

The BJP secured 39% support from first time voters, while Congress received 19% of the first time votes.^[2] The NDA won 39 of 74 seats where Muslim voters make up between 21 and 95% of the total electorate. The BJP won all 16 seats in Uttar Pradesh. It also secured 5 out of 9 such seats in Bihar. Analyst Saeed Naqvi believes that Amit Shah managed to convince Dalits and OBC voters to elect the BJP as "Muslim appeasers in an atmosphere of perpetual communal tension".^[282]

The BJP won all 26 seats in Gujarat, marking the first time a single party won all seats in the state. The previous record was held by the Congress which won 25 of the 26 seats in the 1984 general election.^[283] The assembly segment-wise result of Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh shows that the BJP was number one in 328 seats, while the ruling SP led in just 42. Congress was ahead in 15, BSP 9 and Apna Dal 9. In 2012, SP had formed government by winning 224 assembly seats. BSP had won 80, BJP 47, Congress 28 and Apna Dal one.^[284]

Similarly, in Maharashtra BJP-Shiva Sena alliance has got a lead in 246 assembly segments out of the total 288.^[285] By securing seven of the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, BJP remained ahead on 52 assembly segments in the state. Its ally HJC could not win any of the Lok Sabha seats it contested, but its candidates remained ahead in seven assembly segments. BJP contested 8 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, leaving two constituencies for its alliance partner HJC. BJP candidates

remained ahead in all 27 assembly segments of Ambala, Karnal and Faridabad parliamentary constituencies. BJP won all seats except Rohtak where its candidate Om Prakash Dhankar lost to Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda's son and sitting MP Deepender Hooda.^[286]

Results



All India Forward Bloc	1,211,418	0.22	0
Swabhimani Paksha	1,105,073	0.20	1
Indian Union Muslim League	1,100,096	0.20	2
Rashtriya Lok Samta Party	1,078,473	0.19	3
Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation	1,007,275	0.18	0
Naga People's Front	994,505	0.18	1
Apna Dal	821,820	0.15	2
Bahujan Mukti Party	791,951	0.14	0
Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party	732,644	0.13	3
Maharashtra Navnirman Sena	708,010	0.13	0
Haryana Janhit Congress (BL)	703,698	0.13	0
Rashtriya Lok Dal	696,918	0.13	0
All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen	685,730	0.12	1
Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi	606,110	0.11	0
Asom Gana Parishad	577,730	0.10	0
National Peoples Party	576,448	0.10	1
Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist)	520,972	0.09	0
Peace Party	518,724	0.09	0
Peasants and Workers Party of India	497,721	0.09	0
All Jharkhand Students Union	488,719	0.09	0
Rashtriya Samaj Paksha	458,580	0.08	0
Kerala Congress (M)	424,194	0.08	1
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	396,713	0.07	0
Social Democratic Party of India	396,524	0.07	0
Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh	360,854	0.07	0
Quami Ekta Dal	354,577	0.06	0
Bodoland People's Front	330,106	0.06	0
Socialist Janata (Democratic)	307,597	0.06	0
Gondwana Ganatantra Party	301,366	0.05	0
Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi	293,681	0.05	0
Puthiya Tamilagam	262,812	0.05	0
All India N.R. Congress	255,826	0.05	1
Manithaney Makkal Katchi	236,679	0.04	0
Welfare Party of India	228,645	0.04	0
Jai Bharat Samanta Party	215,607	0.04	0
Republican Party of India (Athawale)	206,689	0.04	0
Jai Samaikyandhra Party	204,260	0.04	0
Jharkhand Party	203,869	0.04	0
Pyramid Party of India	185,478	0.03	0
Ambedkarite Party of India	185,095	0.03	0
Lok Satta Party	165,670	0.03	0
Sikkim Democratic Front	163,698	0.03	1

<u>Aama Odisha Party</u>	155,900	0.03	0
<u>National Unionist Zamindara Party</u>	124,990	0.02	0
<u>Sikkim Krantikari Morcha</u>	121,956	0.02	0
<u>Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party</u>	118,947	0.02	0
<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Red Star</u>	114,323	0.02	0
<u>Marxist Co-ordination Committee</u>	110,185	0.02	0
<u>Jharkhand Disom Party</u>	109,843	0.02	0
<u>United Democratic Party</u>	106,817	0.02	0
<u>385 other parties with fewer than 100,000 votes</u>	4,017,081	0.73	0
<u>Independents</u>	16,737,720	3.02	3
<u>None of the above</u>	6,002,942	1.08	—
<u>Nominated Anglo-Indians</u>			2
Total	553,802,946	100.00	545
Valid votes	553,802,946	99.93	
Invalid/blank votes	368,873	0.07	
Total votes	554,171,819	100.00	
Registered voters/turnout	834,082,814	66.44	

Source: ECI (<https://eci.gov.in/files/category/97-general-election-2014/>)

About one-third of all winners had at least one pending criminal case against them, with some having serious criminal cases.^[287] A candidate with criminal case(s) had 13% chance of winning the election, whereas a candidate with a clean record had only 5% chance of winning. (Here, chance of winning = $\frac{\text{No. of winners in the category}}{\text{Total no. of candidates in that category}}$).^[288]

Out of the 542 members analysed, 443 (82%) have total assets of ₹1 crore (US\$120,000) or more. In the 15th Lok Sabha, out of 521 members analysed, 300 (58%) members had assets of ₹1 crore (US\$120,000) or more.^[148] The average assets per member are ₹14.7 crore (US\$1.8 million) (in 2009, this figure was ₹5.35 crore (US\$640,000)).

Results By Region

Region	States	Total Seats	Party	Won	Change
Northern ^[289]	Jammu & Kashmir (6) Himachal Pradesh (4) Haryana (10) Punjab(13) Uttarakhand(5) Uttar Pradesh (80)	118	Bharatiya Janata Party	92	▲78
			Indian National Congress	6	▼40
			Samajwadi Party	5	▼18
			Shiromani Akali Dal	4	—
			Aam Aadmi Party	4	New
			Jammu & Kashmir People's Democratic Party	3	▲3
			Indian National Lok Dal	2	▲2
			Apna Dal	2	▲2
Western	Rajasthan (25) Gujarat (26) Maharashtra (48) Goa (2)	101	Bharatiya Janata Party	75	▲46
			Shiv Sena	18	▲7
			Nationalist Congress Party	4	▼4
			Indian National Congress	3	▼46
			Swabhiman Paksha	1	—
Central	Madhya Pradesh (29) Chhattisgarh (11)	40	Bharatiya Janata Party	37	▲24
			Indian National Congress	3	▼23
Southern	Karnataka (28) Telangana (17) Andhra Pradesh (25) Tamil Nadu (39) Kerala (20)	129	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	37	▲28
			Bharatiya Janata Party	21	▲2
			Indian National Congress	19	▼41
			Telugu Desam Party	16	▲10
			Telangana Rashtra Samithi	11	▲9
			YSR Congress Party	9	New
			Communist Party of India	5	—
			Indian Union Muslim League	2	—
			Janata Dal	2	▼1
			Independent Politician	2	▲2
			Communist Party of India	1	—
			Pattali Makkal Katchi	1	▲1
			All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen	1	—
			Revolutionary Socialist Party	1	▲1
			Kerala Congress	1	—
Eastern	Bihar (40) Jharkhand (14) Odisha (21) West Bengal (42)	117	Bharatiya Janata Party	37	▲16
			All India Trinamool Congress	34	▲15
			Biju Janata Dal	20	▲6
			Lok Janshakti Party	6	▲6
			Indian National Congress	6	▼9

			Rashtriya Janata Dal	4	—
			Rashtriya Lok Samata Party	3	▲3
			Janata Dal	2	▼18
			Communist Party of India	2	▼7
			Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	2	—
			Nationalist Congress Party	1	▲1
North-East	Assam (14) Arunachal Pradesh (2) Meghalaya (2) Manipur (2) Mizoram (1) Nagaland(1) Sikkim(1) Tripura (2)	25	Bharatiya Janata Party	8	▲4
			Indian National Congress	8	▼5
			All India United Democratic Front	3	▲2
			Communist Party of India	2	—
			National People's Party	1	—
			Naga People's Front	1	—
			Sikkim Democratic Front	1	—
			Independent politician	1	▲1
Union Territories	Chandigarh (1) Delhi (7) Dadra & Nagar Haveli (1) Daman & Diu (1) Lakshadweep (1) Puducherry (1) Andaman & Nicobar(1)	13	Bharatiya Janata Party	11	▲7
			Nationalist Congress Party	1	▲1
			All India N.R. Congress	1	▲1
Total	29 States and 7 UT	543			

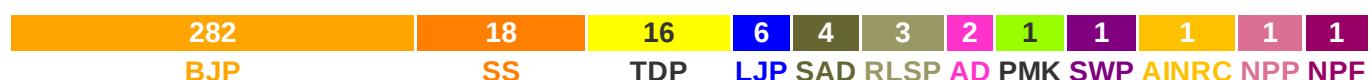
Summary

Region	Total Seats	Bharatiya Janata Party		Indian National Congress		Others	
South India	130	22	22 / 130 (17%)	▲ 2	19	19 / 130 (15%)	▼ 42 90 ▲ 40
West India	78	53	53 / 78 (68%)	▲ 26	2	2 / 78 (3%)	▼ 27 23 ▲ 1
North India	225	190	190 / 225 (84%)	▲ 127	8	8 / 225 (4%)	▼ 71 27 ▼ 56
North-East India	25	8	8 / 25 (32%)	▲ 4	8	8 / 25 (32%)	▼ 5 9 ▲ 1
East India	63	3	3 / 63 (5%)	▲ 2	4	4 / 63 (6%)	▼ 8 56 ▲ 5
Union Territories	22	6	6 / 22 (27%)	▲ 5	3	3 / 22 (14%)	▼ 9 0 —
Total	543	282		+166	44		-162 205 +9

Source: Times of India^[290]

By alliance

National Democratic Alliance (336)



United Progressive Alliance (60)



Others (147)



By state

Andaman and Nicobar Islands (1)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	47.8	+3.59	1	0
Indian National Congress	40.8	-1.23	0	0

Andhra Pradesh (25)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Telugu Desam Party (NDA)	29.10	+4.17	15	+9
YSR Congress Party	28.90	+28.90	8	+8
Indian National Congress	11.5	-27.45	0	-19
Bharatiya Janata Party (NDA)	8.50	---	2	+2

Arunachal Pradesh (2)



Party	Seats won
Bharatiya Janata Party	1
Indian National Congress	1

Assam (14)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	36.50	+19.29	7	+3
Indian National Congress	29.60	-4.31	3	-4
All India United Democratic Front	14.80	-2.30	3	+2
Asom Gana Parishad	3.80	-8.81	0	-1
Independent (politician)	---	---	1	+1

Bihar (40)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party (NDA)	29.40	+15.47	22	+10
Lok Janshakti Party (NDA)	6.40	---	6	+6
Rashtriya Janata Dal (UPA)	20.10	+0.80	4	0
Janata Dal (United)	15.80	-8.24	2	-18
Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (NDA)	3.00	---	3	+3
Nationalist Congress Party	1.20	---	1	+1
Indian National Congress (UPA)	8.40	-1.86	2	0
Independent	---	---	0	-2

Chandigarh (1)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	42.20	+19.46	1	+1
Indian National Congress	26.80	-20.07	0	-1
Aam Aadmi Party	24.00	New	0	0

Chhattisgarh (11)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	48.70	-1.09	10	0
Indian National Congress	38.40	+13.67	1	0

Dadra & Nagar Haveli (1)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	48.90	+2.47	1	0
Indian National Congress	45.10	-0.75	0	0

Daman & Diu (1)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	53.80%	-11.46	1	0
Indian National Congress	43.30%	+14.29	0	0

NCT of Delhi (7)

7
BJP

NParty	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	46.40%		7	+7
Indian National Congress	15.10%	-42.01%	0	-7
Aam Aadmi Party	32.90%	+32.90%	0	0

Goa (2)

2
BJP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	53.40%	+8.62	2	+1
Indian National Congress	36.60%	-14.00	0	-1

Gujarat (26)

26
BJP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	59.10%	+12.59	26	+11
Indian National Congress	32.90%	-10.48	0	-11

Haryana (10)

7
BJP

2
INLD

1
INC

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	34.70%		7	+7
Indian National Congress	22.90%	-18.87	1	-8
Indian National Lok Dal	24.40%		2	+2

Himachal Pradesh (4)

4
BJP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	53.31%	+3.72	4	+1
Indian National Congress	40.70%	-4.91	0	-1

Jammu and Kashmir (6)

3
BJP

3
JKPDP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	34.40%		3	+3
Indian National Congress	22.90%	-1.77	0	-2
Jammu & Kashmir People's Democratic Party	20.50%		3	+3
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	11.10%	-8.00%	0	-3
Independent	---	---	0	-1

Jharkhand (14)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	40.10%	+12.57%	12	+4
Indian National Congress (UPA)	13.30%	-1.72%	0	-1
Jharkhand Vikas Morcha	12.10%		0	-1
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (UPA)	9.30%	-2.4%	2	0
Independent	---	---	0	-2

Karnataka (28)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	43.00%	-1.37	17	-2
Indian National Congress	40.80%	+3.15	9	+3
Janata Dal (Secular)	11.00%	-2.57%	2	-1

Kerala (20)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Indian National Congress	31.10%		8	-5
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	21.60%		5	+1
Communist Party of India	7.60%		1	+1
Indian Union Muslim League	4.50%		2	0
Kerala Congress (M)	2.40%		1	0
Revolutionary Socialist Party			1	+1
Bharatiya Janata Party	10.30%		0	0
IND. (backed by Left Democratic Front)			2	+2

19 July 2018 Jose K Mani quit the lower house after being nominated to Rajya Sabha.[\[1\]](http://indiatoday.in/india/story/a-head-of-no-trust-vote-speaker-accepts-resignation-of-jay-pa) (<http://indiatoday.in/india/story/a-head-of-no-trust-vote-speaker-accepts-resignation-of-jay-pa>)

Lakshadweep (1)



NCP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Nationalist Congress Party	50.10%	+3.79	1	+1
Indian National Congress	46.60%	-5.32	0	-1

Madhya Pradesh (29)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	55.00%	+10.55	27	+10
Indian National Congress	34.90%	-5.24%	2	-9
Bahujan Samaj Party	3.8%	-2.05%	0	-1

Maharashtra (48)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party (NDA)	27.30%	+9.13%	23	+14
Shiv Sena (NDA)	20.60%	+3.60%	18	+7
Indian National Congress (UPA)	18.10%	-1.51	2	-15
Nationalist Congress Party (UPA)	16.00%	-3.28	4	-4
Swabhiman Paksha (NDA)	2.30%		1	0
Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi	---	---	0	-1
Independent	---	---	0	-1

Manipur (2)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	11.90%		0	0
Indian National Congress	41.70%	-1.26%	2	0
Naga People's Front	19.90%		0	0
Communist Party of India	14.00%		0	0

Meghalaya (2)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party (NDA)	8.90%		0	0
Indian National Congress (UPA)	37.90%	-6.94%	1	0
National People's Party (NDA)	22.20%	+22.20	1	+1
Nationalist Congress Party (UPA)	---	-18.78%	0	-1

Mizoram (1)

1
INC

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Indian National Congress	48.60%	+16.98	1	0

Nagaland (1)

1
NPF

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Naga People's Front (NDA)	68.70%	-1.26	1	0
Indian National Congress	30.10%			0

Odisha (21)

20
BJD

1
BJP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Biju Janata Dal	44.10%	+6.87	20	+6
Bharatiya Janata Party	21.50%		1	+1
Indian National Congress	26.00%	-6.75	0	-6
Communist Party of India	0.3%	-2.27%	0	-1

Puducherry (1)

1
All India N R Congress

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
All India N.R. Congress (NDA)	34.60%	+34.60	1	+1
Indian National Congress	26.3%	-23.16%	0	-1
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	17.93%	+17.93%	0	0

Punjab (13)

2
BJP

4
SAD

4
AAP

3
INC

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Indian National Congress	33.10%	-12.13	3	-5
Shiromani Akali Dal	20.30%	-13.55%	4	0
Bharatiya Janata Party	8.70%	-1.36	2	+1
Aam Aadmi Party	30.40%	+30.40%	4	+4

Rajasthan (25)

25

BJP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	50.90%	+7.71	25	+21
Indian National Congress	30.40%	-16.79	0	-20

Sikkim (1)

1

SDF

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Sikkim Democratic Front	53.00%	-13.30	1	0
Sikkim Krantikari Morcha	39.50%	+39.50%	0	0
Bharatiya Janata Party	2.40%	+0.59	0	0
Indian National Congress	2.30%	-27.26%	0	0

Tamil Nadu (39)

37

AIADMK

1 1
PMK BJP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	44.30%	+21.42%	37	+28
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	23.60%	-1.49	0	-18
Bharatiya Janata Party	5.50%		1	+1
Pattali Makkal Katchi	4.40%		1	+1

Telangana (17)

11

TRS

2

INC

1

BJP

1

TDP

1

YSRCP

1

AIMIM

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Telangana Rashtra Samithi	33.90	+7.76	11	+9
Indian National Congress	20.5	-27.45	2	-10
Bharatiya Janata Party	8.50	---	1	+1
Telugu Desam Party	3.10	+4.17	1	-1
YSR Congress Party	2.90	+2.90	1	+1
All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen	1.40	-0.53	1	0

Tripura (2)

2
CPI(M)

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	64.00%	+2.31	2	0
Indian National Congress	15.20%		0	0
Bharatiya Janata Party	5.70%		0	0

Uttar Pradesh (80)

71
BJP
5 2 2
SP INC AD

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	42.30%	+24.80	71	+61
Samajwadi Party	22.20%	-1.06	5	-22
Bahujan Samaj Party	19.60%	-7.82	0	-16
Indian National Congress	7.50%	-10.75	2	-19
Apna Dal	1.00%		2	+2

Uttarakhand (5)

5
BJP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	55.30%		5	+5
Indian National Congress	34.00%	-9.13	0	-5

West Bengal (42)

2 4 2 34
BJP INC CPI(M) TMC

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
All India Trinamool Congress	39.35%	+8.60	34	+15
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	22.71%	-10.1	2	-13
Bharatiya Janata Party	16.84%	+10.90	2	+1
Indian National Congress	9.58%	-3.80	4	-2

Reactions

Domestic

Economic

The country's economic indicators were performing well in advance of the result in expectation of a BJP win, on the perception that Modi is business-friendly. The benchmark BSE Sensex and CNX Nifty indices hit record highs and the Indian rupee strengthened following months of poor performance.^[291] On the result day, as early vote counts gave the

BJP a majority lead, the Sensex reached a record high of 25,375.63 points.^[292] It ended the day at a new closing high of 24,121.74. The Nifty reached a record high of 7,563.50, before ending the day at a new closing high of 7,203.^[293] The Indian rupee rose to an 11-month high of 58.62 against the US dollar and closed at 58.79.^[294] Deutsche Bank revised its December 2014 target for the Sensex to 28,000, and Macquarie revised its 12-month target for the Nifty to 8,400 from 7,200. Edelweiss set its December 2014 targets for the Sensex and Nifty at 29,000 and 9,000 respectively.^[295]

Media

India Times suggested that the election was watched in Pakistan with Modi being the less popular candidate than AAP's Kejriwal. Comparisons were made between the latter and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Imran Khan.^[296] Analysts suggested a high turnout would favour the BJP as it indicates an increase in participation of urban voters who are the party's traditional vote bank. Others have suggested however, that this could indicate an increase in voting amongst the 150 million Muslims that generally support the INC. Varghese K George, the political editor of *The Hindu* said that both readings rely on too many assumptions but that the only reading so far was the BJP was "doing well [and] Modi is managing to make some connection with voters and the Congress is doing pretty badly."^[297]

Politicians

When it became clear that the BJP would win the election, Narendra Modi tweeted, "India has won! *Bharat ki Vijay. Ache din aye wale hai* (good days are ahead)."^[298] This tweet instantly became India's most retweeted Twitter post.^[299] Manmohan Singh congratulated Modi by telephone.^{[300][301]} Congress President Sonia Gandhi accepted the defeat and congratulated the new government saying, "I congratulate the next government. I take full responsibility for the loss of Congress." Rahul Gandhi also did the same saying, "The new government has been given a mandate by the people. As Congress Vice President I hold myself responsible. The Congress party has done badly."^[302]

Although the Congress had been voted out of power in past too, but this was the first time since the 1977 general elections that the Congress did not happen to be the single largest party in terms of percentage of votes obtained. At a voteshare of around 19%, it was the lowest ever share of votes polled by the Congress party nationally since the country's first general elections, surpassing the record of 25.82% voteshare polled in 1998 general elections. It was also for the first time in the history of the nation that INC had less than 100 MPs in the Lok Sabha, surpassing the record of 114 seats in 1999 general elections. Since the Congress had won less than 54 seats, it would be also for the first time in the history of the nation that a non-Congress government does not has an official LoP from the INC. Hence these results are considered to be the worst ever performance of the Indian National Congress in its history.

Former Union Minister of Rural Development Jairam Ramesh said, "I am surprised by the results, especially in Telangana and Jharkhand. There was clearly a Modi effect."^[303] At the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on 19 May, general secretary Mohan Prakash claimed that Israeli intelligence agency Mossad and the RSS had been working together since 2009 to defeat the UPA government. Prakash further claimed that this was because of Israel's unhappiness with the UPA government. According to him, this was because the UPA only had limited political relations with Israel, unlike the previous NDA government. Outgoing Finance Minister P. Chidambaram criticised the style of functioning and work culture at the Congress headquarters for the loss, and suggested adopting a more corporate approach. Some Congress members blamed Japanese communication agency Dentsu, which had been hired by the party, at a cost of nearly ₹ 6 billion, to handle their election advertising campaign and image makeover of Rahul Gandhi along with another agency Burson-Marsteller. Chairman of the party's communication department Ajay Maken harshly criticised Dentsu India executive chairman Rohit Ohri for a "spineless campaign". Priya Dutt, Secretary of the party's communication department, pointed out the gap between the people and the Congress leadership stating, "We need to bridge that gap. We need to bring that right up to the leadership. There is a lot of criticism. We have to look at where we have gone wrong in the past 10 years."^[304] DNA described the accusations against Mossad, RSS and Dentsu as "bizarre theories", and noted that "everyone except vice-president Rahul Gandhi has been held responsible for their crushing defeat."^[304]

Union minister in the outgoing government Milind Deora told *The Indian Express* on 21 May that although "many factors" led to the party's defeat and Rahul's leadership alone could not be blamed, "it was not about one person's image but the people surrounding that person also. Deora stated that many party members felt that the decision makers in the party had "no electoral experience...no stature, standing, respect and credibility in the party". He accused the people who "were in charge of important departments and held key positions" of not listening to party cadres and MPs, which he

believed prevented a "diverse opinion" from being heard and "shut out a lot of people". Deora stated, "A lot of us felt our voices were never heard. We felt our voices don't matter. This has to change. The MPs and ministers should not feel we are being not heard. It is not the advisors alone. The people who take the advice also have to bear responsibility. Those who gave advice and those who received the advice as also those who feel they can give better advice – all have to bear responsibility." Deora felt the party had to "open up" and "promote avenues for dissent and debate internally". When asked who was to blame, Deora said, "there are many people from top to bottom ... there was lack of coordination and the response was slow ... there was a very unresponsive attitude. ... the buck stops with the party."^{[305][306]} Although this statement received support from several Congress members, Deora clarified on Twitter, "My comments are out of emotions of deep loyalty to the party, pain of our performance & a sincere desire to see us bounce back. Nothing more." Senior party leader Satyavrat Chaturvedi expressed hope that an "honest and ruthless introspection" would be carried out to fix the problems. He further stated that while Deora's statement may not have been fully correct, a "large portion of what he said is correct". Congress members such as Jairam Ramesh, Madan Gopal and Kanishka Singh criticised Rahul Gandhi's aides.^[304]

Individuals

Rajnikanth congratulated Narendra Modi on Twitter for his "historic win". The actor also congratulated Jayalalithaa for her party's performance in the election.^[307] Tamil actor Dhanush also tweeted congratulations to Modi. Several Bollywood celebrities including Subhash Ghai, Vishal Dadlani, Lata Mangeshkar, Ranvir Shorey, Vivek Oberoi, Baba Sehgal, Shekhar Kapur, Arshad Warsi, Preity Zinta, Arjun Rampal, Farhan Akhtar, Karan Johar, Sangeeth Sivan, Kabir Bedi, Anupam Kher, Madhur Bhandarkar, Atul Kasbekar and Pritish Nandy tweeted congratulations to Modi and the BJP for their victory.^[308]

President of Film Federation of India Ravi Kottarakara congratulated Modi "on behalf of the entire Indian film fraternity". CEO of the Film & TV Producers Guild of India Kulmmet Makkar described the "clear mandate" as being "great" for the Indian film industry. He also expressed "positive hopes" from the new government.^[309]

International

- Afghanistan – President Hamid Karzai sent congratulations. Karzai, who attended school in Shimla, spoke to Modi in Hindi.^[310] Spokesperson Aimal Faizi tweeted, "President #Karzai extends his warm Congratulations to @narendramodi on victory in elections. Afghans always regard #India as a true friend"^[311]
- Australia – Prime Minister Tony Abbott called Modi to congratulate him. He tweeted, "I've spoken to @narendramodi and congratulated him on his success. I look forward to strengthening ties between India and Australia". He further said that he was looking forward to meet Modi during the upcoming G-20 Summit to be held in Brisbane in November 2014.^{[311][312]}
- Bangladesh – Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina wrote, "The decisive verdict given by the people of your great country is a strong testimony to your dynamic, inspiring and visionary leadership qualities and manifestation of the trust and confidence reposed in you by the people of the largest democracy in the world. I am delighted to see a great friend of Bangladesh leading an extremely friendly country, India, in the coming days."^[313] She further stated, "I hope that you would find my country your second home and first destination for your official visit abroad".^[312] Hasina also sent a separate letter to BJP President Rajnath Singh congratulating him and party members for their "landslide victory", on behalf of the Bangladesh Awami League.^[311] Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chief Khaleda Zia, and the Jamaat-e-Islami also sent messages congratulating Modi.^{[312][314]}
- Bhutan – Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck called Modi and congratulated him on his victory.^[312]
- Brunei – Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah sent a message of congratulations to Modi. In his message, the Sultan wished Modi success and looked forward to working with him to strengthen long-standing ties of friendship and co-operation between Brunei and India, including through work in the Commonwealth and the Asean-India Dialogue.^[315]
- Canada – Canadian High Commissioner Stewart Beck said, "I had the pleasure to meet with Modi during his time as the Chief Minister of Gujarat and I look forward to working with him to grow Canada's bilateral relationship with India. I also wish to congratulate the people of India on exercising their right to

vote and showing the world the strength of their democratic system."^[312] Prime minister Stephen Harper sent a congratulatory message to Modi on 17 May.^[316]

-  China – Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said, "China is willing to make joint efforts with the new Indian government, maintain high level exchanges, deepen cooperation in all areas and bring the China-India strategic partnership to new height."^[313] The Chinese government formally congratulated Modi on 23 May. The Chinese government had been waiting for Modi to be officially be sworn in before issuing a formal message, as they were conscious of protocol. Modi made four visits to China during his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat, resulting in over US\$900 million worth of Chinese investments in Gujarat.^[317] Premier Li Keqiang congratulated Modi on 26 May. He stated that China viewed India as a "natural cooperative partner" and expressed his desire to work together for "peaceful, cooperative and common development" that would "not only bring benefits to their own people but also contribute to peace, stability and prosperity of Asia and beyond".^[318]
-  Denmark – Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt called Modi and congratulated him on his victory.^{[312][313]}
-  France – French Ambassador to India François Richier stated, "This massive vote of confidence highlights the vitality of Indian democracy. France is keen to work hand in hand with the new Indian leadership. Paris statement will follow formal announcement by Election Commission."^[312] President François Hollande congratulated Modi by telephone on 19 May. He invited him to come to France "when he wished". French Embassy officials stated, "He [Hollande] confirmed that he [Modi] would have France's support in the task at hand and reiterated his commitment to the strategic partnership and friendship between France and India, a partner and ally of France."^[319]
-  Germany – On 15 May, the day prior to the results being declared, German Ambassador to India Michael Steiner stated, "An elected Prime Minister of India does not need a visa for Germany, he is welcome there".^{[320][321]} Chancellor Angela Merkel called Modi on 19 May, congratulated him on his victory and invited him to Berlin.^[322]
-  Israel – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu telephoned Narendra Modi to congratulate him.^[323] A statement read, "He [Netanyahu] said that he was looking forward to work with Mr. Modi and enhance bilateral cooperation".^[311]
- ● Japan – Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called Modi and congratulated him on his victory.^{[324][325]}
-  Malaysia – Prime Minister Najib Razak congratulated Modi and the BJP on Twitter, and also stated that he was "looking forward to continuing strong Malaysia-India partnership" under the new government.^{[326][327]}
-  Maldives – President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom congratulated Modi and sent wishes for "every success and prosperity". The President stated that India had chosen "the most proficient leadership".^[328] Modi was also congratulated by former President Mohamed Nasheed on Twitter.^{[329][330]} Indian High Commissioner to the Maldives Rajeev Shahare stated that relations between the countries would strengthen under the new prime minister.^[331]
-  Mauritius – Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam sent a message to Modi on 16 May, congratulating Modi for "the impressive and well-deserved victory of his party". Ramgoolam stated that "these elections in the largest democracy of the world are yet again a testimony to the exceptional robustness of Indian democracy", and added that "Mauritius applauds and commends India for upholding her acclaimed democratic credentials to which Mauritius feels particularly attached". He further stated "your electoral victory is a defining moment in the contemporary history of your great country. It certainly reflects the trust that the people place in you to chart the future course of your nation. You embody the politics of hope and delivery to your people in their aspirations for development and prosperity".^[332]
-  Nepal – Prime Minister Sushil Koirala congratulated Narendra Modi on his victory and invited him to visit Nepal. President Ram Baran Yadav also called Modi and BJP President Rajnath Singh to congratulate them on the BJP's victory.^[333]
-  New Zealand – Prime Minister John Key congratulated Modi by letter. Key expressed hope that the two countries would be able to negotiate a free trade agreement, which they began discussing in 2010. However, talks later stalled and the last round of discussions was held in July 2013. The Prime Minister stated, "We are sort of hopeful we can reignite the free trade agreement with Modi as the new Prime Minister. He has obviously been very pro-business and he has had an overwhelming mandate delivered to him so you can see the Indian people want and expect to see high levels of economic growth. One of those things is trade, so we are certainly going to be taking it up with the new Indian Government at the appropriate time."^{[334][335]}
-  Norway – Prime Minister Erna Solberg called Modi and congratulated him on his victory.^[312]

-  Pakistan – Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif congratulated Modi and offered good wishes on the BJP's "impressive victory". Sharif also invited Modi to visit Pakistan.^[313]
-  Qatar – Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al-Thani congratulated Modi on his party's victory in the general election in a telephone conversation.^{[313][336]}
-  Russia – President Vladimir Putin congratulated Modi and the BJP on the election victory gave a high assessment of the traditionally friendly ties between Russia and India. These ties have a foundation in the Declaration on Strategic Partnership, which was signed while the BJP was in power and set a development course for bilateral relations for years to come.^[337]
-  Singapore – Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong congratulated Modi and the BJP on Twitter and Facebook, and also stated that he was "looking forward to working with the new Indian Government to strengthen India-Singapore relations". Modi replied to the tweet stating, "@leehsienloong Thank you very much. Singapore is a valued friend & I am sure we will make our ties stronger in the times to come".^{[338][339][340]} Former Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong wrote, "I recall our meetings and frank exchange of views since 2006 when I visited Gujarat. You have always shown a strong resolve to bring economic prosperity to the Indian people.... I am confident that you will lead India to greater heights as Prime Minister, and further build on the excellent ties between our two countries."^[316]
-  South Africa – President Jacob Zuma said in a statement on 17 May, "With India under the leadership of Mr Modi, the Government of South Africa looks forward to consolidating the strong bilateral political and economic relations that exist between our two sister Republics."^{[341][342][343]}
-  Spain – President Mariano Rajoy sent a letter congratulating Modi on his "brilliant victory" in the election. Rajoy expressed his admiration for the "democratic spirit that reigned over such a complex election process". The President concluded his letter stating that he was looking forward to meeting Modi in person and offered his "warmest regards and deepest personal respect".^{[344][345][346]}
-  Sri Lanka – President Mahinda Rajapaksa called Modi and congratulated him for a "great" victory.^[312] The President tweeted, "Called @narendramodi a short while ago; Congratulated on BJP victory & invited for a state visit to #SriLanka"^[313]
-  Tibet – Tibetan Prime Minister-in-exile Lobsang Sangay thanked the UPA government "or their unwavering support for the Tibetan people during its two full terms", and also congratulated the BJP-led NDA for their victory.^{[347][348]}
-  United Kingdom – Prime Minister David Cameron called Modi and congratulated him on the "election success" and stated that he was keen on working together,^[313] one of the first Western leaders to do.^[349] A spokesperson stated, "The prime minister called Narendra Modi this morning to congratulate him on his victory in the Indian elections and the record turnout, making this the biggest democratic election in history. Modi said he would be delighted to accept the Prime Minister's invitation to visit the UK. Both leaders agreed on the importance of the UK-India relationship and agreed to work together to strengthen it in the months ahead." Cameron also tweeted using his official account, "Congratulations @narendramodi on victory in India's elections. Keen to work together to get the most from UK-India relationship". British Foreign Minister William Hague stated, "I congratulate Narendra Modi and the BJP on their success and look forward to forging an even closer partnership with India in the months ahead. UK has strong ties with India and the British government looks forward to working with the new Indian government to build on this relationship and deliver security, growth and prosperity for both our nations."^[311]
-  United States – White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said, "We congratulate Narendra Modi and the BJP on winning a majority of seats in this historic election. Once the government is formed, we look forward to working closely with the prime minister and the Cabinet to advance our strong bilateral relationship based on shared democratic values. The prime minister of India will be welcomed to the US."^[313] The White House National Security Council tweeted, "US congratulates BJP on its victory in India's historic election. We look forward to working with government once formed to advance our partnership".^{[310][312]} Secretary of State John Kerry tweeted, "Congrats to @narendramodi and BJP. Look forward to working w/you/growing shared prosperity/security w/world's largest democracy".^[312]

Narendra Modi responded to each tweet from world leaders thanking them for their support. The media reported the order in which Modi responded to the tweets, and noted that Barack Obama was the last to receive a reply from him. *The New York Times* observed that "the order in which he thanked them and one notable omission, later rectified, was more interesting than the content of the tweets themselves." The paper further stated, "The silence underscored what will be uncomfortable diplomatic theater in the weeks and months to come. The United States refused to issue Mr. Modi a visa in 2005 as a response to his alleged role in the 2002 Gujarat riots. As Mr. Modi's star rose in the past year, American leaders reached out, but a thaw on Mr. Modi's side has been almost imperceptible."^{[349][350]} State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki said, "I think our relationship between the United States and India is so strong and enduring we won't worry about

the Twitter rank order".^[351] John Kerry reiterated the United States' willingness to work with the new government as well as the importance of India-US relations on 20 May. He also added that he was looking forward to returning to India soon and "echo President Obama's invitation to Prime Minister Modi to visit the United States at the earliest opportunity." *The Times of India* noted that the first leader to receive a tweet from Modi was David Cameron. The United Kingdom was among the first countries to end a US-led diplomatic boycott of Modi.^[352] *Mint* stated that Modi's "more expansive responses" were to the leaders of Japan and Russia. According to former foreign secretary Lalit Mansingh, "It is natural that Modi feels affinity with some leaders who are strong leaders, proudly nationalistic, trying to fix the economy with firm measures."^[353]

International media

Prior to the announcement of the result, *The Washington Post* highlighted "...2014 will be the biggest year in the history of democracy, with more people than ever before going to the polls to decide their own fate...this really looks to be one of the most fascinating political events this year, and not just because of its scale...It's a fascinating moment in democracy, and one that shouldn't be ignored".^[108] *The New York Times* added that "the sheer size of the electorate makes this election the largest ever in the world and an inspiring celebration of universal adult suffrage," but also wrote "lurking behind the feel-good spectacle is the reality that India's elections are awash in illegal cash, serious violence and dirty tricks."^[354] *Bloomberg Businessweek* wrote of the election that the "process is awesome in its complexity, and the campaigns have given rise to robust debate...But here's something else not to miss: It's all pretty damn colorful." It highlighted five reasons that make the election interesting: Kejriwal's effect, Modi's wife; exit polls are barred but betting on the future prime minister was not and Modi was in the lead; "vote buying" through cash, alcohol or other means; and 3D campaigning.^[355] It also predicted better relations with Japan at the expense of relations with China under Modi,^[356] and asked whether a redefinition of India's nuclear weapons program would result from the elections.^[357]

An editorial in the *China Daily*, the Chinese government's official English-language newspaper, compared Modi's "preoccupation with development" with China's "own experiences and development philosophy", and argued that this had "inspired unprecedented optimism here over our South Asian neighbour's growth potential". The paper also argued that "western rhetoric" which stated that both countries were "destined to stand against each other" had been proven wrong by the fact that India and China had "by and large, managed their differences well over the decades". It also welcomed Modi's invitation to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to attend his swearing-in ceremony.^[358]

Individuals and organisations

The 14th Dalai Lama sent a letter congratulating Modi for the BJP's "decisive victory". The Dalai Lama expressed hope that just as Modi had brought development and prosperity to Gujarat, India would continue to "flourish and prosper" under his leadership.^{[359][360][361][362]}

The American Jewish Committee (AJC) congratulated Narendra Modi, and expressed hope that his leadership would further strengthen India's relations with the US and Israel. Director of AJC's Asia Pacific Institute (API) Shira Loewenberg stated, "We look forward to working with Modi and the new government to further strengthen and deepen India's extensive relations with the United States and Israel. BJP has long been a friend to Israel and the Jewish people."^{[363][364]}

Aftermath

Government formation

Manmohan Singh tendered his resignation to President Pranab Mukherjee on 17 May. He continued as caretaker Prime Minister, at the request of the President, until 26 May 2014, when Narendra Modi and his cabinet were sworn to office.^[365]

Support for the new government

Political Party	Seats	Alliance
Bharatiya Janata Party	282	National Democratic Alliance
Shiv Sena	18	
Lok Janshakti Party	6	
Shiromani Akali Dal	4	
Rashtriya Lok Samta Party	3	
Apna Dal	2	
Pattali Makkal Katchi	1	
Swabhiman Paksha	1	
Naga People's Front	1	
All India N.R. Congress	1	
National People's Party (India)	1	
Total	336	

See also

- [List of members of the 16th Lok Sabha](#)

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2009 Indian general election

General elections were held in India in five phases between 16 April 2009 and 13 May 2009 to elect the members of the [fifteenth Lok Sabha](#). With an electorate of 716 million, it was the largest democratic election in the world until being surpassed by the [2014 general election](#).^[1]

By constitutional requirement, elections to the Lok Sabha must be held every five years or when Parliament is dissolved by the [president](#). The [previous elections](#) were held in May 2004 and the term of the [14th Lok Sabha](#) would have naturally expired on 1 June 2009. Elections are organised by the [Election Commission of India](#) (ECI) and are normally held in multiple phases to better handle the large electorate and security concerns.^[2] The 2009 elections were held in five phases. In February 2009, Rs.11.20 billion (\$200.5 million) was budgeted for election expenses by parliament.^[3]

A total of 8,070 candidates contested 543 seats elected in single-member constituencies using [first-past-the-post voting](#).^[4] Voter turnout over all five phases was around 58%. The results of the election were announced within three days of phase five, on 16 May.^[5]

The [United Progressive Alliance](#) (UPA) led by the [Indian National Congress](#) formed the government after winning a majority of seats, with strong results in [Andhra Pradesh](#), [Kerala](#), [Maharashtra](#), [Rajasthan](#), [Tamil Nadu](#), [Uttar Pradesh](#) and [West Bengal](#). [Manmohan Singh](#) became the first Prime Minister since [Jawaharlal Nehru](#) in 1962 to be re-elected after completing a full five-year term.^[6] The UPA was able to put together a comfortable majority with support from 322 of the 543 elected members. External support was provided by the [Bahujan Samaj Party](#) (BSP), [Samajwadi Party](#) (SP), [Janata Dal \(Secular\)](#) (JD(S)), [Rashtriya Janata Dal](#) (RJD) and other minor parties.^[7]

The newly formed [Third Front](#) lead by [Communist Party of India \(Marxist\)](#) (CPI(M)) mainly constitute of regional parties gives a major challenge to [United Progressive Alliance](#) (UPA) and [National Democratic Alliance](#) (NDA) making the election a triangular fight.^[8]

Singh was sworn in as Prime Minister on 22 May 2009 at the Ashoka Hall of [Rashtrapati Bhavan](#).^{[9][10]}

Background

The election, while following the normal five-year cycle, came after a break in the old UPA alliance after the left parties withdrew support of the [Indo-US nuclear deal](#) forcing a vote of confidence (which the government won).

Electoral issues

Delimitation

The 2009 elections adopted re-drawn electoral constituencies based on the [2001 census](#), following the 2002 [Delimitation Commission of India](#), whose recommendations were approved in February 2008.

In the 2009 general elections, 499 out of the total 543 Parliamentary constituencies were newly delimited constituencies. This affected the [National Capital Region of Delhi](#), the [Union Territory](#) of [Puducherry](#) and all the [states](#) except [Arunachal Pradesh](#), [Assam](#), [Jammu & Kashmir](#), [Jharkhand](#), [Manipur](#) and [Nagaland](#).^[11] While comparing election results, it must be borne in mind that in many instances a constituency with the same name may reflect a significantly different population demographic as well as a slightly altered geographical region.

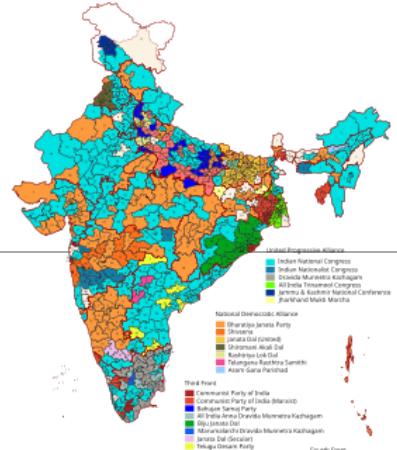
Electronic voting machines

As in the 2004 election, this election was also conducted completely using [electronic voting machines](#) (EVMs), with 1,368,430 voting machines deployed across the country.^[11]

Polling stations

There were 828,804 [Polling Stations](#) around the country – a 20% increase over the number from the 2004 election. This was done mainly to avoid vulnerability to threat and intimidation, to overcome geographical barriers and to reduce the distance travelled by voters.^[11]

2009 Indian general election

		
16 April 2009 – 13 May 2009		
543 of the 545 seats in the Lok Sabha 272 seats needed for a majority		
Registered	716,985,101	
Turnout	58.21% (▲ 0.14pp)	
 		
Leader	Manmohan Singh L. K. Advani	
Party	INC BJP	
Alliance	UPA NDA	
Last election	26.53%, 145 seats	22.16%, 138 seats
Seats won	206	116
Seat change	▲ 61	▼ 22
Popular vote	119,111,019	78,435,381
Percentage	28.55%	18.80%
Swing	▲ 2.02pp	▼ 3.36pp
Alliance seats	262	159
 <small>Legend: United Progressive Alliance: - Indian National Congress - Indian National Congress (Left Wing) - Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam - AIADMK - DMK - Janta & Justice National Conference - Nationalist Congress Party National Democratic Alliance: - Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) - CPI (Marxist-Leninist) - CPI (Marxist) - Shramik Awami Dal - Aam Aadmi Party - Telangana Rashtra Samithi - Akash Sama Parishad Third Front: - Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) - Bahujan Samaj Party - Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam - DMK - AIADMK - Telangana Rashtra Samithi - Akash Sama Parishad Fourth Front: - Samajwadi Party - Rashtriya Janata Dal</small> Results by constituency		
Prime Minister before election	Manmohan Singh	
Prime Minister after election	Manmohan Singh	
	INC	

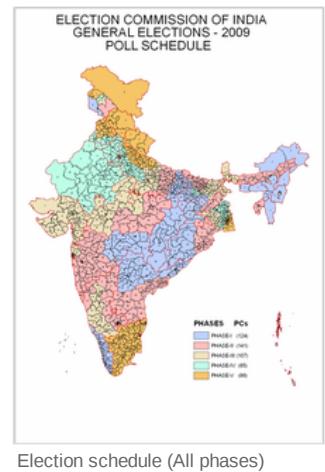
The CEC announced that the polling station in Banej village in the Una segment of Junagadh, Gujarat had the unique claim to being the only polling station in the country that catered to a single elector – Guru Shree Bharatdasji Bapu, a priest of a Shiva temple in the middle of the Gir Forest.^[12]

Electoral rolls

The electoral rolls had to be completely updated because of the delimitation that took effect from February 2008. The process of updating the electoral rolls continued until the last date of filing nominations. 714 million people were eligible to vote in 2009, up 6.4% (43 million) from 2004.

This election also saw the entire country except the states of Assam, Nagaland and Jammu & Kashmir use photo electoral rolls. This meant that the photo of each elector was printed on the electoral rolls and this was intended to facilitate easy identification and prevent impersonations.

In addition to the photo electoral rolls, the electors also needed to provide separate photo identification. Those electors who had already been issued Electoral Photo Identification Cards (EPIC) were only permitted to use the EPIC for identification at the polling station. According to the EC, 82% of the country's electors (except those in Assam) have been issued EPIC before the 2009 election was announced.^[11]



Election schedule (All phases)

Polling schedule

Background

The Chief Election Commissioner of India (CEC), N. Gopalaswami, had stated on 28 December 2008, that the elections were likely to be held between April and May 2009. He attributed this schedule to the examination period from February to March, making polling places unavailable.^[13]

On 31 January 2009, fractures within the Election Commission came to the fore when Gopalaswami recommended to President Pratibha Patil that Election Commissioner Navin Chawla be sacked for behaving in a partisan manner. This recommendation in itself was controversial, as it was unclear if a CEC had the legal and constitutional right to provide such a unilateral recommendation.^[14] Chawla refused to resign as he was expected to take over the post of Chief Election Commissioner a few months later.^[15]

This controversy also resulted in speculation that the Election Commission was unable to agree on the actual polling dates, with the incumbent CEC Gopalaswami preferring that at least one phase of elections be held before his retirement on 20 April 2009. Navin Chawla, on the other hand, wanted the election to only start after Gopalaswami retired.^[16]

Eventually, on 1 March 2009, President Patil rejected Gopalaswami's recommendation to remove Chawla after the Government advised her to do so.^[17] Soon after the above announcement by President Patil, the Election Commissioners got together to announce the details of the general election.

The polling schedule for the 2009 General Elections was announced by the Chief Election Commissioner on 2 March 2009.^[11]

Subsequently, the President's House announced on 4 March 2009 that CEC Gopalaswami would retire as scheduled on 20 April 2009 and Navin Chawla would take over as CEC starting 21 April 2009.^[18] It was the first time in the history of Indian politics that two different people oversaw different phases of the same election.^[19]

Polling schedule

Polling schedule for each State/UT in 2009 General Elections

States/UTs	Constituencies	Phases	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Avg Turnout			
			16 April	Turnout ^[20]	22/23 April	Turnout ^[20]	30 April	Turnout ^[21]	7 May	Turnout ^[22]	13 May	Turnout ^[23]				
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	1	1	64.15%		–		–		–		–	64.15%			
Andhra Pradesh	42	2	22	69.75%	20	75.50%		–		–		–	72.40%			
Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	2	65.00%		–		–		–		–	65.00%			
Assam	14	2	3	67.61%	11	70.06%		–		–		–	69.68%			
Bihar	40	4	13	43.21%	13	45.83%	11	46.12%	3	37.00%		–	44.27%			
Chandigarh	1	1		–		–		–		–	1	65.51%	65.51%			
Chhattisgarh	11	1	11	58.19%		–		–		–		–	58.19%			
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1		–		–	1	73.22%		–		–	73.22%			
Daman & Diu	1	1		–		–	1	71.85%		–		–	71.85%			
Delhi	7	1		–		–		–	7	51.79%		–	51.79%			
Goa	2	1		–	2	55.42%		–		–		–	55.42%			
Gujarat	26	1		–		–	26	47.92%		–		–	47.92%			
Haryana	10	1		–		–		–	10	67.67%		–	67.67%			
Himachal Pradesh	4	1		–		–		–		–	4	58.35%	58.35%			
Jammu & Kashmir	6	5	1	49.68%	1	44.73%	1	26.43%	1	25.38%	2	45.63%	39.66%			
Jharkhand	14	2	6	51.16%	8	48.86%		–		–		–	49.77%			
Karnataka	28	2		–	17	60.00%	11	58.48%		–		–	59.44%			
Kerala	20	1	20	73.33%		–		–		–		–	73.33%			
Lakshadweep	1	1	1	86.10%		–		–		–		–	86.10%			
Madhya Pradesh	29	2		–	13	51.39%	16	51.22%		–		–	51.30%			
Maharashtra	48	3	13	55.74%	25	49.18%	10	41.24%		–		–	49.17%			
Manipur	2	2	1	83.70%	1	75.50%		–		–		–	79.80%			
Meghalaya	2	1	2	64.40%		–		–		–		–	64.40%			
Mizoram	1	1	1	50.93%		–		–		–		–	50.93%			
Nagaland	1	1	1	90.21%		–		–		–		–	90.21%			
Orissa	21	2	10	64.90%	11	62.00%		–		–		–	63.35%			
Puducherry	1	1		–		–		–		–	1	79.70%	79.70%			
Punjab	13	2		–		–		–	4	72.78%	9	68.13%	69.58%			
Rajasthan	25	1		–		–		–	25	48.50%		–	48.50%			
Sikkim	1	1		–		–	1	82.00%		–		–	82.00%			
Tamil Nadu	39	1		–		–		–		–	39	72.46%	72.46%			
Tripura	2	1		–	2	83.91%		–		–		–	83.91%			
Uttar Pradesh	80	5	16	45.37%	17	45.48%	15	46.12%	18	48.00%	14	47.55%	46.45%			
Uttarakhand	5	1		–		–		–		–	5	53.67%	53.67%			
West Bengal	42	3		–		–	14	80.71%	17	82.60%	11	76.30%	78.93%			
Total constituencies	543		124	59.07%	141	56.66%	107	52.12%	85	52.32%	86	65.74%	56.97%			
Total states/UTs polling on this day			17		13		11		8		9					
				States/UTs		Constituencies										
Number of states and UTs polling in single phase				22		164										
Number of states and UTs polling in two phases				8		163										

Number of states and UTs polling in three phases	2	90	
Number of states and UTs polling in four phases	1	40	
Number of states and UTs polling in five phases	2	86	
Total	35	543	
Source: Election Commission of India ^[11]			

Coalitions

The 2009 general election saw three main national pre-poll alliances. Given the volatile nature of coalition politics in India, many parties changed alliances before, during and after the elections. The two larger coalitions, UPA and NDA, had clearly indicated their prime ministerial candidates during campaigning for the election. The Third Front announced repeatedly through the campaigning period that their prime ministerial candidate would only be decided after the election results came out. In Indian parliamentary system, the announcement of Prime Ministerial candidates prior to elections is not required.

United Progressive Alliance

Prime Minister candidate: Manmohan Singh (Indian National Congress (INC))

The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) was formed after the 2004 general election to bring together parties that either allied with the Congress in various states, or were willing to support a Congress-led national government. Though the UPA never enjoyed a clear majority on its own in the 14th Lok Sabha, it managed to complete its five-year term from 2004 to 2009 by securing outside support from the left parties (CPI(M), CPI, AIFB, RSP), Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party at different times during this tenure.

Following the August 2008 confidence vote victory for the current government, a statement by Congress President Sonia Gandhi caused speculation that the UPA would project Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as the Prime Ministerial candidate in the next elections.^[24] While Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader M. Karunandhi supported Manmohan Singh as the PM candidate, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar tried to project himself as a possible Prime Ministerial candidate as well.^[25] On 24 January 2009, Manmohan Singh underwent a cardiac bypass surgery at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.^[26] Following the surgery, speculation of alternate PM candidates arose both within the Congress and amongst coalition partners. In an attempt to quell such speculations, Sonia Gandhi on 6 February 2009, confirmed that Manmohan Singh would be the UPA's PM candidate by writing so in the Congress party magazine Sandesh.^[27] This was the first time in the history of Indian elections that the Congress party had declared its Prime Ministerial candidate prior to the elections.

National Democratic Alliance

Prime Minister candidate: Lal Krishna Advani (Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP))

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was the first large national coalition formed by a national party supported by various regional parties. It was formed after the 1998 general election and the NDA formed the Government led by BJP's Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The government collapsed a few months later, but the NDA returned to power after the 1999 general election and this time the Vajpayee-led Government completed its full term from 1999 to 2004. Due to the volatile nature of coalitions, NDA won 181 seats after the 2004 election, but due to parties changing alliances, before the 2009 election they had 142 seats.

The main opposition party, BJP, and its NDA coalition partners announced on 11 December 2007 (more than a year before the election) that their candidate for prime minister would be BJP party leader Advani^[28] who was the Leader of the Opposition at the time. On 23 January 2008, leaders from BJP and other NDA parties convened in the capital to officially elect him as their candidate for the election.^[29]

Third Front

Seats: The newly formed alliance carried with them 109 seats before the 2009 election.

The CPI(M) led the formation of the Third Front for the 2009 election. This front was basically a collection of regional political parties who were neither in UPA nor in the NDA.

Fourth Front

Seats: The newly formed alliance carried with them 64 seats before the 2009 election.

The Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Lok Janshakti Party failed to reach seat sharing agreements with the Congress and decided to form a new front, hoping to be kingmakers after the election.^[30] Despite announcing this front, the constituent parties continued to declare their support for the UPA.^[31]

Campaign

United Progressive Alliance

The Congress party bought the rights for the Oscar-winning soundtrack "Jai Ho" from the movie Slumdog Millionaire, which was used as the official campaign tune by the party. The song title "Jai Ho" translates to 'Let there be victory', and the Congress hoped that the popular song would galvanise the masses during the almost one-month-long election season.^[32]

On 24 March 2009, Congress President Sonia Gandhi released the party's manifesto for the 2009 election.^[33] The manifesto highlighted all the achievements of the UPA Government over the last five years in power and identified improving various policies to favour more rural & under-privileged sections of the Indian society.^[34]

The Congress campaign ran into trouble when the Election Commission took exception to a full page advertisement on the 2010 Commonwealth Games taken out in major Delhi newspapers. The EC served notice to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the Cabinet Secretary and the Chief Secretary of Delhi, stating that the advertisement was a clear violation of the model code of conduct since it enumerated the achievements of the UPA Government. The EC has also asked the violators to pay from their own pockets.^{[35][36]}

National Democratic Alliance

To counter the Congress' selection of "Jai Ho" as their official anthem, the BJP coined the phrase *Kushal Neta*,

On 3 April 2009, BJP released its election manifesto in New Delhi.^[37] The party was taking on the incumbent UPA Government on the three fronts of *Good Governance, Development and Security*. The manifesto highlighted all the different NDA policies that the UPA reversed over the last five years. The manifesto laid a lot of importance on requiring strong, POTA-like anti-terrorism laws and vowed to make India a safer place if the BJP is elected. The full text of the manifesto is available at the BJP website.^[38]

The BJP campaign faced its biggest controversy when the EC directed the District Magistrate of Pilibhit to lodge a criminal case against the BJP's candidate Varun Gandhi for his allegedly inflammatory speech against minority communities made on 7 March 2009.^[39] This decision was taken after the EC had earlier issued a notice^[40] to Varun Gandhi and the BJP. After reviewing the incident, the EC found Varun Gandhi guilty of violating the model code of conduct by creating feeling of enmity and hatred between different communities and issued a recommendation to the BJP to drop him from their list of candidates.^[41] The BJP however came out in support of Varun and refused to drop him as a candidate.^[42]

Third Front

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)) formed a Third Front. The Third Front tried to contest the election, hoping to create a non-BJP, non-Congress government, by attracting many local and regional parties, that were once with the other two alliances. The Third Front came into the alliance with 109 MPs, and various polling conducted before the election projected the alliance of getting over 100 seats. The CPI(M) created a campaign website hosting its campaign information to attract sympathisers among the netizen public to vote for the party.^{[43][44]}

Innovative technology usage during campaigning

During this election, political parties used technology in innovative ways to reach out to the voters. Although SMS had been used during prior elections, political parties had realised that the rural and illiterate voters which form a majority could not read. Young and technology savvy politicians quickly realised that voice was the way to reach out to the rural community as they could speak their language. This turned out to be very interesting as two voice companies from India, TringMe and VoiceHawk played the pivotal role in reaching out to the billion people of India.^[45]

Opinion polling

Most opinion polls conducted by major agencies gave the UPA an edge over the NDA, but none were predicted to get absolute majority. The UPA including the Fourth front was, however, predicted by a few to get seats close to majority. The opinion polls reckoned that other regional parties would play an important role by winning a substantial number of seats. In results where the "Fourth Front" is indicated, the SP, RJD and LJP are not being counted in the UPA figure.

Pre-poll surveys

Agency	Dates	Results			
		UPA	NDA	Others	
CNN-IBN-CSDS	8 Jan to 15/09	215–235	164–185	125–155	[46]
Star-Nielsen	5 to 17 March 2009	257 (Congress 144)	184 (BJP 137)	96	[47]
Star-Nielsen	26 Mar – 3 April 2009	203 (Congress 155)	191 (BJP 147)	Third Front 104, Fourth Front 39	[48]
CVoter-The Week	March–April 2009	234 (Congress 144)	186 (BJP 140)	Third Front 112	[49]
Times of India	March 2009	201 (Congress 146)	195 (BJP 138)	147	[50]
Actual Results	16 May 2009	262	159	79	

Exit polls

In February 2009, the ECI banned the publishing of all exit polls starting 48 hours before Phase 1 of the election until the end of Phase 5. This was intended to prevent exit polls from earlier phases affecting voter decisions in later phases.^[51] The ban ended with the close of Phase 5 voting at 5:00 pm IST on 13 May.

Polling organisation			
	UPA	NDA	Others
CNN-IBN - Dainik Bhaskar	185-205	165-185	153-193
India TV-CVoter	189-201	183-195	147-171
Star-Nielsen	199	196	148
Headlines Today	191	180	172
Actual result	262	159	122

Sources: [52][53]

Election phases

Phase 1 – 16 April 2009

The first phase of the 2009 election took place on Thursday, 16 April with elections in 124 constituencies across 15 states and 2 union territories. There were incidents of violence in a few places in Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand and Maharashtra and between 17 and 19 people were killed in Naxal attacks.^[54] The dead included five poll officials and 10 security personnel, whose families received a compensation of Rs 1 million.^[55] Naxals set fire to voting machines, attacked voters, security personnel and polling workers, and destroyed vehicles.^{[56][57]} According to one news source, "It was apparent that the Naxals had clearly planned to disrupt the polls."^[56]

Despite these incidents, the ECI expressed satisfaction about the conduct of the polls due to peaceful polling in many other parts of the country. Initial reports from the ECI place the voter turnout for this phase at approximately 60 percent. This phase of the election was held in 185,000 polling stations, serving an electorate of over 143.1 million deciding the fate of 1,715 candidates.^{[58][59]}

The ECI ordered repoll in 46 polling booths across 7 of the states where polling took place in the first phase. These include 29 polling booths in Andhra Pradesh, 5 each in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, 3 in Nagaland, 2 in Kerala and 1 each in Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh. The repoll in all these polling booths were held on 18 April 2009.^[60]

One of the positive stories emerging from this phase of election was from Kandhamal district, where refugees of the 2008 Kandhamal riots came out in huge numbers to exercise their franchise. It is estimated that there was a turnout of 90% amongst Kandhamal refugees and 50% across the entire district. The administration had earlier identified large parts of the area as Naxal affected and vulnerable. Hence, the administration had deployed extra security in the area and the ECI has arranged for special transport to shuttle the refugees from the refugee camps to the polling booths. Both of these actions helped achieve the high turnout.^[61]

Phase 2 – 22 April 2009 and 23 April 2009

The second phase of the 2009 election was spread across Wednesday, 22 April (Phase 2A) and Thursday, 23 April (Phase 2B). Phase 2A saw election in a single constituency in Manipur as it was a state holiday on 23 April.^[11]

According to the EC, the election in Manipur in Phase 2A was peaceful and witnessed a voter turnout of about 62%.^[62] Following the election, though, the Communist Party of India (CPI) and Manipur People's Party (MPP) have alleged vote rigging by Congress workers during the polls in Phase 2A. The MPP claimed that the Congress workers captured 11 booths in the Andro Assembly segment of Imphal East.^[63]

Phase 2B saw polling in 12 states for 140 constituencies – the most in any phase of this election. This phase was largely peaceful and saw about 55% turnout. There were stray incidents of violence in areas with active Naxalite groups in Jharkhand and Bihar.^[64] The poor turnout in this phase was blamed on a heat wave sweeping the country that took the noon-time temperature on election day up to between 42 and 46 degrees Celsius in various parts of the country.^[65] Two polling officials even died due to sun stroke in Orissa with two also falling ill.^[66]

Phase 3 – 30 April 2009

The third phase of the 2009 election was held on Thursday, 30 April with elections in 107 constituencies spread across nine states and two union territories. The fate of 1,567 candidates was decided in this phase including those of Congress President Sonia Gandhi, BJP's Prime Minister candidate L.K. Advani and former Prime Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) President Deve Gowda.^[67] This phase included voting in Mumbai where the turnout was relatively low. The voter turnout around the country was moderate and this was primarily blamed on the extreme heat on election day.^[68] Voting was largely peaceful all across the country. However, Maoist guerrillas exploded a landmine in West Bengal's Purulia district, injuring a paramilitary trooper.

Phase 4 – 7 May 2009

The fourth phase of the election was held on Thursday, 7 May with elections for 85 seats across eight states involving 1,315 candidates. The phase's high-profile candidates included External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and former chief ministers Mulayam Singh Yadav, Rajnath Singh, Lalu Prasad Yadav and Farooq Abdullah. Apart from bomb attacks in West Bengal's Asansol and Murshidabad districts that killed one person each and some violence in Rajasthan, this phase was relatively peaceful.^[69] This phase saw voting in the nation's capital Delhi where the voter turnout was around 53%, much higher than the previous two elections in Delhi.^[70]

Phase 5 – 13 May 2009

The fifth and final phase of the 2009 election was held on Wednesday, 13 May with voting across seven states and two union territories for 86 constituencies. Overall the turnout was 62%. Numerous cases of voter omissions were reported in Tamil Nadu which had 39 seats up for grab. In Jammu & Kashmir, two polling stations could not be reached by the polling officials due to extreme snow which prevented their helicopters from landing at the site. The polling officials were forced to trek through deep snow to reach the polling stations and polls took place 2 days later on 15 May in these two stations.^[71] A few cases of violence were also reported in this phase. One DMK official was stabbed to death in Tamil Nadu in a clash between the political parties and another person was killed in West Bengal in clashes between Trinamool Congress and CPI(M) party workers.^[72]



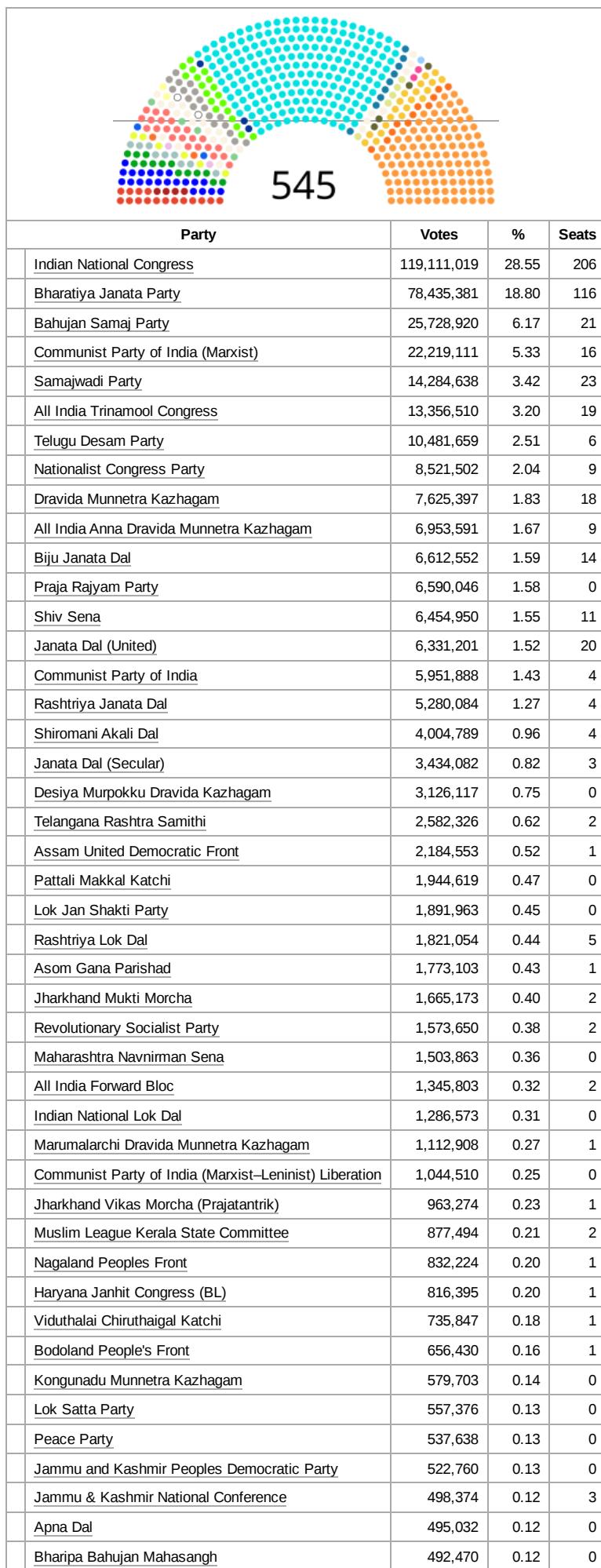
Queue outside a polling station in Kolkata 13 May 2009.

State/UT-wise voter turnout details

State/UT	Total electors	Total voters	Total turnout	Total seats
Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)	265,108	170,713	64.16%	1
Andhra Pradesh	57,892,259	42,086,701	72.70%	42
Arunachal Pradesh	734,541	500,701	68.17%	2
Assam	17,470,329	12,149,244	69.54%	14
Bihar	54,505,246	24,236,447	44.47%	40
Chandigarh (UT)	524,444	343,558	65.51%	1
Chhattisgarh	15,476,577	8,556,714	55.29%	11
Dadra & Nagar Haveli (UT)	150,704	110,363	73.23%	1
Daman & Diu (UT)	95,382	68,025	71.32%	1
Goa	1,020,794	564,439	55.29%	2
Gujarat	36,484,281	17,476,688	47.90%	26
Haryana	12,087,710	8,160,212	67.51%	10
Himachal Pradesh	4,606,674	2,691,632	58.43%	4
Jammu & Kashmir	6,572,896	2,609,249	39.70%	6
Jharkhand	17,934,095	9,142,557	50.98%	14
Karnataka	41,790,939	24,581,348	58.82%	28
Kerala	21,859,536	16,041,499	73.38%	20
Lakshadweep (UT)	45,983	39,498	85.90%	1
Madhya Pradesh	38,085,179	19,488,923	51.17%	29
Maharashtra	72,954,058	37,007,538	50.73%	48
Manipur	1,736,251	1,342,309	77.31%	2
Meghalaya	1,277,739	822,614	64.38%	2
Mizoram	629,374	326,424	51.86%	1
Nagaland	1,321,878	1,189,742	90.00%	1
NCT OF Delhi	11,096,854	5,754,356	51.86%	7
Orissa	27,194,864	17,772,025	65.35%	21
Puducherry (UT)	762,440	608,509	79.81%	1
Punjab	16,958,380	11,833,887	69.78%	13
Rajasthan	37,060,011	17,942,477	48.41%	25
Sikkim	300,584	252,275	83.93%	1
Tamil Nadu	41,620,460	30,405,063	73.05%	39
Tripura	2,082,265	1,760,485	84.55%	2
Uttar Pradesh	116,006,374	55,435,386	47.79%	80
Uttarakhand	5,887,724	3,145,818	53.43%	5
West Bengal	52,493,168	42,740,865	81.42%	42
India	716,985,101	417,357,674	58.21%	543

Results

Vote counting took place on 16 May^[73] and the result were declared the same day. The EVMs were localised to 1,080 centres across the country and counting started at 08:00 hrs. The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) took early lead and maintained it to emerge victorious. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Rajnath Singh said that the BJP's performance in the election was very unexpected and the success of the NDA that had been hoped for had not materialised.^[74] The CPI (M) led third front later said that it was ready to sit in the opposition.



<u>Swabhiman Paksha</u>	481,025	0.12	1
<u>Kerala Congress (M)</u>	404,962	0.10	1
<u>Republican Party of India (Athawale)</u>	379,746	0.09	0
<u>Kerala Congress</u>	333,688	0.08	0
<u>Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party</u>	319,307	0.08	0
<u>All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen</u>	308,061	0.07	1
<u>Republican Party of India</u>	294,650	0.07	0
<u>Pyramid Party of India</u>	287,576	0.07	0
<u>Loktantri Samata Dal</u>	270,040	0.06	0
<u>Mahagujarat Janta Party</u>	245,174	0.06	0
<u>People's Democratic Alliance</u>	224,719	0.05	0
<u>Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi</u>	223,234	0.05	1
<u>Gondwana Ganatantra Party</u>	220,741	0.05	0
<u>Rashtriya Samaj Paksha</u>	215,042	0.05	0
<u>All Jharkhand Students Union</u>	200,523	0.05	0
<u>Swatantra Bharat Paksh</u>	188,608	0.05	0
<u>Indian Justice Party</u>	177,759	0.04	0
<u>Sikkim Democratic Front</u>	159,351	0.04	1
<u>Rashtriya Samanta Dal</u>	153,455	0.04	0
<u>Rashtriya Swabhimaan Party</u>	152,633	0.04	0
<u>Rashtrawadi Sena</u>	144,735	0.03	0
<u>Rashtriya Dehat Morcha Party</u>	139,404	0.03	0
<u>Samruddha Odisha</u>	131,379	0.03	0
<u>Janvadi Party (Socialist)</u>	129,595	0.03	0
<u>Jharkhand Party</u>	125,900	0.03	0
<u>United Democratic Party</u>	124,402	0.03	0
<u>Autonomous State Demand Committee</u>	123,287	0.03	0
<u>Puthiya Tamilagam</u>	120,797	0.03	0
<u>Lok Bhalai Party</u>	118,470	0.03	0
<u>Jharkhand Party (Naren)</u>	104,600	0.03	0
<u>Jharkhand Disom Party</u>	102,698	0.02	0
<u>Manipur Peoples Party</u>	101,787	0.02	0
<u>286 other parties with fewer than 100,000 votes</u>	4,005,695	0.96	0
<u>Independents</u>	21,647,686	5.19	9
<u>Nominated Anglo-Indians</u>			2
Total	417,159,281	100.00	545
Valid votes	417,159,281	99.95	
Invalid/blank votes	198,705	0.05	
Total votes	417,357,986	100.00	
Registered voters/turnout	716,985,101	58.21	

Source: ECI (<https://eci.gov.in/files/category/98-general-election-2009/>)

By Region

Region	Total Seats	Indian National Congress	Bharatiya Janata Party	Others		
South India	130	61	▲ 13	19	▲ 2	50 ▼ 15
West India	78	29	▲ 2	27	▼ 1	22 ▼ 1
Hindi-Heartland	225	79	▲ 33	63	▼ 15	83 ▼ 18
North-East India	25	13	▲ 2	4	—	8 ▼ 5
East India	63	12	▲ 4	1	▼ 6	50 ▲ 2
Union Territories	22	12	▲ 7	1	—	9 ▼ 1
Total	543	206	+61	116	-22	222 -38

Source: Times of India^[75]

By states and territories

The UPA carried 18 states, while the NDA and the Third Front carried 8 and 2 respectively.

Source: Election Commission of India^[76]

State (# of seats)	Party	Seats won	% of votes	Alliance
Andhra Pradesh (42)	Indian National Congress	33	38.95%	United Progressive Alliance
	Telugu Desam Party	6	24.93%	Third Front
	Praja Rajyam Party	0	17.93%	Fourth Front
	Telangana Rashtra Samithi	2	6.14%	National Democratic Alliance
	All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen	1	1.93%	United Progressive Alliance
Arunachal Pradesh (2)	Indian National Congress	2	51.11%	United Progressive Alliance
Assam (14)	Indian National Congress	7	33.91%	United Progressive Alliance
	Bharatiya Janata Party	4	17.21%	National Democratic Alliance
	Assam United Democratic Front	1	17.10%	None
	Asom Gana Parishad	1	12.61%	National Democratic Alliance
	Bodoland Peoples Front	1		None
Bihar (40)	Janata Dal (United)	20	24.04%	National Democratic Alliance
	Bharatiya Janata Party	12	13.93%	National Democratic Alliance
	Rashtriya Janata Dal	4	19.30%	Fourth Front
	Indian National Congress	2	10.26%	United Progressive Alliance
	Independent	2		None
Chhattisgarh (11)	Bharatiya Janata Party	10	45.03%	National Democratic Alliance
	Indian National Congress	1	37.31%	United Progressive Alliance
Goa (2)	Bharatiya Janata Party	1	44.78%	National Democratic Alliance
	Indian National Congress	1	22.60%	United Progressive Alliance
Gujarat (26)	Bharatiya Janata Party	15	46.52%	National Democratic Alliance
	Indian National Congress	11	43.38%	United Progressive Alliance
Haryana (10)	Indian National Congress	9	41.77%	United Progressive Alliance
	Haryana Janhit Congress	1		Third Front
Himachal Pradesh (4)	Bharatiya Janata Party	3	49.58%	National Democratic Alliance
	Indian National Congress	1	45.61%	United Progressive Alliance
Jammu & Kashmir (6)	Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	3	19.11%	United Progressive Alliance
	Indian National Congress	2	24.67%	United Progressive Alliance
	Independent	1		None
Jharkhand (14)	Bharatiya Janata Party	8	27.53%	National Democratic Alliance
	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	2	11.70%	United Progressive Alliance
	Indian National Congress	1	15.02%	United Progressive Alliance
	Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik)	1		None
	Independent	2		None
Karnataka (28)	Bharatiya Janata Party	19	41.63%	National Democratic Alliance
	Indian National Congress	6	37.65%	United Progressive Alliance
	Janata Dal (Secular)	3	13.57%	Third Front
Kerala (20)	Indian National Congress	13	40.13%	United Progressive Alliance United Democratic Front
	Left Democratic Front	4		Third Front
	Indian Union Muslim League	2		United Progressive Alliance United Democratic Front
	Kerala Congress (Mani)	1	2.53%	United Progressive Alliance United Democratic Front
Madhya Pradesh (29)	Bharatiya Janata Party	16	43.45%	National Democratic Alliance
	Indian National Congress	12	40.14%	United Progressive Alliance
	Bahujan Samaj Party	1	5.85%	Third Front
Maharashtra (48)	Indian National Congress	17	19.61%	United Progressive Alliance
	Shiv Sena	11	17.00%	National Democratic Alliance
	Bharatiya Janata Party	9	18.17%	National Democratic Alliance
	Nationalist Congress Party	8	19.28%	United Progressive Alliance
	Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi	1		None

	Swabhiman Paksha	1		None
	Independent	1		None
<u>Manipur</u> (2)	Indian National Congress	2	42.96%	United Progressive Alliance
<u>Meghalaya</u> (2)	Indian National Congress	1	44.84%	United Progressive Alliance
	Nationalist Congress Party	1	18.78%	United Progressive Alliance
<u>Mizoram</u> (1)	Indian National Congress	1	65.58%	United Progressive Alliance
<u>Nagaland</u> (1)	Nagaland People's Front	1	69.96%	None
<u>Orissa</u> (21)	Biju Janata Dal	14	37.23%	Third Front
	Indian National Congress	6	32.75%	United Progressive Alliance
	Communist Party of India	1	2.57%	Third Front
<u>Punjab</u> (13)	Indian National Congress	8	45.23%	United Progressive Alliance
	Shiromani Akali Dal	4	33.85%	National Democratic Alliance
	Bharatiya Janata Party	1	10.06%	National Democratic Alliance
<u>Rajasthan</u> (25)	Indian National Congress	20	47.19%	United Progressive Alliance
	Bharatiya Janata Party	4	36.57%	National Democratic Alliance
	Independent	1		None
<u>Sikkim</u> (1)	Sikkim Democratic Front	1	63.30%	None
<u>Tamil Nadu</u> (39)	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	18	25.09%	United Progressive Alliance
	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	9	22.88%	Third Front
	Indian National Congress	8	15.03%	United Progressive Alliance
	Communist Party of India	1	2.85%	Third Front
	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	1	2.20%	Third Front
	Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	1	3.66%	Third Front
	Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi	1	2.42%	United Progressive Alliance
<u>Tripura</u> (2)	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	2	61.69%	Third Front
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u> (80)	Samajwadi Party	23	23.26%	Fourth Front
	Indian National Congress	21	18.25%	United Progressive Alliance
	Bahujan Samaj Party	20	27.42%	Third Front
	Bharatiya Janata Party	10	17.50%	National Democratic Alliance
	Rashtriya Lok Dal	5		United Progressive Alliance
	Independent	1		None
<u>Uttarakhand</u> (5)	Indian National Congress	5	43.13%	United Progressive Alliance
<u>West Bengal</u> (42)	All India Trinamool Congress	19	31.17%	United Progressive Alliance
	Left Front	15		Third Front
	Indian National Congress	6	13.45%	United Progressive Alliance
	Bharatiya Janata Party	1	6.14%	National Democratic Alliance
	Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist)	1		None ^[77]
<u>Territory</u> (# of seats)	Party	Seats won	% of votes	Alliance
Andaman & Nicobar Islands (1)	Bharatiya Janata Party	1	44.21%	National Democratic Alliance
<u>Chandigarh</u> (1)	Indian National Congress	1	46.87%	United Progressive Alliance
<u>Dadra & Nagar Haveli</u> (1)	Bharatiya Janata Party	1	46.43%	National Democratic Alliance
<u>Daman & Diu</u> (1)	Bharatiya Janata Party	1	65.49%	National Democratic Alliance
<u>Delhi</u> (7)	Indian National Congress	7	57.11%	United Progressive Alliance
<u>Lakshadweep</u> (1)	Indian National Congress	1	51.88%	United Progressive Alliance
<u>Puducherry</u> (1)	Indian National Congress	1	49.41%	United Progressive Alliance

Reactions

President of Bharatiya Janata Party, Rajnath Singh conceded defeat on behalf of his party after seeing the trends of vote counting on the day of result.^[78]

Analysis

This election defied the predictions made by pre-poll predictions and exit polls and resulted in a new mandate for incumbent UPA government. According to analysts after the election, many factors can be attributed for a landslide. The National Election Study 2009, published in *The Hindu* newspaper after the election, attributed the victory of the UPA government to the saturation of caste-based identity politics, focus on good governance and BJP's limitations.^[79] Another factor was the vote-splitting by the Third Front, especially the BSP and MNS in Maharashtra, which resulted in the Indian National Congress gaining many of its seats without getting a majority in the corresponding constituency.

Formation of the new government

The President, Pratibha Patil dissolved the 14th Lok Sabha with immediate effect on 18 May.^[82] Prime Minister Manmohan Singh submitted the resignation of his Council of Ministers to the President, for him to be re-elected as the Prime Minister as well as for a new Council of Ministers to be elected.^[82] On 19 May, Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi were re-elected as party leader and chairperson respectively of the Congress Parliamentary Party. This effectively made him the prime minister-elect of the new government.^[83] President Pratibha Patil invited Singh to then form the new government on 20 May.^[81] The new government was sworn in on 22 May.

Support for the United Progressive Alliance government in the 15th Lok Sabha^{[80][81]}

Party/Alliance	Seats won	Seat %
United Progressive Alliance	262	48.25%
Outside support		
Samajwadi Party	23	4.20%
Bahujan Samaj Party	21	3.86%
Rashtriya Janata Dal	4	0.7%
Janata Dal (Secular)	3	0.55%
Independents and other parties	3	0.55%
Total	322	59.4%

Government formation

Due to the fact that UPA was able to get 262 seats – just short of 10 seats for a majority – all the external support came from parties who gave unconditional support to Manmohan Singh and the UPA. The Janata Dal, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Samajwadi Party all decided to do so to keep out any possibility of a BJP government in the next 5 years.^[84] Nagaland Peoples Front, Sikkim Democratic Front, and Bodoland Peoples Front, each with an MP, decided to join and support the UPA government. The three independent candidates to extend support for UPA were all from Maharashtra, and they were Sadashiv Mandlik, from Kolhapur constituency, Raju Shetty, from the political party Swabhiman Paksha, who won from Hatkandagle and Baliram Jadhav from Bahujan Vikas Aghadi party who won the Palghar constituency.^[80]

On 21 May, it was announced that the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) had decided to leave and give outside support to the UPA government, due to failed talks between the Congress and the DMK on cabinet positions.^[85] After many deliberations between DMK and Congress, the DMK agreed to 3 cabinet ministers and 4 ministers of state. Kanimozhi, daughter of the DMK leader M. Karunanidhi, decided not to join the new government cabinet, instead she wanted to focus on improving the parties image. The two incumbent cabinet ministers from DMK, Dayanidhi Maran and A. Raja joined the cabinet, but due to concerns raised by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on T.R. Baalu, he was dropped from the cabinet, and Karunanidhi's son M.K. Azhagiri, replaced him as part of a compromise.^{[86][87]} On 25 May 2009, DMK decided to join the UPA government, reversing the decision made in prior days to extend outside support.

Notes

See also

- [List of members of the 15th Lok Sabha](#)

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External links

Official website

- [Lok Sabha General Elections 2019 – Parliamentary Polls 2019 India News](https://www.loksabhaelection2019.com/) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20190325154609/https://www.loksabhaelection2019.com/>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20190325154609/https://www.loksabhaelection2019.com/>) 25 March 2019 at the Wayback Machine
- [Official website of the Election Commission of India](http://eci.nic.in) (<http://eci.nic.in>)

News websites

- [News Coverages of General Elections 2009 – NDTV](http://elections.ndtv.com/) (<http://elections.ndtv.com/>)
- [Graphical Representation of General Elections 2009 for All States in India – NationsRoot](http://www.nationsroot.com/oksabha.php) (<http://www.nationsroot.com/oksabha.php>)
- [News Coverages of General Elections 2009 – CNN-IBN](https://web.archive.org/web/20090203131351/http://ibnlive.in.com/politics/) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090203131351/http://ibnlive.in.com/politics/>)
- [News Coverages of General Elections 2009 – Sify](https://web.archive.org/web/20081108073700/http://sify.com/news/election/) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20081108073700/http://sify.com/news/election/>)
- [Information About India Elections](http://www.indiaelections.co.in) (<http://www.indiaelections.co.in>)
- [News Coverages of General Elections – Wionews](https://www.wionews.com/elections) (<https://www.wionews.com/elections>)

Archived websites

- [Indian General Elections 2009 Web Archive](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/lcw/a/html/inelec09/inelec09-overview.html) (<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/lcw/a/html/inelec09/inelec09-overview.html>) from the US Library of Congress

Further reading

- Arora, Balveer & Tawa Lama-Rewal, Stéphanie (eds). *Contests in Context: Indian Elections 2009* (<https://journals.openedition.org/samaj/1092>). *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal*. Issue 3, 2009.

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2004 Indian general election

General elections were held in India in four phases between 20 April and 10 May 2004. Over 670 million people were eligible to vote, electing 543 members of the 14th Lok Sabha.^[1] Seven states also held assembly elections to elect state governments. They were the first elections fully carried out with electronic voting machines.

On 13 May the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the lead party of the National Democratic Alliance conceded defeat.^[2] The Indian National Congress, which had governed India for all but five years from independence until 1996, returned to power after a record eight years out of office. It was able to put together a comfortable majority of more than 335 members out of 543 with the help of its allies. The 335 members included both the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance, the governing coalition formed after the election, external support from the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP), Kerala Congress (KC) and the Left Front.

After facing criticism from her own party and from the country, Congress President Sonia Gandhi asked the 22nd Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, an economist, to head the new government. Singh had previously served in the Congress government of Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao in the early 1990s, when he was seen as one of the architects of India's first economic liberalisation plan, which staved off an impending monetary crisis. Despite the fact that Singh had never won a Lok Sabha seat, his considerable goodwill and Sonia Gandhi's nomination won him the support of the UPA allies and the Left Front. Manmohan Singh became the first Sikh and non-Hindu prime minister of India.

Background

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had recommended premature dissolution of the 13th Lok Sabha (in accordance with a provision of the Constitution) to pave the way for early elections apparently in view of the recent good showing of the BJP in the Assembly elections in four states.^{[3][4]}

Organisation

The election dates for the parliamentary elections were:^{[5] [6]}

- 20 April – 141 constituencies
- 26 April – 137 constituencies
- 5 May – 83 constituencies
- 10 May – 182 constituencies

Counting began simultaneously on 13 May. Over 370 million of the 675 million eligible citizens voted, with election violence claiming 48 lives, less than half the number killed during the 1999 election. The Indian elections were held in phases in order to maintain law and order. A few states considered sensitive areas required deployment of the armed forces. The average enrolment of voters in each constituency was 1.2 million, although the largest constituency had 3.1 million.

The Election Commission of India is responsible for deciding the dates and conducting elections according to constitutional provisions. The Election Commission employed more than a million electronic voting machines for these elections.

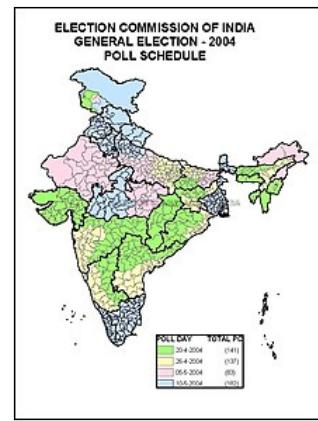
According to *India Today*, 115.62 billion rupees were expected to have been spent in campaigning for the elections by all political parties combined. Most of the money was spent on the people involved in the election. The Election Commission limited poll expenses to Rs. 2.5 million per constituency. Thus, the actual spending is expected to have been approximately ten times the limit. About 6.5 billion rupees are estimated to have been spent on mobilising 150,000 vehicles. About a billion rupees are estimated to have been spent on helicopters and aircraft.

2004 Indian general election

20 April, 26 April, 5 and 10 May 2004		
Registered	671,487,930	
Turnout	58.07% (▼ 1.92pp)	
Leader	Sonia Gandhi	Atal Bihari Vajpayee
Party	INC	BJP
Alliance	INC+	NDA
Last election	28.30%, 114 seats	23.75%, 182 seats
Seats won	145	138
Seat change	▲ 31	▼ 44
Popular vote	103,408,949	86,371,561
Percentage	26.53%	22.16%
Swing	▼ 1.77pp	▼ 1.59pp
Alliance seats	218	181
Results by constituency		
Prime Minister before election	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	
Prime Minister after election	Manmohan Singh	
INC	BJP	

Phase-wise polling constituencies in each state

State/Union territory	Total constituencies	Election dates and number of constituencies			
		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
		20 April	26 April	5 May	10 May
Andhra Pradesh	42	21	21		
Arunachal Pradesh	2			2	
Assam	14	6	8		
Bihar	40	11	17	12	
Chhattisgarh	11	11			
Goa	2		2		
Gujarat	26	26			
Haryana	10				10
Himachal Pradesh	4				4
Jammu and Kashmir	6	2	1	1	2
Jharkhand	14	6	8		
Karnataka	28	15	13		
Kerala	20				20
Madhya Pradesh	29			12	17
Maharashtra	48	24	24		
Manipur	2	1	1		
Meghalaya	2	2			
Mizoram	1	1			
Nagaland	1			1	
Odisha	21	11	10		
Punjab	13				13
Rajasthan	25			25	
Sikkim	1				1
Tamil Nadu	39				39
Tripura	2	2			
Uttar Pradesh	80		32	30	18
Uttarakhand	5				5
West Bengal	42				42
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1				1
Chandigarh	1				1
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	1			
Daman and Diu	1	1			
Delhi	7				7
Lakshadweep	1				1
Puducherry	1				1
Constituencies	543	141	137	83	182
Total states/UTs polling on this day		16	11	7	16
Total constituencies by end of phase		141	278	361	543
% complete by end of phase		26%	51%	66%	100%
		States/UTs	Constituencies		
Number of states and UTs polling in single phase		24	219		
Number of states and UTs polling in two phases		8	198		
Number of states and UTs polling in three phases		2	120		
Number of states and UTs polling in four phases		1	6		
Total		35	543		
Result		13 May 2004			



Polling dates

Pre-poll alliances

In these elections, compared to all the Lok Sabha elections of the 1990s, the battle was more of a head-to-head contest in the sense that there was no viable third front alternative. Largely the contest was between BJP and its allies on one hand and Congress and its allies on the other. The situation did, however, show large regional differences.

The BJP fought the elections as part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), although some of its seat-sharing agreements were made with strong regional parties outside of the NDA such as Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in Andhra Pradesh and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) in Tamil Nadu.

Ahead of the elections there were attempts to form a Congress-led national level joint opposition front. In the end, an agreement could not be reached, but on regional level alliances between Congress and regional parties were made in several states. This was the first time that Congress contested with that type of alliances in a parliamentary election.

The left parties, most notably the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Communist Party of India, contested on their own in their strongholds West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala, confronting both Congress and NDA forces. In several other states, such as Punjab and Andhra Pradesh, they took part in seat sharings with Congress. In Tamil Nadu they were part of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)-led Democratic Progressive Alliance.

Two parties refused to go along with either Congress or BJP, Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party. Both are based in Uttar Pradesh, the largest state of India (in terms of population). Congress made several attempts to form alliances with them, but in vain. Many believed that they would become the 'spoilers' that would rob Congress of an electoral victory. The result was a four-cornered contest in UP, which didn't really hurt or benefit Congress or BJP significantly.

Forecast and campaigns

Most analysts believed the NDA would win the elections. This assessment was also supported by opinion polls. The economy had shown steady growth in the last few months and the disinvestment of government owned production units (a continuation of India's liberalisation policies initiated in the early 1990s) had been on track. The Foreign Exchange Reserves of India stood at more than US\$100 billion (7th largest in the world and a record for India). The service sector had also generated a lot of jobs. The party was supposed to have been riding on a wave of the so-called "feel good factor", typified by its promotional campaign "India Shining".^[7]

In the past, BJP has largely been seen as a hardline Hindu right wing party with close ties with the hardline organisations the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh & Vishwa Hindu Parishad. Over the years, the party under Vajpayee has slightly distanced itself from hardline policies in order to accommodate a variety of parties within the NDA, like Trinamool Congress (a Congress-breakaway party), breakaway factions of the Janata Dal like JD(U) & BJD, Dravidianist parties like AIADMK and parties largely representing non-Hindus like SAD, a change that was being questioned after the party's poor showing in the assembly elections. These elections were marked by the campaign's emphasis on economic gains. From the last few elections, BJP had realised that its voter base had reached a ceiling and had concentrated on pre-poll rather than post-poll alliances. The foreign origin of Sonia Gandhi also constituted part of the NDA's campaign.

Opinion polls

Conducted in month(s)	<u>NDA</u>	<u>UPA</u>	<u>Other</u>
August 2002	250	195	100
February 2003	315	115	115
August 2003	247	180	115
January 2004	335	110	100

Exit polls

Polling organisation	<u>NDA</u>	<u>UPA</u>	<u>Other</u>
NDTV-AC Nielsen	230-250	190-205	100-120
Star News-C voter	263-275	174-184	86-98
Aaj Tak-MARG	248	190	105
Sahara DRS	278	181	102
Zee News-Taleem	249	176	117
Actual result	181	218	143

Sources:-^{[8][9][10]}

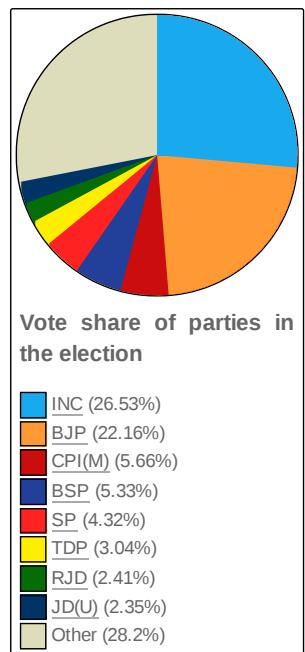
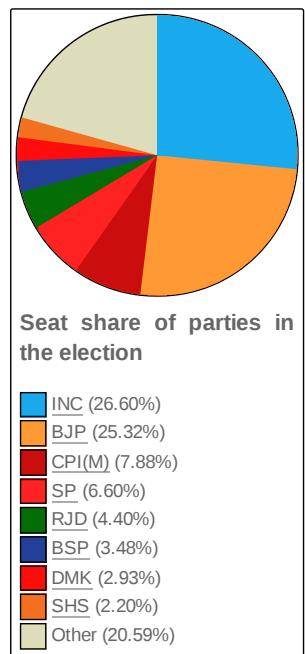
State/UT-wise voter turnout details

State/UT	Seats	Electors	Voters	Turnout
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		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Andhra Pradesh	42	2,53,55,118	2,57,91,224	5,11,46,342	1,83,20,019	1,73,84,444	3,57,76,275	72.25	67.4	69.95%
Arunachal Pradesh	2	3,51,564	3,32,470	6,84,034	1,99,413	1,83,909	3,85,446	56.72	55.31	56.35%
Assam	14	78,21,591	71,93,283	1,50,14,874	56,71,454	47,01,710	1,03,77,354	72.51	65.36	69.11%
Bihar	40	2,70,53,408	2,35,06,264	5,05,59,672	1,71,95,139	1,21,34,913	2,93,32,306	63.56	51.62	58.02%
Chhattisgarh	11	69,04,742	68,14,700	1,37,19,442	40,39,747	31,00,827	71,46,189	58.51	45.50	52.09%
Goa	2	4,75,847	4,65,320	9,41,167	2,86,156	2,64,934	5,53,105	60.14	56.94	58.77%
Gujarat	26	1,73,41,760	1,63,33,302	3,36,75,062	86,64,929	65,43,424	1,52,13,501	49.97	40.06	45.18%
Haryana	10	66,60,631	56,59,926	1,23,20,557	45,36,234	35,54,361	80,97,064	68.11	62.80	65.72%
Himachal Pradesh	4	21,28,828	20,53,167	41,81,995	12,69,539	12,11,994	24,97,149	59.84	59.03	59.71%
Jammu & Kashmir	6	34,68,235	28,99,880	63,68,115	13,91,263	8,41,489	22,41,729	40.11	29.02	35.20%
Jharkhand	14	89,14,164	78,98,175	1,68,12,339	55,61,056	38,01,786	93,63,363	62.38	48.13	55.69%
Karnataka	28	1,96,05,257	1,89,86,838	3,85,92,095	1,31,19,442	1,19,62,519	2,51,39,122	66.92	63.00	65.14%
Kerala	20	1,01,68,428	1,09,57,045	2,11,25,473	74,80,351	75,67,329	1,50,93,960	73.56	69.06	71.45%
Madhya Pradesh	29	2,00,28,161	1,83,61,940	3,83,90,101	1,13,22,391	71,24,280	1,84,63,451	56.53	38.80	48.09%
Maharashtra	48	3,27,88,476	3,02,23,732	6,30,12,208	1,89,57,642	1,52,63,748	3,42,63,317	57.82	50.50	54.38%
Manipur	2	7,46,054	7,90,456	15,36,510	5,22,526	5,12,834	10,35,696	70.03	64.88	67.41%
Meghalaya	2	6,48,654	6,40,720	12,89,374	3,02,113	3,77,125	6,79,321	46.58	58.86	52.69%
Mizoram	1	2,73,454	2,76,505	5,49,959	1,75,372	1,70,000	3,49,799	64.13	61.48	63.60%
Nagaland	1	5,47,114	4,94,319	10,41,433	5,05,682	4,46,002	9,55,690	92.43	90.23	91.77%
Orissa	21	1,31,91,691	1,24,60,298	2,56,51,989	90,10,592	79,29,405	1,69,45,092	68.30	63.64	66.06%
Punjab	13	86,52,294	79,63,105	1,66,15,399	54,37,861	47,94,658	1,02,33,165	62.85	60.21	61.59%
Rajasthan	25	1,81,49,028	1,65,63,357	3,47,12,385	1,00,09,085	72,90,569	1,73,46,549	55.15	44.02	49.97%
Sikkim	1	1,45,738	1,36,199	2,81,937	1,12,404	1,02,890	2,19,769	77.13	75.54	77.95%
Tamil Nadu	39	2,32,69,301	2,39,82,970	4,72,52,271	1,50,06,523	1,36,42,797	2,87,32,954	64.49	56.89	60.81%
Tripura	2	10,23,368	9,54,854	19,78,222	7,14,491	6,04,452	13,27,000	69.82	63.30	67.08%
Uttar Pradesh	80	6,03,28,608	5,02,95,882	11,06,34,490	3,25,52,479	2,07,20,447	5,32,78,071	53.96	41.20	48.16%
Uttarakhand	5	28,38,204	27,24,433	55,62,637	14,70,496	11,97,917	26,73,832	51.81	43.97	48.16%
West Bengal	42	2,47,98,089	2,26,39,342	4,74,37,431	1,98,04,552	1,70,66,370	3,70,21,478	79.86	75.38	78.04%
Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)	1	1,31,502	1,10,143	2,41,645	83,520	70,284	1,53,841	63.51	63.81	63.66%
Chandigarh (UT)	1	2,92,438	2,53,246	5,27,684	1,51,932	1,17,886	2,69,849	51.95	50.11	51.14%
Dadra & Nagar Haveli (UT)	1	65,059	57,622	1,22,681	43,795	40,904	84,703	67.32	70.99	69.04%
Daman & Diu (UT)	1	39,595	39,637	79,232	29,751	55,591	25,839	65.26	75.06	70.16%
Lakshadweep (UT)	1	19,880	19,153	39,033	15,698	16,122	31,820	78.96	84.17	81.52%
NCT OF Delhi	7	49,53,925	38,09,550	87,63,475	24,28,289	16,97,944	41,26,443	49.02	44.57	47.09%
Puducherry (UT)	1	3,10,658	3,26,009	6,36,667	2,40,114	2,44,202	4,84,336	77.29	74.91	76.07%
India	543	34,94,90,864	32,19,97,066	67,14,87,930	21,72,34,104	17,27,14,226	38,99,48,330	62.16	53.64	58.07%

Source-ECI [1] (<https://eci.gov.in/files/file/4126-general-election-2004-vol-i-ii-iii/>)

Results



<u>Peasants and Workers Party of India</u>	319,572	0.08	0
<u>Republican Party of India</u>	295,545	0.08	0
<u>Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party</u>	275,267	0.07	0
<u>Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party</u>	267,457	0.07	1
<u>Peoples Republican Party</u>	261,219	0.07	0
<u>Indian Federal Democratic Party</u>	256,411	0.07	1
<u>Kerala Congress (M)</u>	209,880	0.05	0
<u>Rashtriya Samanta Dal</u>	209,694	0.05	0
<u>Samta Party</u>	201,276	0.05	0
<u>Lok Bhakti Party</u>	187,787	0.05	0
<u>Mizo National Front</u>	182,864	0.05	1
<u>Bharatiya Navshakti Party</u>	171,080	0.04	1
<u>All Jharkhand Students Union</u>	157,930	0.04	0
<u>Sikkim Democratic Front</u>	153,409	0.04	1
<u>Marxist Co-ordination Committee</u>	147,470	0.04	0
<u>Rashtriya Samaj Paksha</u>	146,571	0.04	0
<u>Rashtriya Parivartan Dal</u>	139,145	0.04	0
<u>Jharkhand Disom Party</u>	135,685	0.03	0
<u>Pyramid Party of India</u>	130,362	0.03	0
<u>Ekta Shakti</u>	126,924	0.03	0
<u>Autonomous State Demand Committee</u>	101,808	0.03	0
<u>Akhil Bharatiya Sena</u>	92,210	0.02	0
<u>Hindu Mahasabha</u>	88,214	0.02	0
<u>Federal Party of Manipur</u>	88,179	0.02	0
<u>Bihar People's Party</u>	86,418	0.02	0
<u>Party of Democratic Socialism</u>	81,999	0.02	0
<u>Samata Samaj Party</u>	78,791	0.02	0
<u>Mahabharat People's Party</u>	77,055	0.02	0
<u>Arunachal Congress</u>	76,527	0.02	0
<u>Jharkhand Party</u>	74,364	0.02	0
<u>Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party</u>	70,078	0.02	0
<u>Indian Justice Party</u>	67,914	0.02	0
<u>Jharkhand Party (Naren)</u>	67,782	0.02	0
<u>United Minorities Front, Assam</u>	64,657	0.02	0
<u>Labour Party (Secular)</u>	63,989	0.02	0
<u>Rashtriya Swabhimaan Party</u>	58,296	0.01	0
<u>Pragatisheel Manav Samaj Party</u>	54,746	0.01	0
<u>Lok Rajya Party</u>	54,097	0.01	0
<u>Bahujan Kisan Dal</u>	52,669	0.01	0
<u>Majlis Bachao Tahreek</u>	47,560	0.01	0
<u>Peoples Democratic Party</u>	45,720	0.01	0
<u>Uttarakhand Kranti Dal</u>	43,899	0.01	0
<u>Marxist Communist Party of India (S.S. Srivastava)</u>	38,766	0.01	0
<u>Amra Bangali</u>	38,107	0.01	0
<u>Vidharbha Rajya Party</u>	36,974	0.01	0
<u>Urs Samyuktha Paksha</u>	33,128	0.01	0
<u>Ambedkarist Republican Party</u>	31,467	0.01	0
<u>Prabuddha Republican Party</u>	29,792	0.01	0
<u>Rashtravadi Communist Party</u>	28,757	0.01	0
<u>Rashtriya Samajik Nayak Paksha</u>	27,594	0.01	0
<u>Sampurna Vikas Dal</u>	27,135	0.01	0
<u>Tamil Desiyak Katchi</u>	25,348	0.01	0
<u>Kosi Vikas Party</u>	25,258	0.01	0

Chhattisgarhi Samaj Party	24,696	0.01	0
Bharatiya Manavata Vikas Party	24,176	0.01	0
Loktantrik Samajwadi Party	22,811	0.01	0
Savam Samaj Party	21,246	0.01	0
Ambedkar Samaj Party	20,767	0.01	0
Indian National League	20,159	0.01	0
Bharatiya Gaon Taj Dal	19,909	0.01	0
Akhil Bharatiya Congress Dal (Ambedkar)	19,548	0.01	0
Socialist Party (Lohia)	18,628	0.00	0
Shivrajya Party	18,374	0.00	0
Samajwadi Jan Parishad	17,717	0.00	0
Hindustan Janata Party	17,410	0.00	0
Revolutionary Communist Party of India (Rasik Bhatt)	16,691	0.00	0
Bharatiya Republican Paksha	16,546	0.00	0
Rashtriya Vikas Party	15,159	0.00	0
Trinamool Gana Parishad	14,933	0.00	0
Manuvadi Party	14,233	0.00	0
Bharat Kranti Rakshak Party	12,547	0.00	0
Rashtriya Hamara Dal	12,346	0.00	0
Parivartan Samaj Party	12,273	0.00	0
Bharatiya Eklavya Party	12,197	0.00	0
Proutist Sarva Samaj Party	11,561	0.00	0
Bharatiya Rashtravadi Paksha	11,459	0.00	0
Pachim Banga Rajya Muslim League	10,446	0.00	0
Rajasthan Vikash Party	10,032	0.00	0
Lokpriya Samaj Party	9,913	0.00	0
Bharatiya Jana Sangh	9,707	0.00	0
Rashtriya Krantikari Samajwadi Party	9,145	0.00	0
Vidarbha Janata Congress	9,097	0.00	0
Shoshit Samaj Dal	8,862	0.00	0
Jai Hind Party	8,645	0.00	0
Bharatiya Minorities Suraksha Mahasangh	8,200	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Desh Bhakt Morcha	7,696	0.00	0
Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party	7,584	0.00	0
Rashtriya Sawarn Dal	7,374	0.00	0
Navbharat Nirman Party	7,169	0.00	0
Krantikari Samyavadi Party	6,948	0.00	0
Democratic Bharatiya Samaj Party	6,717	0.00	0
Youth and Students Party	6,580	0.00	0
Ephraim Union	6,512	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Lok Tantrik Alp-Sankhyak Jan Morcha	6,003	0.00	0
United Goans Democratic Party	5,881	0.00	0
Pichhra Samaj Party	5,672	0.00	0
All India Momin Conference	5,113	0.00	0
Labour Party of India (V.V. Prasad)	4,977	0.00	0
All India Minorities Front	4,874	0.00	0
Republican Party of India (Khobragade)	4,790	0.00	0
Naari Shakti Party	4,649	0.00	0
Bahujan Vikas Party	4,533	0.00	0
Bharatiya Ekta Dal	4,312	0.00	0
Shikshit Berozgar Sena	4,303	0.00	0
Yuva Gantantra Party	4,140	0.00	0
Rashtravadi Janata Party	3,737	0.00	0

Kranti Kari Jai Hind Sena	3,393	0.00	0
Mudiraj Rashtriya Samithi	3,345	0.00	0
Sikkim Sangram Parishad	3,216	0.00	0
Janata Vikas Party	3,173	0.00	0
National Students Party	3,069	0.00	0
Secular Party of India	3,041	0.00	0
Vikas Party	2,998	0.00	0
Social Action Party	2,987	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Azad Hind Party	2,801	0.00	0
Loktantrik Chetna Party	2,776	0.00	0
Sikkim Himali Rajya Parishad	2,765	0.00	0
Janmangal Paksh	2,684	0.00	0
Sanatan Samaj Party	2,679	0.00	0
Lok Sewa Dal	2,646	0.00	0
Jana Unnayan Mancha	2,592	0.00	0
Rashtriya Lok Seva Morcha	2,476	0.00	0
Republican Party of India (Democratic)	2,370	0.00	0
Bhartiya Lok Kalyan Dal	2,242	0.00	0
Panchayat Raj Party	2,165	0.00	0
Bharatiya Backward Party	2,162	0.00	0
All Kerala M.G.R. Dravida Munnetra Party	2,158	0.00	0
Akhil Bhartiya Rajarya Sabha	2,080	0.00	0
Bharat Ki Lok Jimmedar Party	2,055	0.00	0
Rashtriya Garima Party	2,043	0.00	0
Rashtriya Garib Dal	1,977	0.00	0
Ekta Krandi Dal U.P.	1,939	0.00	0
Bharatiya Labour Party	1,758	0.00	0
Phule Bharti Lok Party	1,690	0.00	0
Bharatiya Prajatantrik Shudh Gandhiwadi Krishak Dal	1,689	0.00	0
Mool Bharati (S) Party	1,675	0.00	0
Bharatiya Nagrik Party	1,580	0.00	0
Jammu and Kashmir Awami League	1,519	0.00	0
Hind Morcha	1,459	0.00	0
Jharkhand People's Party	1,449	0.00	0
Maharashtra Rajiv Congress	1,399	0.00	0
Janhit Samaj Party	1,310	0.00	0
Vijeta Party	1,304	0.00	0
Socialistic Democratic Party	1,265	0.00	0
Jansatta Party	1,189	0.00	0
Federal Congress of India	1,037	0.00	0
Nidaya Malik (N) Party	1,030	0.00	0
Indian Bahujan Samajwadi Party	972	0.00	0
Desh Bhakt Party	912	0.00	0
Ambedkar National Congress	825	0.00	0
NTR Telugu Desam Party (Lakshmi Parvathi)	759	0.00	0
Akhil Bhartiya Loktantra Party	754	0.00	0
Jebamani Janata	734	0.00	0
Niswarth Sewa Party	730	0.00	0
Jan Chetna Party	671	0.00	0
Hindu Ekta Andolan Party	620	0.00	0
Krantikari Manuwadi Morcha	597	0.00	0
Bharatiya Prajatantra Party	573	0.00	0
Bharatiya Muhabbat Party (All India)	566	0.00	0

Marav Jagriti Manch	552	0.00	0
Bharatiya Janvadi Party	543	0.00	0
Bharatiya Surajya Manch	515	0.00	0
Rashtriya Janadhirakar Party	487	0.00	0
Praja Party	485	0.00	0
Bharti Sarvadarshi Parishad	427	0.00	0
Shoshit Samaj Party	395	0.00	0
Rashtriya Sakar Party	379	0.00	0
Bharatiya Sarvkalayana Krantidal	365	0.00	0
Awami Party	327	0.00	0
Swaraj Dal	298	0.00	0
Akhand Bharti	138	0.00	0
Parmarth Party	126	0.00	0
Independents	16,549,900	4.25	5
Nominated Anglo-Indians			2
Total	389,779,784	100.00	545
Valid votes	389,779,784	99.96	
Invalid/blank votes	168,546	0.04	
Total votes	389,948,330	100.00	
Registered voters/turnout	671,487,930	58.07	

Source: ECI (<https://eci.gov.in/files/file/4126-general-election-2004-vol-i-ii-iii/>)

Region-wise results

Region	Total seats	Indian National Congress	Bharatiya Janata Party	Others		
South India	131	48	▲ 14	18	▼ 1	65 ▼ 13
West India	78	27	▲ 10	28	▼ 7	23 ▼ 3
Hindi-Hearland	225	46	▲ 12	78	▼ 34	101 ▲ 22
North-East India	25	11	▼ 3	4	▲ 2	13 ▲ 4
East India	63	8	▲ 3	7	▼ 4	48 ▲ 1
Union Territories	22	5	▼ 5	3	—	14 ▲ 5
Total	543	145	+31	138	-44	264 +17

Source: Times of India^[11]

By states and territories

States

State (# of seats)	Alliance/Party				Seats Contested	Seats won	% of votes			
								Indian National Congress	34	29
Andhra Pradesh (42)	Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS)	6	5		UPA	UPA	6.83			
	Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	1	1							
	Independent	1	0							
	NDA		Telugu Desam Party	33				33.12		
			Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	9				8.4		
			Communist Party Of India (CPI)	1				1.34		
			All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen	2				1.2		
Arunachal Pradesh (2)	NDA		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	2	2	2	53.85			
			Arunachal Congress	1				19.88		
	UPA		Indian National Congress	1	0	0	9.96			

<u>Assam</u> <u>(14)</u>	<u>UPA</u>	Indian National Congress	14	9	35.07
	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	12	2	22.94
		Independent	1	1	6.6
		Janata Dal (United)	1	0	1.3
	- -	Asom Gana Parishad	12	2	19.95
<u>Bihar</u> <u>(40)</u>	<u>UPA</u>	Rashtriya Janata Dal	26	22	30.67
		Lok Janshakti Party	8	4	8.19
		Indian National Congress	4	3	4.49
		Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	1	0	0.8
		Nationalist Congress Party	1	0	1
	<u>NDA</u>	Janata Dal (United)	24	6	22.36
		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	16	5	14.57
<u>Chhattisgarh</u> <u>(11)</u>	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	11	10	47.78
	<u>UPA</u>	Indian National Congress	11	1	40.16
	- -	Bahujan Samaj Party	11	0	4.54
	- -	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	2	1	46.83
<u>Goa</u> <u>(2)</u>	<u>UPA</u>	Indian National Congress	1	1	29.76
		Nationalist Congress Party	1	0	16.04
	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	26	14	47.37
<u>Gujarat</u> <u>(26)</u>	<u>UPA</u>	Indian National Congress	26	12	43.86
	<u>UPA</u>	Indian National Congress	10	9	42.13
<u>Haryana</u> <u>(10)</u>	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	10	1	17.21
	- -	Indian National Lok Dal	10	0	22.43
	- -	Haryana Vikas Party	9	0	6.25
	- -	Indian National Congress	4	3	51.81
<u>Himachal Pradesh</u> <u>(4)</u>	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	4	1	44.25
	<u>UPA</u>	Indian National Congress	3	2	27.83
<u>Jammu & Kashmir</u> <u>(6)</u>	<u>UPA</u>	Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party	2	1	11.94
		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	6	0	23.04
		Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	6	2	22.02
	<u>NDA</u>	Independent	37	1	15.17
		Indian National Congress	6	6	21.44
		Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	5	4	16.28
<u>Jharkhand</u> <u>(14)</u>	<u>UPA</u>	Rashtriya Janata Dal	2	2	3.51
		Lok Janshakti Party	1	0	0.4
		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	14	1	33.01
		Communist Party of India (CPI)	1	1	3.8
<u>Karnataka</u> <u>(28)</u>	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	24	18	34.77
		Janata Dal (United)	4	0	1.9
	<u>UPA</u>	Indian National Congress	28	8	36.82
	- -	Janata Dal (Secular)	28	2	20.45
<u>Kerala</u> <u>(20)</u>	<u>Third Front</u>	Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	13	11	31.52
		Communist Party Of India (CPI)	4	3	7.89
		Janata Dal (Secular)	1	1	2.3
		Kerala Congress	1	1	2.3
		Independent	1	1	2.1
	<u>UPA</u>	Muslim League Kerala State Committee	2	1	4.86
		Indian National Congress	17	1	32.13
		Kerala Congress(M)	1	0	1.4
	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	19	0	10.4

			Indian Federal Democratic Party	1	1	1.7
Madhya Pradesh (29)	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	29	25	48.13	
		Indian National Congress	29	4	34.07	
	-	Bahujan Samaj Party	28	0	4.75	
Maharashtra (48)	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	26	13	22.61	
		Shiv Sena	22	12	20.11	
	<u>UPA</u>	Indian National Congress	26	13	23.77	
		Nationalist Congress Party	18	9	18.31	
		Republican Party of India (A)	1	1	1	
		Republican Party of India	1	0	0.4	
		Peoples Republican Party	1	0	0.7	
		Janata Dal (Secular)	1	0	0.6	
Manipur (2)	-	Independent	3	1	22.46	
	<u>UPA</u>	Indian National Congress	1	1	14.88	
		Nationalist Congress Party	1	0	10.37	
Meghalaya (2)	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	2	0	20.65	
	<u>UPA</u>	Indian National Congress	2	1	45.55	
		All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)	1	1	28.27	
	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	1	0	8.63	
Mizoram (1)	<u>NDA</u>	Mizo National Front	1	1	52.46	
	-	Independent	1	0	45.67	
Nagaland (1)	<u>NDA</u>	Naga People's Front	1	1	73.12	
	<u>UPA</u>	Indian National Congress	1	0	25.78	
Orissa (21)	<u>NDA</u>	Biju Janata Dal	12	11	30.02	
		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	9	7	19.30	
	<u>UPA</u>	Indian National Congress	21	2	40.43	
		Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	1	1	1.6	
Punjab (13)	<u>NDA</u>	Shiromani Akali Dal	10	8	34.28	
		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	3	3	10.48	
	<u>UPA</u>	Indian National Congress	11	2	34.17	
		Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	1	0	1.8	
		Communist Party Of India (CPI)	1	0	2.5	
		Bahujan Samaj Party	13	0	7.67	
Rajasthan (25)	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	25	21	49.01	
	<u>UPA</u>	Indian National Congress	25	4	41.42	
Sikkim (1)	<u>NDA</u>	Sikkim Democratic Front	1	1	69.84	
	<u>UPA</u>	Indian National Congress	1	0	27.43	
Tamil Nadu (39)	<u>UPA</u>	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	16	16	24.60	
		Indian National Congress	10	10	14.40	
		Pattali Makkal Katchi	5	5	6.71	
		Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	4	4	5.85	
		Communist Party Of India (CPI)	2	2	2.97	
		Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	2	2	2.87	
	<u>NDA</u>	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	33	0	29.77	
		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	6	0	12.83	
Tripura (2)	<u>Third Front</u>	Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	2	2	68.80	
	<u>UPA</u>	Indian National Congress	2	0	14.28	
	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	1	0	7.82	
		All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)	1	0	5.09	

Uttar Pradesh (80)	-	-	Samajwadi Party	68	35	26.74		
	-	-	Bahujan Samaj Party	80	19	24.67		
	NDA		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	77	10	22.17		
			Janata Dal (United)	3	1	0.8		
	UPA		Indian National Congress	73	9	12.04		
			Lok Jan Shakti Party	3	0	0.3		
			Rashtriya Lok Dal	10	3	4.5		
			National Loktantrik Party	7	1	0.6		
	-	-	Independent	481	1	3.8		
	-	-	Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)	2	1	0.5		
Uttarakhand (5)	NDA		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	5	3	40.98		
			Indian National Congress	5	1	38.31		
	-	-	Samajwadi Party	5	1	7.93		
	-	-	Bahujan Samaj Party	3	0	6.77		
	Third Front		Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	32	26	38.57		
West Bengal (42)			Communist Party Of India (CPI)	3	3	4.01		
			All India Forward Bloc (AIFB)	3	3	3.66		
			Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP)	4	3	4.48		
UPA		Indian National Congress	37	6	14.56			
		Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	1	0	0.1			
		Independent	1	0	0.2			
		Party of Democratic Socialism	2	0	0.2			
NDA		All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)	29	1	21.04			
		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	13	0	8.06			

Territories

Territories	Party	Seats won	% of Votes	Alliance
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Indian National Congress	1	55.77	United Progressive Alliance
	Bharatiya Janata Party	0	35.95	National Democratic Alliance
	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	0	2.71	Left Front
	Independent	0	1.72	None
	Others	0	3.85	None
Chandigarh	Indian National Congress	1	52.06	United Progressive Alliance
	Bharatiya Janata Party	0	35.22	National Democratic Alliance
	Indian National Lok Dal	0	6.61	None
	Independent	0	3.42	None
	Others	0	2.69	None
National Capital Territory of Delhi	Indian National Congress	6	54.81	United Progressive Alliance
	Bharatiya Janata Party	1	40.67	National Democratic Alliance
	Bahujan Samaj Party	0	2.48	None
	Independent	0	1.27	None
Lakshadweep	Janata Dal (United)	1	49.02	National Democratic Alliance
	Indian National Congress	0	48.79	United Progressive Alliance
	Janata Party	0	1.47	None
	Samajwadi Party	0	0.72	None

Analysis

Though pre-poll predictions were for an overwhelming majority for the BJP, the exit polls (immediately after the elections and before the counting began) predicted a hung parliament. However, even the exit polls could only indicate the general trend and nowhere close to the final figures. There is also the general perception that as soon as the BJP started realising that events might not proceed entirely in its favour, it changed the focus of its campaign from

India Shining to issues of stability. The Congress, who was regarded as "old-fashioned" by the ruling BJP, was largely backed by poor, rural, lower-caste and minority voters that did not participate in the economic boom of previous years that created a wealthy middle class and thus achieved its overwhelming victory.

Impact

The rout of the ruling parties in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the general elections led to calls for the dissolution of the governments of these states.

The stock market (Bombay Stock Exchange) fell in the week prior to the announcement of the results due to fears of an unstable coalition. As soon as counting began, however, it became clear that the Congress coalition was headed for a sizeable lead over the NDA and the market surged, only to crash the following day when the left parties, whose support would be required for government formation, announced that it was their intention to do away with the disinvestment ministry. Following this, Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister (in office 2004–14) and the prime architect of the economic liberalisation of the early 1990s, hurried to reassure investors that the new government would strive to create a business-friendly climate.

Events

- 13 May - The Congress and allies win a plurality of seats in the Lok Sabha (219 seats against 188 for the BJP).
- 13 May - Counting of votes in the parliamentary elections begins.
- 11 May - Congress wins the Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh by 2/3 majority.
- 10 May - The fourth and final phase of elections comes to an end. Results will come out for 542 of the 543 parliament seats with elections to be held again in Chhapra.
- 5 May - Third phase of polling comes to an end with the ruling coalition government gaining seats according to exit polls but still off the victory target. Reports of booth capturing in Chhapra capture headlines.
- 26 April - Second phase of elections sees 55-60% polling. This is the final phase for assembly elections. Polling covers 136 parliamentary constituencies in 11 states. The share market starts to crash as it becomes evident that the NDA government may find it hard to come back to power—raising doubts about the continuation of economic reforms initiated by the NDA government.
- 22 April - Tripura, where polling was delayed because of a local holiday, votes for its two MPs. A turnout of close to 60% is reported, despite calls for abstention made by separatist militants.
- 20 April - The first phase of the vote is held, with average turnouts of between 50% and 55%. Voting is reported as brisk, and the day unfolds relatively smoothly, albeit with some glitches reported with the electronic voting machines. Isolated violent incidents take place in Kashmir, Jammu, Manipur, and Jharkhand.
- 8 April - The NDA's top leaders meet in New Delhi to adopt its manifesto for the elections, "Agenda for Development and Good Governance".
- 7 April - Ram Jethmalani says he will contest the elections against Prime Minister Vajpayee as an independent candidate from Lucknow. He claims he will be supported by the Congress and some other parties.
- 6 April - The BJP and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) tell the Election Commission that they will not stop raising the issue of the foreign origin of Congress president Sonia Gandhi.
- 4 April - A First Information Report is lodged against external affairs minister Yashwant Sinha for alleged violation of election code of conduct during a poll meeting in Ranchi. Besides Sinha, FIRs were lodged against three other BJP leaders who participated in the meeting.

See also

- List of members of the 14th Lok Sabha
- 2004 elections in India
- Election Commission of India

Further reading

- Shastri, Sandeep, K.C. Suri & Yogendra Yadav (2009) (ed.). *Electoral Politics in Indian States : Lok Sabha Elections in 2004 and Beyond*, New Delhi : Oxford University Press, ISBN 0-19-806329-6

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7. "BJP spends Rs 150 cr on 'India Shining' campaign" (<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/brand-equity/advertising/bjp-spends-rs-150-cr-on-india-shining-campaign/articleshow/684246.cms?from=mdr>). *The Economic Times*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20231017022311/https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/brand-equity/advertising/bjp-spends-rs-150-cr-on-india-shining-campaign/articleshow/684246.cms?from=mdr>) from the original on 17 October 2023. Retrieved 6 January 2023.
8. "2004 exit polls: when surveys got it horribly wrong" (<https://www.oneindia.com/india/2004-exit-polls-when-surveys-got-it-horribly-wrong-2892987.html>). *oneindia*. 20 May 2019. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20231004135936/https://www.oneindia.com/india/2004-exit-polls-when-surveys-got-it-horribly-wrong-2892987.html>) from the original on 4 October 2023. Retrieved 20 May 2019.
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External links

- [Election Commission of India \(http://eci.nic.in/\)](http://eci.nic.in/)
- [Parliament of India \(http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in/\)](http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in/)
- [Interactive map at rediff.com \(http://in.rediff.com/election/map04.htm\)](http://in.rediff.com/election/map04.htm)
- [Report from Mumbai, Gujarat during 2004 election \(http://theravingreporter.com/india-2004-gangsters-politics-poverty-caste-and-communal-violence-in-modis-home-state-and-bombay/\)](http://theravingreporter.com/india-2004-gangsters-politics-poverty-caste-and-communal-violence-in-modis-home-state-and-bombay/)

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1999 Indian general election

General elections were held in India between 5 September and 3 October 1999, a few months after the Kargil War. Results were announced on 6 October 1999.^{[1][2]}

The elections saw the National Democratic Alliance led by the Bharatiya Janata Party win a majority in the Lok Sabha, the first time since 1984 that a party or alliance had won an outright majority and the second since the 1977 elections that a non-Congress coalition had done so. It was also the third consecutive election in which the party that won the most votes overall did not win the most seats. The elections gave Atal Bihari Vajpayee the record of being the first non-Congress Prime Minister to serve a full five-year term. The decisive result also ended the political instability the country had seen since the 1996 elections that had resulted in a hung parliament. Although the Indian National Congress was able to increase its vote share, its 114 seat tally was considered to be its worst-ever performance in a general election in terms of the number of seats obtained until the 2014 general elections.

Background

1999 Lok Sabha vote of confidence

On 17 April 1999, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) coalition government led by prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee failed to win a confidence vote in the Lok

1999 Indian general election



5 September–3 October 1999

543 of the 545 seats in the Lok Sabha
272 seats needed for a majority

Registered	619,536,847		
Turnout	59.99% (▼ 1.98pp)		
Leader	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Sonia Gandhi	Harkishan Singh Surjeet
Party	BJP	INC	CPI(M)
Alliance	NDA	INC+	LF
Last election	25.59%, 182 seats	25.82%, 141 seats	5.16%, 32 seats
Seats won	182	114	33
Seat change	—	▼ 27	▲ 1
Popular vote	86,562,209	103,120,330	19,695,767
Percentage	23.75%	28.30%	5.40%
Swing	▼ 1.84pp	▲ 2.48pp	▲ 0.24pp

Sabha (India's lower house) by a single vote due to the withdrawal of one of the government's coalition partners – the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). The general secretary of the AIADMK J. Jayalalithaa, had consistently threatened to withdraw support from the ruling coalition if certain demands were not met, in particular the sacking of the Tamil Nadu government, control of which she had lost three years prior to her arch rival M. Karunanidhi. The BJP accused Jayalalithaa of making the demands in order to avoid standing trial for a series of corruption charges, and no agreement between the parties could be reached leading to the government's defeat.^[3]

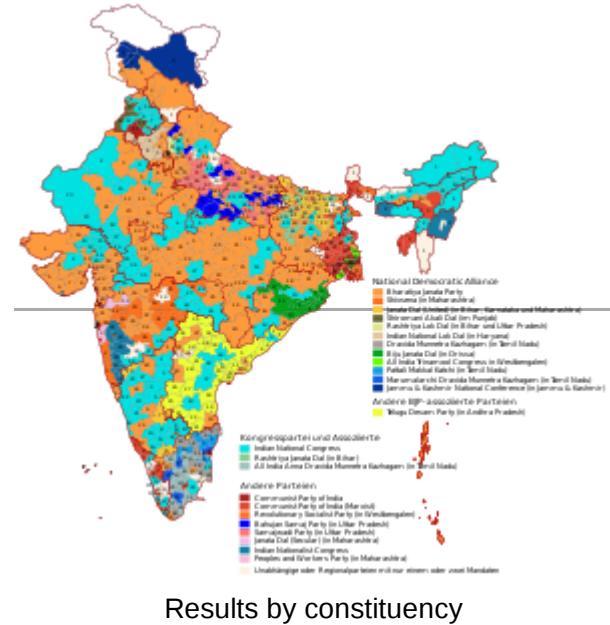
Sonia Gandhi, as leader of the opposition and largest opposition party (Indian National Congress) was unable to form a coalition of parties large enough to secure a working majority in the Lok Sabha. Thus shortly after the no confidence motion, President K. R. Narayanan dissolved the Parliament and called fresh elections. Atal Bihari Vajpayee remained caretaker prime minister till the elections were held later that year.^[4]

Campaign

The incumbent Hindu right wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) went into the election as the head of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), a coalition of over 20 parties. Several other parties in the election not part of the NDA also committed themselves to supporting a BJP led government on matters of confidence.

The main opposition league was led by Sonia Gandhi's Indian National Congress, the long-traditional centrist dominant party in India. The opposition coalition comprised far fewer parties, and its alliances were generally weaker than those of the NDA. A so-called "third front" of left-wing, socialist and communist parties was also present, although this was not a strong electoral alliance so much as a loose grouping of parties that shared similar ideological viewpoints and had some inter-party co-operation. There were also nearly one thousand candidates of unaffiliated parties, independent candidates and parties who were unwilling to take part in coalitions that stood in the election.^[5]

The campaign coalesced around a few key issues. Sonia Gandhi was a relative newcomer to the INC (having been elected to the presidency in 1998) and her leadership had recently been challenged by Marathi INC leader Sharad Pawar, on the grounds of her Italian birth. This led to an underlying crisis within the INC that persisted during the election and was capitalised upon by the BJP, which contrasted the "videsi" (foreign) Gandhi versus the "swadesi" (home-grown) Vajpayee.



Results by constituency

Prime Minister before election

Atal Bihari Vajpayee
BJP

Prime Minister after election

Atal Bihari Vajpayee
BJP

Another issue running in the BJP's favour was the generally positive view of Vajpayee's handling of the Kargil War, which had ended a few months earlier and had affirmed and strengthened the Indian position in Kashmir. During the past two years India had posted strong economic growth on the back of economic liberalisation and financial reforms, as well as a low rate of inflation and higher rate of industrial expansion. The BJP campaigned strongly on the back of these achievements, as well as cultivating some sympathy for the predicament which had led to the government's downfall.^{[6][7]}

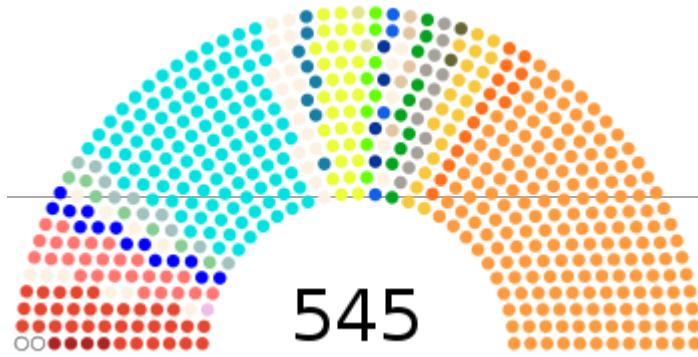
Perhaps most decisive though in the BJP's campaign was the solid alliance it had cultivated and the relatively strong performance it was able to deliver on regional and local issues. The 1991, 1996, and 1998 elections saw a period of consistent growth for the BJP and its allies, based primarily on arousing Hindu sentiments around the Ayodhya dispute, which culminated into large-scale Hindu-Muslim riots in the wake of the 1992 demolition of Babri Masjid. It also underwent political expansions in terms of cultivating stronger and broader alliances with other previously unaffiliated parties which were opposed to Congress hegemony but not ideological aligned with the BJP; and regional expansion which saw the NDA become competitive and even the largest vote takers in previously Congress dominated areas such as Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Assam. These final factors were to prove decisive in the election outcome of 1999.^{[8][9]}

The voting was conducted over five days. Elections were conducted in 146 seats on the Eastern coast of the country on 5 September, in 123 Central and Southern seats on 11 September, in 76 Northern and Upper-Central seats on 18 September, in 74 North Western seats on 25 September and in the 121 Western seats on 3 October. Despite some fears of voter fatigue, electoral turnout was comparable with previous elections at 59.99%. Over 5 million election officials conducted the election over 800,000 polling stations, with vote counting commencing on 6 October.^{[10][11]}

Results

The results in terms of seats were decisively in favour of the BJP and the NDA, with the formal NDA picking up 269 seats, and a further 29 seats taken by the Telugu Desam Party, which gave support to the BJP-led government but was not strictly part of its alliance. The Congress party lost 23 seats, and its two key regional allies performed worse than expected; however, it did regain ground in some states such as Uttar Pradesh (where it had been wiped out in 1998, not winning a single seat in the state). The leftist parties' fortunes continued to decline, with the Communist Party of India dropping to just four seats and losing its official status as a "national party".^[6]

The seat result for the Indian National Congress was the worst in nearly half a century, with party leader Sonia Gandhi calling upon the party to take a frank assessment of itself – "the result calls for introspection, frank assessment and determined action. We will attend to this in the coming days. In the meantime, we accept unhesitatingly the verdict of the people". For the BJP, this marked the first occasion where a non-INC party had secured a stable government coalition. Previous non-INC governing coalitions had been formed in 1977, 1989 and 1996; however, none of these administrations had been able to maintain a stable coagulation for more than a couple of years. One Senior BJP figure commented in the aftermath "It will certainly be a government of stability...I expect that Mr Vajpayee, with all his experience, will be able to handle our coalition partners."^[12]



Party	Votes	%	Seats
Indian National Congress	103,120,330	28.30	114
Bharatiya Janata Party	86,562,209	23.75	182
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	19,695,767	5.40	33
Bahujan Samaj Party	15,175,845	4.16	14
Samajwadi Party	13,717,021	3.76	26
Telugu Desam Party	13,297,370	3.65	29
Janata Dal (United)	11,282,084	3.10	21
Rashtriya Janata Dal	10,150,492	2.79	7
All India Trinamool Congress	9,363,785	2.57	8
Nationalist Congress Party	8,260,311	2.27	8
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	7,046,953	1.93	10
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	6,298,832	1.73	12
Shiv Sena	5,672,412	1.56	15
Communist Party of India	5,395,119	1.48	4
Biju Janata Dal	4,378,536	1.20	10
Janata Dal (Secular)	3,332,702	0.91	1
Pattali Makkal Katchi	2,377,741	0.65	5
Shiromani Akali Dal	2,502,949	0.69	2
Tamil Maanila Congress	2,058,636	0.56	0
Indian National Lok Dal	2,002,700	0.55	5
Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	1,620,527	0.44	4
Revolutionary Socialist Party	1,500,817	0.41	3
Rashtriya Lok Dal	1,364,030	0.37	2
All India Forward Bloc	1,288,060	0.35	2
Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation	1,220,698	0.33	1
Asom Gana Parishad	1,182,061	0.32	0
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	974,609	0.27	0
Muslim League Kerala State Committee	833,562	0.23	2

Akhil Bharatiya Loktantrik Congress	818,713	0.22	2
Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh	692,559	0.19	1
Apna Dal	848,662	0.23	0
Bihar People's Party	607,810	0.17	0
Puthiya Tamilagam	568,196	0.16	0
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	454,481	0.12	4
All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen	448,165	0.12	1
MGR Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	396,216	0.11	1
Kerala Congress	365,313	0.10	1
Kerala Congress (M)	357,402	0.10	1
Shiromani Akali Dal (Simranjit Singh Mann)	298,846	0.08	1
Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)	297,337	0.08	1
Peasants and Workers Party of India	282,583	0.08	1
Himachal Vikas Congress	264,002	0.07	1
Manipur State Congress Party	222,417	0.06	1
Republican Party of India	505,664	0.14	0
Ajeya Bharat Party	430,275	0.12	0
Sarb Hind Shiromani Akali Dal	406,421	0.11	0
Marxist Co-ordination Committee	351,839	0.10	0
Tamizhaga Rajiv Congress	338,278	0.09	0
United Reservation Movement Council of Assam	246,942	0.07	0
Anna Telugu Desam Party	244,045	0.07	0
Democratic Bahujan Samaj Morcha	236,962	0.07	0
Haryana Vikas Party	188,731	0.05	0
Sikkim Democratic Front	107,828	0.03	1
Gondwana Ganatantra Party	180,804	0.05	0
People's Democratic Front	172,434	0.05	0
Janata Party	167,649	0.05	0
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (Ulgulan)	154,433	0.04	0
Mahabharat People's Party	145,192	0.04	0
National Loktantrik Party	136,385	0.04	0
Marxist Communist Party of India (S.S. Srivastava)	120,220	0.03	0
United Democratic Party	107,197	0.03	0
Jharkhand Party (Naren)	101,441	0.03	0
Sikkim Sangram Parishad	86,466	0.02	0
Kannada Chalavali Vatal Paksha	73,012	0.02	0
Sadbhavana Party	71,279	0.02	0

	Arunachal Congress	70,760	0.02	0
	NTR Telugu Desam Party (Lakshmi Parvathi)	61,635	0.02	0
	Jharkhand Party	57,676	0.02	0
	Champaran Vikas Party	56,561	0.02	0
	Akhil Bharatiya Sena	56,249	0.02	0
	United Minorities Front, Assam	53,661	0.01	0
	Lok Shakti	40,997	0.01	0
	Bharatiya Republican Paksha	40,636	0.01	0
	Hill State People's Democratic Party	40,301	0.01	0
	Bahujan Samaj Party (Ambedkar)	39,494	0.01	0
	Pragatisheel Manav Samaj Party	36,920	0.01	0
	Bharatiya Jan Congress	34,552	0.01	0
	People's Democratic Movement	33,164	0.01	0
	Bhartiya Jana Congress (Rashtriya)	32,871	0.01	0
	Pyramid Party of India	31,699	0.01	0
	Socialist Republican Party	30,779	0.01	0
	Federal Party of Manipur	30,039	0.01	0
	Jammu and Kashmir Awami League	28,889	0.01	0
	Amra Bangali	25,408	0.01	0
	Tamil Desiyak Katchi	25,209	0.01	0
	Loktantrik Samajwadi Party	23,630	0.01	0
	Indian Union Muslim League (IUML)	20,523	0.01	0
	Bharatiya Jana Sangh	19,596	0.01	0
	National Minorities Party	19,344	0.01	0
	Shoshit Samaj Dal	19,330	0.01	0
	Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party	15,888	0.00	0
	Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha	15,526	0.00	0
	Uttarakhand Kranti Dal	14,302	0.00	0
	Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha	14,157	0.00	0
	Republican Party of India (Athawale)	14,098	0.00	0
	Majlis Bachao Tahreek	13,461	0.00	0
	Sirpanch Samaj Party	13,437	0.00	0
	Chhattisgarhi Samaj Party	13,097	0.00	0
	Parivartan Samaj Party	12,820	0.00	0
	United Goans Democratic Party	11,153	0.00	0
	Jan Satta Party	11,024	0.00	0
	Savarn Samaj Party	10,906	0.00	0

All India Muslim Forum	10,010	0.00	0
Maraland Democratic Front	8,444	0.00	0
United Tribal Nationalists Liberation Front	8,429	0.00	0
United Bodo Nationalist Liberation Front	7,611	0.00	0
Bharatiya Samaj Dal	7,607	0.00	0
Ambedkar Samaj Party	7,260	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Berozgaar Party	7,134	0.00	0
Akhil Bartiya Manav Seva Dal	6,761	0.00	0
Rajasthan Vikash Party	6,258	0.00	0
Awami Party	5,050	0.00	0
All India Gareeb Congress	4,861	0.00	0
Gareebjan Samaj Party	4,725	0.00	0
Garo National Council	4,561	0.00	0
Humanist Party of India	4,192	0.00	0
Rashtriya Unnatsheel Das	4,104	0.00	0
Shoshit Samaj Party	4,080	0.00	0
Bharatiya Naujawan Dal	3,895	0.00	0
Dhiravida Thelgar Munnetra Kalagam	3,748	0.00	0
Maharashtra Rashtravadi Congress	3,579	0.00	0
Maharashtra Pradesh Krantikari Party	3,571	0.00	0
Bira Oriya Party	3,120	0.00	0
Bahujan Kranti Dal (JAI)	3,090	0.00	0
All India Rajiv Krantikari Congress	2,993	0.00	0
Sanatan Samaj Party	2,932	0.00	0
Bhartiya Lok Kalyan Dal	2,896	0.00	0
Bharatiya Berozgar Mazdoor Kisan Dal	2,706	0.00	0
Tharasu Makkal Mandram	2,675	0.00	0
Gujarat Yuva Vikas Party	2,217	0.00	0
Bharatiya Minorities Suraksha Mahasangh	2,151	0.00	0
Akhil Bhartiya Janata Vikas Party	1,981	0.00	0
Bharat Dal	1,832	0.00	0
Hind Vikas Party	1,641	0.00	0
Tamil Nadu Peasants and Workers Party	1,631	0.00	0
Ephraim Union	1,578	0.00	0
National Organisation Congress	1,566	0.00	0
Manav Kalyan Sangh Dal	1,517	0.00	0
Revolutionary Communist Party of India (Rasik Bhatt)	1,516	0.00	0

All J & K Peoples Patriotic Front	1,500	0.00	0
Kamjor Varg Sangh, Bihar	1,481	0.00	0
United Citizens Party	1,414	0.00	0
Rashtriya Sawarn Dal	1,407	0.00	0
<u>Goa Vikas Party</u>	1,407	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Manav Adhikar Dal	1,333	0.00	0
Akhil Bhartiya Loktantra Party	1,265	0.00	0
Labour and Job Seeker's Party of India	1,227	0.00	0
Bahujan Kranti Dal	1,218	0.00	0
Secular Party of India	1,180	0.00	0
Rashtriya Aikta Manch	1,169	0.00	0
Gandhiwadi Rashtriya Congress	1,163	0.00	0
Pragati Sheel Party	858	0.00	0
Bharat Nav Jyoti Sangh	806	0.00	0
<u>All India Minorities Front</u>	805	0.00	0
Bahujan Ekta Party (R)	783	0.00	0
Bharatiya Momin Front	737	0.00	0
Indian National Green Party	594	0.00	0
Bharatiya Jan Vikas Party	571	0.00	0
Ambedkarbadi Party	543	0.00	0
Bharatiya Parivartan Morcha	508	0.00	0
Rashtriya Mazdoor Ekta Party	437	0.00	0
Christian Mannetra Kazhagam	385	0.00	0
Bharatha Makkal Congress	384	0.00	0
Rashtriya Dharmanirpeksha Nava Bharat Party	384	0.00	0
Kranti Dal	344	0.00	0
Bharatiya Muhabbat Party (All India)	338	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Shivsena Rashtrawadi	244	0.00	0
National Congress Of Youth	179	0.00	0
Desh Bhakt Party	173	0.00	0
Independents	9,996,386	2.74	6
<u>Nominated Anglo-Indians</u>			2
Total	364,437,294	100.00	545
Valid votes	364,437,294	98.05	
Invalid/blank votes	7,231,810	1.95	
Total votes	371,669,104	100.00	
Registered voters/turnout	619,536,847	59.99	

State and Alliance wise

State (# of seats)	Alliance/Party	Seats Contested	Seats won	% of votes				
					Telugu Desam Party	34	29	39.85
Andhra Pradesh(42)	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	8	7	9.90	NDA	9.90	34	29
	Congress+		Indian National Congress	42.79				
	Third Front		Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	1.4	7	0	0	0
			Communist Party Of India (CPI)	1.3	6	0	0	0
	- -		All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen	6.05	1	1	1	1
	Congress+		Indian National Congress	56.92	2	2	2	2
Arunachal Pradesh(2)	NDA		Arunachal Congress	16.62	1	0	0	0
			Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	16.30	1	0	0	0
	- -		Nationalist Congress Party	7.77	1	0	0	0
	Congress+		Indian National Congress	38.42	14	10	10	10
Assam(14)	NDA		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	29.84	12	2	2	2
			Asom Gana Parishad	11.92	8	0	0	0
	Third Front		Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	1.8	2	0	0	0
			Communist Party of India	0.6	1	0	0	0

		(CPI)			
	- -	Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation	3	1	10.46
	- -	Independent	44	1	9.36
Bihar(54)	NDA	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	29	23	23.01
		Janata Dal (United)	23	18	20.77
		Bihar People's Party	2	0	1.7
	Congress+	Rashtriya Janata Dal	35	7	28.29
		Indian National Congress	15	4	8.81
		Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	1	0	0.1
		Communist Party of India (CPI)	1	0	1.0
		Rashtriya Lok Dal	1	0	0
Goa(2)	Third Front	Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	1	1	0.9
		Communist Party of India (CPI)	8	0	1.7
		All India Forward Bloc (AIFB)	1	0	0
	- -	Independent	187	1	4.2
	NDA	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	2	2	51.49
Gujarat(26)	Congress+	Indian National Congress	2	0	39.01
	NDA	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	26	20	52.48
	Congress+	Indian National Congress	26	6	45.44

Haryana(10)	NDA	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	5	5	29.21
		Indian National Lok Dal	5	5	28.72
	Congress+	Indian National Congress	10	0	34.93
		Haryana Vikas Party	2	0	2.71
Himachal Pradesh(4)	NDA	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	3	3	46.27
		Himachal Vikas Congress	1	1	12.37
	Congress+	Indian National Congress	4	0	39.52
		Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	6	4	28.94
Jammu & Kashmir(6)	NDA	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	6	2	31.56
		Indian National Congress	5	0	17.83
	Congress+	Independent	28	0	9.63
		Indian National Congress	28	18	45.41
Karnataka(28)	NDA	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	19	7	27.19
		Janata Dal (United)	9	3	13.28
	Congress+	Janata Dal (Secular)	27	0	10.85
		Indian National Congress	17	8	39.25
Kerala(20)	Congress+	Kerala Congress	1	1	2.3
		Muslim League Kerala State Committee	2	2	5.6
		Communist Party of India	12	8	27.90

		(Marxist) (CPM)			
		Communist Party of India (CPI)	4	0	7.57
		Independent	2	0	3.6
		Kerala Congress	1	1	2.4
		Janata Dal (Secular)	1	0	2.2
	NDA	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	14	0	6.56
		Janata Dal (United)	5	0	1.3
Madhya Pradesh(40)	NDA	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	40	29	46.58
	Congress+	Indian National Congress	40	11	43.91
	- -	Bahujan Samaj Party	27	0	5.23
	- -	Samajwadi Party	20	0	1.37
	NDA	Shiv Sena	22	15	16.86
		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	26	13	21.18
Maharashtra(48)	Congress+	Indian National Congress	42	10	29.71
		Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh	4	1	2.1
		Republican Party of India	2	0	1.4
		Nationalist Congress Party	38	6	21.58
	- -	Janata Dal (Secular)	2	1	0.9
	- -	Independent	78	1	3.3
	- -	Peasants And Workers Party of India	2	1	0.9
	NDA	Manipur State Congress Party	1	1	24.89
Manipur(2)					

		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	1	0	1
	- -	Nationalist Congress Party	1	1	13.49
	- -	Manipur Peoples Party	1	0	16.25
Orissa(21)	NDA	Biju Janata Dal	12	10	33.00
		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	9	9	24.63
		Indian National Congress	20	2	36.94
	Congress+	Indian National Congress	11	8	38.4
		Communist Party of India (CPI)	1	1	3.7
		Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	1	0	2.2
Punjab(13)	NDA	Shiromani Akali Dal	9	2	28.6
		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	3	1	9.2
		Democratic Bahujan Samaj Morcha	1	0	2.7
	- -	Shiromani Akali Dal (Simranjit Singh Mann)	1	1	3.4
	NDA	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	24	16	23.01
Rajasthan(25)		Janata Dal (United)	1	0	1.6
Congress+	Indian National Congress	25	9	17.83	
	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	19	12	23.1	
Tamil Nadu(39)	NDA	Pattali Makkal	7	5	8.2

		Katchi			
		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	6	4	7.1
		Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	5	4	6.0
		MGR Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	1	1	1.5
		Tamizhaga Rajiv Congress	1	0	1.2
	Congress+	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	24	10	25.7
		Indian National Congress	11	2	11.1
		Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	2	1	2.3
		Communist Party Of India (CPI)	2	0	2.6
Uttar Pradesh(85)	NDA	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	77	29	27.64
		Akhil Bharatiya Lok Tantrik Congress	4	2	1.51
		Independent	1	1	3.62
		Janata Dal (United)	2	0	0.6
	Congress+	Indian National Congress	76	10	14.72
		Rashtriya Lok Dal	6	2	2.49
		Republican Party of India	1	0	0
- -		Bahujan Samaj Party	85	14	22.08
- -		Samajwadi Party	84	26	24.06
- -		Samajwadi Janata Party	2	1	0.46

<u>West Bengal(42)</u>	Third Front	<u>(Rashtriya)</u>			
		<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)</u>	32	21	35.57
		<u>Communist Party Of India (CPI)</u>	3	3	3.47
		<u>Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP)</u>	4	3	4.25
	NDA	<u>All India Forward Bloc (AIFB)</u>	3	2	3.45
		<u>All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)</u>	28	8	26.04
	Congress+	<u>Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)</u>	13	2	11.13
		<u>Indian National Congress (INC)</u>	41	3	13.29

Support for the New Government

Political Party	Seats	Alliance
<u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u>	182	
<u>Janata Dal (United)</u>	21	
<u>Shiv Sena</u>	15	
<u>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	12	
<u>Biju Janata Dal</u>	10	
<u>All India Trinamool Congress</u>	8	
<u>Pattali Makkal Katchi</u>	5	
<u>Indian National Lok Dal</u>	5	
<u>Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	4	
<u>Jammu & Kashmir National Conference</u>	4	
<u>Shiromani Akali Dal</u>	2	
<u>Rashtriya Lok Dal</u>	2	
<u>Telugu Desam Party</u>	29	Outside Support
Total	298	

See also

- [List of members of the 13th Lok Sabha](#)
- [1999 Indian general election in West Bengal](#)

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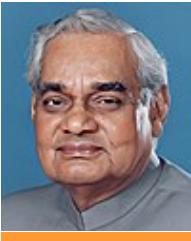


1998 Indian general election

General elections were held in India on 16, 22 and 28 February 1998 to elect the members of the twelfth Lok Sabha. The elections were held three years ahead of schedule after the government led by Inder Kumar Gujral collapsed when the Indian National Congress (INC) withdrew its support in November 1997.^[1]

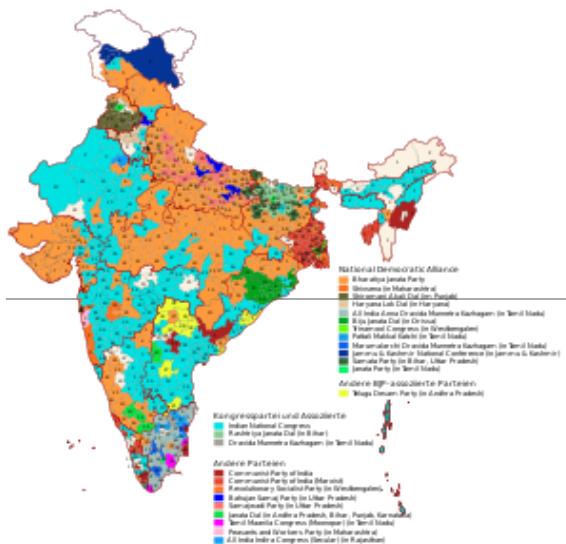
The result was another hung parliament, with no party or alliance able to muster a majority. However, Atal Bihari Vajpayee of the Bharatiya Janata Party was able to form a coalition government led by the National Democratic Alliance with the outside support of the Telugu Desam Party. He was sworn in as Prime Minister with support from 272 of 543 MPs. However, his government collapsed on 17 April 1999 when the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam withdrew its support, after Vajpayee refused to meet the demands of its leader J. Jayalalithaa, namely halting the corruption cases against her and the

1998 Indian general election

1998 Indian general election			
			
16, 22 and 28 February 1998			
543 of the 545 seats in the <u>Lok Sabha</u> 272 seats needed for a majority			
Registered	605,880,192		
Turnout	61.97% (Δ 4.03pp)		
			
Leader	<u>Atal Bihari Vajpayee</u>	<u>Sitaram Kesri</u>	<u>Harkishan Singh Surjeet</u>
Party	BJP	INC	CPI(M)
Alliance	NDA	INC+	LF
Last election	20.29%, 161 seats	28.80%, 140 seats	6.12%, 32 seats
Seats won	182	141	32
Seat change	Δ 21	Δ 1	—
Popular vote	94,266,188	95,111,131	18,991,867
Percentage	25.59%	25.82%	5.16%
Swing	Δ 5.30pp	Δ 2.98pp	Δ 0.96pp

sacking of the Tamil Nadu government led by her bete-noire M. Karunanidhi.^[2] This led to fresh elections in 1999.^[3]

Results



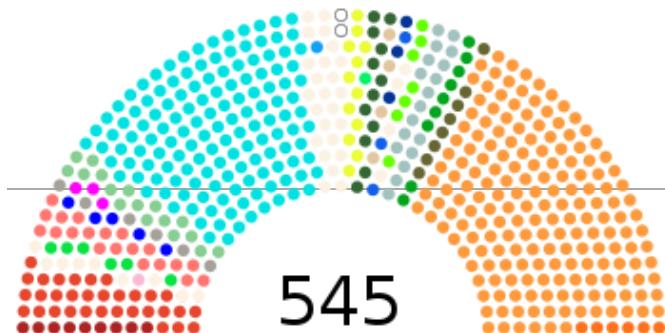
Results by constituency

Prime Minister before election

Inder Kumar Gujral
JD

Prime Minister after election

Atal Bihari Vajpayee
BJP



Party	Votes	%	Seats
Indian National Congress	95,111,131	25.82	141
Bharatiya Janata Party	94,266,188	25.59	182
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	18,991,867	5.16	32
Samajwadi Party	18,167,640	4.93	20
Bahujan Samaj Party	17,186,779	4.67	5
Janata Dal	11,930,209	3.24	6
Rashtriya Janata Dal	10,229,971	2.78	17
Telugu Desam Party	10,199,463	2.77	12
West Bengal Trinamool Congress	8,920,583	2.42	7
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	6,731,550	1.83	18
Shiv Sena	6,528,566	1.77	6
Samata Party	6,491,639	1.76	12
Communist Party of India	6,429,569	1.75	9

<u>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	5,308,388	1.44	6
<u>Tamil Maanila Congress</u>	5,169,183	1.40	3
<u>Biju Janata Dal</u>	3,669,825	1.00	9
<u>Shiromani Akali Dal</u>	3,001,769	0.81	8
<u>Lok Shakti</u>	2,548,725	0.69	3
<u>All India Rashtriya Janata Party</u>	2,071,643	0.56	1
<u>Revolutionary Socialist Party</u>	2,032,585	0.55	5
<u>Haryana Lok Dal (Rashtriya)</u>	1,956,087	0.53	4
<u>Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	1,602,504	0.44	3
<u>Pattali Makkal Katchi</u>	1,548,976	0.42	4
<u>Republican Party of India</u>	1,351,019	0.37	4
<u>Jharkhand Mukti Morcha</u>	1,324,548	0.36	0
<u>All India Forward Bloc</u>	1,213,965	0.33	2
<u>Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)</u>	1,181,083	0.32	1
<u>Asom Gana Parishad</u>	1,064,977	0.29	0
<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation</u>	912,698	0.25	0
<u>Haryana Vikas Party</u>	875,803	0.24	1
<u>Muslim League Kerala State Committee</u>	800,765	0.22	2
<u>Jammu & Kashmir National Conference</u>	784,669	0.21	3
<u>Bharatiya Kisan Kamgar Party</u>	711,080	0.19	0
<u>Apna Dal</u>	562,946	0.15	0
<u>All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen</u>	485,785	0.13	1
<u>All India Indira Congress (Secular)</u>	457,510	0.12	1
<u>Puthiya Tamilagam</u>	446,583	0.12	0
<u>Janata Party</u>	444,305	0.12	1
<u>NTR Telugu Desam Party (Lakshmi Parvathi)</u>	384,211	0.10	0
<u>Karnataka Vikas Party</u>	371,346	0.10	0
<u>United Minorities Front, Assam</u>	357,759	0.10	1
<u>Kerala Congress (M)</u>	356,168	0.10	1
<u>Kerala Congress</u>	327,649	0.09	0
<u>MGR Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	278,324	0.08	0
<u>Forward Bloc (Socialist)</u>	272,974	0.07	0
<u>Peasants and Workers Party of India</u>	269,609	0.07	1
<u>Marxist Co-ordination Committee</u>	263,901	0.07	0
<u>Shiromani Akali Dal (Simranjit Singh Mann)</u>	248,529	0.07	0
<u>Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (Mardi)</u>	240,897	0.07	0
<u>Bihar Jana Congress</u>	222,371	0.06	0
<u>United Democratic Party</u>	213,924	0.06	0
<u>Gondwana Ganatantra Party</u>	196,662	0.05	0

<u>Manipur State Congress Party</u>	190,358	0.05	1
<u>Autonomous State Demand Committee</u>	184,241	0.05	1
<u>Jharkhand Party (Naren)</u>	181,018	0.05	0
<u>Arunachal Congress</u>	172,496	0.05	2
<u>Ajeya Bharat Party</u>	157,854	0.04	0
<u>United Reservation Movement Council of Assam</u>	151,543	0.04	0
<u>National Loktantrik Party</u>	147,706	0.04	0
<u>United Goans Democratic Party</u>	132,558	0.04	0
<u>Mahabharat People's Party</u>	115,785	0.03	0
<u>Sikkim Democratic Front</u>	102,440	0.03	1
<u>Peoples Democratic Party</u>	92,083	0.02	0
<u>Akhil Bharatiya Sena</u>	90,035	0.02	0
<u>Indian National League</u>	86,697	0.02	0
<u>Himachal Vikas Congress</u>	85,046	0.02	0
<u>Mizo National Front</u>	82,047	0.02	0
<u>Savarn Samaj Party</u>	76,980	0.02	0
<u>Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party</u>	70,191	0.02	0
<u>Jharkhand Party</u>	63,836	0.02	0
<u>Hill State People's Democratic Party</u>	62,144	0.02	0
<u>Loktantrik Samajwadi Party</u>	43,770	0.01	0
<u>Bahujan Samaj Party (Ambedkar)</u>	43,402	0.01	0
<u>Indian Congress (Socialist)</u>	36,677	0.01	0
<u>Uttarakhand Kranti Dal</u>	30,654	0.01	0
<u>Akhil Bartiya Manav Seva Dal</u>	26,027	0.01	0
<u>National Panthers Party</u>	24,638	0.01	0
<u>Marxist Communist Party of India (S.S. Srivastava)</u>	24,417	0.01	0
<u>Shoshit Samaj Dal</u>	24,303	0.01	0
<u>Proutist Sarva Samaj Samiti</u>	23,029	0.01	0
<u>Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha</u>	20,928	0.01	0
<u>Jammu and Kashmir Awami League</u>	20,843	0.01	0
<u>Amra Bangali</u>	20,372	0.01	0
<u>Kannada Chalavali Vatal Paksha</u>	19,202	0.01	0
<u>Garo National Council</u>	16,280	0.00	0
<u>Akhil Bharatiya Jan Sangh</u>	14,284	0.00	0
<u>Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha</u>	14,160	0.00	0
<u>Plain Tribals Council of Assam</u>	12,952	0.00	0
<u>Bharatiya Vikash Party</u>	11,881	0.00	0
<u>United Tribal Nationalist Liberation Front</u>	11,287	0.00	0
<u>Rajasthan Vikas Party</u>	11,267	0.00	0

Karnataka Rajya Ryota Sangha	10,064	0.00	0
<u>United Communist Party of India</u>	10,018	0.00	0
Bharti Lok Lehar Party	9,959	0.00	0
Samajwadi Jan Parishad	9,848	0.00	0
Hindustan Janata Party	9,476	0.00	0
Bharatiya Jantantrik Parishad	9,367	0.00	0
<u>Maharashtra Rashtravadi Congress</u>	8,623	0.00	0
Jharkhand People's Party	7,111	0.00	0
Sarvadhamar Party (Madhya Pradesh)	6,671	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Rajivwadi Congress (Dubey)	6,455	0.00	0
Bharatiya Rajiv Congress	6,122	0.00	0
<u>Kisan Vikas Party</u>	5,905	0.00	0
Jai Telengana Party	5,847	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Bhrastachar Normoolan Sena	5,718	0.00	0
All India Rajiv Krantikari Congress	5,588	0.00	0
Pragtsheel Manav Samaj Party	5,495	0.00	0
Bharatiya Krantikari Kammand Party	4,852	0.00	0
Shoshit Samaj Party	4,722	0.00	0
Rashtriya Aikta Manch	4,596	0.00	0
Bahujan Kranti Dal (JAI)	4,525	0.00	0
The Humanist Party of India	4,439	0.00	0
<u>Revolutionary Communist Party of India (Rasik Bhatt)</u>	4,420	0.00	0
Rashtriya Ali Sena	4,371	0.00	0
Sanatan Samaj Party	4,238	0.00	0
Orissa Congress	4,048	0.00	0
Indian Union Muslim League (IUML)	3,763	0.00	0
Rastreeya Praja Parishat	3,688	0.00	0
<u>Bharatiya Minorities Suraksha Mahasangh</u>	3,030	0.00	0
Golden India Party	3,002	0.00	0
Adarsh Lok Dal	2,909	0.00	0
Manava Party	2,903	0.00	0
<u>Krantikari Manuwadi Morcha</u>	2,723	0.00	0
Religion of Man Revolving Political Party of India	2,503	0.00	0
<u>All India Minorities Front</u>	2,480	0.00	0
Bahujan Kranti Dal	2,466	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Ashok Sena	2,392	0.00	0
<u>Republican Party of India (Khobragade)</u>	2,167	0.00	0
Gareebjan Samaj Party	2,009	0.00	0
Andhra Nadu Party	1,915	0.00	0

All India Muslim Forum	1,866	0.00	0
Bahujan Vikas Party	1,833	0.00	0
Pragati Sheel Party	1,828	0.00	0
Rashtriya Janandholan Paksha	1,708	0.00	0
Tamilaga Janata	1,697	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Berozgaar Party	1,609	0.00	0
Prism	1,595	0.00	0
United Citizens Party	1,591	0.00	0
Bharatiya Jan Sabha	1,425	0.00	0
Rashtriya Unnatsheel Das	1,394	0.00	0
Socialist Party (Lohia)	1,321	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Revolutionary Shoshit Samaj Dal	1,277	0.00	0
Agrajan Party	1,269	0.00	0
Ekta Krandi Dal U.P.	1,246	0.00	0
All India Gareeb Congress	1,222	0.00	0
Republican Presidium Party of India	1,215	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Garib Mazdoor Kisan Party	1,199	0.00	0
Indian Bahujan Samajwadi Party	1,162	0.00	0
Bharatiya Parivartan Morcha	1,111	0.00	0
Nagaland Peoples Party	1,066	0.00	0
Bharatiya Momin Front	1,045	0.00	0
Manav Samaj Party	1,036	0.00	0
Rashtriya Mazdoor Ekta Party	946	0.00	0
Hindustan Inqalab Party	883	0.00	0
Jan Samanta Party	828	0.00	0
Bhrishtachar Virodhi Dal	754	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Janata Congress	751	0.00	0
Ambedkarbadi Party	736	0.00	0
Rashtriya Muslim Mujahid Party	710	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Shivsena Rashtrawadi	703	0.00	0
National Republican Party	694	0.00	0
Hind Kisan Mazdoor Party	614	0.00	0
Akhil Bhartiya Loktantra Party	609	0.00	0
Hind Morcha	590	0.00	0
Punjab Pradesh Vikash Party	576	0.00	0
Uttar Pradesh Republican Party	552	0.00	0
Kranti Dal	501	0.00	0
Bharatiya Jan Jagruti Party	494	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya General Labour Party	412	0.00	0

Bharatiya Asht Jan Party	363	0.00	0
Telangana Praja Party	344	0.00	0
Rashtriya Rajdhani Congress Delhi	343	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Azad Hind Party	306	0.00	0
Rashtriya Janta Congress	297	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad (Prem Vallabh Vyas)	150	0.00	0
Indian Republican Front	118	0.00	0
Independents	8,719,952	2.37	6
Nominated Anglo-Indians			2
Total	368,376,700	100.00	545
Valid votes	368,376,700	98.12	
Invalid/blank votes	7,065,039	1.88	
Total votes	375,441,739	100.00	
Registered voters/turnout	605,880,192	61.97	

Source: ECI (<https://eci.gov.in/files/file/4124-general-election-1998-vol-i-ii/>)

State and Alliance wise

State (# of seats)	Alliance/Party	Seats Contested	Seats won	% of votes				
					Congress+	Indian National Congress	42	22
Andhra Pradesh(42)	Third Front	Telugu Desam Party	35	12	32			
		Communist Party Of India (CPI)	3	2	2.6			
		Janata Dal	1	1	0.9			
		Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	3	0	2.9			
	NDA	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	38	4	18.3			
		NTR Telugu Desam Party (Lakshmi Parvathi)	3	0	1.2			
	- -	All India Majlis-e- Ittehadul Muslimeen	1	1	1.5			
	Arunachal Pradesh(2)	Arunachal Congress	2	2	52.5			
		Congress+	Indian National	2	0	23.9		

		Congress			
Assam(14)	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	2	0	21.7
	<u>Congress+</u>	Indian National Congress	13	10	39.0
	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	14	1	24.5
	- -	Asom Gana Parishad	10	0	12.7
	- -	Autonomous State Demand Committee	1	1	2.2
	- -	United Minorities Front, Assam	3	1	10.46
	- -	Independent	45	1	9.5
Bihar(54)	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	32	20	24
		Samata Party	21	10	15.77
	<u>Congress+</u>	Rashtriya Janata Dal	38	17	26.6
		Indian National Congress	11	5	6.3
	<u>Third Front</u>	Janata Dal	28	1	7.3
		Communist Party of India (CPI)	15	0	3.4
		Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	4	0	0.4
		All India Forward Bloc (AIFB)	1	0	0
		All India Rashtriya Janata Party	3	1	0.9
Goa(2)	<u>Congress+</u>	Indian National Congress	2	2	31.6
	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	2	0	30
	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	26	19	48.3
Gujarat(26)					

	<u>Congress+</u>	Indian National Congress	26	7	38
	- -	Haryana Lok Dal (Rashtriya)	7	4	25.9
	<u>Congress+</u>	Indian National Congress	10	3	26.0
Haryana(10)	<u>NDA</u>	Haryana Vikas Party	4	1	11.6
		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	6	1	18.9
	- -	Bahujan Samaj Party	3	1	7.7
	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	4	3	51.4
Himachal Pradesh(4)	<u>Congress+</u>	Indian National Congress	4	1	41.9
	- -	Himachal Vikas Congress	4	0	3.6
	- -	Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	6	3	36.4
Jammu & Kashmir(6)	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	6	2	28.6
	<u>Congress+</u>	Indian National Congress	6	1	19.2
	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	18	13	26.9
Karnataka(28)		Lok Shakti	10	3	11.5
	<u>Congress+</u>	Indian National Congress	28	9	36.2
	- -	Janata Dal	28	3	21.7
Kerala(20)	<u>Congress+</u>	Indian National Congress	17	8	38.7
		Kerala Congress	1	1	2.4
		Muslim League Kerala State Committee	2	2	5
	<u>Third Front</u>	Communist Party of India	9	6	21

		(Marxist) (CPM)			
		Communist Party of India (CPI)	4	2	8.3
		Revolutionary Socialist Party	1	1	2.7
		Kerala Congress	1	1	2.2
		Janata Dal	2	0	3.9
	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	20	0	8
Madhya Pradesh(40)	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	40	30	45.7
	<u>Congress+</u>	Indian National Congress	40	10	39.4
	- -	Bahujan Samaj Party	35	0	8.7
Maharashtra(48)	<u>Congress+</u>	Indian National Congress	41	33	43.6
		Republican Party of India	4	4	4.1
		Samajwadi Party	2	0	1.5
	<u>NDA</u>	Shiv Sena	22	6	19.7
		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	25	4	22.5
		Independent	1	0	1.1
Manipur(2)	- -	Peasants And Workers Party of India	2	1	0.9
	- -	Communist Party Of India (CPI)	2	1	20.5
	- -	Manipur State Congress Party	2	1	25.4
	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	1	0	12.6
		Lok Shakti	1	0	0.2
Orissa(21)	<u>NDA</u>	Biju Janata Dal	12	9	27.5
		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	9	7	21.2

	<u>Congress+</u>	Indian National Congress	21	5	41	
Punjab(13)	<u>NDA</u>	Shiromani Akali Dal	8	8	32.9	
		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	3	3	11.7	
		Janata Dal	1	1	4.2	
		Independent	1	1	3.8	
	<u>Congress+</u>	Indian National Congress	8	0	25.8	
		Communist Party of India (CPI)	1	0	3.4	
		Bahujan Samaj Party	4	0	12.6	
Rajasthan(25)	<u>Congress+</u>	Indian National Congress	25	18	44.5	
	<u>NDA</u>	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	25	5	41.7	
	- -	All India Indira Congress (Secular)	9	1	1.9	
	- -	Independent	50	1	3.8	
	<u>NDA</u>	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	22	18	25.9	
Tamil Nadu(39)		Pattali Makkal Katchi	5	4	6	
		Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	5	3	6.9	
		Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	5	3	6.3	
		Janata Party	1	1	1.5	
		Independent	1	1	3.62	
<u>Congress+</u>	Indian National Congress	35	0	4.8		
	MGR Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	3	0	1.1		
	United Communist	1	0	0		

		<u>Party Of India</u>			
Uttar Pradesh(85)	Third Front	<u>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	16	4	18.5
		<u>Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar)</u>	19	3	19.2
		<u>Communist Party Of India (CPI)</u>	2	1	2.5
		<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)</u>	2	0	0.6
	NDA	<u>Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)</u>	82	57	36.5
		<u>Samata Party</u>	2	2	0.8
		<u>Shiv Sena</u>	1	0	0.1
	Congress+	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	76	0	6
	- -	<u>Bahujan Samaj Party</u>	85	4	20.9
	- -	<u>Samajwadi Party</u>	81	20	28.7
	- -	<u>Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)</u>	1	1	0.5
	- -	<u>Independent</u>	491	1	2.8
West Bengal(42)	Third Front	<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)</u>	32	24	35.4
		<u>Communist Party Of India (CPI)</u>	3	3	3.6
		<u>Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP)</u>	4	4	4.5
		<u>All India Forward Bloc (AIFB)</u>	3	2	3.3
	NDA	<u>All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)</u>	28	7	24.1
		<u>Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)</u>	14	2	10.2
	UPA	<u>Indian National</u>	39	1	15.2

Notes

See also

- [List of members of the 12th Lok Sabha](#)
- [Election Commission of India](#)

References

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1996 Indian general election

General elections were held in India on 27 April, 2 May and 7 May 1996 to elect the members of the eleventh Lok Sabha. The elections resulted in a hung parliament with no single party having a clear majority. The Bharatiya Janata Party, which had won the most seats, formed a short-lived government under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. However, two weeks later the United Front coalition was able to secure a parliamentary majority and H. D. Deve Gowda of Janata Dal became Prime Minister. In 1997 Inder Kumar Gujral, also from the United Front, succeeded Gowda as Prime Minister. Due to the instability, early elections were held in 1998. The elections were the first since 1980 in which every states' seats were elected in a single election period.

Background

The Indian National Congress (Indira) government of Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao came into the election on the back of several government scandals like the 1992 Indian stock market scam and accusations of mismanagement. Seven cabinet members had resigned during the previous term, and Rao himself faced charges of corruption. The Congress(I) more generally had been plagued in recent years by a series of splits, conflicts and factional disputes that had seen various key regional parties and figures abandon the party. In particular, the high-profile May 1995 defection of Arjun Singh and Narayan Datt Tiwari to form the new All India Indira Congress (Tiwari) party underscored the internal divisions within the Congress (Indira).

The government was further weakened by a series of major scandals breaking less than 12 months from the election. In July 1995 it was found a former Congress(I) youth leader had murdered his wife and tried to destroy the evidence by stuffing her corpse into a tandoor (clay oven). In August 1995 the Vohra Report was finally released to the parliament,

1996 Indian general election



27 April, 2 May and 7 May 1996

543 of the 545 seats in the Lok Sabha
272 seats needed for a majority

Registered	592,572,288
Turnout	57.94% (▲ 1.21pp)
Leader	Atal Bihari Vajpayee
Party	BJP
Last election	20.07%, 120 seats
Seats won	161
Seat change	▲ 41
Popular vote	67,950,851
Percentage	20.29%
Swing	▲ 0.18pp
P. V. Narasimha Rao	INC(I)
36.40%, 244 seats	140
▼ 92	
96,455,493	28.80%
▼ 7.46pp	

Leader	H. D. Deve Gowda
Party	JD
Alliance	UF
Harkishan Singh Surjeet	CPI(M)
	UF

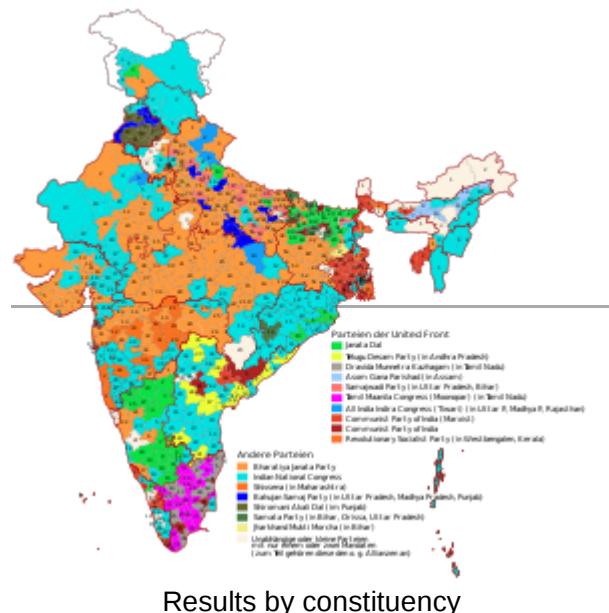
decrying that a politician-criminal nexus was "virtually running a parallel government, pushing the state apparatus into irrelevance".^[1] Government credibility fell further still when in late 1995 violence significantly worsened in the Kashmir region, and sporadic fighting and ethnic tensions boiled over in Punjab province. As a result of the scandals, the Rao government went into the 1996 election at a low of ebb of public support.^[2]

Campaign

The elections triggered a significant realignment of political forces in Indians, with all-India parties attempting to construct widespread regional coalitions with minor parties in order to secure a central majority. Such political negotiations were to become an increasingly necessary process in Indian politics over the next two decades as the dominance of the INC(I) declined and smaller, ethnic and regional parties took its place. The Bharatiya Janata Party, led by Lal Krishna Advani attempted to add several regional coalition partners - most notably the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Bahujan Samaj Party, but was ultimately unsuccessful in overcoming ideological differences. Yet it did join with several strong regional partners - Shiv Sena, Haryana Vikas Party, and the Samata Party. The Congress(I) party attempted to form regional allies as well, most notably with the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.^{[3][4]}

The so-called "Third Force" during the 1996 elections was the National Front. After its collapse in 1990, the coalition had chopped and changed before reuniting in the run up to the 1996 election. Three main parties grouped back together in September 1995 in hopes of presenting a viable political choice - the Communist parties like the Communist Party of India & Communist Party of India (Marxist), Janata Dal and the Telugu Desam Party. It attempted to build a wider coalition of regional partners and state parties, however negotiations repeatedly broke down, and no consensus could be arrived at on a 'common minimum program' - a platform of issues on which all parties could agree upon. A split in the Uttar Pradesh government in December 1995 divided the front further. Finally, lacking a strong leader or common set of principles, the main three parties joined with the Samajwadi Party in a common goal of simply denying power to either the Congress(I) or BJP. Thus a characteristic of the 1996 elections was a large number of strong regional and state parties declined to form an alliance with any of the three major contenders for government.^[5]

Last election	11.73%, 59 seats	6.16%, 35 seats
Seats won	46	32
Seat change	▼ 13	▼ 3
Popular vote	27,070,340	20,496,810
Percentage	8.08%	6.12%
Swing	▼ 3.76pp	▼ 0.04pp



Results by constituency

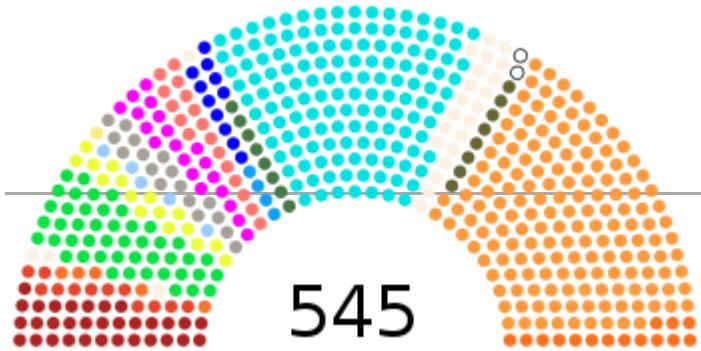
Prime Minister before election	Prime Minister after election
P. V. Narasimha Rao INC(I)	Atal Bihari Vajpayee BJP

In January only a few months before the election, a major scandal erupted: the Jain hawala scandal. Jain, an industrialist in the steel and power sectors, was revealed to have given US\$33 million in bribes to politicians from nearly all major parties in return for favours. Further shocking the public, Jain had also channelled money to Kashmiri Muslim militants. In the first wave of names implicated were three Rao cabinet members, Arjun Singh from the breakaway Congress (T) party, Bharatiya Janata Party leader Lal Krishna Advani, Sharad Yadav (leader of the Janata Dal parliamentary party), and former Congress(I) Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Almost 115 names would eventually be released, and numerous candidates and ministers were forced to resign in the aftermath. Most significantly was the resignation of L.K. Advani as Member of Parliament, though he continued to lead the election campaigning as the BJP's president.^[6]

The BJP ran a campaign centred around a four-point plan which aimed for probity of public life, self-reliance in the economy, social harmony and greater security. It strongly advocated an economic plan which would significantly scale back government intervention and encourage capital investment and creation. In the backdrop of the 1992 demolition of the Babri Masjid, BJP stressed on the role of Hindutva in its vision for India, creating a more Hindu-orientated state by removing the provisions of secularism & making Hinduism the country's state religion, implementing a nationwide ban on cow slaughter, abolishing personal laws of non-Hindus by introducing a uniform civil code and removing the special status of Kashmir alongside construction of the Ram-mandir as its main agenda. The Congress(I) Party attempted to campaign on its foreign policy record, its handling of the numerous natural and ethnic crises that had emerged over the past five years, and on better concessions for ethnic minorities and empowering the state governments. It additionally stressed the economic gains already made by the government due to its liberalization policies post 1992. However it drew flak for promising re-construction of the demolished mosque at the disputed site of Ayodhya in its electoral manifesto, leading the BJP to accuse the Congress (Indira) of indulging in Muslim appeasement & fostering Hindophobia. The Janata Dal and the National Front campaigned on maintaining a strong public sector though with some commitment to deregulation and anti-corruption measures while committing to implement the Mandal Commission report. It also pushed other more populist measures as well, such as more state-run infrastructure projects, subsidised fertilizer, and increased education investment.^[7]

Results

The BJP capitalised on the communal polarisation that followed the demolition of Babri Masjid to win 161 Lok Sabha seats, making it the largest party in parliament. L.K. Advani, whose aggressive campaigning as BJP president is widely credited with these results.^[8] The election delivered an unclear mandate and resulted in a hung parliament. Although Congress continued to remain the single largest party in terms of voteshare, it was for the first time since the country's first general elections that the Congress' voteshare fell below 30% on a national scale. The Congress also for the first time in its existence, won fewer than 150 seats in a general election, surpassing the record of 154 seats in the 1977 general elections. Hence the result was considered as the worst result of the Congress party in its history to that date, with commentators blaming the poor result on the personal unpopularity of Prime Minister Rao and the numerous internal divisions that had dogged the party alongside the religious polarisation fueled by the BJP under the Ayodhya dispute. Congress(I) was almost wiped out in its traditional strongholds of Uttar Pradesh & Bihar with many stalwarts like Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav, Jagannath Mishra, Satyendra Narayan Sinha suffered electoral setbacks inflicted by both Janata Dal & BJP.^[9] The BJP became the largest party within the Lok Sabha, a first for a non-Congress party, although it secured neither a significant increase in the popular vote or enough seats to secure a parliamentary majority.^[10]



Party	Votes	%	Seats
Indian National Congress (Indira)	96,455,493	28.80	140
Bharatiya Janata Party	67,950,851	20.29	161
Janata Dal	27,070,340	8.08	46
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	20,496,810	6.12	32
Bahujan Samaj Party	13,453,235	4.02	11
Samajwadi Party	10,989,241	3.28	17
Telugu Desam Party	9,931,826	2.97	16
Tamil Maanila Congress	7,339,982	2.19	20
Samata Party	7,256,086	2.17	8
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	7,151,381	2.14	17
Communist Party of India	6,582,263	1.97	12
Shiv Sena	4,989,994	1.49	15
All India Indira Congress (Tiwari)	4,903,070	1.46	4
NTR Telugu Desam Party (Lakshmi Parvathi)	3,249,267	0.97	0
Asom Gana Parishad	2,560,506	0.76	5
Shiromani Akali Dal	2,534,979	0.76	8
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	2,130,286	0.64	0
Revolutionary Socialist Party	2,105,469	0.63	5
Republican Party of India	1,454,363	0.43	0
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	1,287,072	0.38	1
All India Forward Bloc	1,279,492	0.38	3
Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	1,235,812	0.37	0
Haryana Vikas Party	1,156,322	0.35	3
Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation	808,065	0.24	0
Indian Union Muslim League	757,316	0.23	2
Janata Party	631,021	0.19	0
Karnataka Congress Party	581,868	0.17	1
Pattali Makkal Katchi	571,910	0.17	0

<u>Peasants and Workers Party of India</u>	437,805	0.13	0
<u>Indian Congress (Socialist)</u>	404,261	0.12	0
<u>Kerala Congress (M)</u>	382,319	0.11	1
<u>All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen</u>	340,070	0.10	1
<u>Shiromani Akali Dal (Simranjit Singh Mann)</u>	339,520	0.10	0
<u>Madhya Pradesh Vikas Congress</u>	337,539	0.10	1
<u>Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh</u>	329,695	0.10	0
<u>Kerala Congress</u>	320,539	0.10	0
<u>Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (Mardi)</u>	299,055	0.09	0
<u>United Minorities Front, Assam</u>	244,571	0.07	0
<u>Apna Dal</u>	222,669	0.07	0
<u>Autonomous State Demand Committee</u>	180,112	0.05	1
<u>Forward Bloc (Socialist)</u>	172,685	0.05	0
<u>Gujarat Adijati Vikash Paksh</u>	166,003	0.05	0
<u>Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party</u>	129,220	0.04	1
<u>Sikkim Democratic Front</u>	124,218	0.04	1
<u>Federal Party of Manipur</u>	120,557	0.04	0
<u>Marxist Co-ordination Committee</u>	114,406	0.03	0
<u>Krantikari Samajwadi Manch</u>	113,975	0.03	0
<u>Mizo National Front</u>	111,710	0.03	0
<u>United Goans Democratic Party</u>	109,346	0.03	1
<u>Jharkhand Party (Naren)</u>	102,111	0.03	0
<u>Jammu & Kashmir Panthers Party</u>	99,599	0.03	0
<u>Savarn Samaj Party</u>	84,725	0.03	0
<u>Jharkhand Party</u>	78,907	0.02	0
<u>Majlis Bachao Tahreek</u>	78,335	0.02	0
<u>Nag Vidarbha Andolan Samiti</u>	66,065	0.02	0
<u>Peoples Democratic Party</u>	65,641	0.02	0
<u>Amra Bangali</u>	65,595	0.02	0
<u>Mahabharat People's Party</u>	64,266	0.02	0
<u>Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha</u>	60,361	0.02	0
<u>Jharkhand People's Party</u>	58,132	0.02	0
<u>Bahujan Samaj Party (Ambedkar)</u>	52,585	0.02	0
<u>Tripura Upajati Juba Samiti</u>	52,300	0.02	0
<u>Akhil Bharatiya Jan Sangh</u>	49,978	0.01	0
<u>Satya Marg Party</u>	48,056	0.01	0
<u>Sikkim Sangram Parishad</u>	42,175	0.01	0

Lok Hit Party	37,127	0.01	0
<u>United Tribal Nationalist Liberation Front</u>	34,803	0.01	0
Pavitra Hindustan Kaazhagam	34,147	0.01	0
Marxist Communist Party of India (S.S. Srivastava)	33,900	0.01	0
Kannada Chalevali Vatal Paksha	31,136	0.01	0
Akhil Bharatiya Bhrastachar Normoolan Sena	30,970	0.01	0
<u>Hul Jharkhand Party</u>	30,220	0.01	0
Bhoomijotak Samooh	29,874	0.01	0
Proutist Sarva Samaj Samiti	26,403	0.01	0
Akhil Bhartiya Loktantra Party	25,131	0.01	0
<u>Republican Party of India (Athawale)</u>	22,640	0.01	0
Uttar Pradesh Republican Party	22,515	0.01	0
Anaithinthiya Thamizhaga Munnetra Kazhag	19,394	0.01	0
New India Party	19,135	0.01	0
Bhatiya Krishi Udyog Sangh	17,744	0.01	0
<u>Indian National League</u>	15,954	0.00	0
Jan Parishad	15,112	0.00	0
Rashtriya Nayay Party	13,160	0.00	0
<u>Lokdal</u>	11,957	0.00	0
Shoshit Samaj Dal	11,937	0.00	0
Bahujan Kranti Dal (JAI)	11,735	0.00	0
Mahakushal Vikas Party	11,152	0.00	0
Jansatta Party	10,901	0.00	0
<u>Bharatiya Minorities Suraksha Mahasangh</u>	10,657	0.00	0
<u>Republican Party of India (Democratic)</u>	10,072	0.00	0
Gondwana Ganatantra Party	9,985	0.00	0
Pragatisheel Manav Samaj Party	9,974	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Berozgaar Party	9,813	0.00	0
Janhit Morcha	9,404	0.00	0
<u>Hindustan Janata Party</u>	9,208	0.00	0
Rashtriya Samajwadi Party 'pragatisheel'	8,779	0.00	0
Lok Party	8,758	0.00	0
Pachim Banga Rajya Muslim League	8,624	0.00	0
<u>Republican Party of India (Khobragade)</u>	8,491	0.00	0
Akhil Bhartiya Janata Vikas Party	7,726	0.00	0
Arya Sabha	7,563	0.00	0
Bharatiya Jan Sabha	7,338	0.00	0

	Republican Presidium Party of India	7,298	0.00	0
	Bahujan Kranti Dal	6,968	0.00	0
	Political Party of National Management Service	6,667	0.00	0
	Rashtriya Surajya Parishad	6,000	0.00	0
	Samajwadi Janata Party (Maharashtra)	5,784	0.00	0
	Maharashtra Pradesh Krantikari Party	5,765	0.00	0
	Akhil Bartiya Manav Seva Dal	5,673	0.00	0
	National Republican Party	5,271	0.00	0
	Indian Democratic Party	5,084	0.00	0
	Bharatiya Lok Tantrik Mazdoor Dal	5,075	0.00	0
	Surajya Party	4,917	0.00	0
	Hindu Mahasabha	4,720	0.00	0
	Rashtriya Aikta Manch	4,574	0.00	0
	National Democratic Peoples Front	4,462	0.00	0
	Bolshevik Party of India	4,345	0.00	0
	Bharatiya Lok Panchayat	4,018	0.00	0
	Bharatiya Rashtriya Party	3,724	0.00	0
	Rashtriya Kisan Party	3,635	0.00	0
	Akhil Bharatiya Mahasand Sarvahara Krantikari Party	3,552	0.00	0
	Bharatiya Labour Party	3,550	0.00	0
	Rashtriya Unnatsheel Das	3,476	0.00	0
	Rashtriya Samdarshi Party	3,360	0.00	0
	Vijeta Party	3,328	0.00	0
	Satyayug Party	3,319	0.00	0
	Bharatiya Rashtriya Morcha	3,181	0.00	0
	Rashtriya Mazdoor Ekta Party	3,176	0.00	0
	Marxist Engelist Leninist Proletariat Health Commune	3,155	0.00	0
	Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Azad Hind Party	3,152	0.00	0
	Bahujan Samaj Party (Raj Bahadur)	3,114	0.00	0
	Socialist Party (Lohia)	3,006	0.00	0
	Kannada Paksha	2,883	0.00	0
	Bharatiya Manav Raksha Dal	2,796	0.00	0
	Akhil Bharatiya Dalit Utthan Party	2,654	0.00	0
	Akhil Bharatiya Desh Bhakt Morcha	2,295	0.00	0
	Indian Secular Congress	2,136	0.00	0
	Bira Oriya Party	2,088	0.00	0
	Republican Party of India (Sivaraj)	2,081	0.00	0

Bharathiya Nethaji Party	2,024	0.00	0
Bharatiya Rajiv Congress	1,967	0.00	0
Bharatiya Jantantrik Parishad	1,867	0.00	0
Ekta Samaj Party	1,852	0.00	0
Congress Of People	1,850	0.00	0
Revolutionary Communist Party Of India (Rasik Bhatt)	1,803	0.00	0
Bhartiya Ekta Party	1,801	0.00	0
Shoshit Samaj Party	1,684	0.00	0
Samajwadi Dal	1,637	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Shivsena Rashtrawadi	1,477	0.00	0
Bharatiya Kranti Sena	1,439	0.00	0
Indian Democratic People's Party	1,438	0.00	0
Ekta Krandi Dal U.P.	1,409	0.00	0
Indian Bahujan Samajwadi Party	1,376	0.00	0
Sarvadhamam Party (Madhya Pradesh)	1,327	0.00	0
People's Democratic League of India	1,276	0.00	0
Punjab Vikas Party (Punjab)	1,185	0.00	0
Desh Bhakt Party	1,148	0.00	0
Sabjan Party	1,120	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Lok Tantrik Alp-Sankhyak Jan Morcha	1,111	0.00	0
Kisan Vyawasayee Mazdoor Party	1,056	0.00	0
Pratap Shiv Sena	1,049	0.00	0
Adarsh Lok Dal	1,037	0.00	0
Gareebjan Samaj Party	962	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Dharmnirpeksh Dal	894	0.00	0
All India Azad Hind Mazdur & Jan Kalyan Party	883	0.00	0
Bahujan Loktantrik Party	857	0.00	0
Socialist Party (Ramakant Pandey)	848	0.00	0
Manav Sewa Sangh	841	0.00	0
Bharatiya Samajwadi Vikas Party	805	0.00	0
Akhil Bhartiya Rajarya Sabha	787	0.00	0
Indian Union Muslim League (IUML)	786	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad	724	0.00	0
Ambedkar Kranti Dal	667	0.00	0
Bhartiya Jan Kisan Party	633	0.00	0
Mahabharath Mahajan Sabha	572	0.00	0
Bharatiya Samaj Sangathan Morcha	535	0.00	0

Rashtriya Bharat Nav Nirman Sangathan	528	0.00	0
Samajik Kranti Dal	522	0.00	0
Rashtriya Krantikari Dal	520	0.00	0
Bharat Jan Party	505	0.00	0
Hind National Party	496	0.00	0
Sachet Bharat Party	470	0.00	0
Bhartiya Azad Party	457	0.00	0
Bhrishtachar Virodhi Dal	434	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad (Prem Ballabh Vyas)	428	0.00	0
Tamil Nadu Hindu Vellalar Youth Kazhagam	422	0.00	0
Pragati Sheel Party	407	0.00	0
Socialist League of India	384	0.00	0
United Indian Democratic Council	374	0.00	0
Rashtriya Samaj Sevak Dal	348	0.00	0
Akhil Bhartiya Kisan Mazdoor Morcha	345	0.00	0
Hindu Praja Party	332	0.00	0
Janata Kranti Congress	324	0.00	0
Mukt Bharat	295	0.00	0
Jan Swarajya Party	278	0.00	0
Gujarat Janta Parishad	266	0.00	0
Bharat Pensioner's Front	231	0.00	0
Bharatiya Parivartan Morcha	231	0.00	0
All India Democratic People Federation	195	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Jagrook Nagrik Dal	176	0.00	0
Federation of Sabhas	142	0.00	0
Hind Kisan Mazdoor Party	131	0.00	0
Poorvanchal Rashtriya Congress	124	0.00	0
Kranti Dal	112	0.00	0
Jan Ekata Morcha	94	0.00	0
Bharatiya Sarvkalyan Krantidal	89	0.00	0
Manav Samaj Party	74	0.00	0
Labour Party of India (V.V. Prasad)	68	0.00	0
Bharatiya Rashtrawadi Dal	53	0.00	0
Independents	21,041,557	6.28	9
Nominated Anglo-Indians			2
Total	334,873,286	100.00	545
Valid votes	334,873,286	97.54	

Invalid/blank votes	8,434,804	2.46	
Total votes	343,308,090	100.00	
Registered voters/turnout	592,572,288	57.94	
Source: ECI (https://eci.gov.in/files/file/4123-general-election-1996-vol-i-ii/)			

Aftermath

Following Westminster custom, Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma invited Atal Bihari Vajpayee as leader of the BJP to form a government. Sworn in on 15 May, the new Prime Minister was given two weeks to prove majority support in parliament. In the weeks leading up to the first confidence vote on 31 May, the BJP attempted to build a coalition by moderating positions to garner support from regional and Muslim parties, however sectarian issues and fears of certain nationalist policies of the BJP hampered efforts. On 28 May, Vajpayee conceded that he could not arrange support from more than 200 of the 545 members of parliament, and thus resigned rather than face the confidence vote, ending his 13-day government.^[11]

The second largest party, the Indian National Congress (Indira), also declined to form a government. After Janata Dal leader V. P. Singh refused to become Prime Minister for a second time, CPI(M) leader & incumbent West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu was approached by the National Front to be its prime ministerial face, but the party politburo refused to endorse it (a decision which Basu later criticised as a "historic blunder") in order to affirm its commitment towards establishing *dictatorship of the proletariat*. Basu put forward the name of Janata Dal leader & incumbent Karnataka Chief Minister H. D. Deve Gowda as the candidate for the Prime Minister post. Janata Dal and a bloc of smaller parties thus formed the United Front government,^[10] with outside support from INC(I). Gowda resigned on 21 April 1997 due to withdrawal of support by the Indian National Congress ^[a] to pave way for I. K. Gujral, who maintained good relations with the Congress.

However the Fodder Scam resulted in many United Front members demanding the resignation of Lalu Prasad Yadav, an alliance partner and the then Chief Minister of Bihar. Yadav retaliated by breaking away from Janata Dal and forming Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) on 3 July 1997. Out of 45 Janata Dal members of parliament, 17 left the party and supported Yadav. However, the new party continued to support the United Front and Gujral's government was saved from immediate danger. Gujral resigned 11 months later when INC withdrew support from the government over Gujral's refusal to expel DMK from the government, whose leader M. Karunanidhi was implicated in assisting Rajiv Gandhi's assassination and the country went back to the polls in 1998.

Notes

- a. After 1996, the Indian National Congress (Indira) dropped the suffix 'Indira' from its name, thereby becoming known as Indian National Congress

See also

- [List of members of the 11th Lok Sabha](#)
- [Election Commission of India](#)

- [1992 Indian presidential election](#)

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1991 Indian general election

General elections were held in India on 20 May, 12 June and 15 June 1991 to elect the members of the 10th Lok Sabha, although they were delayed until 19 February 1992 in Punjab.

No party could muster a majority in the Lok Sabha, resulting in the Indian National Congress (Indira) forming a minority government under new Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao with the support of other parties. The government survived 28 July 1993 no confidence vote in controversial circumstances by bribing MPs from the Janata Dal and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha.^{[2][3]}

Elections were not held for the six seats allocated to Jammu and Kashmir, nor for two seats in Bihar and one in Uttar Pradesh. Voter turnout was 57%, the lowest to date in an Indian general election.^[4]

Background

The 1991 elections were held as the previous Lok Sabha had been dissolved just sixteen months after its election, after the collapse of governments headed by V. P. Singh and Chandra Shekhar. Over 500 million eligible voters were once again given the chance to elect their government.^[5] The elections were held in a polarised environment and are also referred to as the 'Mandal-Mandir' elections after the two most important poll issues, the Mandal Commission fallout and the Ram Mandir-Babri Masjid issue.

Mandal-Mandir Issue

While the Mandal Commission report released by the VP Singh government suggested giving 27 per cent reservation to the Other Backward Castes (OBCs) in government jobs, it led to widespread violence and protests across the country with many students from the Forward Caste groups in and around the capital city of Delhi even setting themselves on fire. 'Mandir'

1991 Indian general election



20 May, 12 June and 15 June 1991^[1]
19 February 1992 (Punjab)

534 of the 543 seats in the Lok Sabha
268 seats needed for a majority

Registered	498,363,801
Turnout	56.73% (▼ 5.22pp)
	
Leader	P. V. Narasimha Rao
Party	INC(I)
Last election	39.53%, 197 seats
Seats won	244
Seat change	▲ 47
Popular vote	101,285,692
Percentage	36.26%
Swing	▼ 3.27pp

	
Leader	V. P. Singh
Party	JD

represented the hallmark of this election, where there was a debate over construction of Ram Mandir at the disputed site of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya which the Hindu right wing Bharatiya Janata Party was using as its major election manifesto. To counter the intense religious polarisation unleashed due to the Ram mandir movement, the ruling Janata Dal heavily campaigned on implementing the Mandal Commission report, which the BJP alleged was a ploy to undermine Hindu unity.

The Mandir-Mandal issue led to numerous riots in many parts of the country and the electorate was polarised on caste and religious lines. With the Janata Dal beginning to fall apart into different splinter groups each supporting a particular caste in a specific state, the Congress (I) managed to make the most of the polarisation, by getting the most seats and forming a minority government.^[6]

Rajiv Gandhi assassination

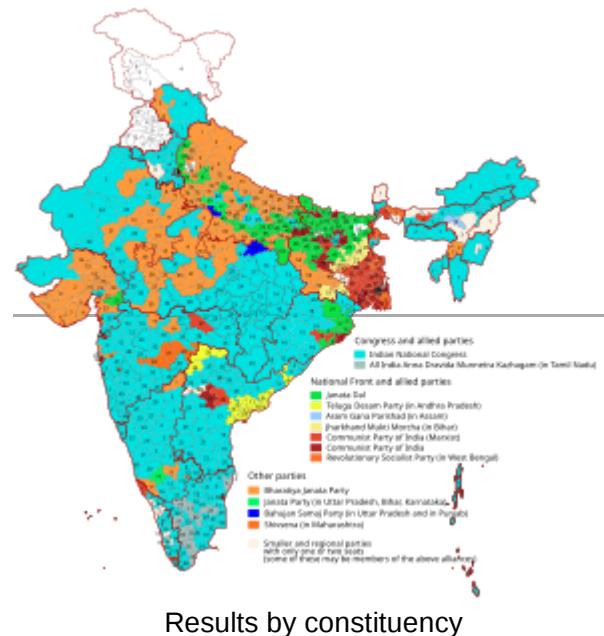
A day after the first round of polling took place on 20 May, former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated while campaigning for Margatham Chandrasekar in Sriperumbudur. The remaining election days were postponed until mid-June and voting finally took place on 12 and 15 June.

Since the assassination took place after first phase of polling in 211 of 534 constituencies and the balance constituencies went to polls after the assassination, the 1991 results varied greatly between phases.^[7]

Congress (I) was almost wiped out in the first phase, and rode a massive sympathy wave of public grief to sweep the second phase.^[5] The end result was a Congress (I)-led minority government supported by the Janata Dal led by P. V. Narasimha Rao, who had previously announced his retirement from politics. While Rao had not contested in the election, he contested in a by-election in Nandyal which he won by a record five lakh votes.

Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab

Alliance	NF	NF
Last election	17.79%, 143 seats	6.55%, 33 seats
Seats won	59	35
Seat change	▼ 84	▲ 2
Popular vote	32,628,400	16,954,797
Percentage	11.84%	6.16%
Swing	▼ 5.95 pp	▼ 0.39 pp

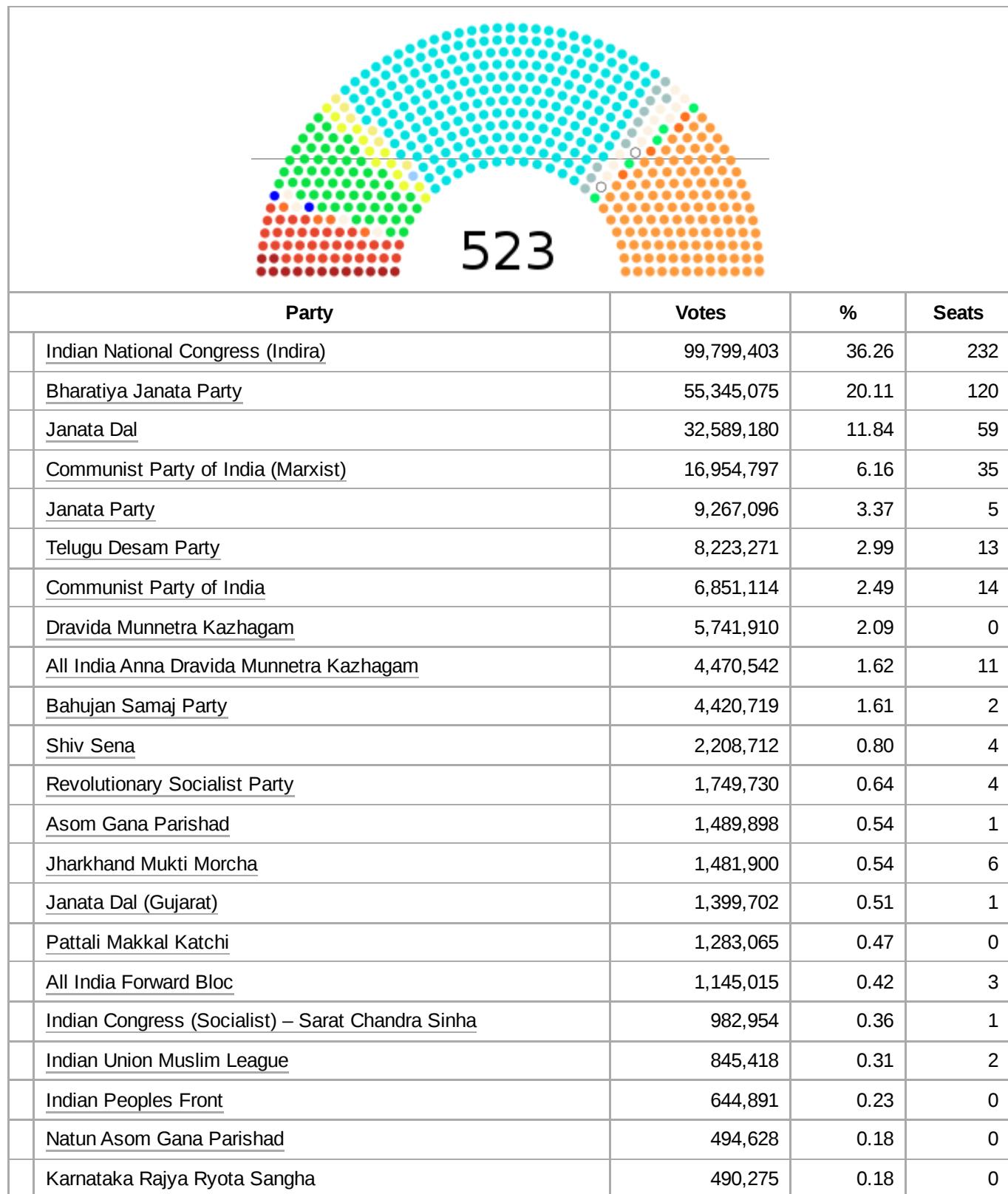


Results by constituency

Prime Minister before election	Prime Minister after election
<u>Chandra Shekhar</u> <u>SJP</u>	<u>P. V. Narasimha Rao</u> <u>INC(I)</u>

76 to 126 people were shot dead during campaign on 17 June 1991 in two attacks by gunmen in Punjab, an area racked by separatist violence. Police reports said the killings, on separate trains, were carried out by Sikh militants.^[8] No elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, a total of 19 Lok Sabha seats.^[9] Elections were held in Punjab on 19 February 1992,^[10] where INC won 12 out of 13 seats,^[11] thereby taking their tally in the Lok Sabha up from 232 to 244.

Results



<u>Doordarshi Party</u>	466,869	0.17	0
<u>All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen</u>	456,900	0.17	1
<u>Kerala Congress (M)</u>	384,255	0.14	1
<u>Jharkhand Party</u>	350,699	0.13	0
<u>Haryana Vikas Party</u>	331,794	0.12	1
<u>Nagaland People's Council</u>	328,015	0.12	1
<u>Bharatiya Republican Paksha</u>	327,941	0.12	0
<u>Kerala Congress</u>	319,933	0.12	0
<u>Peasants and Workers Party of India</u>	295,402	0.11	0
<u>United Minorities Front, Assam</u>	206,737	0.08	0
<u>Lokdal</u>	173,884	0.06	0
<u>Marxist Co-ordination Committee</u>	171,767	0.06	0
<u>United Reservation Movement Council of Assam</u>	170,376	0.06	0
<u>Manipur Peoples Party</u>	169,692	0.06	1
<u>Autonomous State Demand Committee</u>	139,785	0.05	1
<u>Sanjukta Loka Parishad</u>	125,738	0.05	0
<u>Sikkim Sangram Parishad</u>	106,247	0.04	1
<u>Republican Party of India (Khobragade)</u>	91,557	0.03	0
<u>Shiromani Akali Dal (Simaranjit Singh Mann)</u>	88,084	0.03	0
<u>Plain Tribals Council of Assam</u>	87,387	0.03	0
<u>Mizo National Front</u>	82,019	0.03	0
<u>Sarv Jati Janata Parishad</u>	70,368	0.03	0
<u>Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha</u>	67,495	0.02	0
<u>Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party</u>	64,752	0.02	0
<u>Tharasu Makkal Mandram</u>	55,165	0.02	0
<u>Uttarakhand Kranti Dal</u>	47,369	0.02	0
<u>Marxist Communist Party of India (S.S. Srivastava)</u>	43,085	0.02	0
<u>Bharatiya Krishи Udyog Sangh</u>	42,504	0.02	0
<u>Jan Parishad</u>	37,725	0.01	0
<u>Republican Party of India</u>	36,541	0.01	0
<u>Amra Bangali</u>	35,186	0.01	0
<u>Indian Union Muslim League (IML)</u>	31,387	0.01	0
<u>Sampooran Kranti Das</u>	29,647	0.01	0
<u>Akhil Bharatiya Manav Seva Das</u>	28,528	0.01	0
<u>Uttar Pradesh Republican Party</u>	28,379	0.01	0
<u>Yuva Vikas Party</u>	28,159	0.01	0
<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist)</u>	27,730	0.01	0

Jawan Kisan Mazdoor Party	23,929	0.01	0
Proutist Bloc of India	22,734	0.01	0
Soshit Samaj Dal	19,925	0.01	0
Akhil Bharatiya Jansangh	19,243	0.01	0
Orissa Vikas Parishad	15,893	0.01	0
Hul Jharkhand Party	15,406	0.01	0
Socialist Party of India (Lohia)	12,928	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Hindustani Krantikari Samajwadi Party	12,820	0.00	0
Dalit Panthers Party	11,967	0.00	0
Bharatiya Loktantrik Mazdoor Dal	10,837	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Revolutionary Samaj Dal	8,825	0.00	0
Akhil Bhartiya Shivsena-Rashtrawadi	8,810	0.00	0
Asom Jatiyatabadi Dal	8,519	0.00	0
Ambedkar Makkal Iyakkam	8,252	0.00	0
Asom Jatiya Parishad	8,047	0.00	0
Socialist Party (Ramakant Pandey)	7,104	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Pichhadavarg Party	6,897	0.00	0
All India Dalit Muslim Minorities Suraksha Mahasangh	5,888	0.00	0
Vidarbha Praja Party	5,597	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Gram Parishad	5,521	0.00	0
Akhil Bhartiya Dharmnirpeksh Dal	5,436	0.00	0
Hindu Swaraj Sangathan	5,325	0.00	0
Republican Presidium Party of India	4,967	0.00	0
Surajya Party	4,705	0.00	0
Sarvodaya Party	4,642	0.00	0
Janata Dal (Samajwadi)	4,548	0.00	0
Deseeya Karshaka Party	4,508	0.00	0
Gondwana Party	3,605	0.00	0
Azad Hind Fauz (Rajkiya)	3,543	0.00	0
Samdarshi Party	2,921	0.00	0
Lok Party	2,873	0.00	0
Socialist League of India	2,852	0.00	0
All India Urdu Morcha	2,655	0.00	0
Akhil Bhartiya Ramrajya Parishad (Vasudev Shastri Atul)	2,519	0.00	0
All India Kisan Mazdoor Sabha	2,311	0.00	0
Pondicherry Mannila Makkal Munnani	2,259	0.00	0
Pandav Dal	2,213	0.00	0

<u>Internationalist Democratic Party</u>	2,078	0.00	0
Gomant Lok Party	1,983	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Desh Bhakt Morcha	1,792	0.00	0
<u>Workers Party of India</u>	1,781	0.00	0
<u>Nationalist Party</u>	1,768	0.00	0
Marx Engles Leninist Commune Health Association	1,692	0.00	0
Nagaland Peoples Party	1,572	0.00	0
Adarsh Lok Dal	1,544	0.00	0
Desh Bhakt Party	1,521	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Bharat Desham Party	1,466	0.00	0
<u>Republican Party of India (Kamble)</u>	1,300	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Janhit Jagrati Party	1,245	0.00	0
Mukt Bharat	1,191	0.00	0
Rashtriya Krantikari Dal	1,125	0.00	0
Sampooran Rashtriya Sena	1,040	0.00	0
Gramma Munnetra Kazhagam	1,030	0.00	0
Navbharat Party	787	0.00	0
Labour Party of India (V.V. Prasad)	684	0.00	0
Thayaga Marumalrchi Kazhagam	665	0.00	0
Poorvanchal Rashtriya Congress	605	0.00	0
Jammu-Kashmir Panthers Party	587	0.00	0
Kannada Paksha	576	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Mahila Dal	573	0.00	0
Socialist Revolutionary Party	571	0.00	0
Lokhit Morcha	532	0.00	0
<u>Republican Party of India (Athawale)</u>	521	0.00	0
Labour Party (Ashok Bhattacharjee)	434	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Loktantra Party	408	0.00	0
Cheluva Kannad Nadu	383	0.00	0
Azad Party	372	0.00	0
Democratic Party of India	359	0.00	0
Bharatiya Backward Party	329	0.00	0
Hindu Shiv Sena (A.K. Brahmbatt)	325	0.00	0
Rashtriya Unnatsheel Das	316	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Gram Parishad	314	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Loktantric Alpsankhyak Janmorcha	257	0.00	0
Sr. Citizens National Party of India	250	0.00	0

Socialist Labour League	246	0.00	0
M.G.R. Munnetra Kazhagam	228	0.00	0
Mahabharat People's Party	225	0.00	0
Janata Congress Party of Bharatvarsha	194	0.00	0
Akhil Bhartiya Hindu Shakti Dal	193	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Socialist Party	166	0.00	0
Kannada Desh Party	164	0.00	0
Bharatiya Dhruba Labour Party	142	0.00	0
Jai Mahakali Nigrani Samiti	138	0.00	0
Bhartiya Sanghit Nagrik Party	120	0.00	0
Vishal Bharat Party	56	0.00	0
Jan Ekata Morcha	34	0.00	0
Independents	11,441,688	4.16	1
Nominated Anglo-Indians			2
Total	275,206,990	100.00	523
Valid votes	275,206,990	97.35	
Invalid/blank votes	7,493,952	2.65	
Total votes	282,700,942	100.00	
Registered voters/turnout	498,363,801	56.73	

Source: ECI (<https://eci.gov.in/files/file/4121-general-election-1991-vol-i-ii/?do=download&r=9764&confirm=1&t=1&csrfKey=6fdbcc3fe6a2e2fce996db3722892e72>)

Delayed elections in Punjab

Party	Votes	%	Seats
Indian National Congress (Indira)	1,486,289	49.27	12
Bahujan Samaj Party	594,628	19.71	1
Bharatiya Janata Party	497,999	16.51	0
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	119,902	3.98	0
Shiromani Akali Dal (Simranjit Singh Mann)	77,970	2.58	0
Communist Party of India	47,226	1.57	0
Janata Dal	39,220	1.30	0
Janata Party	27,966	0.93	0
Lokdal	2,839	0.09	0
Bharatiya Krishi Udyog Sangh	1,349	0.04	0
Independents	121,009	4.01	0
Total	3,016,397	100.00	13

Valid votes	3,016,397	95.59	
Invalid/blank votes	139,126	4.41	
Total votes	3,155,523	100.00	
Registered voters/turnout	13,169,797	23.96	
Source: ECI (https://eci.gov.in/files/file/4122-general-election-1992-vol-i-ii/?do=download&r=9767&confirm=1&t=1&csrfKey=6fdbcc3fe6a2e2fce996db3722892e72)			

Aftermath

Congress(I) was in a position to form government. The persons, mentioned in media, as probable Prime Minister, were:^[12]

- *Former Home, and Foreign minister P. V. Narasimha Rao.*^[12]
- *Chief Minister of Maharashtra Sharad Pawar.*^[12]
- *Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Arjun Singh.*^[12]
- *Former Finance, and Foreign minister N. D. Tiwari.*^[13]

At the suggestion of Rajiv's widow Sonia, P. V. Narasimha Rao was chosen as the prime-ministerial candidate of Congress (Indira). Rao, who got himself by-elected from Nandyal, secured the outside support of the Janata Dal & Jharkhand Mukti Morcha under controversial circumstances. After Lal Bahadur Shastri, Rao was the second Congress Prime Minister from outside the Nehru-Gandhi family and the second Congress Prime Minister to head a minority government that completed full 5-year term (Indira Gandhi also headed a minority government from 1969 to 1971 following the 1969 split of the Congress party into Congress(O) & Congress(R)).^[14]

Government

See also

- List of members of the 10th Lok Sabha
- Election Commission of India
- 1992 Indian general election in Punjab

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■



1989 Indian general election

General elections were held in India on 22 and 26 November 1989 to elect the members of the ninth Lok Sabha.^[1] The incumbent Indian National Congress (Indira) government under the premiership of Rajiv Gandhi lost its mandate, even though it was still the largest single party in the Lok Sabha.^{[2][3]} V. P. Singh, the leader of the second largest party Janata Dal (which also headed the National Front) was invited by the President of India to form the government.^[4] The government was formed with outside support from the Bharatiya Janata Party and Communist parties led by CPI(M).^[5] V. P. Singh was sworn in as the seventh Prime Minister of India on 2 December 1989.

Background

The 1989 Indian general election were held because the previous Lok Sabha had been in power for five years, and the constitution allowed for new elections. Even though Rajiv Gandhi had won the last election by a unprecedented landslide of 414 seats (mainly due to an overwhelming outpour of popular grief for to his mother's assassination), this election saw him trying to fight off scandals that had marred his administration.

The Bofors scandal, Gandhi's supposed attempt at shielding Adil Shahryar, who had been involved in the 1984 Bhopal tragedy, allegations of Muslim appeasement in the wake of the Shah Bano case, rising insurgency in Assam, insurrection in Punjab, Indian involvement in the Sri Lankan civil war were just some of the problems that stared at his government. Rajiv's biggest critic was Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who held the portfolios of the finance ministry and the defence ministry in the government.

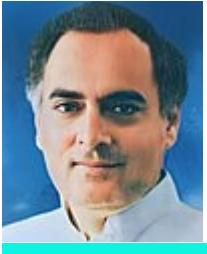
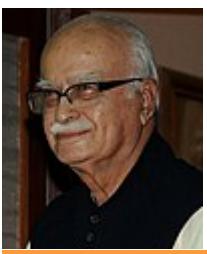
But Singh was soon sacked from the Cabinet and he then resigned from his memberships in the Congress and the Lok Sabha. He formed the Jana Morcha with Arun Nehru and Arif Mohammad Khan and re-entered the Lok Sabha as an Independent MP from

1989 Indian general election



22 and 26 November 1989^[1]

529 of the 543 seats in the Lok Sabha
265 seats needed for a majority

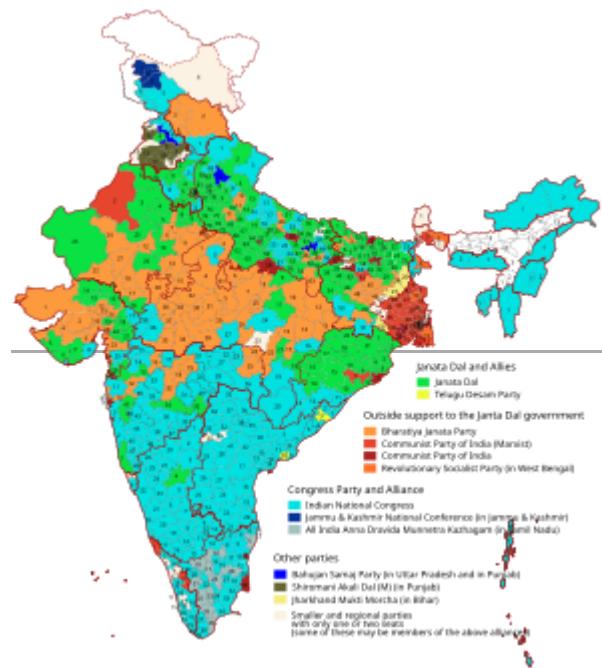
Registered	498,906,129
Turnout	61.95% (▼ 2.06pp)
	
Leader	Rajiv Gandhi
Party	INC(I)
Alliance	INC (I)+
Last election	46.86%, 414 seats
Seats won	197
Seat change	▼ 217
Popular vote	118,894,702
Percentage	39.53%
Swing	▼ 7.33pp
	
Leader	L. K. Advani
Party	BJP
Alliance	CPI(M) LF

Allahabad. Witnessing V. P. Singh's meteoric rise on national stage, Rajiv tried to counter^[6] him with another prominent Rajput stalwart Satyendra Narain Singh but failed eventually.

On 11 October 1988, the birth anniversary of Jayprakasha Narayan, V. P. Singh made Jana Morcha merge with the Janata Party & some of its breakaway factions like the Janata Party (Secular), Lok Dal & Congress (Jagjivan) to form the Janata Dal. Singh then formed the National Front consisting of the Janata Dal, Congress (Socialist) of Sarat Chandra Sinha, TDP of N. T. Rama Rao, DMK of M. Karunanidhi & AGP of Prafulla Mahanta. The National Front also received outside support of Lal Krishna Advani from the Bharatiya Janata Party (which had also been formed out of the Janata Party) & Jyoti Basu from the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

To remove the allegations of Muslim appeasement against the Congress (I) party, Rajiv Gandhi took the step of unlocking the gates of the disputed Babri Masjid in Ayodhya in 1986,^[7] which inadvertently caused increased public consciousness about the dispute over the site. The BJP was able to galvanize significant support from the country's Hindu majority towards itself by its electoral promise of constructing a Hindu temple at the site after tearing down the mosque.

Last election	7.74%, 2 seats	5.87%, 22 seats
Seats won	85	33
Seat change	▲ 83	▲ 11
Popular vote	34,171,477	19,691,309
Percentage	11.36%	6.55%
Swing	▲ 3.62pp	▲ 0.68pp

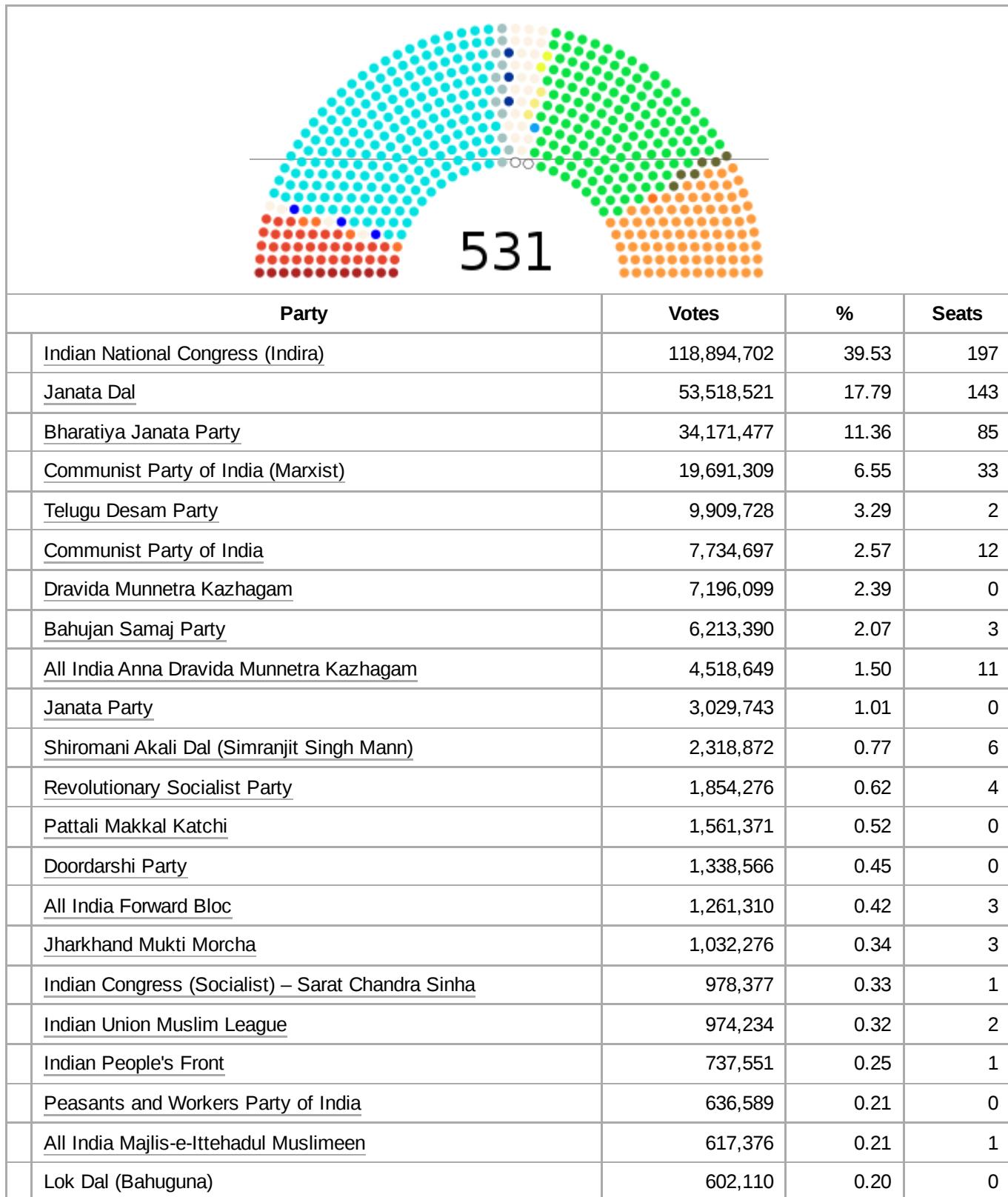


Results by constituency

Prime Minister before election	Prime Minister after election
Rajiv Gandhi INC(I)	V. P. Singh JD

Voting was not held in Assam due to rising unrest and a rebellion of Bodos, culminating into a massacre of 535 people at Gohpur. Moreover, the Union territory of Goa, Daman and Diu was bifurcated into Goa and Daman & Diu with Goa retaining its 2 seats and the latter gaining 1 seat. Thus the total Lok Sabha seats increased by 1 to a total of 543. Since Assam never went to the polls, the total seats contested in this election was down to 529.

Results



Bharatiya Republican Paksha	572,434	0.19	0
Karnataka Rajya Ryota Sangha	495,565	0.16	0
Republican Party of India (Khobragade)	468,615	0.16	0
Gorkha National Liberation Front	435,070	0.14	1
Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal)	427,609	0.14	0
Jharkhand Dal	367,838	0.12	0
Kerala Congress (M)	352,191	0.12	1
Shiv Sena	339,426	0.11	1
Marxist Co-ordination Committee	247,013	0.08	1
Nagaland People's Council	239,124	0.08	0
Hindu Mahasabha	217,514	0.07	1
Manipur Peoples Party	147,128	0.05	0
Republican Party of India	129,300	0.04	0
Humanist Party of India	122,947	0.04	0
All India Dalit Muslim Minorities Suraksha Mahasangh	120,159	0.04	0
Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party	116,392	0.04	1
Kuki National Assembly	108,085	0.04	0
Shiromani Akali Dal	100,570	0.03	0
Marxist Communist Party of India (S.S. Srivastava)	100,300	0.03	0
People's Party of Arunachal	96,181	0.03	0
Uttar Pradesh Republican Party	91,740	0.03	0
Sikkim Sangram Parishad	91,608	0.03	1
Amra Bangali	80,834	0.03	0
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	71,194	0.02	3
Mizo National Front	70,749	0.02	0
Kerala Congress	68,811	0.02	0
Tharasu Makkal Mandaram	64,885	0.02	0
Democratic Party	43,667	0.01	0
Shoshit Samaj Dal	42,282	0.01	0
Uttarakhand Kranti Dal	39,465	0.01	0
Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist)	38,937	0.01	0
Muslim Majlis Uttar Pradesh	25,839	0.01	0
Proutist Bloc Of India	23,331	0.01	0
Jammu & Kashmir Panthers Party	22,625	0.01	0
Bharatiya Jana Sangh	22,446	0.01	0
Karnataka Gana Parishad	19,593	0.01	0
Socialist Party (Lohiya)	17,639	0.01	0

Tamiliar Kazhagam	12,859	0.00	0
Rising Sun Party	12,858	0.00	0
Indian Congress (J) Trikha Group	12,539	0.00	0
Socialist Party	12,430	0.00	0
Socialist Unity Centre of India	8,747	0.00	0
All India Garib Congress	7,635	0.00	0
Hul Jharkhand Party	6,663	0.00	0
Bhatiya Krishi Udyog Sangh	5,895	0.00	0
Lok Party	4,731	0.00	0
Akhil Bhartiya Gorkha League (Budhiman Gurung)	4,426	0.00	0
Shoshit Samaj Party	3,756	0.00	0
Scientific Vedic Revolutionary Party	3,470	0.00	0
Deseeya Karshaka Party	3,059	0.00	0
Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad	2,998	0.00	0
Barat Desam Labour Party	2,944	0.00	0
Progressive Hul Jharkhand	2,890	0.00	0
Repubicon Presidium Party	2,791	0.00	0
West Orissa Peoples Front	2,682	0.00	0
West Bengal Socialist Party (Biman Mitra)	2,411	0.00	0
All India Shiromani Baba Jiwan Singh Mazhbi Dal	2,368	0.00	0
Akhil Bhartiya Hindustani Krantikari Samajwadi Party	2,263	0.00	0
Green Party of India	2,142	0.00	0
Akhil Baratiya Pichhra Varg Party	2,055	0.00	0
Tamil Nadu Peoples Welfare Association	1,964	0.00	0
Sadharam Rajya Parishad	1,928	0.00	0
Indian National Congress (O) Anti-Merger Group	1,735	0.00	0
Gujarat Janata Parishad	1,577	0.00	0
All India Justice Party	1,428	0.00	0
Peoples Democracy of India	1,392	0.00	0
Punjab Peoples Party	1,374	0.00	0
Hindustan Janata Party	1,361	0.00	0
Bharatha Makkal Congress	1,357	0.00	0
Deccan Congress	1,332	0.00	0
Akhil Bhartiya Lok Tantrik Party	1,272	0.00	0
Vijaya Shakti	1,093	0.00	0
Bhartiya Loktantrik Mazdoor Dal	1,035	0.00	0
Pandav Dal	918	0.00	0

National Republican Party	839	0.00	0
Bhartiya Loktantrik Mazdoor Sangh	703	0.00	0
Mahabharat Peoples Party	694	0.00	0
Indian Union Muslim League (IML)	687	0.00	0
Manipur Peoples Council	677	0.00	0
Vishal Bharat Pary	621	0.00	0
Republican Party of India (Gavai Group)	539	0.00	0
Punjab Kairon Dal	493	0.00	0
Peoples Party of India	478	0.00	0
Indian Labour Party	406	0.00	0
Socialist Labour League	391	0.00	0
Bharatiya Krantikari Kisan Sang	367	0.00	0
Kamaraj Desiya Congress	322	0.00	0
Punjab Naya Front	314	0.00	0
Hindu Shiv Sena	160	0.00	0
Bhartiya Lok Kalyan Dal	145	0.00	0
Labour Party of India	99	0.00	0
Independents	15,793,781	5.25	12
Nominated Anglo-Indians			2
Total	300,776,423	100.00	531
Valid votes	300,776,423	97.32	
Invalid/blank votes	8,274,072	2.68	
Total votes	309,050,495	100.00	
Registered voters/turnout	498,906,129	61.95	

Source: ECI (<https://eci.gov.in/files/file/4120-general-election-1989-vol-i-ii/?do=download&r=9761&confirm=1&t=1&csrfKey=0a53970c570a9414c865fa27dd5a8267>)

Aftermath

V. P. Singh, who was the head of the Janata Dal, was chosen leader of the National Front government with outside support of the BJP & CPI(M).^[8] The alliance broke down after Singh supported Bihar's Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav's step to arrest Advani in Samastipur to stop his Ram Rath Yatra, which was going to the Babri Masjid site in Ayodhya on 23 October 1990. Following this incident, BJP withdrew their support to Singh government, causing them to lose parliamentary vote of confidence on 7 November 1990.^[9]

Chandra Shekhar broke away from the Janata Dal with 64 MPs and formed the Samajwadi Janata Party in 1990. He got outside support from the Congress(I) and became the 8th Prime Minister of India. He finally resigned on 21 June 1991, after the Congress(I) withdrew its support alleging that the Chandra Shekhar government was spying on Rajiv Gandhi.

See also

- V. P. Singh ministry
- Chandra Shekhar ministry
- List of members of the 9th Lok Sabha
- Election Commission of India
- 1987 Indian presidential election

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1984 Indian general election

General elections were held in India on 24, 27 and 28 December 1984 soon after the assassination of previous Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, though the vote in Assam and Punjab was delayed until 1985 due to ongoing insurgency.

The elections were a landslide victory for the Indian National Congress (Indira) of Rajiv Gandhi (son of Indira Gandhi), which won 404 of the 514 seats elected in 1984 and a further 10 in the delayed elections. The Telugu Desam Party of N. T. Rama Rao, a regional political party from the state of Andhra Pradesh, was the second largest party, winning 30 seats, thus achieving the distinction of becoming the first regional party to become a national opposition party. AIADMK of Tamil Nadu contested the election in alliance with the INC (I), and won 12 seats.^[1]

Voting was held immediately after the assassination of Indira Gandhi and the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in November and most of the Indian voters supported Congress (Indira) due to a heavy outpouring of public grief at Gandhi's death.

1984 Indian general election



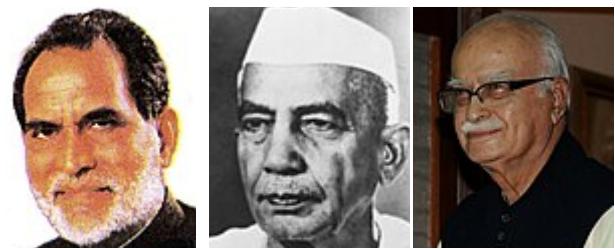
24, 27 and 28 December 1984

541 of the 543 seats in the Lok Sabha
271 seats needed for a majority

Registered	400,375,333	
Turnout	64.01% (▲ 7.09pp)	
Leader	Rajiv Gandhi	N. T. Rama Rao
Party	INC(I)	TDP
Alliance		LF
Last election	42.69%, 353 seats	6.24%, 37 seats
Seats won	414	30
Seat change	▲ 61	New ▼ 15
Popular vote	120,107,044	10,132,859
Percentage	46.86%	4.31%
Swing	▲ 4.17pp	New ▼ 0.37pp



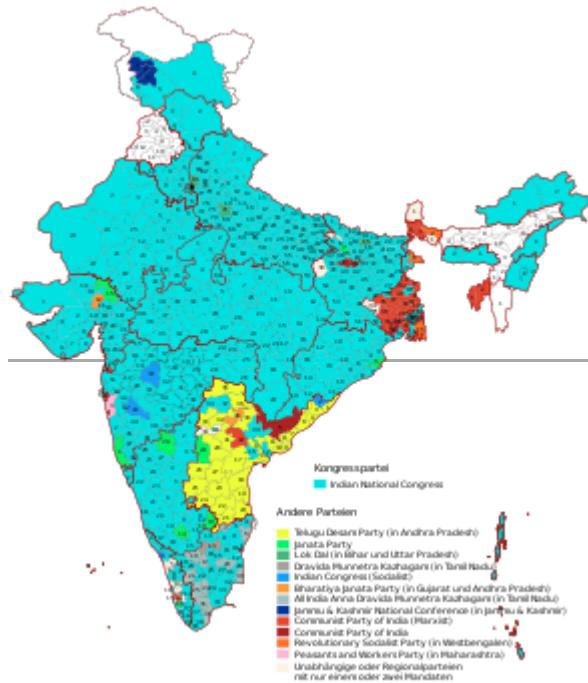
Leader	Chandra Shekhar	Charan Singh	L. K. Advani
Party	JP	LKD	BJP



The 1984 elections were the last in which a single party won a majority of seats until [2014](#), and the only time to date in which a party won more than 400 seats.

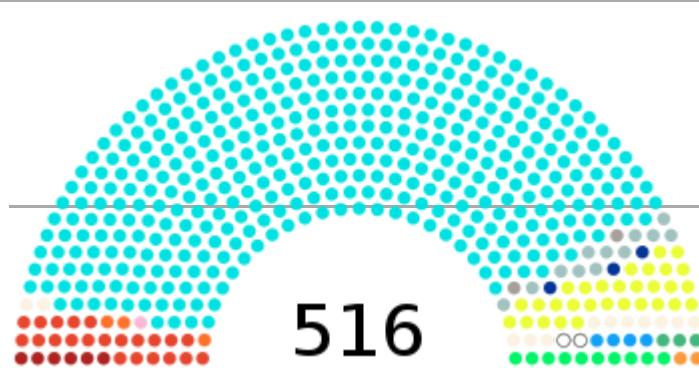
Results

Last election	18.97%, 31 seats	New	New
Seats won	10	3	2
Seat change	▼ 21	New	New
Popular vote	16,210,514	14,040,064	18,202,853
Percentage	6.89%	5.97%	7.74%
Swing	▼ 12.08pp	New	New



Results by constituency

Prime Minister before election	Prime Minister after election
Rajiv Gandhi INC(I)	Rajiv Gandhi INC(I)



Party	Votes	%	Seats
Indian National Congress (Indira)	115,478,267	49.10	404
Bharatiya Janata Party	18,202,853	7.74	2

<u>Janata Party</u>	16,210,514	6.89	10
<u>Lokdal</u>	14,040,064	5.97	3
<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist)</u>	13,809,950	5.87	22
<u>Telugu Desam Party</u>	10,132,859	4.31	30
<u>Communist Party of India</u>	6,363,430	2.71	6
<u>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	5,695,179	2.42	2
<u>All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	3,968,967	1.69	12
<u>Indian Congress (Socialist)</u>	3,577,377	1.52	4
<u>Indian National Congress (Jagjivan)</u>	1,511,515	0.64	1
<u>Revolutionary Socialist Party</u>	1,173,869	0.50	3
<u>All India Forward Bloc</u>	1,055,556	0.45	2
<u>Jammu & Kashmir National Conference</u>	1,010,243	0.43	3
<u>Indian Union Muslim League</u>	658,821	0.28	2
<u>Kerala Congress (Joseph)</u>	598,113	0.25	2
<u>Doordarshi Party</u>	508,426	0.22	0
<u>Peasants and Workers Party of India</u>	463,963	0.20	1
<u>Jharkhand Mukti Morcha</u>	332,403	0.14	0
<u>Kerala Congress</u>	258,591	0.11	0
<u>All India Muslim League</u>	224,155	0.10	0
<u>Gandhi Kamraj National Congress</u>	217,104	0.09	0
<u>Socialist Unity Centre of India</u>	196,767	0.08	0
<u>Republican Party of India (Khobragade)</u>	165,320	0.07	0
<u>Manipur Peoples Party</u>	149,019	0.06	0
<u>Tamil Nadu Congress (K)</u>	144,076	0.06	0
<u>Naga National Democratic Party</u>	113,919	0.05	0
<u>Jammu & Kashmir Panthers Party</u>	95,149	0.04	0
<u>Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party</u>	83,122	0.04	0
<u>People's Party of Arunachal</u>	78,455	0.03	0
<u>Republican Party of India</u>	22,877	0.01	0
<u>Jharkhand Party</u>	18,837	0.01	0
<u>Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Conference</u>	646	0.00	0
<u>Independents</u>	18,623,803	7.92	5
<u>Appointed Anglo-Indians</u>			2
Total	235,184,209	100.00	516
Valid votes	235,184,209	97.49	
Invalid/blank votes	6,062,678	2.51	
Total votes	241,246,887	100.00	

Registered voters/turnout	379,540,608	63.56	
Source: ECI (https://www.eci.gov.in/eci-backend/public/api/download?url=LMAhAK6sOPBp%2FNFF0iRfXbEB1EVSLT41NNLRjYNJJP1KivrUxbfqkDatmHy12e%2FzVx8fLn2ReU7TfrqYobglioTRtrX9vvkQ8IDf9Brh2QljsDaFYGfpJM9zoHo8J9PwdGGp0XefbaBYdvPF8WFYJhpk%2BW%2Bp89Gy9OKaFe1hlV80Naz6W6EWVdsoeDF0ia)			

Delayed elections in Assam and Punjab

The elections in Punjab were held in September 1985 after the signing of the Rajiv–Longowal Accord between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Akali leader Harchand Singh Longowal on 24 July 1985. The elections were held alongside elections to the Punjab Legislative Assembly.^[2] In Assam elections were held in December 1985 after the signing of the Assam Accord in August 1985.^[2]



Party	Votes	%	Seats
Indian National Congress (Indira)	4,628,777	32.14	10
Shiromani Akali Dal	2,577,279	17.90	7
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	462,576	3.21	0
Indian Congress (Socialist)	457,705	3.18	1
Communist Party of India	369,687	2.57	0
Plain Tribals Council of Assam	310,150	2.15	1
Bharatiya Janata Party	263,284	1.83	0
Janata Party	420,082	2.92	0
Lokdal	46,627	0.32	0
Independents	4,864,958	33.78	8
Total	14,401,125	100.00	27
Valid votes	14,401,125	95.70	
Invalid/blank votes	646,951	4.30	
Total votes	15,048,076	100.00	
Registered voters/turnout	20,834,725	72.23	

Source: ECI (<https://www.eci.gov.in/eci-backend/public/api/download?url=LMAhAK6sOPBp%2FNFF0iRfXbEB1EVSLT41NNLRjYNJJP1KivrUxbfqkDutmHy12e%2FzVx8fLfn2ReU7TfrqYobglu%2BY1riOdtLqDPjuHK%2BWBTls%2Fs7eWaiORvggh9NZUu3Dhn2%2B0peSE%2F6jkqAXewxbNCqdDnW5UMpJMTM2Ys0Nt%2BP%2FJ2%2BdBIBswoUnKE3KB7EMq>)

See also

- [List of members of the 8th Lok Sabha](#)
- [Election Commission of India](#)
- [1982 Indian presidential election](#)

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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

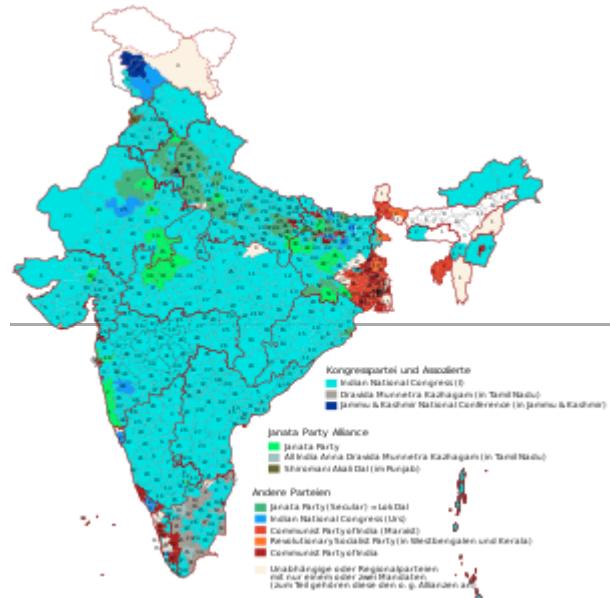
265 seats needed for a majority

Registered	356,205,329		
Turnout	56.92% (▼ 5.55pp)		
Leader	Indira Gandhi	Charan Singh	E. M. S. Namboodiripad
Party	INC(I)	JP(S)	CPI(M)
Alliance	INC (I)+		LF
Last election	34.52%, 154 seats	—	4.29%, 22 seats
Seats won	353	41	37
Seat change	▲ 199	New	▲ 15
Popular vote	84,455,313	18,574,696	12,352,331
Percentage	42.69%	9.39%	6.24%
Swing	▲ 8.17pp	New	▲ 1.95pp
Leader	Jagjivan Ram	A. K. Antony	
Party	JP	INC(U)	
Alliance	JP+		

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.^[1]^[2] 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

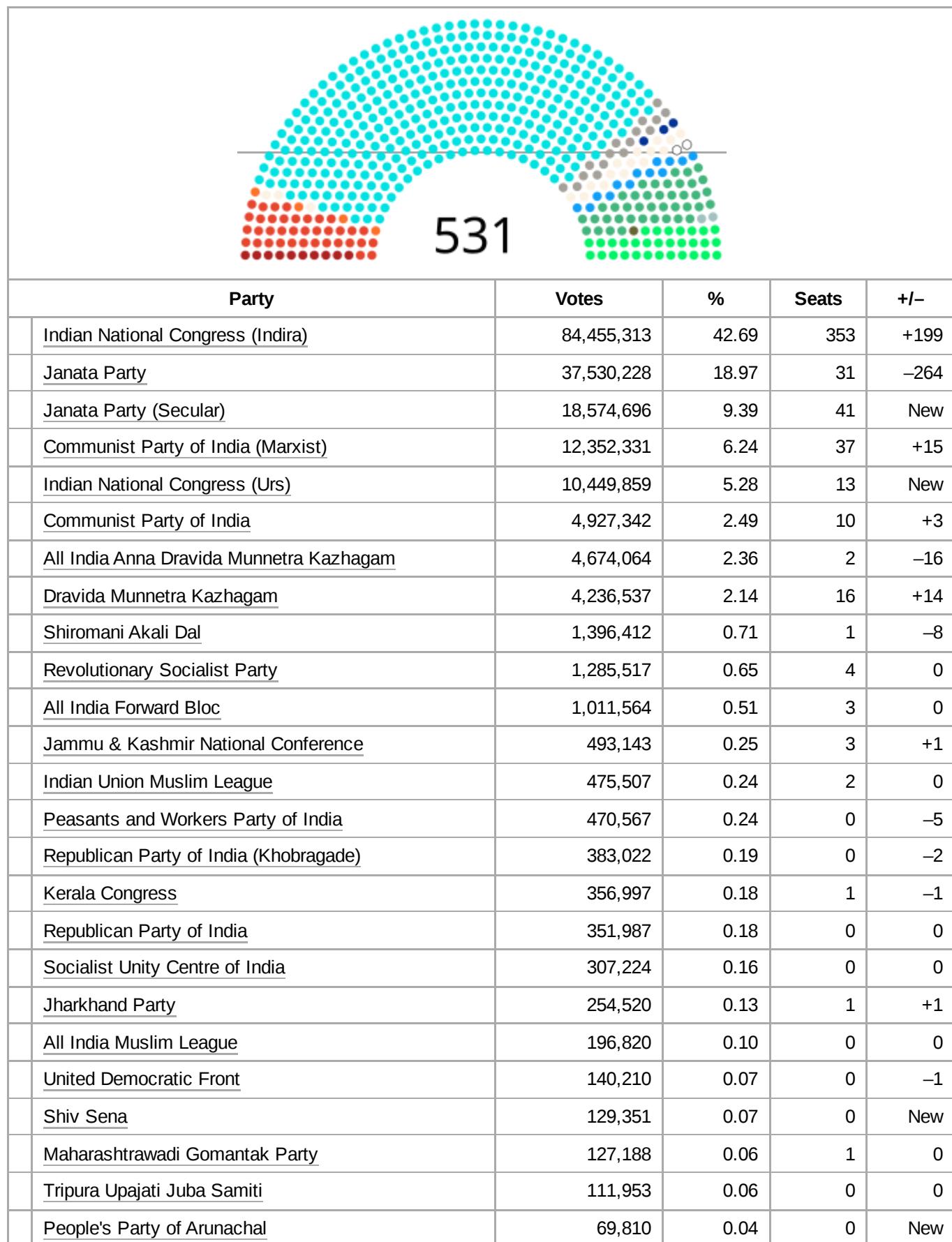


Results by constituency

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



Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad	61,161	0.03	0	0
Peoples Conference	53,891	0.03	0	New
Manipur Peoples Party	49,277	0.02	0	0
Indian Socialist Party	39,399	0.02	0	New
Shoshit Samaj Dal (Akhil Bharatiya)	38,226	0.02	0	0
Sikkim Janata Parishad	31,750	0.02	1	New
Muslim Majlis	26,363	0.01	0	New
All India Labour Party	14,720	0.01	0	0
All Party Hill Leaders Conference	13,058	0.01	0	New
Sikkim Congress (Revolutionary)	11,632	0.01	0	New
Sikkim Prajatantra Congress	5,125	0.00	0	New
Independents	12,717,510	6.43	9	0
Appointed Anglo-Indians			2	0
Total	197,824,274	100.00	531	-13
Valid votes	197,824,274	97.57		
Invalid/blank votes	4,928,619	2.43		
Total votes	202,752,893	100.00		
Registered voters/turnout	356,205,329	56.92		

Source: ECI (https://web.archive.org/web/20140718175926/http://eci.nic.in/eci_main/StatisticalReports/LS_1980/Vol_I_LS_80.pdf)

See also

- [List of members of the 7th Lok Sabha](#)
- [Election Commission of India](#)
- [1977 Indian presidential election](#)

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1977 Indian general election

General elections were held in India between 16 and 20 March 1977 to elect the members of the sixth Lok Sabha.^[2] The elections took place during the Emergency period, which expired on 21 March 1977, shortly before the final results were announced.^[1]

The elections resulted in a heavy defeat for the Indian National Congress (R), with the incumbent Prime Minister and INC(R) party leader Indira Gandhi losing her seat in Rae Bareli, while her son Sanjay lost his seat in Amethi.^[3] The call for restoration of democracy by revoking the Emergency is considered to be a major reason for the sweeping victory for the opposition Janata Alliance,^[4] whose leader Morarji Desai was sworn in as the fourth Prime Minister of India on 24 March. At 81, Desai became the oldest man to be elected Prime Minister of India.

Background

The sixth general elections, which were conducted for 542 seats in single-member constituencies, represented 27 Indian states and union territories.^[5] These 542 constituencies remained same until 2004 Indian general elections for the 14th Lok Sabha.

The Emergency declared by the Indira Gandhi led Congress(R) government was the core issue in the 1977 elections. Civil liberties were suspended during the national emergency from 25 June 1975 to 21 March 1977 and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi assumed vast powers.

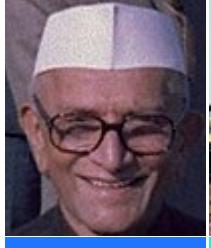
1977 Indian general election



16–20 March 1977^[1]

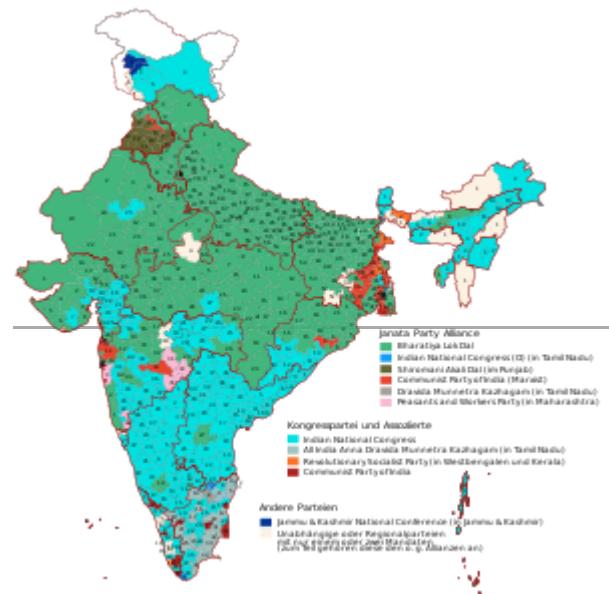
542 of the 544 seats in the Lok Sabha

272 seats needed for a majority

Registered	321,174,327		
Turnout	60.49% (▲ 5.22pp)		
			
Leader	Morarji Desai	Indira Gandhi	Puchalapalli Sundarayya
Party	JP	INC(R)	CPI(M)
Alliance	JP+LF	INC (R)+	JP+LF
Last election	20.33%, 51 seats	43.68%, 352 seats	5.12%, 25 seats
Seats won	295	154	22
Seat change	▲ 209	▼ 198	▼ 3
Popular vote	78,062,828	65,211,589	8,113,659
Percentage	41.32%	34.52%	4.29%
Swing	▲ 20.99pp	▼ 9.16pp	▼ 0.83pp

Gandhi had become unpopular for her decision and paid for it during the elections. On 18 January, Gandhi called for fresh elections and released some political prisoners. Many remained in prison until she was ousted from office and a new prime minister took over.^[6] On 20 January, four opposition parties, the Indian National Congress (Organisation), the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the Bharatiya Lok Dal and the Praja Socialist Party, decided to fight the elections under a single banner called the Janata alliance.^[1] The alliance used the symbol allocated to Bhartiya Lok Dal as their symbol on the ballot papers.

The Janata Alliance reminded voters of the excesses and human rights violations during the Emergency, like compulsory sterilisation and imprisonment of political leaders. The Janata campaign said the elections would decide whether India would have "democracy or dictatorship."^[7] The Congress(R) looked jittery. Agriculture and Irrigation



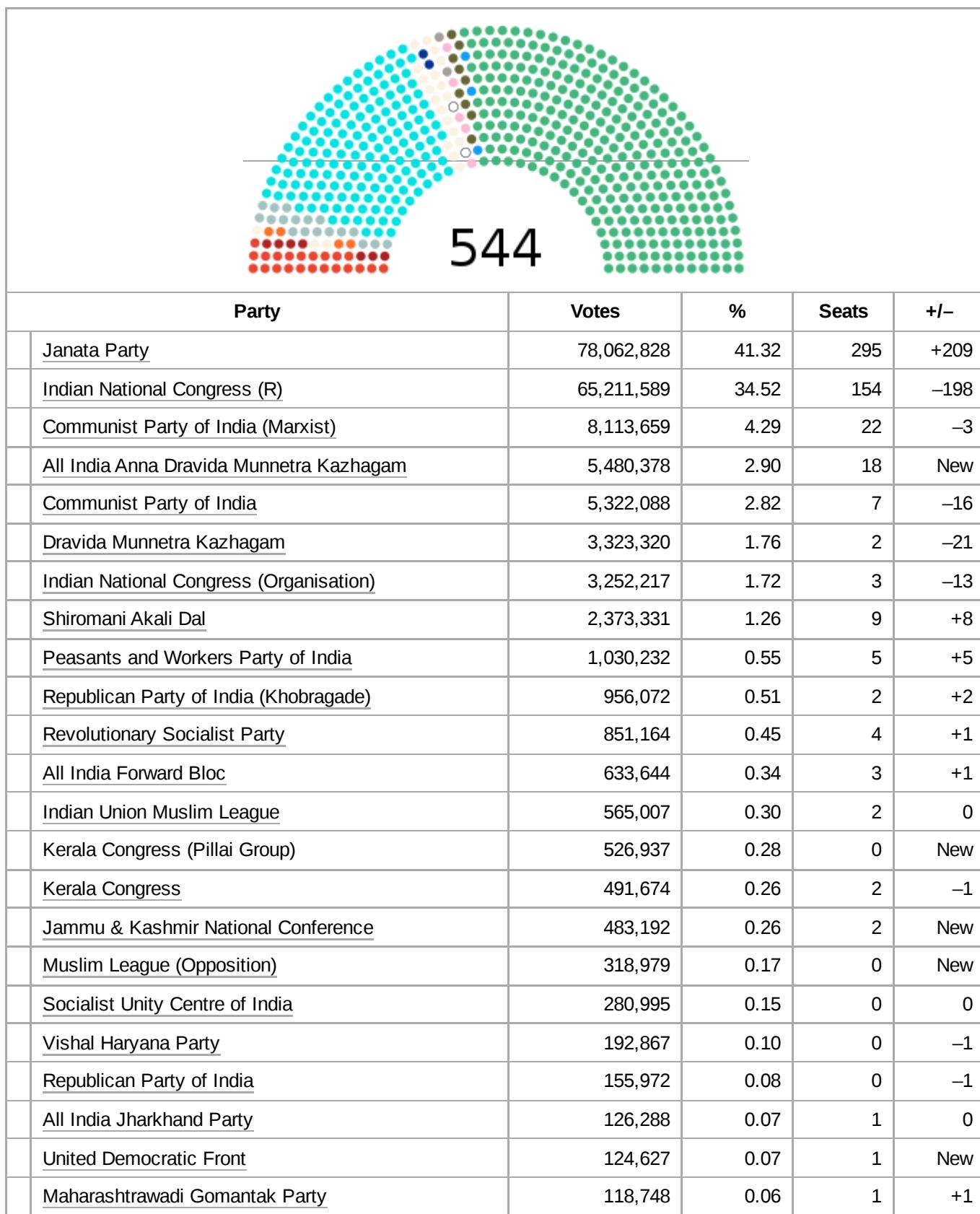
Results by constituency

Prime Minister before election
Indira Gandhi
INC(R)

Prime Minister after election
Morarji Desai
JP

Minister Babu Jagjivan Ram quit the party in the first week of February; other notable Congress(R) stalwarts who crossed the floor with Jagjivan Ram before the election were Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna and Nandini Satpathy.

Results



<u>Jharkhand Party</u>	116,961	0.06	0	New
<u>Manipur Peoples Party</u>	109,130	0.06	0	0
<u>Shoshit Samaj Dal (Akhil Bharatiya)</u>	96,753	0.05	0	New
<u>Revolutionary Communist Party of India</u>	45,047	0.02	0	0
<u>Tripura Upajati Juba Samiti</u>	35,916	0.02	0	New
<u>Hindu Mahasabha</u>	35,419	0.02	0	0
<u>Bihar Prant Hul Jharkhand</u>	27,116	0.01	0	0
<u>Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad</u>	26,169	0.01	0	0
<u>All India Labour Party</u>	17,191	0.01	0	New
<u>Akhil Bharatiya Gorkha League</u>	12,509	0.01	0	0
<u>All India Shiromani Baba Jivan Singh Mazabhi Dal</u>	5,868	0.00	0	New
<u>Independents</u>	10,393,617	5.50	9	-5
<u>Appointed Anglo-Indians</u>			2	0
Total	188,917,504	100.00	544	+23
Valid votes	188,917,504	97.25		
Invalid/blank votes	5,346,411	2.75		
Total votes	194,263,915	100.00		
Registered voters/turnout	321,174,327	60.49		

Source: ECI (<https://eci.gov.in/files/file/4116-general-election-1977-vol-i-ii/?do=download&r=9749&confirm=1&t=1&csrfKey=6df04992cf2c2fe96a9487465b425663>)

Voter behaviour

The elections in India's largest state Uttar Pradesh, historically a Congress(R) stronghold, turned against Gandhi. Dhanagare says the structural reasons included the emergence of a strong and united opposition, disunity and weariness within the Congress(R), an effective opposition and the failure of Gandhi in controlling the mass media, which was under censorship during the Emergency. The structural factors allowed voters to express their grievances, notably their resentment of the emergency and its authoritarian and repressive policies. One grievance often mentioned was the 'Nasbandi' (vasectomy) campaign in rural areas. The middle class also emphasised on the curbing of freedom of speech throughout the country.^[8]

Meanwhile, Congress(R) hit an all-time low in West Bengal, according to the Ganguly's, because of poor discipline and factionalism among Congress(R) activists as well as numerous defections that weakened the party. Opponents emphasised the issues of corruption within the Congress(R) and appealed to a deep desire by the voters for fresh leadership.^[9] The Congress(R), however, did well in southern states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. The results were mixed in the western states of Maharashtra and Gujarat, although the Janata alliance won all the seats in Mumbai.

See also

- List of members of the 6th Lok Sabha
- Election Commission of India

- [1974 Indian presidential election](#)

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1971 Indian general election

General elections were held in India between 1 and 10 March 1971 to elect members of the fifth Lok Sabha. They were the fifth general elections since independence in 1947. The 27 Indian states and union territories were represented by 518 constituencies, each with a single seat.^[2] Under the leadership of Indira Gandhi, the Indian National Congress (R) led a campaign which focused on reducing poverty and won a landslide victory, overcoming a split in the party and regaining many of the seats lost in the previous election.^[3]

Background

Congress party split

During her previous term, there had been internal divisions in the Indian National Congress between Indira Gandhi and the party establishment, especially Morarji Desai. In 1969, she was expelled from the party, causing a split. Most of the Congress MPs and grassroots support joined Gandhi's Indian National Congress (Requisitionists) faction, which was recognised by the Election Commission as being the successor to the previous party. 31 MPs who opposed Gandhi formed Indian National Congress (Organisation) party.

Minority government

The Second Indira Gandhi government, formed in November 1969 and dissolved in March 1971, was the first minority government in independent India. After the split, the INC(R) held 221 seats in the 523-seat parliament, 41 seats short of a majority. However, Gandhi and her cabinet remained in power by relying on outside support from left-wing parties like the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (26 seats), the Communist Party of India and its recently formed breakaway faction, the CPI(Marxist) (who together had 42 seats), giving the government a total of 289 seats, a comfortable majority and far more than the minimum of 262 seats required for a majority. Knowing that her minority government would eventually fall, on 27 December 1970, President V.V. Giri dissolved the Lok Sabha at the recommendation of Gandhi.

Opposition alliance

INC(O) formed a pre-poll alliance with Samyukta Socialist Party (SSP), Praja Socialist Party (PSP), the Swatantra Party and Bharatiya Jana Sangh BJS and several other regional parties opposed to the INC(R). They agreed to field one candidate against the INC(R) candidate in every constituency in order to defeat Gandhi's party.

Results

Despite the split, the ruling faction gained votes and seats to win a strong majority, while the Grand Alliance was badly trounced and lost more than half of their seats.

1971 Indian general election



1–10 March 1971^[1]

518 of the 521 seats in the Lok Sabha
260 seats needed for a majority

Registered 274,189,132

Turnout 55.27% (▼ 5.77pp)



Leader Indira Gandhi Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Party INC(R) ABJS

Last election 40.78%, 283 9.31%, 35 seats seats

Seats won 352 22

Seat change ▲ 69 ▼ 13

Popular vote 64,033,274 10,777,119

Percentage 43.68% 7.35%

Swing ▲ 2.90pp ▼ 1.96 pp



Leader Puchalapalli Sundarayya K. Kamaraj

Party CPI(M) INC(O)

Last election 4.28%, 12 seats –

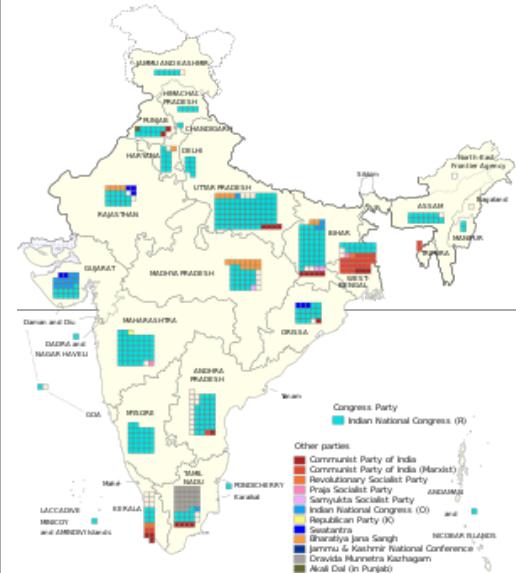
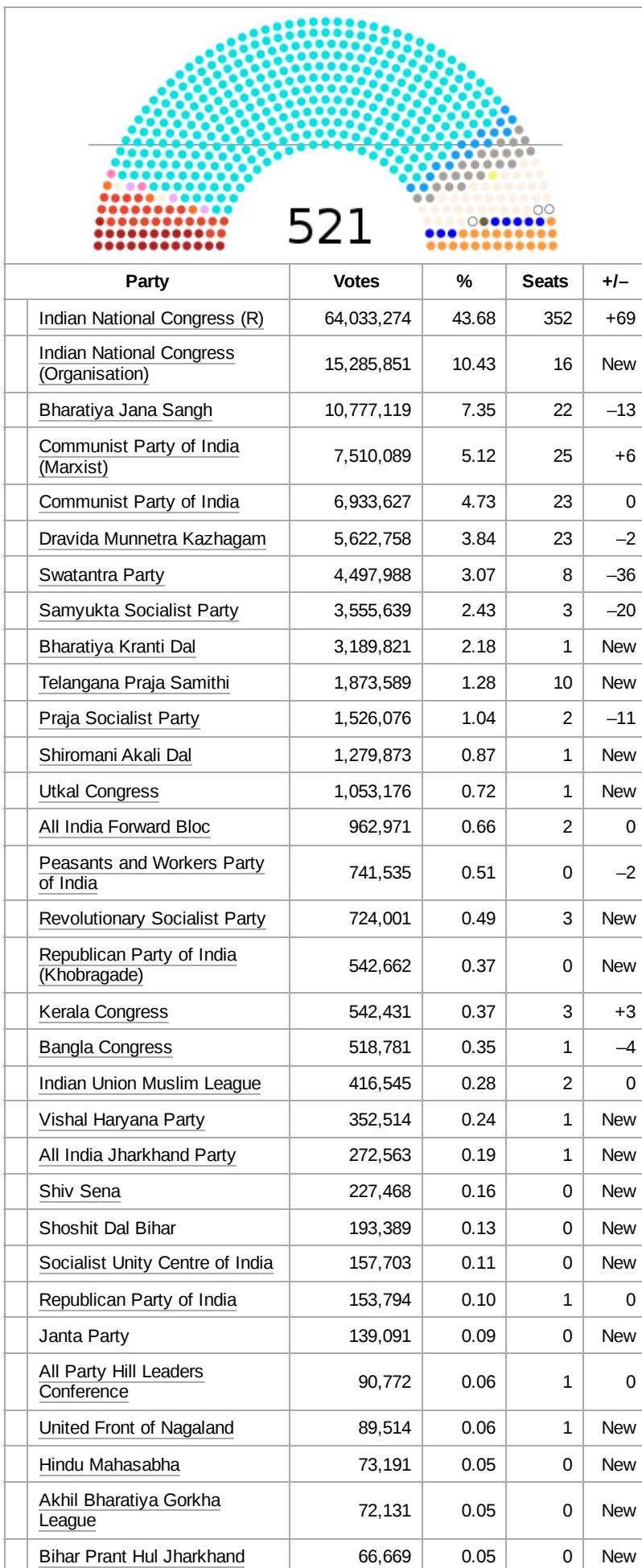
Seats won 25 16

Seat change ▲ 6 New

Popular vote 7,510,089 15,285,851

Percentage 5.12% 10.43%

Swing ▲ 0.84pp New



Prime Minister before
election

Indira Gandhi
INC(R)

Prime Minister after
election

Indira Gandhi
INC(R)

Hindustani Shoshit Dal	65,925	0.04	0	New
Revolutionary Communist Party of India	65,622	0.04	0	New
Lok Sewak Sangh	62,527	0.04	0	New
Jana Congress	60,103	0.04	0	0
Nagaland Nationalist Organisation	58,511	0.04	0	-1
United Goans – Seqveria Group	58,401	0.04	1	0
Socialist Party	55,064	0.04	0	New
Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party	54,597	0.04	0	New
Proutist Bloc of India	43,849	0.03	0	New
Telangana Congress	43,548	0.03	0	New
Minorities Labour Party	41,198	0.03	0	New
Indian Socialist Party	38,713	0.03	0	New
Muslim Majlis Uttar Pradesh	36,526	0.02	0	New
Lok Raj Party Himachal Pradesh	34,070	0.02	0	New
Uttar Pradesh Kisan Mazdoor Party	31,729	0.02	0	New
Manipur Peoples Party	31,029	0.02	0	New
Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad	24,093	0.02	0	New
Republican Party of India (Ambedkarite)	22,428	0.02	0	New
Backward Classes Mahasabha	6,929	0.00	0	New
Revolutionary Socialist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist)	6,198	0.00	0	New
Chota Nagpur Bhumi Rakshak Party	4,982	0.00	0	New
Independents	12,279,629	8.38	14	-21
Appointed members ^[a]			3	0
Total	146,602,276	100.00	521	-2
Valid votes	146,602,276	96.74		
Invalid/blank votes	4,934,526	3.26		
Total votes	151,536,802	100.00		
Registered voters/turnout	274,189,132	55.27		

Source: ECI (<https://eci.gov.in/files/file/4115-general-election-1971-vol-i-ii/?do=download&r=9746&confirm=1&t=1&csrfKey=6df04992cf2c2fe96a9487465b425663>)

a. Two representing Anglo-Indians and one representing the North-East Frontier Agency.

Results by state

Uttar Pradesh	85	73		4		4	1					1		2	
West Bengal	40	13	20	3								1	2	1	
Anglo- Indians	2														2
Total	521	352	25	23	23	22	16	10	8	3	2	1	19	14	3

Source: ECI (https://web.archive.org/web/20140718175452/http://eci.nic.in/eci_main/StatisticalReports/LS_1971/Vol_I_LS71.pdf)

State wise Detailed

State (# of seats)	Party	Seats Contested	Seats won	% of votes	
			Indian National Congress (R)	37	28 55.73
Andhra Pradesh(41)	Telangana Praja Samithi	14	10	14.33	
	Communist Party Of India	11	1	5.94	
	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	5	1	2.82	
	Independent	93	1	8.21	
	Indian National Congress (Organisation)	12	0	5.55	
Assam(14)	Indian National Congress (R)	13	13	56.98	
	All Party Hill Leaders Conference	1	1	3.0	
	Communist Party Of India	5	0	5.65	
	Praja Socialist Party	5	0	4.56	
	Independent	31	0	17.92	
Bihar(53)	Indian National Congress (R)	47	39	40.06	
	Communist Party of India	17	5	9.85	
	Indian National Congress (Organisation)	24	3	11.51	
	Bharatiya Jana Sangh	28	2	12.1	
	Samyukta Socialist Party	28	2	9.47	
	Independent	183	1	9.11	
Gujarat(24)	Indian National Congress (R)	23	11	44.85	
	Indian National Congress (Organisation)	19	11	39.70	
	Swatantra Party	4	2	5.46	
Haryana(9)	Indian National Congress (R)	9	7	52.56	
	Bharatiya Jana Sangh	3	1	11.19	
	Vishal Haryana Party	3	1	9.16	
	Indian National Congress (Organisation)	4	0	11.34	
Jammu & Kashmir(6)	Indian National Congress (R)	6	5	54.06	
	Independent	20	1	32.17	
	Bharatiya Jana Sangh	3	0	12.23	
Kerala(19)	Indian National Congress (R)	7	6	19.75	
	Communist Party of India	3	3	9.09	

	Kerala Congress	3	3	8.31
	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	11	2	26.21
	Revolutionary Socialist Party	2	2	6.43
	Muslim League	2	2	5.62
	Independent	27	1	17.97
Madhya Pradesh(37)	Indian National Congress (R)	36	21	45.60
	Bharatiya Jana Sangh	28	11	33.56
	Independent	73	4	13.93
	Samyukta Socialist Party	5	1	1.57
Maharashtra(45)	Indian National Congress (R)	44	42	63.18
	All India Forward Bloc	3	1	2.47
	Praja Socialist Party	8	1	1.68
	Republican Party Of India	1	1	1.11
	Bharatiya Jana Sangh	13	0	5.23
	Peasants And Workers Party Of India	12	0	5.33
Mysore(27)	Indian National Congress (R)	27	27	70.87
	Indian National Congress (Organisation)	17	0	16.36
Orissa(20)	Indian National Congress (R)	19	15	38.46
	Swatantra Party	13	3	15.91
	Utkal Congress	20	1	23.6
	Communist Party of India	3	1	4.31
Punjab(13)	Indian National Congress (R)	11	10	45.96
	Communist Party of India	2	2	6.22
	Shiromani Akali Dal	12	1	30.85
Rajasthan(23)	Indian National Congress (R)	23	14	50.35
	Bharatiya Jana Sangh	7	4	12.38
	Swatantra Party	8	3	14.64
	Independent	71	2	12.34
Tamil Nadu(39)	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	24	23	35.25
	Indian National Congress (R)	9	9	12.51
	Communist Party of India	4	4	5.43
	Indian National Congress (Organisation)	29	1	30.43
	Independent	27	1	3.24
	All India Forward Bloc	1	1	1.31
Uttar Pradesh(85)	Indian National Congress (R)	78	73	48.54
	Bharatiya Jana Sangh	37	4	12.23
	Communist Party of India	9	4	3.7
	Independent	231	2	8.4
	Bharatiya Kranti Dal	67	1	12.70
	Indian National Congress (Organisation)	44	1	8.6
	Samyukta Socialist Party	25	0	4.1
West Bengal(40)	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	38	20	34.29
	Indian National Congress (R)	31	13	28.2

	<u>Communist Party Of India</u>	15	3	10.54
	<u>Independent</u>	28	1	5.79
	<u>Bangla Congress</u>	14	1	3.97
	<u>Revolutionary Socialist Party</u>	5	1	2.04
	<u>Praja Socialist Party</u>	3	1	1.29
	<u>All India Forward Bloc</u>	10	0	2.7

Source: ECI (https://web.archive.org/web/20140718175452/http://eci.nic.in/eci_main/StatisticalReports/LS_1971/Vol_I_LS71.pdf)

Aftermath

On 12 June 1975, the Allahabad High Court invalidated the result in Gandhi's constituency on the grounds of electoral malpractices. Instead of resigning, Indira Gandhi called a state of emergency, suspending democracy and outlawed political opposition. After democracy was restored in 1977, the opposition Congress faction formed a coalition of parties called the Janata Party, which inflicted the Congress' first electoral defeat.

See also

- [List of members of the 5th Lok Sabha](#)
- [Election Commission of India](#)
- [1969 Indian presidential election](#)

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▪



1967 Indian general election

General elections were held in India between 17 and 21 February 1967 to elect 520 of the 523 members of the fourth Lok Sabha, an increase of 15 from the previous session of Lok Sabha.^[1] Elections to State Assemblies were also held simultaneously, the last general election to do so.

The incumbent Indian National Congress government retained power, albeit with a significantly reduced majority. Indira Gandhi was resworn in as the Prime Minister on 13 March.

Background

By 1967 economic growth in India had slowed – the 1961–1966 Five-Year Plan gave a target of 6% annual growth, but the actual growth rate was 2%. Under Lal Bahadur Shastri, the government's popularity was boosted after India prevailed in the 1965 War with Pakistan, but the war, along with the previous 1962 War with China, put a strain on the economy. Internal divisions were emerging in the Indian National Congress while its two popular leaders Nehru and Shastri had both died. Indira Gandhi had succeeded Shastri as leader, but a rift had emerged between her and Deputy Prime Minister Morarji Desai, who had been her rival in the 1966 party leadership contest.^[2]

Results

The INC suffered setbacks in seven states, which included Gujarat, where INC won 11 out of 24 seats while Swatantra Party won 12 seats; Madras State, where INC won 3 out of 39 seats and DMK won 25 seats; Orissa, where they won 6 out of 20 seats and Swatantra Party won 8 seats. Rajasthan where they won 10 out of 20 seats Swatantra Party won 8 seats, West Bengal where they won 14 out of 40, Kerala where they won only 1 out of 19. Delhi where they won 1 out of 7 while remaining 6 were won by

1967 Indian general election



17–21 February 1967

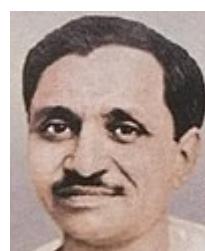
520 of the 523 seats in the Lok Sabha
261 seats needed for a majority

Registered 250,207,401

Turnout 61.04% (Δ 0.12 pp)



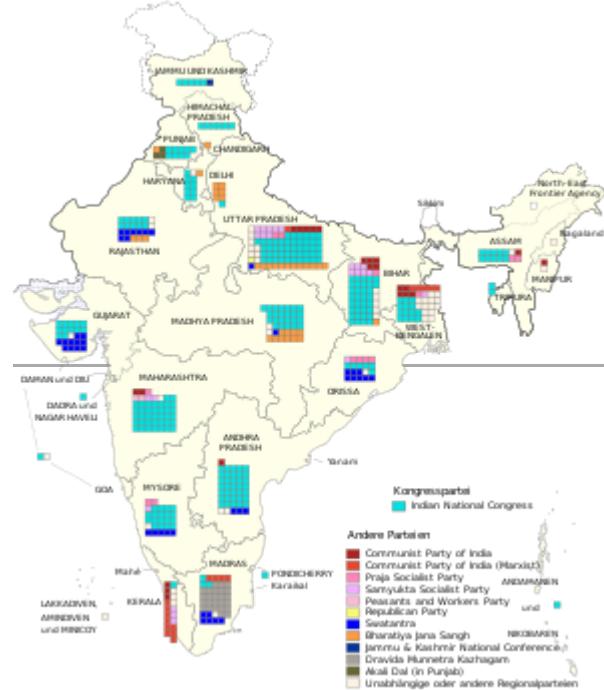
Leader	Indira Gandhi	C. Rajagopalachari
Party	INC	SWA
Last election	44.72%, 361 seats	7.89%, 18 seats
Seats won	283	44
Seat change	Δ 78	Δ 26
Popular vote	59,490,701	12,646,847
Percentage	40.78%	8.67%
Swing	Δ 3.94pp	Δ 0.78pp



Leader	Deendayal Upadhyaya	Shripad Amrit Dange
Party	ABJS	CPI
Last election	6.44%, 14 seats	9.94%, 29 seats

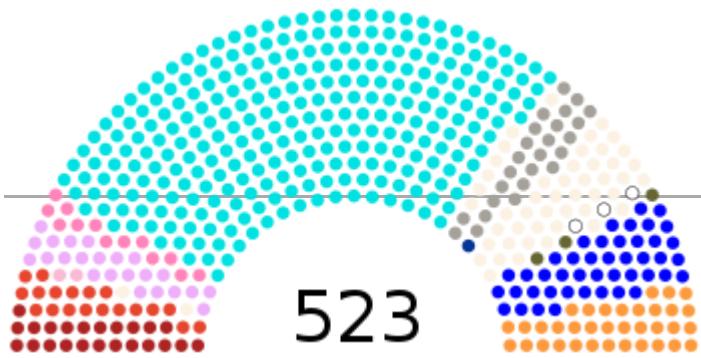
Bharatiya Jana Sangh.^[1] The party was also ousted from power in nine states, while losing governance in Uttar Pradesh one month after the election.^[3]

Seats won	35	23
Seat change	▲ 21	▼ 6
Popular vote	13,580,935	7,458,396
Percentage	9.31%	5.11%
Swing	▲ 2.87pp	▼ 4.83pp



Results by constituency

Prime Minister before election	Prime Minister after election
Indira Gandhi INC	Indira Gandhi INC



Party	Votes	%	Seats	+/-
Indian National Congress	59,490,701	40.78	283	-78
Bharatiya Jana Sangh	13,580,935	9.31	35	+21
Swatantra Party	12,646,847	8.67	44	+26
Communist Party of India	7,458,396	5.11	23	-6
Samyukta Socialist Party	7,171,627	4.92	23	New
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	6,246,522	4.28	19	New
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	5,529,405	3.79	25	+18
Praja Socialist Party	4,456,487	3.06	13	+1
Republican Party of India	3,607,711	2.47	1	-2
Bangla Congress	1,204,356	0.83	5	New
Peasants and Workers Party of India	1,028,755	0.71	2	+2
Akali Dal – Sant Fateh Singh	968,712	0.66	3	New
All India Forward Bloc	627,910	0.43	2	0
Indian Union Muslim League	413,868	0.28	2	0
Kerala Congress	321,219	0.22	0	New
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	210,020	0.14	1	New
Akali Dal – Tara Singh	189,290	0.13	0	New
Jana Kranti Dal	183,211	0.13	1	New
Jana Congress	136,631	0.09	0	New
All Party Hill Leaders Conference	112,492	0.08	1	0
United Goans – Seqveria Group	100,137	0.07	1	New
Peoples Front	42,725	0.03	0	New
Democratic National Conference	30,788	0.02	0	New
United Goans – Furtadd Group	1,714	0.00	0	New
Nagaland Nationalist Organisation	0	0.00	1	New
Independents	20,106,051	13.78	35	+15
Appointed members ^[a]			3	-11
Total	145,866,510	100.00	523	+15

Valid votes	145,866,510	95.51	
Invalid/blank votes	6,858,101	4.49	
Total votes	152,724,611	100.00	
Registered voters/turnout	250,207,401	61.04	

Source: ECI (<https://www.eci.gov.in/eci-backend/public/api/download?url=LMAhAK6sOPBp%2FNFF0iRfXbEB1EVSLT41NNLRjYNJJP1KivrUxbfqkDatmHy12e%2FzVx8fLn2ReU7TfrqYobgloseT0ZHlxSqV5yDBw7qZy8BF%2FVqVfUFZB5kP12dacyxFUsCtgFOtq6nBgleTuoJZxx9hqrgzh%2Bp%2FKhlCKDnqu%2FEPIcjKuQAupJewJECwP16>)

a. Two representing Anglo-Indians and one representing the North-East Frontier Agency.

State wise

State (# of seats)	Party	Seats Contested	Seats won	% of votes		
			Indian National Congress	41	35	46.82
<u>Andhra Pradesh(41)</u>	<u>Swatantra Party</u>	19	3	13.75		
	<u>Communist Party Of India</u>	22	1	12.62		
	<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist)</u>	9	0	6.2		
	<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	4	0	1.0		
	<u>Independent</u>	63	2	18.52		
<u>Assam(14)</u>	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	14	10	45.84		
	<u>Praja Socialist Party</u>	4	2	12.80		
	<u>Communist Party Of India</u>	4	1	8.27		
	<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	3	0	5.48		
	<u>Independent</u>	18	0	19.08		
<u>Bihar(53)</u>	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	53	34	34.81		
	<u>Samyukta Socialist Party</u>	34	7	17.83		
	<u>Communist Party of India</u>	17	5	9.93		
	<u>Independent</u>	99	4	13.95		
	<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	48	1	11.05		
	<u>Praja Socialist Party</u>	32	1	7.38		
	<u>Swatantra Party</u>	25	0	3.41		
<u>Gujarat(24)</u>	<u>Swatantra Party</u>	21	12	39.92		
	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	24	11	46.92		
	<u>Independent</u>	28	1	9.51		
<u>Haryana(9)</u>	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	9	7	44.06		
	<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	7	1	19.85		
	<u>Independent</u>	36	1	19.77		
	<u>Swatantra Party</u>	2	0	5.6		
	<u>Samyukta Socialist Party</u>	5	0	5.5		
<u>Jammu & Kashmir(6)</u>	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	6	5	50.52		
	<u>Jammu & Kashmir National Conference</u>	4	1	24.92		
	<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	3	0	20.34		
<u>Kerala(19)</u>	<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist)</u>	9	9	24.56		

	Communist Party of India	3	3	7.99
	Samyukta Socialist Party	3	3	8.24
	Muslim League	2	2	6.6
	Indian National Congress	19	1	36.15
	Independent	12	1	7.36
	Kerala Congress	5	0	5.12
Madhya Pradesh(37)	Indian National Congress	37	24	40.78
	Bharatiya Jana Sangh	32	10	29.56
	Independent	61	2	13.65
	Swatantra Party	2	1	2.74
Madras(39)	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	25	25	35.78
	Swatantra Party	8	6	9.16
	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	5	4	6.85
	Indian National Congress	39	3	41.69
	Independent	36	1	4.07
Maharashtra(45)	Indian National Congress	45	37	48.51
	Peasants And Workers Party Of India	11	2	7.54
	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	7	2	5.14
	Samyukta Socialist Party	5	2	3.74
	Independent	62	1	11.45
	Praja Socialist Party	8	1	2.55
	Bharatiya Jana Sangh	26	0	7.36
	Republican Party Of India	17	0	12.71
Mysore(27)	Indian National Congress	27	18	49.02
	Swatantra Party	11	5	14.29
	Praja Socialist Party	5	2	5.12
	Samyukta Socialist Party	2	1	2.61
	Independent	45	1	22.0
Orissa(20)	Swatantra Party	17	8	30.87
	Indian National Congress	20	6	33.33
	Praja Socialist Party	5	4	16.1
	Samyukta Socialist Party	2	1	4.5
	Independent	16	1	10.81
Punjab(13)	Indian National Congress	13	9	37.31
	Akali Dal – Sant Fateh	8	3	22.61

	Singh			
	Bharatiya Jana Sangh	8	1	12.49
	Independent	25	0	9.32
Rajasthan(23)	Indian National Congress	22	10	39.95
	Swatantra Party	14	8	27.04
	Bharatiya Jana Sangh	7	3	10.27
	Independent	64	2	17.12
Uttar Pradesh(85)	Indian National Congress	85	47	33.44
	Bharatiya Jana Sangh	77	12	22.18
	Samyukta Socialist Party	43	8	10.27
	Independent	190	8	17.08
	Communist Party of India	17	5	3.26
	Praja Socialist Party	27	2	3.74
	Swatantra Party	38	1	4.77
	Republican Party Of India	24	1	4.07
	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	6	1	1.19
	Indian National Congress	40	14	39.69
West Bengal(40)	Independent	44	7	15.28
	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	16	5	15.65
	Communist Party Of India	11	5	9.14
	Bangla Congress	7	5	9.36
	All India Forward Bloc	6	2	4.88
	Praja Socialist Party	2	1	1.7
	Samyukta Socialist Party	3	1	1.49

Source=ECI (<https://eci.gov.in/files/file/4114-general-election-1967-vol-i-ii/?do=download&r=9743&confirm=1&t=1&csrfKey=6df04992cf2c2fe96a9487465b425663>)

See also

- [List of members of the 4th Lok Sabha](#)
- [Election Commission of India](#)
- [1967 Indian presidential election](#)

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1962 Indian general election

General elections were held in India between 19 and 25 February 1962 to elect members of the third Lok Sabha. Unlike the previous two elections, each constituency elected a single member.^[1]

Jawaharlal Nehru won another landslide victory in his third and final election campaign. The Indian National Congress received 44.7% of the vote and won 361 of the 494 elected seats. This was only

1962 Indian general election



19–25 February 1962

494 of the 508 seats in the Lok Sabha
248 seats needed for a majority

Registered	216,361,569		
Turnout	55.42% (▲ 9.98 pp)		
Leader	Jawaharlal Nehru	Shripad Amrit Dange	C. Rajagopalachari
Party	INC	CPI	SWA
Last election	47.78%, 371 seats	8.92%, 27 seats	New
Seats won	361	29	18
Seat change	▼ 10	▲ 2	New
Popular vote	51,509,084	11,450,037	9,085,252
Percentage	44.72%	9.94%	7.89%
Swing	▼ 3.06pp	▲ 1.02pp	New

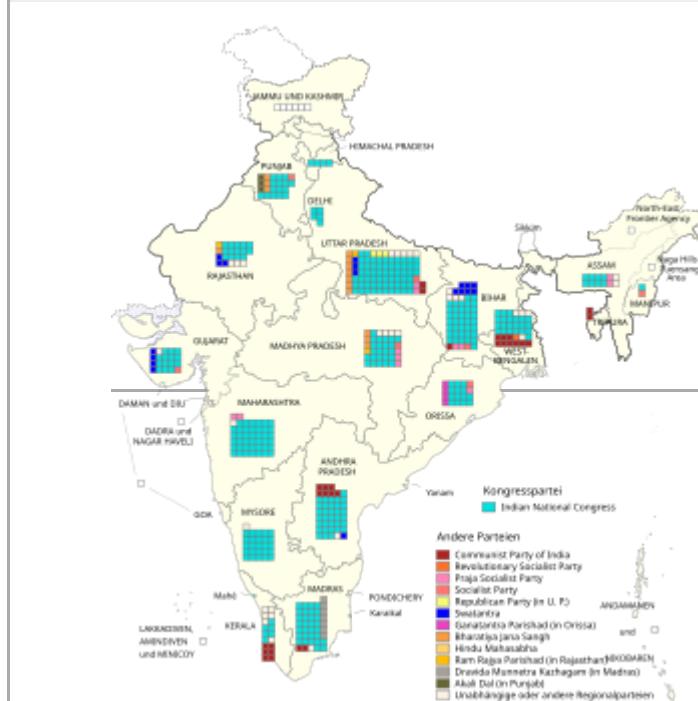


Leader	Deendayal Upadhyaya	Jayaprakash Narayan
Party	ABJS	PSP

slightly lower than in the previous two elections and they still held over 70% of the seats in the Lok Sabha.

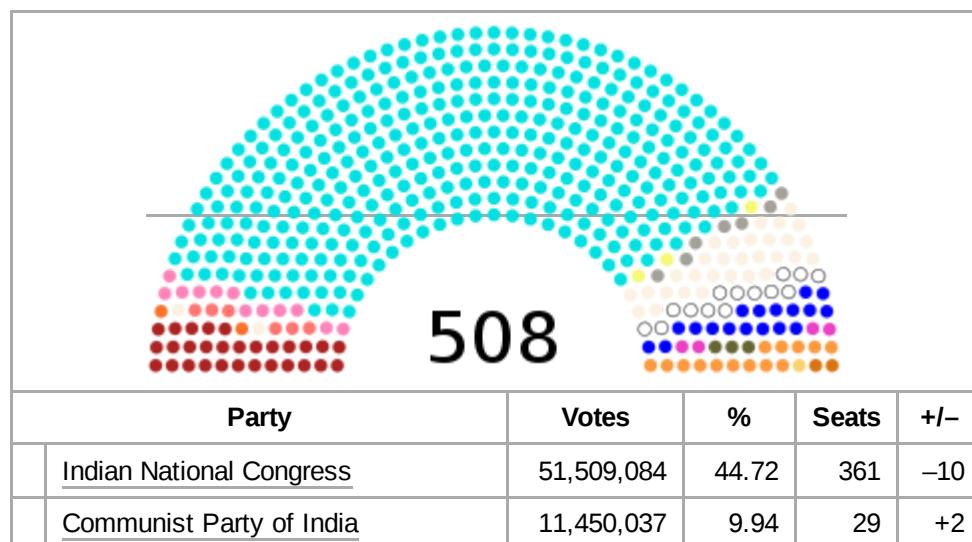
Results

Last election	5.97%, 4 seats	10.41%, 19 seats
Seats won	14	12
Seat change	▲ 10	▼ 7
Popular vote	7,415,170	7,848,345
Percentage	6.44%	6.81%
Swing	▲ 0.47pp	▼ 3.60pp



Results by constituency

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



<u>Swatantra Party</u>	9,085,252	7.89	18	New
<u>Praja Socialist Party</u>	7,848,345	6.81	12	-7
<u>Bharatiya Jana Sangh</u>	7,415,170	6.44	14	+10
<u>Republican Party of India</u>	3,255,985	2.83	3	New
<u>Socialist Party</u>	3,099,397	2.69	6	New
<u>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	2,315,610	2.01	7	New
<u>Shiromani Akali Dal</u>	829,129	0.72	3	New
<u>All India Forward Bloc</u>	826,588	0.72	2	0
<u>Hindu Mahasabha</u>	747,861	0.65	1	0
<u>Peasants and Workers Party of India</u>	703,582	0.61	0	-4
<u>Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad</u>	688,990	0.60	2	+2
<u>Jharkhand Party</u>	467,338	0.41	3	-3
<u>Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP)</u>	451,717	0.39	2	+2
<u>Indian Union Muslim League</u>	417,761	0.36	2	New
<u>All India Ganatantra Parishad</u>	342,970	0.30	4	-3
<u>Lok Sewak Sangh</u>	281,755	0.24	2	New
<u>Nutan Maha Gujarat Janata Parishad</u>	195,812	0.17	1	New
<u>Haryana Lok Samiti</u>	118,667	0.10	1	New
<u>Tamil National Party</u>	92,389	0.08	0	New
<u>All Party Hill Leaders Conference</u>	91,850	0.08	1	New
<u>Socialist Labour Party</u>	80,227	0.07	0	New
<u>Revolutionary Socialist Party (RCP)</u>	60,813	0.05	0	New
<u>Gorkha League</u>	46,127	0.04	0	New
<u>Eastern Indian Tribal Union</u>	12,574	0.01	0	New
We Tamil	11,372	0.01	0	New
Independents	12,722,488	11.05	20	-22
Appointed members ^[a]			14	+3
Total	115,168,890	100.00	508	+3
Valid votes	115,168,890	96.05		
Invalid/blank votes	4,735,394	3.95		
Total votes	119,904,284	100.00		
Registered voters/turnout	216,361,569	55.42		

a. Six representing Jammu and Kashmir, two representing Anglo-Indians, one representing the Amindive, Laccadive and Minicoy Islands, one representing the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, one representing Dadra and Nagar Haveli, one representing Goa, Daman and Diu,

one representing the North-East Frontier Agency and one representing the Tuensang and Naga Hills districts in Nagaland.

State wise

Andhra Pradesh

Party	Seats			Popular vote		
	Contested	Won	+/-	Votes	%	±pp
Indian National Congress	43	34	▼ 4	57,11,263	47.96%	▼ 3.51%
Communist Party of India	20	7	▲ 5	25,05,619	21.04%	▲ 9.03%
Swatantra Party	28	1	▲ 1	17,75,495	14.91%	New
Independents	44	1	▼ 1	16,53,436	13.89%	5.37% ▼
Total	43			1,19,08,021		

Assam

Party	Seats			Popular vote		
	Contested	Won	+/-	Votes	%	±pp
Indian National Congress	12	9	▼ 4	57,11,263	45.16%	▼ 6.52%
Praja Socialist Party	8	2	—	4,78,099	19.16%	▼ 0.8%
All Party Hill Leaders Conference	1	1	New	91,850	3.68%	New
Communist Party of India	4	0	▲ 5	1,76,098	7.06%	▼ 3.19%
Independents	13	0	▼ 1	5,16,793	20.71%	▲ 2.6%
Total	12			24,95,311		

Bihar

Party	Seats			Popular vote		
	Contested	Won	+/-	Votes	%	±pp
Indian National Congress	53	39	▼ 2	43,65,148	43.89%	▼ 0.58%
Praja Socialist Party	32	2	—	12,62,106	12.69%	▼ 8.95%
Swatantra Party	43	7	New	18,11,170	18.21%	New
Communist Party of India	16	1	▲ 5	6,34,516	6.38%	▲ 1.36%
Independents	34	0	▼ 1	4,93,330	4.96%	▼ 10.88%
Total	53			99,46,244		

Gujrat

Party	Seats			Popular vote		
	Contested	Won	+/-	Votes	%	±pp
Indian National Congress	22	16	-	27,76,327	52.56%	-
Swatantra Party	14	4	-	13,20,405	25.0%	-
Praja Socialist Party	6	1	-	3,74,813	7.1%	-
Nutan Maha Gujarat Janata Parishad	3	1	-	1,95,812	3.71%	-
Independents	14	0	-	4,69,020	8.88%	-
Total	22			52,82,558		

- Gujrat was formed a new state in 1961 after separation from Bombay state.

Madras

Party	Seats			Popular vote		
	Contested	Won	+/-	Votes	%	±pp
Indian National Congress	41	31	—	56,23,013	45.26	▼1.26%
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	18	7	▲7	23,15,610	18.64	New
Communist Party of India	14	2	—	12,72,313	10.24	▲0.18%
Swatantra Party	16	0	New	13,00,526	10.47	New
Independents	46	0	▼8	9,33,150	7.51	▼32.26%
Total	41			1,24,24,036		

By-elections

In 1963 a by-election was held for the Bilaspur Lok Sabha seat, which was at the time in Madhya Pradesh. The election was won by the Indian National Congress candidate C. Singh, with 86,229 votes, against M. L. Shukla of Jana Sangh with 54,156 votes.^[2] This by-election was needed because the original election for this seat was declared void by the Madhya Pradesh High Court, which judged that the nomination papers of one of the candidates, Bashir Ahmed Qureshi, "was improperly and illegally rejected by the Returning Officer".^[3]

See also

- List of members of the 3rd Lok Sabha
- Election Commission of India
- 1962 Indian presidential election

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■



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.^{[1][2]} 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



24 February – 14 March 1957

494 of the 505 seats in the Lok Sabha
248 seats needed for a majority

Registered 193,652,179

Turnout 45.44% (▲ 0.57pp)



CPI

Leader	Jawaharlal Nehru	Ajoy Ghosh
Party	INC	CPI
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



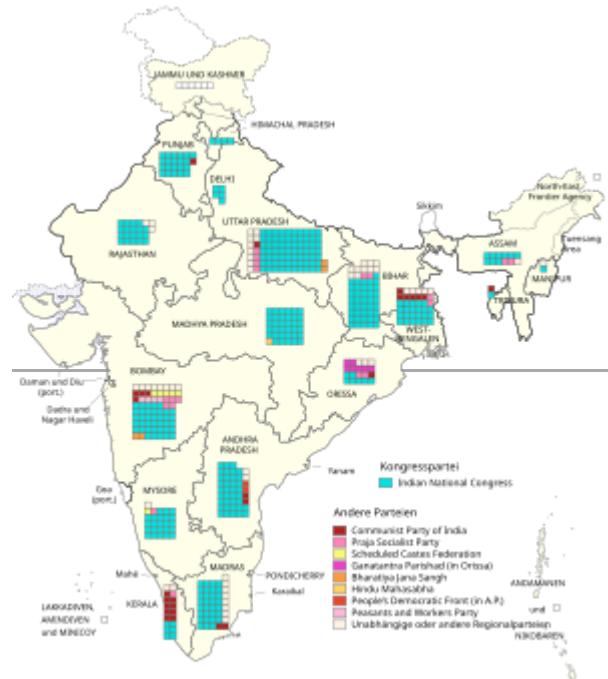
ABJ

Leader	Jayaprakash Narayan	Debaprasad Ghosh
Party	PSP	ABJS

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

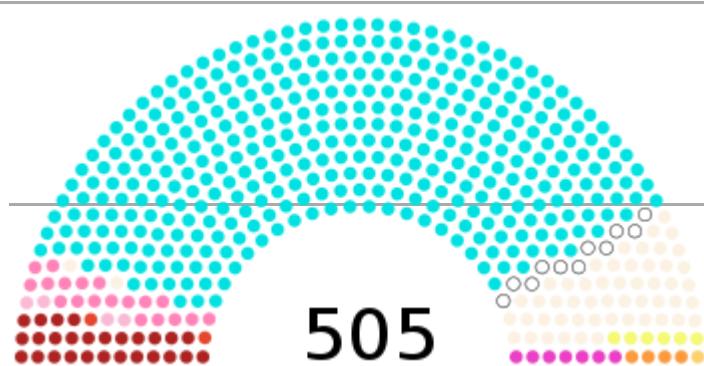
Results

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



Party	Votes	%	Seats	+/-
Indian National Congress	57,579,589	47.78	371	▲ 7
Praja Socialist Party	12,542,666	10.41	19	▼ 2
Communist Party of India	10,754,075	8.92	27	▲ 11

<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 ^[a]			11	▲1
Total	120,513,915	100.00	505	▲6
Registered voters/turnout	193,652,179	45.44		

Source: ECI (<https://eci.gov.in/files/file/4112-general-election-1957-vol-i-ii/?do=download&r=9737&confirm=1&t=1&csrfKey=6df04992cf2c2fe96a9487465b425663>)

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									
		INC	CPI	PSP	GP	SCF	JKP	BJS	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 Aminidivi 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	

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

Andhra Pradesh

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

Assam

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

Bihar

Party	Votes	%	+/-	Seats	+/-
Indian National Congress	4,450,208	44.47	-1.30	41	-4
Jharkhand Party	751,830	7.51	+0.10	6	+3
Chota Nagpur Santhal Parganas Janata Party	501,359	5.01	+2.65	3	+2
Praja Socialist Party	2,165,462	21.64	-2.83	2	-1
Communist Party of India	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
Total	10,007,876	100.00	-	53	-2

Bombay

Party	Votes	%	+/-	Seats	+/-
Indian National Congress	8,156,272	48.66	-1.49	38	-2
Praja Socialist Party	1,457,203	8.69	-11.45	5	+5
Scheduled Caste Federation	1,354,475	8.08	+3.65	5	+4
Communist Party of India	1,055,013	6.29	+4.95	4	+4
Peasants and Workers Party of India	924,832	5.52	-1.48	4	+3
Bharatiya Jana Sangh	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
Total	16,760,285	100.00		66	+21

Kerala

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

Madhya Pradesh

Party	Votes	%	+/-	Seats	+/-
Indian National Congress	3,967,199	52.10	+0.47	35	+8
Hindu Mahasabha	373,503	4.91	+4.60	1	+1
Praja Socialist Party	1,225,735	16.10	-2.38	0	0
Bharatiya Jana Sangh	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
Total	7,614,222	100.00		36	+7

Madras

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

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

Mysore

Party	Votes	%	+/-	Seats	+/-
Indian National Congress	3,219,014	55.52	-13.42	23	+13
Praja Socialist Party	1,082,698	18.67	-10.79	1	0
Scheduled Caste Federation	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
Total	5,798,440	100.00	-	26	+15

Orissa

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

Punjab

Party	Votes	%	+/-	Seats	+/-
Indian National Congress	3,682,219	51.26	+8.50	21	+5
Communist Party of India	1,207,600	16.81	+11.77	1	+1
Bharatiya Jana Sangh	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
Total	7,183,830	100.00	-	22	+4

Rajasthan

Party	Votes	%	+/-	Seats	+/-

	Indian National Congress	2,494,094	53.65	+12.23	19	+10
	Bharatiya Jana Sangh	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
	Total	4,649,083	100.00	-	22	+2

Uttar Pradesh

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

West Bengal

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

Women performance in elections

Based on the published data from the Election Commission of India (ECI) website.^[4]

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.^{[5][6][7][8]}

See also

- [List of members of the 2nd Lok Sabha](#)
- [Election Commission of India](#)
- [Booth capturing](#)

- [1957 Indian presidential election](#)

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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 impeding free movement.^[9] The remainder of states voted in February–March 1952, except for

1951–52 Indian general election

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%

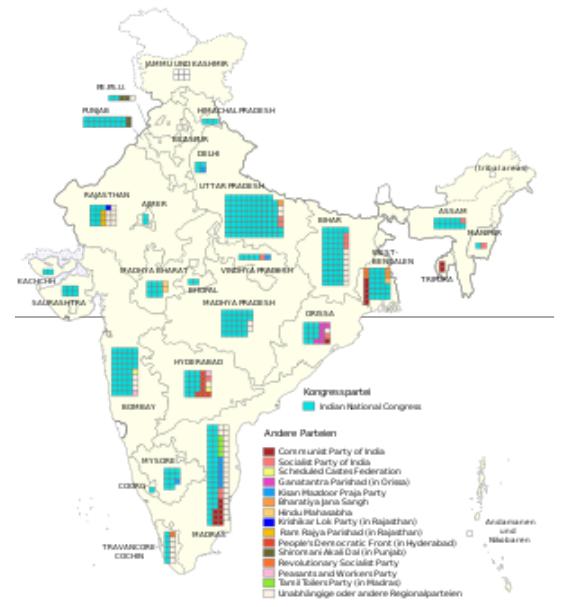
Jammu & Kashmir, where no voting took place for Lok Sabha seats until 1967. The first votes of the election were cast in the tehsil (district) of Chini in Himachal Pradesh.^[10]

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]}



Prime Minister before
election

Jawaharlal Nehru

INC

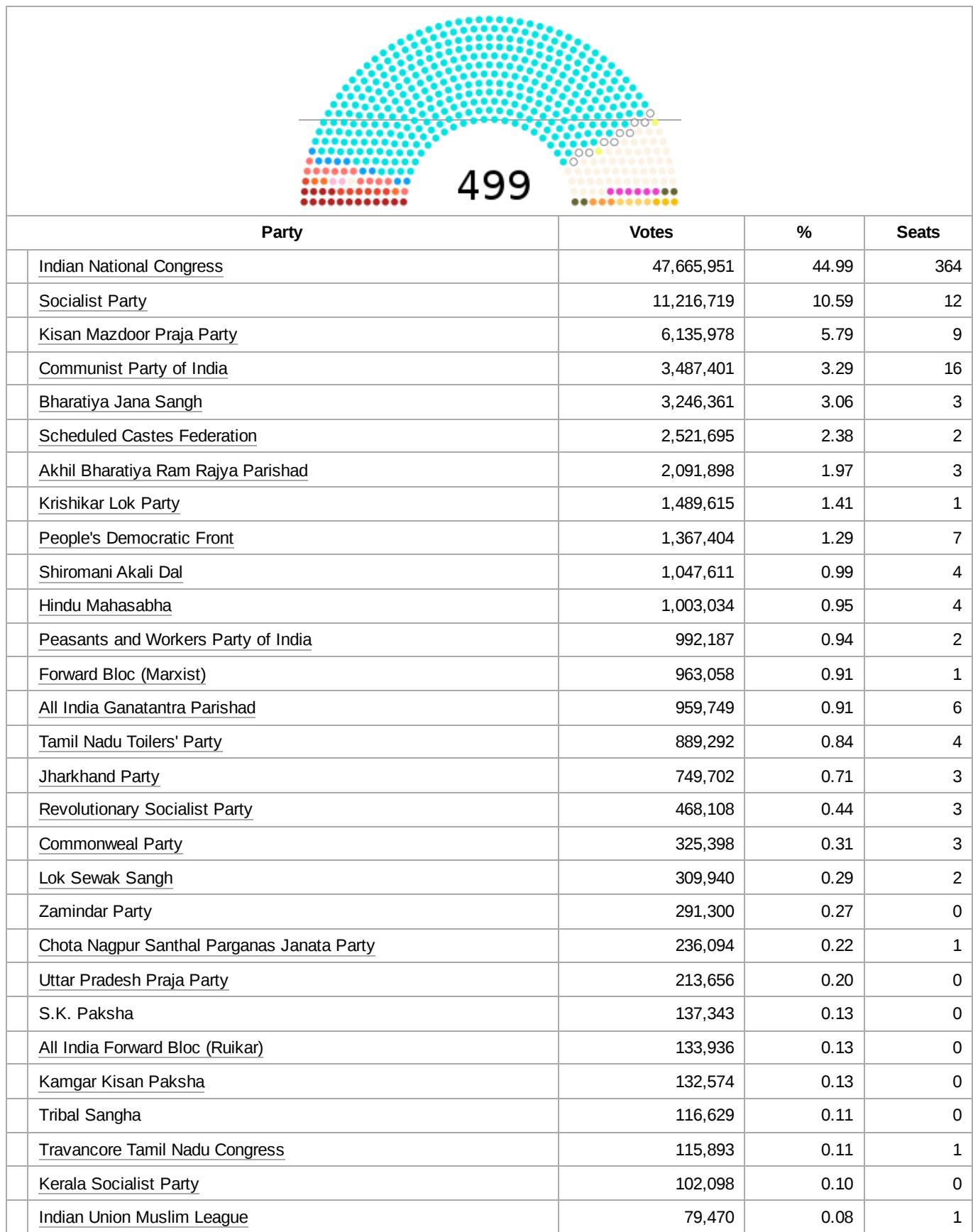
Prime Minister after
election

Jawaharlal Nehru

INC

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



<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
<u>All India Republican Party (RPP)</u>	57,815	0.05	0
<u>All India Republican Party (REP)</u>	44,286	0.04	0
<u>All People's Party</u>	36,851	0.03	0
<u>Tamil Nadu Congress Party</u>	36,158	0.03	0
<u>Khasi-Jaintia Durbar</u>	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
<u>All Manipur National Union</u>	22,083	0.02	0
<u>Uttar Pradesh Revolutionary Socialist Party</u>	20,665	0.02	0
<u>Hill People Party</u>	17,350	0.02	0
<u>Praja Party</u>	16,955	0.02	0
<u>Kuki National Association</u>	12,155	0.01	0
<u>Punjab Depressed Class League</u>	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
<u>Gandhi Sevak Seva</u>	7,196	0.01	0
<u>Kisan Janta Sanyukta Party</u>	6,390	0.01	0
<u>National Party of India</u>	3,232	0.00	0
<u>Historical Research</u>	1,468	0.00	0
<u>Independents</u>	16,850,089	15.90	37
<u>Appointed members</u> [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
Total	499	364	16	12	9	7	6	3	3	2	1	29
Source: ECI (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
Indian National Congress	3,713,537	51.63	27
Independents	858,407	11.93	2
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	451,749	6.28	0
Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad	396,661	5.51	0
Socialist Party	877,392	12.20	0
Other parties	894,845	12.44	0
Total	7,192,591	100.00	29

Madras

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

Orissa

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

Punjab

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

Communist Party of India	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
Indian National Congress	9,047,392	52.99	81
Socialist Party	2,208,678	12.94	2
Independents	1,936,383	11.34	2
Hindu Mahasabha	325,601	1.91	1
Bharatiya Jana Sangh	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
Indian National Congress	3,205,162	42.10	24
Communist Party of India	720,304	9.46	5
Bharatiya Jana Sangh	452,279	5.94	2
Revolutionary Socialist Party	183,005	2.40	2
Hindu Mahasabha	324,870	4.27	1
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	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
Indian National Congress	1,945,798	40.08	14
People's Democratic Front	1,367,404	28.17	7
Socialist Party	651,316	13.42	1
Scheduled Caste Federation	308,591	6.36	1
Peasants and Workers Party of India	185,168	3.81	1
Independents	388,939	8.01	1
Hyderabad State Praja Party	7,646	0.16	0
Total	4,854,862	100.00	25

Madhya Bharat

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

Mysore

Party	Votes	%	Seats
Indian National Congress	1,509,075	53.43	10
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	650,658	23.04	1
Socialist Party	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
Indian National Congress	492,408	33.38	2
Shiromani Akali Dal	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
Indian National Congress	1,460,971	41.42	9
Independents	1,028,388	29.16	6
Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad	331,760	9.41	3
Krishikar Lok Party	356,630	10.11	1
Bharatiya Jana Sangh	107,089	3.04	1
Other parties	242,119	6.86	0
Total	3,526,957	100.00	20

Saurashtra

Party	Votes	%	Seats

	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	506,112	66.36	6
	<u>Hindu Mahasabha</u>	99,311	13.02	0
	<u>Independents</u>	58,343	7.65	0
	<u>Other parties</u>	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
<u>Independents</u>	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
<u>Other parties</u>	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
<u>Independents</u>	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
<u>Independents</u>	25,316	14.94	—
Total	169,457	100.00	2

Bislaspur

Party	Seats
<u>Independents</u>	1

Total	1
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Bilaspur constituency was uncontested

Coorg

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

Delhi

Party	Votes	%	Seats
Indian National Congress	324,214	49.43	3
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	47,735	7.28	1
Bharatiya Jana Sangh	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
Indian National Congress	117,036	52.44	3
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	27,368	12.26	0
Bharatiya Jana Sangh	23,918	10.72	0
Scheduled Caste Federation	18,988	8.51	0
Socialist Party	16,780	7.52	0
Independents	19,099	8.56	0
Total	223,189	100.00	3

Kutch

Party	Votes	%	Seats
Indian National Congress	78,771	65.87	2
Socialist Party	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](#)

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**REPORT
ON THE
FIRST GENERAL ELECTIONS
IN INDIA
1951-52**

VOLUME I

(GENERAL)

**ELECTION COMMISSION
INDIA**

ECL. I. I. 52

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P R E F A C E

The first general elections in India during 1951-52 on the basis of adult franchise attracted a good deal of interest and attention in the country as well as abroad. The organisation and the holding of the elections on such a vast scale naturally presented enormous difficulties which had to be surmounted. Although there is no provision in law requiring the preparation of a report on the elections, the Election Commission considered it necessary and desirable, for obvious reasons, to prepare an exhaustive record of the different aspects of this remarkable administrative task. I have also taken advantage of the occasion to review the working of our election law and procedure, as also to offer comments and suggestions for the improvement of the same.

Unfortunately, however, there has been a good deal of regrettable delay in bringing out this report. The rough frame-work was, in fact, ready by October, 1952, and was circulated to all States which were required to supply the basic data. The Forms for the statistical part of the report, Volume II, were sent to the States in May, 1953, with the same object. Some of the States found it difficult to collect the facts and figures readily and it was only in late 1954 that all necessary materials were made available.

Some other factors also contributed to the delay. During the last year or more, I have been engaged almost whole-time in connection with the work of the Delimitation Commission. Before that, I had to remain abroad for more than

a year and two months soon after the elections were over. I was on leave for part of the period, and later, I was serving in the Sudan as the Chairman of the International Electoral Commission. A more serious handicap arose from the fact that no additional staff whatsoever was made available to the Election Commission for expediting this report. The normal work in the office was very heavy immediately after the conclusion of the general elections. In spite of this, the existing staff of the Commission had to be drawn upon for work relating to the preparation of the report, as and when practicable, although, in point of fact, they could hardly be spared for such a heavy undertaking.

I acknowledge with gratitude the help that I have received in drawing up and completing this report from the present Secretary of the Election Commission, Shri P. N. Shinghal, and some members of the staff of the Commission. My thanks are also due to the Government of India Press, New Delhi, for the promptitude with which they have printed this report, and to the Assistant Secretary of the Election Commission, Shri D. J. Sen Gupta, for seeing it through the Press.

NEW DELHI ;
The 4th February, 1955.

SUKUMAR SEN,
Chief Election Commissioner.

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PART I
INTRODUCTORY

CHAPTER I

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

India has a written Constitution. The Indian Constitution has adopted a democratic republican form of government for the country and its salient provisions have been largely adopted with suitable modifications from the constitutions and constitutional practices of other democratic countries like the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada and Australia.

In one vitally important respect, however, the Indian Constitution is almost unique and follows the example of Canada. The *sine qua non* for a true democracy is the holding of fair and free elections of the peoples' representatives to the legislative bodies. The elections, in other words, must be conducted and directed in a completely non-partisan spirit. The framers of the Indian Constitution drew largely from the experience of such elections in other countries and tried to avoid the abuses and pitfalls experienced there in the early days. Provision was accordingly made in the Constitution to ensure that the party in power at any time might not be placed in a position to influence the conduct of elections in a manner which would go to favour its own interests.

The superintendence, direction and control of the preparations for, and conduct of, all elections to the Legislatures and to the offices of the President and the Vice-President have therefore been vested in a permanent constitutional body—the Election Commission—which has been made independent of the government of the day. It has also been vested with the power of appointment of Election Tribunals for the decision of doubts and disputes arising out of elections.

The Election Commission has to function in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and of the statute law relating to elections. In matters not covered by these, it has unfettered discretion to take its own decisions and to issue all necessary directions.

At one stage, during the framing of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly, the idea was mooted that

an Election Commission might be set up for the federal elections only, while there might be a separate Election Commission in each state for elections to the State Legislature. In the end, however, a single Commission was provided for to be in charge of all elections to the Central and State Legislatures.

Provisions made by the Constitution.

The provisions of the Constitution relating to matters connected with elections, the Constitution (Determination of Population) Order, 1950, and the statements issued thereunder, have been reproduced in the Appendix.

It will be noticed that the Constitution has made specific provisions to cover the following matters:—

- (i) the election of the President;
- (ii) the election of the Vice-President;
- (iii) the Union Parliament and the composition of the two Houses thereof;
- (iv) qualifications and disqualifications of members of Parliament;
- (v) composition of the State Legislatures;
- (vi) qualifications and disqualifications of members of State Legislatures;
- (vii) duration of the Houses of Parliament and of the State Legislatures;
- (viii) elections;
- (ix) reservation of seats in the House of the People and State Legislative Assemblies for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes; and
- (x) determination of population for the purposes of elections.

Legislation by State Legislatures.

The Constitution did not make exhaustive provisions to cover the details of the law of elections. These details were left to be laid down by subsequent legislation by Parliament and the State Legislatures. In fact, no State has undertaken any legislation on any matter relating to, or in connection with, elections to the State Legislature except that most of the States have enacted laws removing certain disqualifications of members of State Legislatures.

Parliament passed two major measures laying down Legislation by Parliament. The first of these measures was the Representation of the People Act, 1950, which provided for the qualifications of voters and matters connected with the preparation and publication of electoral rolls. It laid down the procedure for the delimitation of constituencies of the House of the People and the State Legislatures. The Act also allocated the number of seats in the House of the People to the several States and fixed the number of seats in each State Legislature.

The second of these measures was the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the provisions of which covered the following important matters:—

- (i) qualifications and disqualifications for membership of Legislatures;
- (ii) notifications for election to the Legislatures;
- (iii) administrative machinery for conducting the elections;
- (iv) conduct of elections and the various stages thereof;
- (v) election agents;
- (vi) procedure for elections in constituencies where seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes;
- (vii) the poll;
- (viii) counting of votes;
- (ix) publication of election results;
- (x) election expenses;
- (xi) disputes regarding elections—election petitions and Election Tribunals;
- (xii) corrupt and illegal practices;
- (xiii) electoral offences;
- (xiv) incurring of disqualifications and their removal; and
- (xv) bye-elections.

Under each of these two Acts, statutory rules were Statutory made by the Central Government. These were respectively called the Representation of the People (Preparation of Electoral Rolls) Rules, 1950, and the Representation of the

People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1951.

Amendments. Subsequently, the two Acts were amended by the following measures:—

1. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1950.
2. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1951.
3. The Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Act, 1951.

Some amendments to the provisions of the two main Acts were also made by the Government of Part C States Act, 1951, in order that some of the Part C States might be provided with Legislative Assemblies.

Amendments were made in the Rules from time to time as and when necessary.

The Frame-work.

It is within the above frame-work of law that the general elections were held in the country. The law came by instalments, as occasion arose. This was the result of the sense of urgency which prevailed, the Government and country having been committed to the holding of elections as early as practicable. The preparations for, and the initial stages of, the elections had to be undertaken before the election law could be codified in full. Although such piece-meal legislation were not quite satisfactory and may tend to leave a layman confused in the tangled multiplicity of legislative measures, there was hardly any other alternative.

**Comprehensive
Election
Code.**

The difficulty was appreciated at the time and it has always been the intention to replace all this mass of dispersed law after the first general elections by a comprehensive Election Code and a body of consolidated Rules made thereunder.

At present, certain piece-meal amendments of the election law are on the legislative anvil but no attempt has yet been made to codify the entire election law in a comprehensive manner. It is very desirable, however, that this work should be completed at least a year before the next general elections so that the election machinery, the political parties, the candidates and the individual voter may become fully conversant with the law under which the next elections will take place.

CHAPTER II

ADULT SUFFRAGE

It is perhaps not commonly known that republican forms of government existed in many parts of ancient India. There are numerous references to such Governments in the Buddhist literature. Even in the 4th century B.C., there was a republican federation known as the Kshudrak-Malla Sangha, which offered strong resistance to Alexander the Great. The Greeks have left descriptions of many other republican states in India, some of which were described by them as pure democracies while others were said to be "aristocratic republics".

Although full details of the working of the republican forms of government in ancient India are not available, it is known that in some of these republics every adult male member had the right to vote and to be present in the general assembly which decided all public affairs. With the increase of population and the growing complexities of the social structure, it became increasingly difficult for all citizens to assemble at one place for the purpose of deliberation on state affairs, and gradually this resulted in the evolution of some kind of representative government. We find numerous references to election, referendum, voting, ballot papers, etc., in the history of the Hindu polity.

The nature of franchise for election to the popular assemblies is not fully known. While in the aristocratic republics, the basis appears to have been a family, in other states all adult male persons, who were not otherwise disqualified, appear to have had the right to vote. By naturalisation, even foreigners could become citizens, and acquire the right of vote.

A vote was known as "chhanda" which literally means a "wish". This expressive term was used to convey the idea that by voting a member was expressing his free will and choice. We also find description of the methods of collection of votes of citizens who could not be present at

the meeting of the assembly. For purposes of voting in the assembly, there used to be multi-coloured voting tickets, called "shalakas" (pins). These were distributed to members when a division was called and were collected by a special officer of the assembly, known as "shalaka grahak" (collector of pins). This officer was appointed by the assembly as a whole. It was his duty to take the vote which could be either secret or open.

Apart from the evolution of the democratic form of government in sovereign states in ancient India as described above, the genius of India also evolved, as a natural growth, the system of autonomous and almost self-sufficient village communities, under every system of government. These communities, which lasted through the ages, were run on truly democratic lines without, of course, the outward trappings of the vote and the ballot box. In later days, they went by the name of village panchayats and were a vital force in the social life of the countryside.

Even after the republican states were absorbed within empires, the system of regulating the local corporate life through popular assemblies survived for a very long time. Almost every imperial conquerer left the conquered states and communities to carry on their administrative and social system in their own way as before. During the Muslim period, the affairs of the trade corporations and the villages continued to be carried on by popular assemblies. A fundamental change came with the British administration when revenue, judicial and legal affairs were centralised and conducted away from the villages. This factor, coupled with the consequent decay of the agricultural and industrial economy of the countryside, resulted in the deterioration of the corporate life of the rural communities and gradually the organisations based on the popular will faded out.

In the context of history, therefore, the establishment by the Constitution of the democratic and Parliamentary form of Government in the country on the basis of adult franchise was like the rejoining of a historic thread that had been snapped by alien rule. Franchise on a liberal scale had been common in various parts of ancient India, and by providing for universal adult suffrage, the country boldly achieved the consummation of its electoral aspirations on a national basis.

Before the general elections of 1951-52, all the nine Part A States which were then known as Provinces, had experience of elections, on a restricted franchise, to the Central (later Dominion) and Provincial Legislatures, under the Government of India Act, 1935. The qualifications of an elector for the Central and Provincial elections differed from each other and in each Province, again, differing qualifications were prescribed. In every case, the franchise was a very limited one and was related to factors like taxation, property, literacy, community, etc. The result was that only a small percentage of the adult population of the country had the right to vote. Approximately, franchise was enjoyed by only 14 per cent of the population.

Past experience of elections.

The position in regard to the Indian States ruled by the Indian princes (which are now comprised in the Part B and some of the Part C States) differed widely from State to State. Most of the important States had elected or partially elected Legislatures. The franchise was very much restricted in these States, except in Travancore which adopted adult suffrage in 1948. The qualifications for enrolment as voters naturally differed from State to State.

The elections held in British India on a restricted franchise merely whetted the country's desire for full and universal adult suffrage. Restrictions imposed on the right of franchise on the ground of qualifications based on property, payment of taxes, etc., were considered as arbitrary, unnatural and retrograde. As far back as 1928, the Nehru Committee, appointed by the All Parties Conference to determine the principles of a Constitution for India, recommended the adoption of adult suffrage, after a careful consideration of the various arguments for and against the same.

Progress towards adult suffrage.

The Franchise Sub-committee of the First Round Table Conference was of the opinion that adult franchise was the goal that should ultimately be laid down for the country. The Indian Franchise Committee, which submitted its report in 1932, admitted that there were powerful arguments in favour of adult suffrage in India, but it ultimately came to the conclusion that it would not be desirable to launch the Constitution on the basis of adult franchise and that a more manageable basis should be adopted for the time being,

leaving it ultimately to the Legislatures themselves to determine at what pace the electorate should be expanded. The Fundamental Rights Sub-committee and the Minorities Sub-committee of the Constituent Assembly recommended that adult suffrage should be incorporated as a fundamental right under the Constitution. Although the Advisory Committee on Minorities and Fundamental Rights agreed with the recommendation of the Sub-committee in regard to adult suffrage, it suggested that instead of being included in the list of fundamental rights, it should find a place in another part of the Constitution. Provision was accordingly made in article 326 of the Constitution that elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of every State shall be held on the basis of adult suffrage.

Arguments against adult suffrage.

The main argument levelled in the past against adult suffrage was the magnitude of the task involved. It was felt that the number of voters under adult suffrage would exceed all reasonable bounds and that its adoption would involve too stupendous an administrative task for the governments. A second important argument advanced by the opponents of adult suffrage was the illiteracy of the voters which would render an election a farce unless an electoral system could be devised under which even an illiterate voter could cast his vote intelligently and in secret.

An act of faith.

Undoubtedly, these were formidable difficulties and the Constituent Assembly of India had to face them when it came to draft the country's Constitution. In the true spirit of democracy, the Constituent Assembly unhesitatingly adopted the principle of adult suffrage with full knowledge of the difficulties involved. This was indeed an act of faith—faith in the common man of India and in his practical common sense. This decision launched a great and fateful experiment unique in the world in its stupendousness and complexities.

Interest in foreign countries.

The carrying out of this unprecedented experiment attracted world-wide attention and journalists, politicians and other observers came from numerous foreign countries to study its working at first hand. The governments of Nepal and Indonesia sent official teams for intensive study of the elections from the administrative and legal angles as these countries are also committed to setting up a democratic form of government on adult franchise and have problems similar to those of India. In fact, every country desiring to adopt parliamentary elections on adult

franchise but is faced with difficulties in the shape of illiteracy, ignorance and undeveloped communications evinced the utmost interest in the Indian elections and numerous enquiries have been received from such countries in the Middle East, Africa and South America for detailed information regarding these elections. It appears probable that the main features of our system of elections will be adopted in future years by many of these countries.

In fact, another country, the Sudan, has already successfully made a similar experiment on the Indian model with suitable modifications to serve her particular needs and conditions. A general election on adult franchise was held in the Sudan in November-December, 1953, under the control and supervision of an international commission of which the Chairman was the Chief Election Commissioner of India. The Indian law and procedure of elections were largely adopted in this election and proved very suitable. Literacy is only 2 per cent in the country which is nearly as large as India in area but has far poorer communications and a much less developed administrative machinery. Inspite of this, adult suffrage was a remarkable success and proved a potent factor in itself for advancing the political education of an illiterate mass which had little or no background of political experience.

Experience demonstrates, therefore, that literary education, however desirable, is not an essential condition for the successful working of adult suffrage. However backward and ignorant the common man in an "undeveloped" country may be, he possesses in his own way enough common sense to know what is good for him. Given a simple enough system of ballot which he understands, he can be trusted to cast his vote intelligently in accordance with his own free will in favour of the representative of his choice. It is essential, however, that in order that the system of adult suffrage may work fairly and smoothly, two other conditions must be satisfied viz., (1) the conduct of elections must be strictly non-partisan or under neutral control, and (2) the executive government must sincerely desire free and fair elections and actively work for the same.

Conditions
for the
success of
adult
suffrage.

CHAPTER III

COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES

The two Houses of the Union Parliament are known respectively as the Council of States and the House of the People.

Council of States.

The Council of States as first constituted in 1952 consisted of 216 members*. Of these, twelve members were nominated by the President, as required by the Constitution, being persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art and social service. The remaining 204 members were elected to represent the States. The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution distributed these seats amongst the various States as follows:—

Representatives of States specified in Part A of the First Schedule.

Name of the State	Total number of seats allotted
1. Assam	6
2. Bihar	21
3. Bombay	17
4. Madhya Pradesh	12
**5. Madras	27
6. Orissa	9
7. Punjab	8
8. Uttar Pradesh	31
9. West Bengal	14
TOTAL	145

* After the formation of the new State of Andhra out of the State of Madras, the number has increased to 219.

** After the formation of Andhra in 1953, it has been allotted 12 seats, while the number of seats allotted to Madras has been reduced to 18.

Representatives of States specified in Part B of the First Schedule.

Name of the State	Total number of seats allotted
1. Hyderabad	11
2. Jammu and Kashmir	4
3. Madhya Bharat	6
4. Mysore	6
5. Patiala and East Punjab States Union	3
6. Rajasthan	9
7. Saurashtra	4
8. Travancore-Cochin	6
TOTAL	49

Representatives of States specified in Part C of the First Schedule

States and Groups of States	Total number of seats allotted
1. Ajmer and Coorg }	I
2. Bhopal	I
3. Bilaspur and Himachal Pradesh }	I
4. Delhi	I
5. Kutch	I
6. Manipur and Tripura }	I
7. Vindhya Pradesh	4
TOTAL	10
Total for all States	204

The representatives of each State specified in Part A or Part B of the First Schedule of the Constitution, excepting the State of Jammu and Kashmir, are elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assembly of the State in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. The representatives of the Jammu and Kashmir State were chosen by the President in consultation with the Government of the State, as required by the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order, 1950, (C.O. 10). The State Government, in actual practice, acted upon a unanimous resolution of the Constituent Assembly of the State

in recommending the names of persons to be chosen by the President.* The representatives of each Part C State or group of States are chosen by the electoral college constituted for the purpose under the provisions of section 27A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

The Council of States is not subject to dissolution, but as nearly as possible, one-third of its members retire on the expiration of every second year in accordance with the provisions of section 154 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The term of office of the members begins from the date on which the names of the elected and nominated members are notified by the Government of India in the Gazette of India.

House of the People.

The House of the People consists of 497 members. The Representation of the People Act, 1950, distributed these seats amongst the various States as follows:—

Name of the State or area	Total number of seats allotted
PART A STATES	
Assam	12
Bihar	55
Bombay	45
Madhya Pradesh	29
**Madras	75
Orissa	20
Punjab	18
Uttar Pradesh	86
West Bengal	34
TOTAL	374
PART B STATES	
Hyderabad	25
Jammu & Kashmir	6
Madhya Bharat	11
**Mysore	11
Patiala and East Punjab States Union	5
Rajasthan	20
Saurashtra	6
Travancore-Cochin	12
TOTAL	96

* According to the terms of the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954, dated the 14th May, 1954, all future vacancies in the Council of States arising in the State of Jammu and Kashmir are to be filled by election by the elected members of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. The first such election took place in November, 1954.

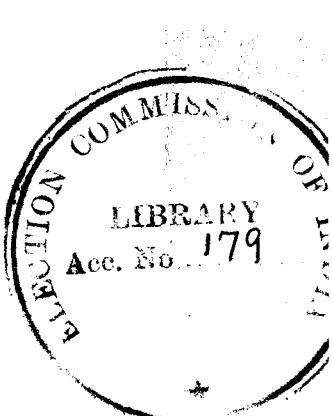
** After the formation of the State of Andhra, the number of seats allotted to Madras and Andhra have been fixed at 46 and 28 respectively, while one additional seat has been allotted to Mysore.

Name of the State or area	Total number or seats allotted
PART C STATES	
Ajmer	2
Bhopal	2
*Bilaspur	1
Coorg	1
Delhi	4
*Himachal Pradesh	3
Kutch	2
Manipur	2
Tripura	2
Vindhya Pradesh	6
TOTAL	25
OTHER AREAS	
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
Part B tribal areas of Assam	1
TOTAL	2
GRAND TOTAL	497

The President nominated two more members under article 331 of the Constitution to represent the Anglo-Indian community in the House, thus raising the strength of the House to 499.

The 8 seats allotted to the State of Jammu & Kashmir, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the Part B Tribal Areas of Assam were filled by persons nominated by the President. As in the case of the Council of States, the President chose the representatives of the State of Jammu & Kashmir in consultation with the Government of the State as required by the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order, 1950, (C.O. 10). The State Government, in actual practice, acted upon a unanimous resolution of the Constituent Assembly in recommending the names of the persons to be chosen by the President. All the other 489 seats were filled by persons chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies, by adult suffrage.

*After the merger of Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh in 1954, the total number of seats allotted to Himachal Pradesh has been increased to 4.



**Legislative
Councils.**

The Legislatures of seven States only, namely, Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Mysore consist of two Houses, while those of the other States have only one House. The upper House is known as the Legislative Council. The composition of the Legislative Councils is determined according to the provisions of article 171 of the Constitution. Under section 10 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the allocation of seats in the Legislative Councils was made as follows:—

Name of State	Total No. of seats	Number elected by					No. nominated by the Governor or Rajpramukh
		Local Bodies	graduates	Teachers	Members of the Legislative Assembly	6	
I	2	3	4	5	7		
1. Bihar .	72	24	6	6	24	12	
2. Bombay .	72	24	6	6	24	12	
*3. Madras .	72	24	6	6	24	12	
4. Punjab .	40	13	3	3	13	8	
5. Uttar Pradesh .	72	24	6	6	24	12	
6. West Bengal	51	17	4	4	17	9	
7. Mysore .	40	13	3	3	13	8	

Elections to the Legislative Councils are held according to the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

As in the case of the Council of States, the Legislative Councils are not subject to dissolution but as nearly as possible one-third of the members retire on the expiration of every second year, in accordance with the provisions of section 156 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Legislative Assemblies.

Each of the Part A or Part B States, with the exception of Jammu & Kashmir, has a Legislative Assembly. The Jammu and Kashmir Constituent Assembly which functions as that State's Legislative Assembly was not constituted under the Constitution of India and elections thereto were held under a proclamation of the then Maharaja of Kashmir. Of the Part C States, the States of Ajmer, Bhopal, Coorg, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and

*After the formation of the new State of Andhra out of the State of Madras in 1953, the total number of seats in the Madras Legislative Council has been reduced to 51.

Vindhya Pradesh have Legislative Assemblies. The number of seats in the Legislative Assemblies was as follows:—

Name of State	Total number of seats allotted
PART A STATES	
Assam	108
Bihar	330
Bombay	315
Madhya Pradesh	232
*Madras	375
Orissa	140
Punjab	126
Uttar Pradesh	430
**West Bengal	238
TOTAL	<u>2,294</u>
PART B STATES	
Hyderabad	175
Madhya Bharat	99
*Mysore	99
Patiala & East Punjab States Union	60
Rajasthan	160
Saurashtra	60
Travancore-Cochin	108
TOTAL	<u>761</u>
PART C STATES	
Ajmer	30
Bhopal	30
Coorg	24
Delhi	48
***Himachal Pradesh	36
Vindhya Pradesh	60
TOTAL	<u>228</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>3,283</u>

* After the formation of Andhra in 1953, it has been allotted 140 seats for its Legislative Assembly, while the number of seats allotted to Madras has been reduced to 230 and 5 additional seats have been allotted to Mysore.

** After the merger of Chandernagore in West Bengal in 1954, the number of seats has been increased by 1.

*** After the merger of Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh in 1954, the number of seats allotted to Himachal Pradesh has been increased to 41.

The members of the Legislative Assemblies are all chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies.

Under article 333 of the Constitution, the Governors of States and the Rajpramukhs of Mysore and Travancore-Cochin nominated in addition the following number of members to the respective Legislative Assemblies to represent the Anglo-Indian community:—

Name of State	Number of members nominated
Bihar	1
Bombay	1
Madhya Pradesh	1
Madras	1
West Bengal	2
Mysore	1
Travancore-Cochin	1
TOTAL	8

Electoral Colleges.

For filling the seats in the Council of States allotted to the Part C States, electoral colleges were constituted. The members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States of Ajmer, Bhopal, Coorg, Delhi and Vindhya Pradesh form respectively the electoral colleges for those States. The electoral college which elects the representative of the States of Bilaspur and Himachal Pradesh consisted of the members of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly and the member representing Bilaspur in the House of the People.* Members of the electoral colleges of the remaining three Part C States, namely, Kutch, Manipur and Tripura, are elected by adult franchise from the territorial constituencies provided by an order made under section 27C of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. Electoral Colleges in these three States have to be constituted afresh for each general election.

The seat in the Council of States allotted to the States of Ajmer and Coorg is filled by a person elected by the electoral college for the State of Ajmer or Coorg, in rotation. Similarly, the seat allotted to the States of Manipur and Tripura is filled by a person elected by the electoral

*The State of Bilaspur was merged into Himachal Pradesh by the Himachal Pradesh and Bilaspur (New State) Act, 1954, and the electoral college of the new State now consists of the elected members of the enlarged Legislative Assembly of the State.

college for the State of Tripura or Manipur, by rotation. Any casual vacancy in the seat allotted to Ajmer and Coorg, or to Manipur and Tripura, is filled by election in the State in which the election to fill the seat was held at the last preceding general or biennial election, as the case may be.

Subject to the above, the seat or seats in the Council of States allotted to any Part C State or group of States is filled by a person or persons elected by the members of the electoral college for such States in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

CHAPTER IV

THE TIME-TABLE

In July, 1947, the Constituent Assembly adopted the reports of the Provincial and the Union Constitution Committees which outlined the principles of a model Constitution for India. The reports envisaged a Legislature for every State, consisting of the Governor and the Legislative Assembly, except for certain States which were to have a Legislative Council in addition. The Parliament was to consist of the President and two Houses—the Council of States and the House of the People. The representatives in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assembly of each State were to be chosen on the basis of adult suffrage—an adult being a person of not less than 21 years of age. The Constituent Assembly realised that the mere preparation of the first electoral rolls on the basis of adult suffrage in a vast country like India with a population estimated then at about 348 millions would by itself be a major administrative task and would take considerable time and present numerous difficulties. It was therefore decided that the work should be taken in hand immediately. Preliminary steps were taken to implement this decision even though it was then not at all certain as to what provisions would ultimately be made in the Constitution or the future electoral law with regard to the qualifications for registration of voters.

In November, 1947, the secretariat of the Constituent Assembly invited the attention of all the State Governments to the decision of the Constituent Assembly to introduce adult franchise for elections to Legislatures and requested them to examine the administrative problems involved in the preparation of voters' lists on that basis. The draft Constitution was published on the 21st February, 1948. In March, 1948, the Secretariat of the Constituent Assembly informed the States of the Assembly's desire to complete the elections to the future Central and Provincial Legislatures "as early as possible after the new Constitution came into operation". Detailed tentative instructions regarding the preparation of the voters' list were given covering matters like the form of the electoral

roll and the requirements in respect of age, citizenship and residential qualifications which a person must satisfy in order to be a voter. As the Constituent Assembly had not taken any decision about the qualifications for citizenship, the question of enrolling the names of the large number of displaced persons who had migrated to the territory of India from territories included in Pakistan presented serious difficulties. The States were accordingly advised that pending final decision, all such persons who had migrated to India should, on a mere declaration by them of their intention to reside permanently in a town or village, be included in the voters' list of such town or village irrespective of the actual period of residence therein.

In July, 1948, a public announcement of what was being done and also proposed to be done in the future in regard to the enumeration of voters, was made by the secretariat of the Constituent Assembly. The 1st January, 1949, was mentioned therein as the date with reference to which the electoral rolls were to be prepared. At the same time, instructions were issued to the effect that the rolls should be prepared for each village, or other convenient unit, so that when the constituencies came to be delimited, there might be no difficulty in consolidating them into the electoral rolls for the constituencies.

As a result of these efforts, some progress was made in the preparation of the rolls. Pending the enactment of the electoral law, instructions were issued explaining the position in respect of the enumeration of refugee voters and the inclusion of names of persons who were in prisons undergoing sentences of imprisonment for criminal offences. While there could be no statutory publication of the rolls until the new electoral law was enacted, the States were directed to take up the printing of the preliminary rolls in order to avoid delay, as also to publish the preliminary rolls unofficially so that they might be improved on the basis of any informal claims for inclusion of names that might be received.

In most of the Provinces and States, the work of preparation of such preliminary electoral rolls proceeded reasonably satisfactorily. On the 8th January, 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted a motion moved by the Prime Minister directing the issue of instructions for the preparation of the electoral rolls and for the taking of all

Tentative
date for
elections.

necessary steps so that "elections to the Legislatures under the new Constitution may be held as early as possible in the year 1950".

The Election Commission.

The provisions of the Constitution relating to citizenship (articles 5, 6, 7, 8, 9) and article 324 regarding the setting up of the Election Commission were brought into force on the 26th November, 1949, while the rest of the Constitution came into force on the 26th January, 1950. The Chief Election Commissioner assumed charge on the 21st March, 1950. The Office of the Election Commission had already been set up on the 25th January, 1950. Although the Constitution provides for the appointment of other members of the Election Commission as and when necessary, it has not been found necessary so far to appoint any other member of the Commission.

Reasons for delay in holding elections.

After its constitution the Election Commission took stock of the progress already made, with particular reference to the terms of the motion adopted by the Constituent Assembly on the 8th January, 1949. It was clear that the elections could not possibly be held during the year 1950 for the following reasons—

- (1) The electoral law was yet to be passed by Parliament.
- (2) The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes had not till then been specified by an Order of the President as required by articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution. The population strength of these Castes and Tribes could not, therefore, be determined. As the extent of reservation of seats in the legislatures for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes depends strictly on the exact proportion that their numbers bear to the total population in any State or in the country as a whole, no decision could be taken at that stage regarding the number of seats to be reserved for them in the various Legislatures.
- (3) The electoral rolls so far prepared were only informal drafts without any legal sanction, the basis for their preparation having been what the electoral law was expected to provide for eventually. Accordingly, the electoral law

had to be passed first to make specific provisions on many important points before the rolls could be made ready even for preliminary publication under legal authority.

- (4) The work of delimiting the constituencies could not be taken up in the absence of an Order under article 387 of the Constitution for the determination of the population of the States and the different areas in each State. In the absence of delimited constituencies, electoral rolls could not be published even when they were ready in any area.
- (5) The state of preparedness for elections varied considerably in the different States. While it might conceivably have been possible to hold the elections during the winter of 1950-51 in a few States, it was impossible to do so in others.

These facts were brought by the Election Commission to the notice of the Government and it was agreed that the elections could not be held in 1950. The Prime Minister made a statement in Parliament on the 19th April, 1950, expressing his hope that elections would be held in the spring of 1951.

In order to expedite the elections, it was decided to enact the electoral law in two stages. The more urgent provisions were dealt with in the first enactment, namely, the Representation of the People Act, 1950. This Act mainly covered the preparation and publication of the electoral rolls and the delimitation of constituencies. Provisions for the actual conduct of elections and matters ancillary thereto were left to be covered by a subsequent piece of legislation.

The provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, (which was passed by Parliament on the 20th April, 1950), underwent major changes during its passage through Parliament and, as a result, it became necessary to cover afresh some of the stages which had already been gone through in the informal preparation of the electoral rolls. For instance, the Constituent Assembly had issued instructions that all persons who were not less than 21 years of age on the 1st January, 1949, and had resided in a particular constituency for not less than 180 days during the year

*Enactment of
electoral law.*

ending on the 31st March, 1948, were to be registered in the electoral roll of the constituency. The Act as passed, provided, on the other hand, that all persons who were not less than 21 years of age on the 1st March, 1950, and who had resided in a constituency for not less than 180 days during the period from the 1st April, 1947 to the 31st December, 1949, were entitled to have their names so registered. A large age-group was thus added as prospective voters and had to be brought on the rolls in every State. Steps were immediately taken by the Commission to have supplementary rolls prepared for every town and village in accordance with the provisions of the 1950 Act. As a consequence, formal publication of the electoral rolls had to be postponed until such supplementary rolls were ready.

The second major change made in the Bill in the course of its passage through Parliament was in respect of the procedure to be followed for the delimitation of constituencies. The original proposals in the draft Bill had laid down a simple and quick procedure and did not contemplate the setting up of any Parliamentary Advisory Committees. The procedure prescribed by the Act as passed by Parliament required consultation with such committees, which were set up, one for every State. Naturally, this resulted in some delay in completing the work of delimitation.

The Representation of the People Act, 1951, was ultimately enacted as late as the 17th July, 1951. The electoral machinery could be formally set up only after the passage of that Act.

Electoral rolls made up-to-date.

In view of all this unavoidable delay, the prospects of holding the elections in the spring of 1951, as originally hoped for, gradually receded. In an attempt to adhere to the original time-table, if possible, the Election Commission made every attempt to expedite the work of preparation of the supplementary electoral rolls in the States. Advantage was taken during such preparation to supply omissions in the draft rolls already prepared. There had been complaints of large scale omissions particularly in respect of the electoral rolls of Punjab and Assam. The Chief Election Commissioner personally visited every State in order to check its state of preparedness for holding the elections. During these tours, he made it a point to meet representatives of the political Parties and

the Press and to take them into the fullest confidence in regard to the preparations made. He sought their co-operation in making the public at large election-conscious and in creating the atmosphere necessary for ensuring that elections would be peaceful, fair and free.

As very little progress had been made in the work of delimitation of constituencies, the Commission had to follow a ~~very~~ tight time-table to cover the various stages of this work. The Parliamentary Advisory Committees were requested to communicate their recommendations early so that the Commission might be in a position to submit its delimitation proposals to the President by the end of July, 1950. This was not found feasible in practice, however.

On the eve of the third session of Parliament in November, 1950, the Election Commission again reviewed the progress made in the preparation for the holding of the general elections. As there was delay in the issue of the President's Orders specifying the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and determining the population of these Castes and Tribes in the different States and the autonomous districts of Assam, not much progress could be made in the work of delimitation of constituencies. In fact, the Scheduled Castes Order was not issued until the 10th August, 1950, and the Scheduled Tribes Order, until the 6th September, 1950.

In the meantime, each State Government had been requested to send to the Commission, by the end of May, 1950, its proposals for dividing the entire area of the State into as many units as there were seats allotted to the State in the Legislative Assembly and in the House of the People. It was intended that some of these units would later be combined into pairs as necessary in order to constitute the required number of two-member constituencies in each of which one seat would be reserved for the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes. In the alternative, some units could be combined to constitute multi-member constituencies, should that be decided upon eventually.

Delimitation
of Constituencies.

While delimitation proposals were duly received from some of the States, there was delay in respect of two Part 'A' States and four Part 'B' States. A decision had also not been taken till then in regard to the general rule to

be followed in delimiting the constituencies—namely, whether they were normally to be single-member or multi-member. It was, therefore, clear that the delimitation orders could not possibly be finalised by Parliament until the middle of November, 1950.

While the Governments of some States were quite prompt in the work of preparation of the electoral rolls, others defaulted in this respect, namely, the Governments of West Bengal, Punjab, Madhya Bharat and Rajasthan.

Further postponement of elections.

As a result of all this delay, it became impossible to hold the elections by April-May, 1951. On the 14th November, 1950, in the course of his address to the third session of the Parliament, the President stated that while the Government had been anxious to hold the general elections as early as possible in accordance with the new Constitution, and while every effort had been made to complete all preparation so as to hold the general elections in April-May, 1951, the position was that Parliament had been unable to finalise many matters connected with elections and that various assumptions on which the States had made preparations for the elections might or might not turn out to be correct. Some States had strongly expressed their inability to hold the elections in April-May, 1951. In Bihar, the acute deterioration of the food position created formidable difficulties. The President observed that for all these reasons the Government had, after taking into consideration both official and non-official view-points, come to the conclusion that "any date in April-May next will give rise to serious difficulties and may not, in the circumstances, be considered a firm date." He announced that the Government had therefore "decided to fix definitely the date for the general elections in the second half of November or early December, 1951."

After this unequivocal announcement by the President, the Election Commission revised the election time-table and impressed upon the State Governments to make up all leeway in their preparations so as to be able to hold the elections in time according to the revised programme.

Publication of electoral rolls.

The preliminary electoral rolls were published in all Part 'A' States, except Punjab and West Bengal, by November, 1950. The West Bengal rolls were published between the 22nd December, 1950, and the 6th January,

1951. In Punjab, advantage was taken of the postponement of elections to revise the entire electoral rolls thoroughly with a view to eliminate large numbers of duplicate entries therein which had resulted from large-scale movements of displaced persons within the State during the years of preparation of the rolls due to quasi-permanent allotments of land to them. The rolls for the Bombay City, which had been prepared and published only in the Devanagri script, were directed to be published in English also. Suitable directions were also given for the publication of rolls for a number of small bilingual areas in Bihar, Madras and Orissa in languages other than those in which they had originally been prepared.

The State Governments were requested to intimate the period that would be most suitable for the taking of the poll. Almost all the States, except Uttar Pradesh, suggested the period from October to December, 1951, for the taking of the poll. Uttar Pradesh recommended January-February, 1952, for the polls and expressed inability to have the poll earlier. The bulk of the polling for the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies actually took place during December, 1951, and January, 1952, except that for climatic considerations, polling in some difficult areas of Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh respectively took place in October, 1951, and February, 1952. Polling for elections to the Upper Houses of the Legislatures and the office of the President took place between March and May, 1952.

Final time
table.

CHAPTER V

THE ELECTORAL MACHINERY

The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State, and of elections to the offices of the President and the Vice-President, including the appointment of Election Tribunals, is vested in the Election Commission, by virtue of article 324 of the Constitution. The Commission consists of the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of other Election Commissioners, if any, as the President may, from time to time, fix.

**The Election
Commission.**

The appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners is made by the President. In order that the Election Commission may be independent of the executive Government, it has been provided in the Constitution that the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court, and the conditions of his service shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment. Similarly, protection has been given by the Constitution to the other Election Commissioners and Regional Commissioners and they cannot be removed from office except on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner. The whole of the election machinery has also been placed under the superintendence, direction and control of the Election Commission, which alone is entitled to issue directives in matters concerning elections.

While the nucleus of the office of the Election Commission was set up on the 25th January, 1950, the Chief Election Commissioner, Shri Sukumar Sen, I.C.S., assumed charge of his duties with effect from the 21st March, 1950. There has not been occasion so far for appointing any other member of the Commission.

**Regional
Commis-
sioners.**

On the 8th August, 1951, the President's sanction was conveyed to the creation, on a temporary basis, of four

posts of Regional Commissioners, from the dates they were filled. These officers were to assist the Election Commission in the performance of its functions in connection with the ensuing general elections. Of the four posts sanctioned, only two were eventually filled. Shri M. R. Meher, I.C.S. (Retd.), was appointed as Regional Commissioner with effect from the 1st November, 1951, with headquarters at Bombay, and Shri T. G. N. Iyer, I.C.S., took over his duties on the 31st October, 1951 with headquarters at Patna. These appointments continued until the 1st April, 1952.

When the Constituent Assembly took up with the State Governments the question of the preparation of electoral rolls, necessity was felt for the creation of an office in each State to be in over-all charge of the work. Accordingly, the States appointed officers with varying designations, e.g., State Election Officers, to whom all work relating to elections was entrusted. In some of the States, they were whole-time officers, while in the others they discharged other duties in addition. In every State, however, an election office was set up. In order to secure uniformity in the designation of the officers in charge of such offices, the Election Commission suggested to all States that the Officer in charge of elections in a State may be called the "Chief Electoral Officer". The proposal was generally accepted. It was felt later that it was necessary to invest the Chief Electoral Officer with a legal status. The term "Chief Electoral Officer" was accordingly defined in the Representation of the People (Preparation of Electoral Rolls) Rules, 1950, to mean the officer appointed by the State Government to perform the functions of the Chief Electoral Officer under the Rules [Rule 2(b)]. The State Governments were thereafter requested to make formal appointments under the rule. As the provisions of rule 2(b) were not suitable for Part 'C' States, an amendment was made on the 31st July, 1951, to the effect that in respect of these States the Chief Electoral Officer shall be appointed by the Central Government or the Chief Commissioner of the State. Subsequently, it was considered more appropriate that the appointment of a Chief Electoral Officer should be made with the concurrence of the Election Commission and another amendment was accordingly made on the 6th May, 1952, providing for the same.

Chief
Electoral
Officers.

Preliminary publication of rolls by administrative units.

As the preparation of the draft rolls progressed and the rolls were ready for preliminary publication in a number of States, it was found that in the absence of delimitation of constituencies, it was not possible to publish the rolls with reference to specific constituencies. It would have delayed the publication of rolls materially if such publication were to be postponed until the constituencies had been finally delimited. An amendment was therefore made in the law enabling the preliminary publication of the electoral rolls according to administrative units without any reference to constituencies. Section 22 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, was amended so that Electoral Registration Officers might be appointed with jurisdiction over administrative and other similar units.

Electoral Registration Officers for administrative units.

The State Governments made suggestions regarding appointments of Electoral Registration Officers and the Election Commission's notifications making these appointments were issued under the amended law and published in the Gazette of India, on the 1st November, 1950. This made the preliminary publication of the draft rolls possible for each administrative unit without waiting for the actual delimitation of constituencies. Revenue Officers of the status of Collectors, Deputy Collectors, Tahsildars etc. were usually appointed as Electoral Registration Officers. In all, 1,652 such appointments were made.

Revising Authorities.

It was decided to appoint judicial officers as Revising Authorities for deciding claims and objections to the draft rolls filed after their preliminary publication. The Commission obtained the approval of the various High Courts to the appointment of Judicial Officers as Revising Authorities within their respective jurisdictions and the appointments were duly made. It was felt that in order to facilitate the filing of claims and objections by persons who lived far away from the offices of the Revising Authorities, it would be necessary and desirable, in some areas, to appoint some other officers only for receiving claims and objections for onward transmission to the competent Revising Authorities. A number of such appointments were made under rule 10(3) of the Representation of the People (Preparation of Electoral Rolls) Rules, 1950. This procedure proved very convenient for the public, and was taken advantage of widely. In order that the claims and objections might be quickly disposed of,

the Revising Authorities were requested to give top priority to their disposal. Wherever the volume of work was heavy, additional Revising Authorities were appointed. In all, 1,529 persons were appointed as Revising Authorities.

After the constituencies had been delimited, the Commission appointed an Electoral Registration Officer for each constituency, under the provisions of section 22 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, for the final publication of the rolls constituency-wise. Revenue Officers of the status of Commissioners, Collectors, Sub-divisional Officers and the like were appointed Electoral Registration Officers for the various Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies, in consultation with the State Governments. The actual arrangements varied from State to State. For instance, in Uttar Pradesh, District Officers were not assigned any such duty. All appointments were made by the end of September, 1951. In all, 324 persons were appointed as Electoral Registration Officers for the Parliamentary constituencies, and 1,275 for the Assembly constituencies. The appointments of Electoral Registration Officers for elections to Legislative Councils were made soon after this and 53 such officers were appointed.

Electoral
Registration
Officers for
constitu-
encies.

Simultaneously with the appointment of Electoral Registration Officers, the Commission took up the question of appointing a Returning Officer and an Assistant Returning Officer for each constituency under sections 20, 21 and 22 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, for conducting the elections. Generally speaking, administrative officers of the status of Commissioners, Collectors, Sub-Divisional Officers, etc. were appointed Returning Officers for Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies. Secretaries of the various Legislatures were, generally speaking, appointed Returning Officers for elections to the Council of States and to the Legislative Councils by members of the Legislative Assemblies. Assistant Returning Officers were also appointed for helping the Returning Officers in their work. In all, 1,253 persons were appointed as Returning Officers and 1,962 as Assistant Returning Officers.

Returning
Officers and
Assistant
Returning
Officers.

While section 22(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, provides that every Assistant Returning Officer shall, subject to the control of the Returning Officer, be competent to perform all or any of the functions of

Their
duties and
powers.

the Returning Officer, the proviso to that section places certain restrictions upon these wide powers.

Difficulties experienced

The Assistant Returning Officer cannot, for instance, perform any of the functions of the Returning Officer which relate to the acceptance of a nomination paper (*i.e.* physically receiving it) or to the scrutiny of nominations or to the counting of votes, unless the Returning Officer is unavoidably prevented from performing these functions. In some cases, these restrictions proved inconvenient. In their normal role as administrative officers, the Returning Officers have to go out on tour in connection with their normal duties and doubt has been expressed whether they could, when absent on such tours, be said to have been "unavoidably prevented" from acting as Returning Officers within the meaning of the law. Difficulty was also experienced in respect of counting of votes. In multi-member Assembly constituencies, as also in most Parliamentary constituencies, counting of votes took a good deal of time as the Returning Officer alone could do the counting. If the proviso to section 22(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, had not applied to the counting of votes, it would have been possible for the Assistant Returning Officers to do the counting in some of the constituencies. The law on this point may be suitably amended.

Suggestion

Presiding, and polling officers.

The large number of Electoral Registration Officers, Revising Authorities, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers could be secured only by drawing very heavily upon the available supply of superior Government servants in each State. But the problem of finding a far larger number of persons for appointment as Presiding and Polling Officers for the actual conduct of polling proved more difficult. In view of the magnitude of the work and the difficulty of getting suitable personnel in sufficient numbers, the Commission took up the question very early and on the 8th April, 1950, the State Governments were requested to examine their requirements of Presiding Officers, Polling Officers and policemen for carrying out polling duties and to make their plans for meeting this demand. Although the number of Presiding Officers and Polling Officers required for manning the 1,32,560 polling stations with 1,96,084 booths was bound to be very large, the Commission directed that proposals for all such appointments should be scrutinised carefully from the point of view of the suitability of the persons to be appointed

for such duties. The Commission suggested that only such Government employees, and employees of Government-aided institutions, as were in receipt of a monthly salary of Rs. 60 and above, might, so far as practicable, be appointed Presiding Officers. As for Polling Officers, it was enough that they should be literate and, as far as possible, be Government servants or employees of local bodies or of Government-aided educational institutions. It was calculated that the requirement of polling personnel, excluding policemen, would be in the neighbourhood of 9,00,000. It was eventually found necessary in a few difficult areas to employ teachers from private educational institutions as well.

The general question as to whether non-officials should be employed for polling duties along with officials was also carefully considered. The Commission ultimately decided that it would be more convenient and practical to employ government officials alone for such duties at the present stage of political development in the country, unless this was found impossible. The Commission apprehended that the employment of non-officials on any large scale would give rise to a much greater volume of complaints of partisanship and discrimination against the polling personnel. Finally, no non-officials were employed for the purpose, except in very rare instances where it was found impossible to raise the minimum man-power otherwise.

Employment
of non-offi-
cials for
polling
duties.

For maintaining law and order at the polling stations, the State Governments detailed a small party of police for duty at each polling station on the polling day. The number of policemen employed at a polling station varied according to local requirements, the normal complement being one Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police or Head constable and three Police Constables. Apart from this, the police helped in the custody and transport of polling materials including ballot boxes and ballot papers before and after polling. A total of 3,38,854 policemen were actually detailed for polling duties at the general elections all over the country.

Policemen
for polling
stations.

One of the difficulties experienced in selecting the superior election officers, e.g. Returning Officers and Electoral Registration Officers was an almost complete absence of experienced hands in many States. So far as Presiding

Difficulties
experienced.

and Polling Officers were concerned, there was, in addition, the problem of the inadequacy of man-power. It was not desirable or feasible to transfer Officers from one State to another. Accordingly, the best use had to be made of the available resources in personnel in each State. The standard of administration naturally differed from State to State. Much greater difficulty was experienced in Part 'B' States (except the States of Hyderabad, Mysore and Travancore-Cochin) to obtain the required personnel as these States had been formed only recently by integration of smaller States whose public services were usually inadequate and of varying calibres.

**Rehearsals
or "mock"
elections.**

The Election Commission was confident, however, that given adequate and intensive training, the officers, however inexperienced and of whatever calibre, would be able to undertake and discharge the responsibility of running the elections. The Commission, accordingly, decided to hold test or "mock" elections on a wide scale all over the country so that the officers might acquire sufficient familiarity with the relevant provisions of the law, and receive the necessary training in the practical conduct of polling. Rajasthan was selected for the first polling rehearsal which was held at Udaipur on the 5th August, 1951. All the District Electoral Officers of Rajasthan, and the Election Officers of the Ajmer State, attended this rehearsal. The Chief Election Commissioner personally supervised the arrangements and all the legal formalities were gone through during the demonstration of the polling procedure. The rehearsal succeeded in its main objectives, namely, creating public interest in the elections and, at the same time, giving practical experience to the election officers in their future task. The rehearsal attracted country-wide attention and was followed by a series of similar rehearsals in Rajasthan and in every other State. The Chief Election Commissioner attended at least one polling rehearsal almost in every State in order to ensure that the procedure followed all over India was uniform and properly understood and that no mistakes were made or misapprehensions entertained in any State. The rehearsals also gave an opportunity for examining the suitability of the provisions of the law laying down the election procedure. The rehearsals were so extensively held in every State that, so far as practicable, almost all prospective election officers received adequate training

in time. These rehearsals ensured that a sufficient number of trained officers would be available for polling duties.

The Commission felt that it would be desirable to issue a set of simple and consolidated written instructions for the guidance of Presiding and Polling Officers. A model of such instructions was accordingly prepared by the Commission in the form of a hand-book and sent to all the States for adoption with such modifications or additions as the local conditions might call for. All the States adopted the model instructions and circulated them to the officers concerned.

Presiding
Officers'
hand-book.

In order to provide the Returning Officers with some guidance in the task of scrutinising nomination papers, the Commission issued circular letters inviting their pointed attention to some of the basic provisions of the law on the subject. These instructions proved of considerable help to them.

PART II

ELECTIONS TO THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE,
STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES AND
ELECTORAL COLLEGES

CHAPTER VI

DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES

The Constitution provides that the House of the People shall consist of not more than 500 members directly elected by adult suffrage [Art. 81(1)(a)]. The allocation of seats to the various States is shown at pages 14 and 15. The number of seats allocated to the Legislative Assembly of each Part A and Part B State is shown at page 17.

Provisions
of the Cons-
titution.

The Constitution makes strict and detailed provisions in order to provide against any risk of 'gerrymandering' of constituencies either for the House of the People or for any of the Legislative Assemblies. These provisions require that as far as practicable the scale of representation in terms of population for every constituency of the House of the People should be the same throughout India and that the scale of representation in terms of population for every constituency of a State Legislative Assembly should be the same throughout the State.

As for the House of the People, article 81(1)(b) of the Constitution requires that each State should be divided, grouped or formed into territorial constituencies for elections to the House of the People and that the number of members to be allotted to each constituency should be so determined that there shall be not more than one member for every 5,00,000 of the population. The article, as it stood at the time of the last general elections, also provided that there shall not be less than one member for every 7,50,000 of the population. Clause (1)(c) of the article prescribes the principle of uniformity of the scale of representation by laying down that the ratio between the number of members allotted to each territorial constituency of the House of the People and the population of that constituency as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published, should be the same throughout the territory of India, as far as practicable. It was found by experience that article 81(1)(c) is by itself an effective enough safeguard against the creation of unequal constituencies and that the maximum of 7,50,000 originally laid down in article 81(1)(b) was

House of the
People.

redundant and operated in practice as a much too artificial and technical handicap. The maximum limit has in fact since been deleted by an amendment of the Constitution in view of the increase of population revealed in the census of 1951 which made it unworkable in practice

Legislative Assemblies.

In respect of the Legislative Assemblies in Part A and Part B States, provisions in similar terms have been made in clauses (2) and (3) of article 170. The minimum population which can return a member to an assembly in a Part A or Part B State is 75,000, the only exceptions to this rule being made in respect of the 'autonomous districts' of Assam and of the constituency comprising the cantonment and the municipality of Shillong in that State. It is interesting to note that no maximum limit was laid down for Legislative Assembly constituencies in respect of their population, as was originally the case with the House of the People constituencies. There is, however, an over-riding proviso to the effect that the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly of a Part A or Part B State must not exceed 500, nor be less than 60. The total population of P.E.P.S.U., as also of Saurashtra, is less than 45,00,000. As a result, although the Legislative Assembly in each of these two States has the minimum of 60 members only, the prescribed minimum of a population of 75,000 per seat in the Legislative Assembly became inapplicable and ineffective.

Part C States.

The Constitution makes no specific provision in respect of constituencies in Part C States—either for the House of the People or the Legislative Assemblies. Article 82 of the Constitution however empowers Parliament to provide by law for representation in the House of the People of Part C States and of other territories comprised within the territory of India but not included in any State. The Representation of the People Act, 1950, fixes the number of seats in the House of the People for each Part C State as shown at page 15. Article 240 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to create Legislatures for Part C States. The Government of Part C States Act, 1951, provided for the constitution of Legislative Assemblies in the Part C States of Ajmer, Bhopal, Coorg, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Vindhya Pradesh. In accordance with subsection (2) of section 4 of that Act, the President determines the constituencies into which each Part C State is to be divided. The limits regarding the scale of representation in the constituencies are also required to be determined by the President.

Article 80(4) provides that the elected members of the Legislative Assembly of a Part A or Part B State will elect the State's representatives in the Council of States, while article 80(5) empowers Parliament to prescribe by law the manner in which Part C States are to choose their representatives in the Council of States. The Representation of the People Act (Sections 27A to 27K) creates an electoral college in each Part C State for the purpose. Where there is a Legislative Assembly, the members of such Assembly form the electoral college. In the three Part C States of Kutch, Manipur and Tripura where there are no Legislative Assemblies, it has been provided that in each of these States, an electoral college shall be directly elected by adult franchise for the purpose of electing the State's representative in the Council of States. The President by an Order determines the constituencies into which each such State is divided for the purpose of election of members to the electoral college, and the extent of each constituency. The delimitation proposals are formulated by the Election Commission in consultation with the Advisory Committees set up in respect of each Part C State and submitted to the President for making the Order.

Special provision has been made by article 330 (1) of Reservation^{of seats} the Constitution for reservation of seats in the House of the People for—

- (a) the Scheduled Castes;
- (b) the Scheduled Tribes, except the Scheduled Tribes in the tribal areas of Assam; and
- (c) the Scheduled Tribes in the 'autonomous districts' of Assam.

Clause (2) of article 330 provides that the number of seats reserved in any State for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats allotted to that State in the House of the People as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the State or of the Scheduled Tribes in the State or part of the State, as the case may be, in respect of which seats are so reserved, bears to the total population of the State.

Under article 332(1) of the Constitution, seats are also required to be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, except the Scheduled Tribes in the tribal areas of Assam, in the Legislative Assembly of every Part

A and Part B State. Although no provision was made in the Constitution for the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies of Part C States, such reservation has nevertheless been made in those Assemblies under section 4(2)(d) of the Government of Part C States Act, 1951, on the principle that the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes should be assured their proper share of representation in those Legislatures also.

Autonomous districts of Assam.

Special treatment has been accorded to the Scheduled Tribes in the 'autonomous districts' of Assam. No person who is not a member of a Scheduled Tribe of an autonomous district of Assam is eligible for election to the Legislative Assembly of the State from any constituency of that district. The only exception to this rule is the constituency which comprises the cantonment and municipality of Shillong. Further, the representation to be given to these districts is on a more liberal scale than what obtains elsewhere in the State, inasmuch as the number of seats to be reserved for an autonomous district in the Legislative Assembly must bear to the total number of seats in that Assembly a proportion not less than what the population of the district bears to the total population of the State (article 330). The result is that for any fraction, however small it may be, over an integer in the arithmetical calculation of the number of seats to which an autonomous district is entitled, a full seat must be allotted to it.

Procedure for delimitation of constituencies.

The basis for delimitation of constituencies is laid down in articles 81(1)(c) and 170(3). Each State which has only one seat in the House of the People, can form only one constituency. According to the provisions of sections 6 and 9 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the President was to determine by order—

- (a) the Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies into which each State to which more than one seat was allotted, was to be divided;
- (b) the extent of each such constituency;
- (c) the number of seats allotted to each constituency; and
- (d) the number of seats, if any, reserved for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes in each constituency.

Section 13 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, laid down the procedure according to which the

President's order regarding delimitation of constituencies was to be made. The Election Commission had first to formulate the proposals for such delimitation in respect of each State in consultation with the Parliamentary Advisory Committee set up for that State and to submit the proposals to the President for making the order. The President's order was thereafter to be laid before Parliament and was subject to such modifications as might be made by Parliament on a motion made within 20 days from the date on which the order was so laid.

Under the Constitution, the scale of representation in the territorial constituencies is to be based on the population as ascertained at the last preceding census. The previous census having been held in 1941, it was felt that the population figures thereof would be too out of date and inaccurate in view of the lapse of so many years, and of the large-scale migrations of population that had taken place in some parts of the country consequent on the partition of India in 1947. The Constitution accordingly provided by article 387 that for purposes of elections held during a period of three years from the commencement of the Constitution, the population of India or any part thereof would be determined in such manner as the President might by order direct, and that different provisions might be made for different States and for different purposes by such order. Accordingly, the President made an order called "The Constitution (Determination of Population) Order, 1950". The Order provided that for the purpose of elections held during a period of three years from the commencement of the Constitution, the population of a State or any part thereof would be determined in the following manner:—

Determina-
tion of
population.

(1) The Census Commissioner would prepare estimates of the population of every State as on the 1st March, 1950—

- (a) after taking into account the population as ascertained at the census of 1941, and such records as were available to him regarding births and deaths since that census, as also of the movement of persons displaced by reason of the partition of the country, and
- (b) on the basis of the mathematical projection of the trend indicated by the population figures.

of the State as ascertained at the last five decennial censuses, after taking into account the movement of persons on account of the partition.

The population of the State was thereafter to be determined by taking the average of the two estimates.

- (2) On receipt of the Census Commissioner's statement showing the estimated population of each State, the President would notify the population so determined, in the Gazette of India.
- (3) The population of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes was to be determined on the basis that it would bear to the total population of the State the same proportion which their population as ascertained at the 1941 census bore at that time to the total population of the territories comprising that State.
- (4) The population of each of the autonomous districts of Assam was to bear to the total population of that State the same proportion which the population of the District as ascertained at the census of 1941 bore at that time to the total population of the territories comprising that State.
- (5) If in any particular case the necessary population figures had not been ascertained at the census of 1941, the population figures, which were ascertained at the census of 1931, were to be taken into consideration for determining the proportion of the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes referred to in sub-paras (3) and (4).
- (6) In cases in which the population figures had not been ascertained at the census of 1941 or at the census of 1931, the population was to be estimated in such other manner as the President might direct.
- (7) On being approved by the President, and after notification in the Gazette of India, the estimates made by the Census Commissioner were to be final and conclusive for purposes of delimitation of constituencies.

- (8) The population of any area within a State to be included in a constituency was, unless otherwise directed by the President in the case of any particular area or class of areas, to be determined by multiplying the number of voters entered in the provisional electoral rolls in that area by the total population of that State as determined in accordance with the above provisions, and then by dividing the product by the total number of voters entered in the provisional electoral rolls of the whole State.

In pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution (Determination of Population) Order, 1950, the statement showing the population of each State, as determined by the Census Commissioner, was notified in the Gazette and formed the basis for the delimitation of constituencies.

Allocation of seats to all Part A and Part B States (excluding Jammu and Kashmir) in the House of the People was made on the basis that one seat would be allotted for every 7,20,000 of the population, which was the average population for each seat in all these States taken together. The estimated population, as on the 1st March, 1950, was divided by 7,20,000 in respect of each of the States and the quotient gave the number of seats to be allotted to the State in the House. A fraction of more than one-half was rounded off to the next higher integer and entitled the State to an additional seat, while smaller fractions were ignored. 470 seats were, in this way, allotted to the Part A and Part B States under section 3 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, including the 6 seats allotted to Jammu and Kashmir. Under the same section, read with article 82 of the Constitution, 25 seats were allotted to Part C States and one seat each was allotted to (i) the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and (ii) the Part B tribal areas of Assam, making a total of 497 seats. The average population of 7,20,000 did not apply to Part C States or the aforesaid areas which, in fact, got a good deal of weightage in this respect.

As regards the State Legislative Assemblies, it was decided, for reasons of practical convenience, that the total number of seats allotted to the Assembly of a Part A or Part B State (other than Jammu and Kashmir) should be an integral multiple of the number of seats allotted to that State in the House of the People. Seats were accordingly

allotted to the various State Legislative Assemblies under section 7 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the multiples ranging from 12 to 5 as follows:—

Name of State	Multiple
PEPSU	12
Saurashtra	10
Assam, Madhya Bharat, Mysore and Travancore-Cochin	9
Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan	8
Bombay, Orissa, Punjab, West Bengal and Hyderabad	7
Bihar	6
Madras and Uttar Pradesh	5

In respect of the six Part C States having Legislative Assemblies (i.e. the States of Ajmer, Bhopal, Coorg, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Vindhya Pradesh) the number of seats allotted to their Legislative Assemblies were specified in the Third Schedule to the Government of Part C States Act, 1951. In fixing the number of these seats also, care was taken to ensure that the total number of seats allotted to each State formed an integral multiple of the total number of seats allotted to it in the House of the People.

Principles for delimiting constituencies.

It was eventually decided that every constituency of the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies would, as a general rule, elect only one member and that two-member constituencies would be set up, as necessary, only where seats were to be reserved for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes. It was also decided that the seat even in a single-member constituency might be reserved for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes if they constituted a clear majority of the total population of the constituency and if other circumstances justified such a reservation.

For purposes of calculating the population of a district or any other area, the number of voters entered in the preliminary electoral rolls of the district or the area was multiplied by the total population of the State, and the product was divided by the total number of voters entered in the preliminary rolls of the whole State. The average population per seat in the State (House of the People or Legislative Assembly) was ascertained by dividing the total population of the State by the total number of seats allocated to the State in the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of that State.

The number of voters enrolled in the revised draft rolls was taken into consideration in the calculations of population made for purposes of delimitation, i.e. the number of voters originally enrolled in an area was added to the number of voters enrolled in the supplementary enumeration, and from the total thereof was deducted the number of voters whose names had been struck off the roll on account of death or other causes.

The Election Commission decided, in the interests of practical convenience, that in every State, as a general rule, each district was to get an integral number of seats in the Legislative Assembly and that wherever it could be reasonably avoided, parts of two different districts should not be joined together for forming an Assembly constituency. An exception had, however, to be made to this rule in the case of a few constituencies in Assam, Bombay, Punjab, Madhya Bharat, Mysore, P.E.P.S.U., Travancore-Cochin and Vindhya Pradesh.

The number of Legislative Assembly seats to be allotted to each district was determined in the following manner. The estimated population of the district was first divided by the State average of the population per seat upto two places of decimal. Each district was then allocated the number of seats according to the integral number in the quotient thus obtained. The seats still remaining to be distributed after this process were allotted, one by one, to each of the districts whose quotients contained the highest fractions until all such seats had been distributed. Each district was thereafter divided into as many units as there were seats to be allotted to the district. In doing so, an effort was made to keep the population of each unit as near the average population per seat for the district as possible. In order that administrative units might preserve their integrity as far as possible within a constituency, departures from this average up to ten per cent above or below the same were freely made. If a slightly greater departure in this respect helped to preserve the integrity of a revenue or other administrative unit, the same was made, wherever necessary.

In view of the provisions in the Constitution to the effect that (i) the population of a Parliamentary constituency returning one member must not exceed 7,50,000 and that (ii) in an Assembly constituency there was

not to be more than one member for every 75,000 of the population, the population of the constituencies had necessarily to be adjusted so as not to violate these limits.

Difficulties experienced.

It may be mentioned here that in the States of Assam, Madhya Bharat, Mysore and Travancore-Cochin, where there are 9 Legislative Assembly seats for each Parliamentary constituency, the maximum possible average population for a Legislative Assembly seat could be only 83,333. On the other hand, the minimum population for a seat according to the Constitution is 75,000. These two limits are so close to each other that considerable difficulty was experienced in delimiting constituencies in these States and administrative units had to be dismembered or cut across far too often, merely to ensure that the maximum or minimum limits of population enjoined by the Constitution were not violated—sometimes by very small margins. Similar difficulties are certain to be experienced in future delimitations as well. The obvious remedy is either to reduce the multiple from 9 to a lower figure e.g. 8 or 7, or, alternatively, to do away with the constitutional minimum of 75,000 for the population per seat for a Legislative Assembly. The first alternative may

Suggestions

be difficult to adopt for political or practical reasons. It should be seriously considered whether the constitutional minimum population for a Legislative Assembly constituency should not be done away with in the same way as the constitutional maximum for the population of a House of the People Constituency has been. Article 170(3) of the Constitution will, even then, prove in actual practice a sufficient safeguard against any glaring inequalities in the constituencies.

The number of Assembly seats in every State being an integral multiple of the number of Parliamentary seats, each Parliamentary seat comprised within itself the number of Assembly seats equal to that integral. An exception to this rule was Assam, where on account of the weightage in representation given to the autonomous districts, the number of Assembly seats in a Parliamentary seat varied in two instances.

Other principles adopted.

A district was, wherever possible, given a complete number of seat or seats in the House of the People. Even where splitting up of a district became necessary, an attempt was made to do so in such a manner as would

give to the district as many complete House of the People seats as it was entitled to, and a proportionately effective voice in the House of the People constituency into which the surplus part of the district was included.

For Parliamentary constituencies, the smaller administrative units were, as far as practicable, not broken up.

Two contiguous Assembly units which might otherwise have been joined to form a two-member constituency with one seat reserved for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, were not so joined if they had to be included in two different House of the People constituencies.

The headquarters station of a district or other administrative unit was, wherever practicable, left with the bulk of the unit and not combined with another unit.

If a question arose as to which of two administrative units should be broken up for forming a constituency, the smaller of the two units which was not in any case entitled to a seat, was broken up.

As far as possible, an integral number of seats was allotted to a city or a town, any excess left thereafter being combined with the contiguous rural areas.

To determine the number of seats to be reserved for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes in a State, the proportion of the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes population to the total population of the State, was first worked out. Thereafter, the proportion so determined was multiplied separately by the total number of (i) the House of the People and (ii) the Legislative Assembly seats allotted to the State. The products thus obtained, after the rounding up of fractions, yielded the number of seats to be reserved in the State for the Scheduled Castes or the Tribes in the respective Houses.

Reserved
seats—multi-
member
constitu-
encies.

The concentration of the Scheduled Tribes population in some areas in the States of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Bharat, Rajasthan and Manipur justified the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Tribes

in single-member constituencies. The number of such reservations was as follows:—

House of the People

Name of State	No. of reserved single-member constituencies
Assam	1
Bihar	2
Madhya Pradesh	1
Orissa	3
Madhya Bharat	1
Manipur	1
Rajasthan	1
	10

Legislative Assemblies

Name of State	No. of reserved single-member constituencies
Assam	17
Bihar	25
Bombay	9
Madhya Pradesh	11
Orissa	16
Madhya Bharat	9
Rajasthan	1
	88

In areas where the concentration of the Scheduled Tribes was not high enough to justify the reservation of single-member constituencies for them, two-member constituencies were formed, one of the seats in each such constituency being reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.

So far as the Scheduled Castes were concerned, they were in no part of India sufficiently concentrated to justify the reservation of a single-member constituency for them—except in the Mainaguri Assembly constituency in West Bengal where alone a single-member constituency could be reserved for them. Everywhere else, seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes were included in two-member constituencies. In Bombay, one Assembly constituency was made a three-member constituency to provide representation to both the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes of the area. A similar three-member constituency

was set up for the House of the People in the northern part of West Bengal.

The areas where the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes were most concentrated, were selected for the reservation of seats for them. Different combinations were tried to cover the areas with the highest concentration in order to obtain the maximum concentration of the Scheduled Castes or Tribes. At the same time, it was also ensured that so far as practicable the Scheduled Tribes population in a multi-member constituency did not outnumber the rest of the population in the constituency, the reason being that in that case, a candidate not belonging to such Scheduled Tribes would have little or no chance of being elected to the unreserved seat and all the seats in the constituency would in all probability go to the tribal candidates.

A seat in the House of the People reserved in a State for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes can be contested only by a member of the Scheduled Castes or Tribes, whether of that State or of any other State, provided that he is an elector for a Parliamentary constituency anywhere in India. In the case of a seat reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in the autonomous districts of Assam, however, the seat can be contested only if the candidate is a member of any of those Scheduled Tribes and is an elector for the particular Parliamentary constituency comprising any such autonomous district.

Eligibility of candidates for reserved seats.

For State Legislative Assemblies, a seat reserved in a State for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes can be contested only by a person who is a member of any of those castes or tribes, respectively, and is also an elector for any Assembly constituency in that State. A seat reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in an autonomous district of Assam, other than a seat the constituency for which comprises the cantonment and municipality of Shillong, can be contested by a person only if he is a member of the Scheduled Tribes of that district and is an elector for the Assembly constituency in which such seat or any other seat is reserved for that district.

A member of the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes alone can fill a reserved seat in a multi-member constituency. He is also eligible to be elected to fill even the unreserved seat in such a constituency. Accordingly, after

Eligibility for unreserved seats.

the reserved seat has been filled, whcever out of the remaining candidates has secured the highest number of votes must be declared to have been elected to the unreserved seat and he may happen to be a member of the Scheduled Castes or Tribes.

The system of multi-member constituencies has adequately served the purpose of providing due representation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In the following cases, members of the Scheduled Castes were elected to unreserved seats:—

Name of State	Name of House	Name of constituency	No. of un-reserved seats filled by members of Scheduled Castes.
Madras	House of the People	Eluru .	1
West Bengal	Legislative Assembly	Bhangore .	1
		Keshpur .	1
Travancore-Cochin	Legislative Assembly	Devicolam Peermade	1
		TOTAL .	4

There was no instance of a member of the Scheduled Tribes being elected to an unreserved seat. The main criticism that has been levelled against the system of multi-member constituencies is that the population and area of such a constituency increase considerably—roughly two-fold in a two-member constituency—and the candidates are put to greater effort and expense as a result in organising their election campaign. Another difficulty felt was that in an appreciably large number of cases, voters cast all their votes into the ballot box of the same candidate and this led to the rejection of all but one vote of each such voter at the time of counting for the violation of the law against cumulative voting. At the general elections, the maximum number of such rejections took place in the case of the North Bengal House of the People constituency where the number of rejected votes was as high as 1,33,063 out of a total of 9,90,800 votes cast.

Difficulty was also experienced by Returning Officers in counting the votes in multi-member constituencies inasmuch as they had not only to count a larger number of

votes but to arrange the ballot papers found in each ballot box according to their serial numbers in order to detect cases of cumulative voting. If a voter casts more than one vote for a candidate, i.e., puts more than one ballot paper into the same ballot box, the additional vote or votes have to be rejected under the law. The ballot papers supplied to an individual voter have the same serial number but can be distinguished from each other by their suffixes. While counting, therefore, the Returning Officers have to check if there are more ballot papers than one with the same serial number, in any of the ballot boxes. The counting of votes took as many as 20 days in the case of a two-member House of the People constituency in Uttar Pradesh, and 12 days in the case of an Assembly constituency in Travancore-Cochin. In the three-member Parliamentary constituency of West Bengal, and in the three-member Assembly constituency in Bombay, counting of votes took 8 and 3 days respectively, although the counting was continued far beyond the usual working hours on each day.

Another unfortunate feature of the system of multi-member constituencies is that if the election of any one of the elected candidates is successfully challenged on the ground (1) that the election was not a free one by reason that the corrupt practice of bribery or undue influence extensively prevailed at the election, or that coercion or intimidation was exercised or resorted to by any particular community or group, or (2) that there had been any improper acceptance or rejection of any nomination paper, which materially affected the result, the election has to be declared wholly void and all the seats declared vacant although the successful candidate or candidates may not have been to blame at all. This actually happened in 29 cases. On the whole, however, the system of multi-member constituencies has worked satisfactorily. In any case, no better substitute for the system has been put forward so far. The hardship involved in unseating one of the elected candidates for the fault of another person can be remedied, partly at least, by suitably amending section 100(1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

The Election Commission prepared statements showing the distribution of seats among the various districts, and asked the Chief Electoral Officers in the first place to make suggestions for actual delimitation of the constituencies

in accordance with the principles laid down by the Commission. These proposals were then released to the Press for inviting objections and suggestions from the public. Meanwhile, an Advisory Committee for each State was set up by the Speaker of Parliament under section 13 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. In respect of a Part A or Part B State (other than the State of Jammu and Kashmir), the Advisory Committee consisted of not less than 3 and not more than 7 members of Parliament representing the State, and in respect of each Part C State, other than Bilaspur, Coorg and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Advisory Committee consisted of the members of Parliament representing that State. It was not necessary to delimit any constituencies for Bilaspur or Andaman and Nicobar Islands. As regards Coorg, it was necessary only to delimit the constituencies of the Legislative Assembly and the Delimitation Advisory Committee for that State consisted of the only member representing the State in Parliament. Copies of the proposals formulated by the Chief Electoral Officer of a State were sent to the members of the Advisory Committee for that State, who were requested to examine the proposals along with any objections or suggestions received from the public and to send their recommendations to the Election Commission. For some States, the Chief Election Commissioner was able to arrange detailed personal consultations with the members of the Advisory Committees. There was no sufficient time to do so for the other States.

After considering the recommendations of the Advisory Committees, the Election Commission formulated its own recommendations. In respect of the States of Assam, Orissa, West Bengal, Hyderabad, Madhya Bharat, Mysore, P.E.P.S.U. and Saurashtra, the Advisory Committees and the Election Commission arrived at agreed proposals. It was unfortunately not found possible to reach similar agreement in respect of the other States and the Election Commission's own delimitation proposals varied from the recommendations of the Advisory Committees. These proposals were submitted to the President along with the detailed comments of the Election Commission.

**Final
Delimitation
Orders**

The proposals sent to the President by the Election Commission for making the Delimitation Orders were duly considered by the Union Government. It was felt by the Government that too strict an application of the

principle of locating seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes on the sole basis of their concentration tended to crowd such reservations too thickly in particular areas of the State and to deny adequate representation to people not belonging to such Castes in those areas, as also to members of the Scheduled Castes living in other areas in the State. It was accordingly decided that the seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes should be distributed more evenly within each State. The formula that was evolved was that the number of seats to be reserved for the Scheduled Castes in each district should first be decided in accordance with their numerical strength in the district and thereafter these seats should be located in such areas of the district where they were most concentrated. The Commission's proposals were revised by Government accordingly and a Delimitation Order was drawn up for each State and issued by the President during May, 1951. These Orders were laid before the Parliament in accordance with sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. Some of these Orders proved to be very unpopular with a section of the members of Parliament and many of them were materially altered by Parliament.

The amendments made by Parliament were notified by the Parliament Secretariat on the 13th August, 1951.

In September, 1951, Parliament enacted the Government of Part C States Act, 1951, which, among other things, set up Legislative Assemblies for all Part C States, except Kutch, Manipur and Tripura. That Act also fixed the composition of those Legislative Assemblies and provided for the delimitation of the constituencies for the purpose. This necessitated the revision of the proposals which the Election Commission had already formulated on the basis that there would be electoral colleges and not Legislative Assemblies in these States. Unlike the constituencies for the Legislatures of Part A and Part B States, the President's Orders providing for the delimitation of constituencies for Part C States did not require to be approved by the Parliament. The President's Orders in respect of these States were issued in November, 1951.

Delimitation
in Part C
States.

Of the 489 seats in the House of the People to be filled by election, 72 seats were reserved for candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes, and 26 for candidates belonging

to the Scheduled Tribes. The North Bengal constituency is the only three-member Parliamentary constituency in which one seat each was reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The remaining 71 seats were reserved for the Scheduled Castes in two-member constituencies. There was no single-member constituency reserved for the Scheduled Castes. Of the 26 seats reserved for the Scheduled Tribes, one was reserved in the three-member North Bengal Constituency while 10 seats were reserved in single-member constituencies and the remaining 15 in two-member constituencies. There were thus 314 single-member constituencies, 86 two-member constituencies, and one three-member constituency of the House of the People.

The total number of seats in the Legislative Assemblies of the States was 3,283. Out of these, 477 seats were reserved for the Scheduled Castes, and 192 for the Scheduled Tribes. The Nasik-Igatpuri constituency in Bombay was the only three-member Assembly constituency in which one seat each was reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The Mainaguri constituency in West Bengal was the only single-member constituency reserved for the Scheduled Castes in the whole country. More single-member constituencies could not be reserved for the Scheduled Castes for the reason that the Scheduled Castes, unlike the Scheduled Tribes, are more or less evenly distributed over almost the entire area in each State and are nowhere else in a substantial majority. Unless the community in favour of which a reservation is made in a single-member constituency is in such majority, it is obviously unfair to the general population to reserve a seat for that community in such a constituency. The inevitable result, therefore, was that 475 out of 477 seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes were reserved in two-member constituencies. The Scheduled Tribes, on the other hand, are usually overwhelmingly concentrated in well-defined areas. Of the total of 192 seats reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in the various Assemblies, as many as 88 were accordingly reserved in single-member constituencies, and 103 in two-member constituencies and the remaining one in the Nasik-Igatpuri three-member constituency. In Assam, 17 single-member constituencies were reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in the autonomous districts. It would appear from the figures given below that an appreciable number of single-member

Assembly constituencies was also reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in the States of Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Madhya Bharat:—

Name of State	Total No. of seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes.	Reservation in single-member constituencies.
Bihar	35	25
Bombay	29	9
Madhya Pradesh	27	11
Orissa	28	16
Madhya Bharat	12	9

In all, there were 2,124 single-member Assembly constituencies, 578 two-member constituencies, and one three-member constituency, in the State Legislative Assemblies.

The delimitation of constituencies made during 1951 was temporary in character and was effective only for the 1951-52 general elections and subsequent bye-elections to the Houses of Legislatures then constituted. According to the Constitution, constituencies have to be re-delimited after every census operation on the basis of the finally published population figures according to the census. The last census operations took place in 1951 and the population figures were finally published in 1953. For all general elections thereafter, the delimitation of constituencies made in 1951 would be out of date. In fact, general elections have since been held to the Legislative Assemblies of three States, *viz.*, P.E.P.S.U., Travancore-Cochin and Andhra on the basis of a fresh delimitation of constituencies in these States.

The procedure followed for delimitation in 1951 did not work out smoothly or satisfactorily. Delimitation of constituencies involves a lengthy and meticulous examination of population figures and its distribution with reference to administrative units and of the relative concentration of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in different areas. From a practical point of view, every effort has to be made in order to avoid unnecessary breaking up of the smaller administrative units. Many conflicting claims have to be adjusted and no section, interest or geographical area should be left with a sense of grievance if that can be reasonably

Working of the procedure.

avoided. The legal position in 1951 was that the Delimitation Orders issued by the President were subject to amendments by Parliament and many of them were in fact materially amended as already mentioned. It cannot be reasonably expected that Parliament in the midst of its multifarious business and pre-occupations would be able to find the time for giving full and adequate consideration to such an intricate and contentious subject. Moreover, delimitation of constituencies is hardly a matter which can be adequately or satisfactorily decided by a majority of votes in a Legislature, where every member is likely, in some measure or other, to be personally interested in the question.

At the end of the general elections, therefore, the Election Commission recommended to Government that the future delimitation of constituencies should be made by an independent Commission more or less judicial in composition and that the decisions of such a Commission should be made final in law.

**The new law
of delimita-
tion of con-
stituencies.**

The suggestions made by the Election Commission for revising the procedure for delimitation of constituencies were generally accepted and an Act called "The Delimitation Commission Act, 1952" (No. LXXXI of 1952), was passed by Parliament. Under that Act, the duty of readjusting the representation of the several territorial constituencies in the House of the People and of the several territorial constituencies in the Legislative Assembly of each State (other than Jammu and Kashmir), as also of delimiting the constituencies, has been entrusted to a Commission called the Delimitation Commission.

The Commission which has been appointed under this Act consists of three members, the Chairman being a retired Judge of the Supreme Court. The second member is the retired Chief Justice of a High Court. The Chief Election Commissioner, *ex-officio*, is the third member. The Commission is assisted by two to seven associate members from each State. These members are drawn from amongst members of the House of the People representing the State and of the State Legislative Assembly. In the case of Kutch, Manipur and Tripura, which have no Legislative Assembly, the two members of the House of the People representing each of these States were appointed associate members for that State. The associate members were appointed by the Speaker of the House of which they were members. In making these appointments,

due regard was paid by the Speakers to the composition of the House.

The decisions of the Commission are taken according to the views expressed by the members and in the case of a difference of opinion, the opinion of the majority prevails.

Readjustment and delimitation of constituencies are to be made by the Delimitation Commission according to the following procedure. The Commission first determines, on the basis of the latest census figures, the number of seats to be allotted to each of the States in the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly. The Commission also determines the number of seats, if any, to be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes of the State, and then distributes the seats allotted to each of the States (other than Jammu and Kashmir) in the House of the People. The seats assigned to the Legislative Assembly of each Part 'A' State and of each Part 'B' State (other than Jammu and Kashmir) and the seats allotted to the Legislative Assemblies of certain Part 'C' States are then distributed amongst territorial constituencies which are delimited in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and of section 3 of the Government of Part 'C' States Act, 1951, on the basis of the latest census figures. The following principles have been laid down in the Act for the delimitation of constituencies:—

1. All constituencies shall be either single-member constituencies or two-member constituencies.
2. The Commission may, however, if it finds necessary so to do, continue either or both of the existing three-member constituencies (namely, a House of the People constituency in West Bengal and a Legislative Assembly constituency in Bombay) whether with or without alterations in their boundaries. In any such three-member constituency, one seat would be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and another seat for the Scheduled Tribes.
3. Wherever practicable, seats may be reserved for the Scheduled Castes or for the Scheduled Tribes in single-member constituencies.

4. In every two-member constituency, one seat shall be reserved either for the Scheduled Castes or for the Scheduled Tribes, and the other seat shall not be so reserved.
5. Constituencies in which a seat is reserved either for the Scheduled Castes or for the Scheduled Tribes shall, as far as practicable, be located in areas in which the population of the Scheduled Castes or, as the case may be, of the Scheduled Tribes is most concentrated. In regard to the Scheduled Castes, however, care shall be taken to distribute the seats reserved for them in different areas of the State.
6. All constituencies shall, as far as practicable, consist of geographically compact areas, and in delimiting them, regard shall be had to physical features, existing boundaries of administrative units, facilities of communication and public convenience.

The initial proposals of the Delimitation Commission are formulated after consultation with associate members. These proposals are published along with the dissenting proposals, if any, of the associate members. A date is also specified on or before which members of the public may make objections to or, suggestions in respect of, the proposals. All objections and suggestions made before that date are further considered by the Commission in one or more public sittings. Thereafter the Commission's final delimitation orders are published in the Gazette of India and become final on such publication. They cannot be called in question in any court. It has, however, been made permissible to amend a final order of the Delimitation Commission at any time within six months from the date of its publication in the Gazette, if any clerical or arithmetical mistake is found in the order, or if an error has arisen from an accidental slip or omission. Such mistakes, slips or omissions can be corrected by the Chief Election Commissioner by order made with the previous approval of the other members of the Delimitation Commission or of such of them as may be available.

CHAPTER VII

PREPARATION AND PUBLICATION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS.

In July, 1947, the Constituent Assembly decided that elections to the lower Houses of the Union Parliament and of the Provincial Legislatures should be on the basis of adult suffrage and that all elections to the Central and Provincial Legislatures should be held on the basis of joint electorates. In order that the minority communities might not feel apprehensive about the effect of a system of unrestricted joint electorates on the quantum of their representation in the Legislatures, it was originally contemplated that, as a general rule, seats for Muslims, Scheduled Castes and Christians (in the Central Legislature and in the Provincial Legislatures of Madras and Bombay) would be reserved on the basis of their population.

Preliminary steps.

The Constituent Assembly accordingly initiated the preparation of composite electoral rolls on the basis of adult franchise. The Provincial and State Governments were requested, as early as November, 1947, to examine the question in detail and to formulate plans for the preparation of electoral rolls. The necessity of preparing the rolls as expeditiously as possible was emphasised so that elections to the future Central and State Legislatures might be completed soon after the coming into force of the Constitution.

Some detailed instructions were also issued regarding the manner and procedure to be followed for preparing the draft electoral rolls. The draft rolls were to be prepared in respect of each village or other suitable unit. Registration of voters was required to be done after a house-to-house enquiry and the enumeration was to proceed on the basis of house numbers assigned at the 1941 Census—new premises being given supplementary numbers. The name of every person who (i) would be a citizen of India, (ii) would be over 21 years of age on the 1st January, 1949, and (iii) would have resided in the village or other unit for not less than 180 days in the year ending on the 31st March, 1948, was to be included in the electoral roll. If a per-

son was temporarily absent from the place of his usual residence, such absence would not stand in the way of his being considered a resident of that place so long as he was at liberty to return to the place at any time. This concession would not, however, apply to a person held in a jail nor would such a person be deemed, during the period spent in the jail, to be resident in the place where the jail was situated.

The electoral rolls were to include particulars regarding (i) the name of the elector, (ii) the name of his father or mother, and in the case of a married woman, the name of her husband, (iii) his house number and address, (iv) his sex, (v) his age and (vi) whether he was a Muslim or a Christian or belonged to any of the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes. As elections were to be held on the basis of joint electorates, it was not really necessary to include in the electoral roll any information regarding the religion or the caste of the voter. In order, however, to help the Returning Officer to decide whether a particular voter would be eligible to contest a seat reserved for a Muslim, a Christian or a person belonging to the Scheduled Castes or to the Scheduled Tribes, as the case may be, it was considered desirable that the electoral rolls should mention whether a voter on the roll was a Muslim, a Christian, or a person belonging to one of the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes. The State Governments were accordingly asked to include in the electoral rolls a column for this purpose. In May, 1949, however, the Constituent Assembly reversed its original decision in favour of the reservation of seats for Muslims and Christians. About the same time, the Diwakar Committee set up by the Constituent Assembly recommended that no person should be required to furnish information relating to his religion or caste in any public document. The question of including a column for religion or caste in the electoral rolls was, therefore, reconsidered in the light of these decisions. As the information included in the electoral rolls regarding the caste of a voter could not in any case be taken by itself as sufficient or dependable evidence of the voter's right to stand for election to a reserved seat and as the proposal to reserve seats in the Legislatures for Muslims and Christians had been abandoned, the State Governments were directed to delete this column from the electoral rolls. All the States did not readily accept this direction.

In fact, Madras strongly opposed it and, in the first electoral rolls prepared under the Constitution, retained this column. The main argument advanced in support of this was that inclusion in the electoral rolls of information as to the religion and caste of a voter would be very helpful in identifying him at the time of poll. In accordance with the directions of the Election Commission, however, this column was ultimately deleted when the rolls were next revised.

Although the preparation of electoral rolls was going on, the Constituent Assembly had not precisely defined as to who was a citizen of India. This lacuna created difficulties in regard to the registration of the large number of persons who had migrated into India on account of disturbances, or fear of disturbances, in their former places of residence in Pakistan. The Constituent Assembly eventually decided that the name of every such person should be entered in the electoral roll for any place in India on a mere declaration by him of his intention to reside permanently in that place whatever the actual period of his residence there might be. The intention was that such entries would be revised, if necessary, in accordance with the provisions of the electoral law after its enactment.

The first part of the electoral law—the Representation of the People Act, 1950,—covering *inter alia* the qualifications of the voters and the preparation of electoral rolls was enacted in April, 1950. As already mentioned in Chapter IV, this measure materially altered the basis on which the draft electoral rolls had been prepared during the preceding two years and a half. The qualifying date with reference to which the age of an elector was to be ascertained was changed from the 1st January, 1949, to the 1st March, 1950 and the qualifying period during which an elector was to be ordinarily resident in a constituency for not less than 180 days was changed to the period from the 1st April, 1947, to the 31st December, 1949, instead of the period originally intended, namely, the 1st April, 1947, to the 31st March, 1948. The Act also provided that a person was to be considered to be ordinarily resident in a constituency if he merely owned or possessed a dwelling house in that constituency even though he did not physically reside there for any period. These basic changes made the draft electoral rolls prepared in the various States largely inaccurate and out of date and a

The Law.

vast amount of fresh effort was called for in order to make the draft electoral rolls up to date in conformity with the provisions of the law.

Supplementary electoral rolls.

A large body of persons had become eligible for registration as voters as a result of these changes, either because they had attained the age of 21 years between the 1st January, 1949, and the 1st March, 1950, or because they satisfied the more liberal provisions regarding residential qualification which were made in the 1950 Act. The Commission accordingly directed the State Governments to have supplementary rolls prepared for these categories of voters. The opportunity was taken during the preparation of the supplementary rolls also to include therein the names of persons who were even previously eligible for inclusion in the draft rolls but whose names had been omitted therefrom through inadvertence or mistake. The attention of the State Governments was also invited to the provisions in the law for the registration of electors who were members of the Armed Forces or persons holding certain offices under Government, and it was directed that the names of these categories of electors should be printed in a separate part of the electoral roll of each constituency, in order to facilitate the system of postal voting which was prescribed for them. In order to elicit full public co-operation in the preparation of the supplementary lists, the Commission directed, on the 16th May, 1950, that the relevant parts of the original electoral rolls should be informally made available for inspection to the public at numerous centres, e.g., the district headquarters, sub-divisional headquarters, thanas, tehsils, village or union centres. This was publicised in the press and the public were appealed to for co-operation. This informal publication proved very useful and numerous mistakes and omissions in the electoral rolls were made good informally under this procedure.

Preliminary publication of electoral rolls according to administrative units.

The 1950 Act also made provision for the delimitation of constituencies. This work, however, took a long time to complete and the constituencies for the Legislative Assemblies and the House of the People had not taken shape by the time the revised electoral rolls were ready for formal preliminary publication. Normally, electoral rolls are published constituency-wise but this was not feasible in the absence of constituencies. Any delay in the formal publication of electoral rolls

would have resulted in a corresponding delay in holding the elections. Accordingly, the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the rules made thereunder, were suitably amended so as to allow preliminary publication of the electoral rolls according to administrative units, and not constituency-wise.

This amendment was effected by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950, which was promulgated on the 17th October, 1950. Section 22A inserted into the Act by this Ordinance provided for the preparation of the electoral rolls in relation to such areas or 'electoral units' in each State as the Election Commission might, in consultation with the Government of the State, direct. Provision was also made for the preliminary publication of the electoral rolls in such manner, and at such places, as might be prescribed, by reference to the electoral units for which the rolls were prepared. Some other sections of the Act were also suitably amended in order to give effect to the provisions of the new section 22A. The provisions of the amending ordinance were subsequently enacted by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1950 (No. LXXIII of 1950), which became law on the 23rd December, 1950. This amendment proved very helpful and materially expedited the holding of the elections. While the delimitation of constituencies was proceeding on the one hand, the publication and revision of the electoral rolls progressed simultaneously on the other, so that by the time the constituencies were delimited, the preliminary electoral rolls had been published in all States and claims and objections relating to them had been disposed of.

The Commission directed all State Governments to take steps for the preliminary publication of the electoral rolls by the first week of November, 1950, for inviting claims and objections. One complete set of the electoral rolls of each district was required to be published at the district headquarters, another set in relevant parts at the sub-divisional offices, and a third set in separate relevant parts in the revenue circles or tehsil offices, local board offices, Police stations or village panchayats, etc. For the convenience of the public, the Commission directed informal publication of a fourth set of rolls, village by village, in every village.

Electoral units.

Method of publication of electoral rolls.

**Programme
of publica-
tion.**

The following programme was fixed for the preliminary publication of the electoral rolls:—

Printing of supplementary lists	15th October, 1950.
Preliminary publication of rolls	31st October, 1950.
Claims and objections to be filed upto	21st November, 1950.

When the Government decided to postpone the general elections until November-December, 1951, the Election Commission took steps to ensure that the longer time available as a result of this postponement was utilised for making the rolls satisfactory in all respects. The Commission decided that in the States where the electoral rolls had already been preliminarily published, either in part or whole, the time for filing claims and objections should be extended up to the 23rd December, 1950. This date was further extended in all States from time to time so as to give the maximum opportunity to the public to scrutinise the rolls and file claims and objections. At the same time, those States which were behind schedule were requested to expedite the preliminary publication of the rolls. By November, 1950, the electoral rolls had been preliminarily published in all Part 'A' States except West Bengal, Punjab, Bihar and Orissa. In West Bengal, the rolls were published between the 22nd December, 1950, and the 6th January, 1951. In Punjab, it became necessary to re-check the entries in the rolls prior to preliminary publication so as to eliminate large numbers of obviously duplicate entries therein in respect of displaced persons who had moved from one place to another and been registered in more places than one. Bihar, Orissa and Punjab were the last States to publish electoral rolls preliminarily on the 31st March, 1951.

**Final publi-
cation of
electoral
rolls.**

The claims and objections which were filed after the preliminary publication of the electoral rolls were disposed of in the different States during the period from the 31st October, 1950, to the 2nd October, 1951. Thereafter, lists of addenda and corrigenda to the preliminarily published electoral rolls, prepared in the light of the decisions given by the Revising Authorities, were printed. In the meantime, the constituencies had been delimited and it was possible to make the electoral rolls final and publish them constituency-wise, as required by law. The various orders delimiting the constituencies were issued in

August, 1951 and the Commission directed the immediate final publication of the rolls. The following preliminary steps were taken before such final publication:—

- (1) appointment of Electoral Registration Officers for each Parliamentary and Assembly constituency;
- (2) collation of the rolls constituency-wise;
- (3) printing of addenda and corrigenda;
- (4) printing of title pages; and
- (5) selection of centres for final publication.

The Commission decided that the electoral rolls of each constituency should be finally published at the headquarters of the Electoral Registration Officer of the constituency by displaying them at a conspicuous place in his office. In several States the boundaries of constituencies as finally delimited were materially different from those proposed by the Commission. The work of collation of the rolls, therefore, required considerable labour and time and, in spite of the utmost efforts, it was not possible to publish any of the rolls finally before the first week of September, 1951. No uniform date was fixed for publication and the rolls were published as and when ready. The last rolls were published on the 15th November, 1951.

The electoral rolls are published in draft to afford opportunity to every person who is entitled to be registered as an elector but whose name has been left out to have his name registered by making a claim for such inclusion. It also gives an opportunity to every elector in the constituency to oppose the inclusion in the electoral roll of the constituency of the name of a person who is not entitled to be so included. A period of 21 days after such publication is allowed by law for the filing of claims and objections. It is, however, a common experience that the ordinary voter is very apathetic at that stage, with the elections still far off, and that he takes very little advantage of this opportunity unless political parties and their workers take active interest and persuade him to file a claim for the inclusion of his name in the roll. Adult suffrage being new to the country, the Commission liberally extended the period for the filing of claims and objections in every State. Considering the size of the State, the number of claims presented in Assam (1,02,339) was

*Claims and
objections.*

quite considerable. The maximum number of claims and objections (7,65,521 claims and 3,44,227 objections) were filed in Uttar Pradesh. Altogether, a total of 16,58,428 claims and 7,31,750 objections were filed throughout the country, of which 13,93,526 claims and 7,12,802 objections were allowed.

Claims and objections by Electoral Registration Officers.

The Representation of the People (Preparation of Electoral Rolls) Rules, 1950, empowered the Electoral Registration Officers to file applications before the appropriate Revising Authorities for the inclusion in, or the exclusion from, the electoral rolls of the names of persons belonging to certain categories, namely the Armed Forces of the Union, persons holding any office in India declared by the President to be an office the holder of which would be entitled to such inclusion, persons employed under the Government of India in a post outside India, the wife of any of the aforesaid persons, or a person who was a citizen of India and had migrated from the territory of Pakistan into the territory of India before the 25th July, 1949, on account of disturbances or fear of disturbances in his former place of residence. The rule also permitted the Electoral Registration Officers to make similar applications with the permission of the Election Commission in respect of the names of any other persons not belonging to any of these categories. The intention was that when an electoral roll was materially incomplete or defective through the laches of the official machinery and a large number of voters was involved, the officials themselves should take the initiative in order to improve the rolls. On the 22nd November, 1950, the Election Commission invited the attention of the Chief Electoral Officers of the States to this provision in the rules and suggested that in a constituency where a large-scale omission of names of voters from the electoral rolls had come to notice, the Electoral Registration Officer should himself file applications for their inclusion. The Electoral Registration Officers made use of this provision wherever it was called for.

Enrolment of voters satisfactory.

The total number of voters enrolled in the whole of India (excluding Jammu & Kashmir) was 17,32,13,635. Of these, approximately 45 per cent were women voters. The total population of India (excluding Jammu & Kashmir) according to the 1951 census was 35,66,91,760. As much as 49 per cent of the total population was thus enrolled as voters. The census figures of 1951 reveal that the percentage of adults (*i.e.* persons over 21 years of age) is

50·55 of the total population. Out of a total adult population of 18,03,07,684, therefore, the electoral rolls included 17,32,13,635. Only 70,34,839 adults, some of whom must have lacked the necessary qualifications, were left out of the rolls. In the light of these figures, it must be conceded that the enrolment of voters was reasonably satisfactory.

In view of the chequered history of the preparation of the rolls between 1948 and 1951, it is not surprising that the final electoral rolls were not always as accurate and satisfactory as might have been desired. The names of quite a large number of eligible electors could not be brought on the rolls in spite of all efforts. The reasons were (i) ignorance and apathy on the part of the common voter, (ii) lack of adequate organisation and experience in so far as the political parties were concerned and (iii) inexperience and defective organisation of the governmental machinery in some of the States. It may be mentioned that even in an advanced country like the United Kingdom, with centuries of experience of democratic elections, the governmental machinery takes very little active part in making the electoral rolls upto-date during revisions and the bulk of this burden falls on the political parties. It may be expected that in India also the political parties will, in their own interests, take much greater interest in this important work and actively co-operate with the election officials in making the rolls as nearly perfect as they can reasonably be made. It will be recalled that in the early stages of the preparation of electoral rolls, there was no electoral law in existence and the work proceeded on presumptions some of which were upset when the law took shape. Not until March, 1950, was there any whole-time central directing or supervisory authority. When the law came into operation, a full scale revision of the draft rolls had to be ordered by the Election Commission. Because of the imperative necessity felt for holding the elections as early as practicable, the work of revision of the rolls had to be hurried through. All this made it difficult to attain such accuracy and method in the work as could have been wished for. The result was that the rolls were not entirely satisfactory. A rough idea of the defective character of the rolls may be had from the fact that after the final publication of the rolls, the Election Commission allowed as many as 732 applications for inclusion of names in the rolls, mostly from intending candidates at the general elections, although each

Quality of
the electoral
rolls.

of them had to pay a fee of Rs. 50 along with his application. If so many omissions could take place even amongst prominent citizens who aspired to contest the elections, it may be easily imagined that omissions amongst the common people must have been on a more extensive scale.

Enrolment¹ of displaced persons.

A serious problem arose in respect of the displaced persons in West Bengal, Punjab, Delhi and, to some extent, in Assam. There was a large influx of migrants from Pakistan into these States during 1947—1951 and these constituted a considerable floating population. It proved a very difficult task to register as voters such of them as were eligible for registration under the law.

Delhi.

At the time of the preparation of the electoral rolls in the year 1950, the State of Delhi had a large population of displaced persons, mostly residing in temporary stalls and huts. By September 1951, some of them had shifted elsewhere within the State, to newly built townships and colonies. Their enrolment at their new places of residence before the general elections was not possible as they had not acquired the necessary residential qualification there. Moreover, the electoral rolls for the Parliamentary constituencies from which the electoral rolls for the Assembly constituencies are abstracted in Part 'C' States, had already been finally published in the State by then. Another difficulty for these voters was that they were not entitled to cast their votes at the polling stations which were set up in the localities to which they had shifted, inasmuch as the localities where they had been originally resident and where they had been actually enrolled formed part of other constituencies. The Delhi Transport authorities, however, ran a few special buses on the date of poll and that partially solved the difficulty. A majority of such persons were, as a result, able to exercise their right of vote.

West Bengal. In West Bengal, there was some discontent amongst the displaced persons who found themselves ineligible for supplementary enrolment as voters by reason of their having migrated from the territory of Pakistan into the territory of India after the 25th July, 1949, when it was too late for them to obtain Indian citizenship under article 6 of the Constitution. Nevertheless, a large number

of other displaced persons who were eligible, were enrolled.

As a result of the partition of the Punjab, nearly two million displaced persons moved from West Punjab into East Punjab. The Constituent Assembly decided that the names of these persons might be included in the electoral rolls on the strength of their oral declarations, and that a distinguishing mark might be placed against their names in order that it might be possible to check their citizenship with reference to the requirements of the Constitution after it had been adopted. Consequently, the third letter of the Urdu alphabet was placed against the names of the displaced persons in the draft electoral rolls, to distinguish them from other voters. According to article 6 of the Constitution all displaced persons migrating on or after the 19th July, 1948, or those to whom the proviso to article 7 of the Constitution applied, were required to register themselves as Indian citizens before the commencement of the Constitution. While a majority of the refugees had entered India from West Pakistan before the 19th of July, 1948, and had thus automatically become citizens of India, there were others who had entered India later, and had not acquired Indian citizenship. They could not, therefore, be enrolled as voters until they had acquired such citizenship. All such persons were invited by public notice to apply for Indian citizenship. In all, certificates of citizenship were issued to 8,051 such persons and they were, thereafter, enrolled as voters.

Difficulty was also experienced in Punjab in the preparation of the supplementary electoral rolls in the year 1950 on account of the movement of displaced persons from their original places of residence at the time of enrolment (where they had already been registered as voters) to other places as a result of the quasi-permanent allotment of land and houses to them in the latter places. In spite of these difficulties, nearly 11,00,000 voters were registered in the supplementary electoral rolls of Punjab.

Representations were made to the Commission from Punjab that the names of a large number of displaced persons had been entered twice as a result of their having moved from one place to another. Taking advantage of the postponement of the elections referred to in page 26, the

Commission took steps to have such duplicate entries checked and corrected and to bring the electoral rolls in conformity, as truly as possible, with the actual state of affairs. Double entries were scored out after enquiry and 82,497 such entries were actually deleted from the rolls. The names of 1,34,815 other persons were also deleted either because they were dead or had themselves applied for the exclusion of their names from the rolls of particular constituencies where they had been originally enrolled.

Women voters.

It came to the notice of the Election Commission during the preparation of the electoral rolls that a large number of women voters had been enrolled in some States not by their own names but by the description of the relationship they bore to their male relations (e.g. A's mother, B's wife etc.). The reason for this was that according to local custom, women in these areas were averse to disclosing their proper names to strangers. As soon as the matter came to the notice of the Election Commission, instructions were issued that the name of an elector being an essential part of his or her identity, must be included in the electoral rolls and that no elector should be enrolled unless sufficient particulars, including the name, were given. The Electoral Registration Officers were, therefore, instructed to substitute the women voters' proper names for their description in such cases. Directions were also issued to the effect that any woman who refused to give her proper name should not be registered as a voter and if she had already been registered without the name, the entry should be deleted. The Electoral Registration Officers were also instructed to avail of the provisions of the law, wherever possible, for taking the initiative themselves and making application for the substitution of the proper names of women voters if they had been enrolled by description only. The voters were also requested by public appeals to give the necessary particulars to the Electoral Registration Officers. A special extension of one month was given in Bihar for filing such applications so that the number of women voters whose names were liable to be struck off the rolls for this reason might be reduced. This extension was made good use of and the rolls were considerably improved in that State. Although such an extension was given in Rajasthan as well, the response there was poor and a large number of entries relating to women voters had to be deleted for this defect.

The unfortunate result of all this was that many women voters had their names struck off and could not vote at the general elections as their names were not on the electoral rolls. Out of a total of nearly 80 million women voters in the country, nearly 2·8 million eventually failed to disclose their proper names, and the entries relating to them had to be deleted from the rolls. Practically all such cases were from the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Rajasthan and Vindhya Pradesh. The general elections have demonstrated the value of the vote and it is expected that the women voters and the women's organisations will co-operate more effectively with the Registration Officers and that no difficulty in the enumeration of women voters will be experienced in future. Recent reports indicate that no difficulty is being experienced in any State in enrolling women voters by their proper names.

The first electoral rolls relating to Madras were preliminarily published during November-December, 1950, except that the rolls relating to the West Coast Islands, namely, the Laccadive and Minicoy Islands of Malabar District and the Amindivi Island of South Kanara District, could not be published at that time as the transhipment of the rolls by sea to the islands could not be arranged. These islands lie out in the sea 123 to 240 miles away from the mainland and form part of the Chevayur Assembly and Kozhikode Parliamentary constituencies. Island vessels are not provided with auxiliary power and so could not be utilised on account of the prevailing cyclones. Attempts were therefore made to secure a more powerful vessel for the purpose. The State Government arranged to charter a private vessel at considerable cost which made two attempts to reach the islands, but on account of severe and unfavourable weather even these attempts failed. Ultimately, on the 19th March, 1951, the preliminary electoral rolls of these islands had to be published on the mainland in the offices of the respective Electoral Registration Officers viz., the Tahsildar, Kozhikode, and the Tahsildar, Mangalore. As the rolls could not be transhipped for publication in the Islands, the Commission extended the period for the filing of claims and objections up to the 9th May, 1951, and attempts were again made in vain to charter a bigger vessel and even a naval vessel to take the rolls to the Islands. In the face of these difficulties, the Commission had to decide that the preliminary publication of the rolls of the Islands made in the offices of the Electoral

Difficulties
in particular
cases—Lac-
cadive,
Minicoy and
Amindivi
islands in
Madras.

Registration Officers concerned on the 19th March, 1951, was sufficient compliance with the provisions of the law relating to the publication of draft electoral rolls.

One defect, however, remained in these rolls. The rolls had been prepared with reference to the 1st January, 1949, as the qualifying date, and the year ended 31st March, 1948, as the qualifying period. According to the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, however, the qualifying date and the qualifying period for the purpose of preparation of the electoral rolls were the 1st March, 1950, and the period beginning on the 1st April, 1947, and ending on the 31st December, 1949, respectively. The rolls had not been revised so as to give effect to these provisions. The possibility of rectifying this defect by ordering a revision under section 25(a) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, was examined, but the idea had finally to be given up as impracticable, as it was not found possible to obtain a vessel to tranship the rolls, in time, for necessary action under section 25(a). The Parliamentary roll was, therefore, published finally in the office of the Electoral Registration Officer on the 10th October, 1951 and the Assembly roll on the 4th October, 1951, without any further revision. Copies of the electoral rolls were of course sent to the Islands well in time for the elections.

**Part played
by parties.**

The physical work of preparing the electoral rolls was stupendous by itself. Added to it were difficulties caused by the inexperience and apathy of eligible voters. The whole work was done by Governmental machinery and there was little support or help from any other quarter. The political parties played very little active part in the preparation of the rolls although they could have rendered substantial help in this task. Only some displaced persons' associations pointed out defects in the enumeration of such persons as voters, and took advantage of the special facilities provided for their enrolment with the result that a large number of them were enrolled. If similar interest had been taken by the political parties, the electoral rolls would have been far more satisfactory. The Commission expects, however, that the political parties will have built up the necessary organisation well before the next general elections and that the registration authorities will be receiving more and more help and co-operation from them in the revision of electoral rolls.

Originally, the Commission suggested to each State that 200 copies of the electoral rolls might be printed. The number was, however, varied at the request of some of the State Governments who used the same rolls for elections to their Local Bodies. The estimated requirement of paper for the printing of the rolls was so considerable that the Government of India had to make special arrangements for its supply in time for printing. In all, 3,84,215 reams of paper were used for the printing of the rolls including supplementary rolls and the lists of additions and corrections.

Printing
of electoral
rolls.

The volume of the printing work was also very considerable and in order to conform to the programme fixed for the elections the State Governments had to distribute the work amongst a large number of private and government presses. Comparatively high charges had to be paid for printing on account of the shortness of the period within which the work was required to be completed.

As the boundaries and extent of the constituencies had not been settled at the time when the printing of rolls commenced, the presses were required to print the rolls separately for each village or town. After the constituencies had been finally delimited, a good deal of detailed and careful work had to be done to collate the rolls, printed unit-wise, into sets of electoral rolls, constituency-wise. Some idea of the magnitude of the work can be formed from the fact that 16,523 clerks were employed for the purpose all over the country over a period of nearly 6 months.

Collation
of the
rolls.

Section 23 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, requires that the electoral rolls for each constituency shall be "prepared" every year in the prescribed manner by reference to the qualifying date. In order that the defective rolls prepared for the last general elections may be thoroughly revised in course of such annual revisions, or, rather, preparation, the Election Commission took the earliest opportunity after the completion of the general elections to issue detailed instructions calculated to ensure that the electoral rolls for the next general elections were full and accurate. According to these instructions, each State Government is required to revise intensively every part of the electoral rolls in the State at least once during the period of five years following the general elections. By intensive revision is meant revision by means

Annual
revision
of elec-
toral rolls.

of personal house-to-house enquiry in the field. The work has been so planned that, generally speaking, during each annual revision of electoral rolls, one-fifth of the area of each State is covered by such intensive revision, in turn, while in respect of the rest of the State, there is no house-to-house enquiry but the revision is of a routine nature, which means that it proceeds on the basis of the existing rolls with such amendments as may be worked out by the registration authorities by reference to the National Register of Citizens, the records of deaths, and any decisions on claims and objections which may be filed. For urban areas, areas having a floating labour population and areas to and from which a large migration of the population is known to have taken place, as also for those parts of the rolls which relate to electors who are entitled to vote by post, intensive revision has been directed to be made every year so as to keep the rolls up to date. Special instructions have also been issued for bringing back to the rolls women voters whose names had to be deleted from the rolls in 1951 for want of their proper names. It is expected that these steps will make full and accurate electoral rolls available by the time the country goes to the polls for the second general elections.

Suggestions.

The need has been felt on occasions for giving wider discretionary powers to the Commission to adopt a simpler and quicker procedure for revision of electoral rolls. For instance, if the Election Commission had the power to direct the summary revision of the electoral roll for the local authorities' council constituencies, the biennial elections to the Legislative Councils in 1954 could have been held on more satisfactory electoral rolls. As it happened, through the carelessness of the registration officers, or otherwise, persons who had long ago ceased to be members of the local authorities still had their names on the electoral rolls and participated in those elections, while newly elected members to these bodies had no vote according to the requirements of the present law with regard to the "qualifying date". A suitable amendment of the law is desirable so that such an awkward contingency may be avoided.

The law relating to the inclusion of names of electors in the electoral rolls has already been made simpler and the powers that were originally confined to the Commission itself have now been decentralised and given instead

to Chief Electoral Officers and Electoral Registration Officers who may include names of eligible voters in the electoral rolls after necessary enquiry.

Another obvious simplification in the law would be to do away with the necessity of having separate electoral rolls for Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies. It may be provided that the electoral roll of a Parliamentary constituency will, in all cases, consist of the electoral rolls of all the Assembly constituencies or Council of States constituencies, as the case may be, or parts of such constituencies, which are geographically comprised within the limits of the Parliamentary constituency.

A more technical question for consideration is whether it is at all necessary to "prepare" an electoral roll every year. It would be sufficient if the electoral roll is required to be 'revised' every year, the roll remaining valid until it has been next revised.

CHAPTER VIII

AMENDMENT OF FINALLY PUBLISHED ELECTORAL ROLLS

Applications
for inclusion
in the rolls.

Rule 20(2) of the Representation of the People (Preparation of Electoral Rolls) Rules, 1950, as it stood at the time of the general elections, empowered the Election Commission to direct the amendment of the finally published electoral rolls by inclusion therein of the names of such eligible voters as might apply for enrolment. On the eve of the general elections, a large number of prospective candidates discovered that their names had not been enrolled and that as a result they were not qualified under the law to be candidates. Accordingly, they made applications to the Election Commission for enrolment. Most of these applications were received at a very late stage. Before any such application could be disposed of by the Commission it was necessary to hold an enquiry into the eligibility of the applicant for enrolment as a voter. In view of the fact that even a favourable order passed by the Commission after the expiry of the last date for the filing of nomination papers would be of no help to such prospective candidate, the Commission evolved a speedy procedure for dealing with such applications. According to this, the applicant was required to send a copy of his application for enrolment simultaneously to the Chief Electoral Officer of the State who would immediately make all necessary enquiries and report to the Commission as early as possible on the merits of the application along with his opinion as to whether the applicant was eligible to be a voter or not. If the Commission's order including the name of a candidate was passed on or before the last date for the filing of nominations, the Returning Officers were directed not to reject his nomination paper on the ground that he was not a duly enrolled voter.

The special facilities extended by the Commission for prompt enrolment of names under rule 20(2) proved very helpful to candidates whose names had not been included in the finally published rolls. The first application for inclusion of a name was received on the 8th September, 1951, and the last on the 21st February, 1952. During this period, the Commission received as many as 778 applications. After enquiry, the names of 732 applicants were

ordered to be included in the rolls, while 46 applications were rejected. It is interesting to note that out of the persons thus enrolled as voters, as many as 87 came out successful at the elections, 70 of them having been elected members of the State Legislatures and 17 of Parliament.

In order that defective electoral rolls may, whenever necessary, be revised or corrected, apart from routine annual revisions, power has been given to the Election Commission under section 25(a) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, to direct at any time the revision of the finally published rolls for a constituency, or a part of a constituency.

Extraordinary revision of rolls.

Serious defects came to light in respect of some parts of the electoral rolls prepared in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Bombay, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. In Madhya Pradesh, the voters of two entire villages had not been enrolled at all. In Bihar, no roll had been prepared for five villages in the Sadar Sub-division of the Palamau district and in Bombay, the names of approximately 3,000 persons had not been included in the rolls of the Pimpuri Camp. Similarly, in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh several villages had been left out completely. Although the Commission was anxious to rectify these defects even before the final publication of the rolls, this was not possible, as the powers vested in the Commission by virtue of section 25(a) could not be invoked before the final publication of the rolls. No action could, therefore, be taken until after the rolls had been finally published. The delay in delimiting the constituencies led necessarily to delay in the final publication of the rolls and eventually, when the rolls were finally published, there was no sufficient time left for completing the revision of the rolls of these areas in time for the general elections. Under the procedure prescribed by the Rules, a revision of rolls requires a minimum of about two months. In order that the all-India programme for the general elections might not be upset, the Commission had to decide that the revision of these defective electoral rolls should not be undertaken.

While the above instances demonstrate that it is necessary for the Commission to have the power of ordering the revision of rolls wherever necessary, such power would prove virtually ineffective unless a more speedy and summary procedure is made available. The law should therefore be suitably amended in this respect.

CHAPTER IX

SYMBOLS

Normally, a ballot paper has the names of the contesting candidates printed on it and the voter records his preference for the candidate of his choice by placing a mark against the name of such candidate. The percentage of literacy in India being in the neighbourhood of 16·6 only, it would have been impossible for the vast majority of the voters who are illiterate to mark their votes on ballot papers with the names of the contesting candidates printed on them. Of course, provision could have been made in the law requiring the polling officers to help illiterate voters in recording their votes on such ballot papers. But this would have meant the virtual abandonment of the vitally important principle of the secret ballot. A system had therefore to be devised which was suitable to Indian conditions and under which even illiterate voters could intelligently cast their votes in secret in favour of the candidates of their choice. The easiest method appeared to be to assign a separate ballot box for each candidate and to place a different mark on each such box so that the distinctive features of such marks might help a voter in distinguishing between the boxes of the different candidates and in casting his vote correctly by dropping his ballot paper inside the ballot box assigned to the candidate of his choice, the ballot paper being a mere token not requiring any marking by the voter. The choice lay between having each ballot box painted in a different colour or marked with a distinguishing symbol pasted on it. Both these systems had been tried more or less successfully in the past in different parts of India. It was, however, apprehended that the number of candidates standing for election would be quite large in many constituencies in view of the large number of parties claiming to have the status of national or all-India parties. It was, therefore, felt that mere painting of the ballot boxes with different colours would not be satisfactory or workable inasmuch as too many colours would have to be used and would confuse the voters. This apprehension proved justified by the facts during the elections. To cite one instance,

there were as many as 14 validly nominated candidates for election from the Mylapore constituency of the Madras Legislative Assembly. If the ballot boxes had to be painted in different colours, 14 different colours would necessarily have had to be used and most of the voters would have found it difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish the different colours or even combinations of colours.

The Commission accordingly decided in favour of the 'symbol system'. Under this system, ballot boxes, each bearing the distinctive symbol of a candidate, are placed in the polling compartment. It is not necessary for a voter, whether literate or illiterate, to make any mark on the ballot paper; he has merely to place it in the box marked with the symbol of the candidate of his choice.

The Commission decided that the symbols should be familiar to, and easily recognizable by, illiterate and ignorant voters and readily distinguishable by them from each other and that no object having any religious or sentimental associations, e.g., a cow, a temple, the National Flag, a spinning wheel and the like, should find a place in the list of approved symbols.

The Commission requested each State Government to discuss with all the organized political parties in the State the "symbol system" and its working, and report the result to the Commission so that a convenient method of working the system might be decided upon and the largest common measure of agreement in the choice of symbols by different parties, might be arrived at. One of the initial difficulties felt by the Commission was the lack of materials and data which would enable it to decide reasonably satisfactorily on the claims of the numerous political parties to be recognised either as all-India (or "national") parties or as "state" parties. As many as 29 parties asked for recognition as national parties and many more claimed recognition as state parties. In the end, the Commission asked some of the minor parties to justify their claim and on the basis of their replies, had to arrive at *ad hoc* decisions in the matter.

Recognition
of parties
for the
purposes of
reserving
symbols.

On the 30th July, 1951, the Commission held a conference with representatives of the main political parties in New Delhi. The Chief Election Commissioner presided

All-parties'
Conference.

over the conference. Only well-established political parties organised on an all-India basis were called to this conference and a scheme for allotting a distinctive symbol to the candidates of each party all over India was discussed. The conference was attended by representatives of the following parties:—

1. The Indian National Congress,
2. The All India Forward Bloc (Ruikar Group),
3. The All India Forward Bloc (Marxist Group),
4. The Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha,
5. The Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party,
6. The Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad, and,
7. The Socialist Party.

The All India Scheduled Castes' Federation which had also been invited did not send any representative to attend the conference, but communicated its preference in regard to the symbols.

The agreed scheme.

A scheme had been prepared and circulated to the parties in advance. During the discussions, there was general agreement amongst the parties on the following principles:—

- (1) The same symbol would be used throughout India for all the candidates of a party, both for Assembly and Parliamentary elections.
- (2) No separate symbol was necessary for a party's candidates contesting reserved seats. The party's symbol would be allotted to its candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes as well, but an additional mark, e.g. a thick circle, would be printed round the party's symbol in order to distinguish the ballot boxes of such candidates from the ballot boxes of its other candidates. In three-member constituencies, a second and larger concentric circle would be printed round the symbol for distinguishing the third candidate of the party.
- (3) The name of each candidate would, in addition, be written in bold hand on the label bearing his symbol on the ballot box allotted to him in a polling station.

(4) In order that the names of the official candidates sponsored by a party might be ascertained authoritatively, each party would inform the Chief Electoral Officer of every State of the name or names of the person or persons who were authorized by the party to convey its ultimate decision regarding the adoption of candidates. Specimen signatures of the person or persons so authorised would be sent to the Chief Electoral Officer of each State along with the intimation of the authority delegated to them. When a party withdrew any of its candidates from the contest, a communication to that effect would be sent to the Chief Electoral Officer and the Returning Officer.

The following symbols were respectively selected by the parties:—

Selection of
symbol by
national
parties.

1. Indian National Congress—

1st preference	Plough with bullocks
2nd preference	Congress Flag with Charkha

2. All India Forward Bloc (Ruikar Group)—

1st preference	Human Hand
2nd preference	Lantern
3rd preference	Hut

3. All India Forward Bloc (Marxist Group)—

1st preference	Leaping Tiger
2nd preference	Standing Lion
3rd preference	Standing Lion on map of India

4. Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha—

1st preference	Swastika and Sword
2nd preference	Horse and Rider
3rd preference	Tree

5. Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party—

1st preference	Hut
2nd preference	Pair of scales
3rd preference	Tree

6. Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad—

1st preference	Milch cow with calf and milkmaid
2nd preference	Rising Sun
3rd preference	Swastika

7. Socialist Party—

1st preference	Plough
2nd preference	Tree
3rd preference	Human Hand
4th preference	Umbrella

8. All India Scheduled Castes' Federation —

Elephant

The Communist Party of India contacted the Election Commission a little too late for being invited to the Conference held on the 30th July, 1951. However, they

intimated to the Commission on the 1st August, 1951, the following choice of symbols made by them:—

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1st preference | Hammer and the Sickle |
| 2nd preference | Ears of corn with a sickle on one side
and a hammer on another. |

Allotment
of symbols
to national
parties.

On the 2nd August, 1951, the Commission announced its decision allotting symbols to some of the parties as follows:—

Name of Party	Symbol allotted
1. All-India Forward Bloc (Marxist Group).	Standing Lion
2. All-India Forward Bloc (Ruikar Group)	Human Hand
3. Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha	Horse and Rider
4. Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	Hut
5. Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad	Rising Sun
6. All-India Scheduled Castes' Federation	Elephant

The following symbols were allotted on the 17th August, 1951:—

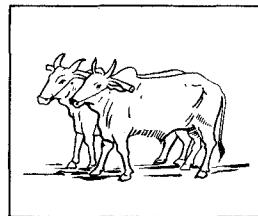
7. Indian National Congress	*Two bulls with yoke on Tree
8. Socialist Party	Ears of corn and a sickle (In areas where the party had not been declared illegal)
9. Communist Party of India	Spade and Stoker (In Assam, Bihar, Madras, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Travancore Cochin and Delhi)
10. Revolutionary Socialist Party	Flaming torch (Mashal) (In Bombay, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal)
11. Revolutionary Communist Party of India	

A further list of symbols allotted subsequently was issued on the 7th September, 1951, as follows:—

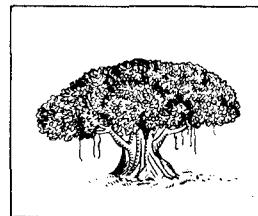
12. Bolshevik Party of India	A Star
13. Krishikar Lok Party	A cultivator winnowing grain
14. All India Bharatiya Jan Sangh	Lamp (Deepa)

* The description has since been altered to "Two bullock with yoke on."

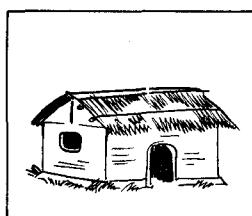
DESIGNS OF SYMBOLS FOR ALL INDIA PARTIES



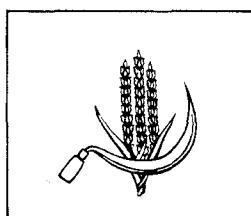
INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS



SOCIALIST PARTY



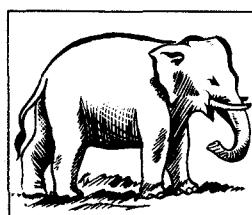
KISAN MAZDOOR PRAJA PARTY



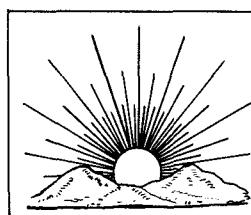
COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA



ALL INDIA BHARTIYA JAN SANGH



ALL INDIA SCHEDULED CASTES FEDERATION



AKHIL BHARTIYA RAM RAJYA PARISHAD



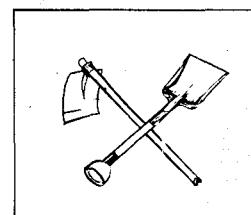
KRISHIKAR-LOK PARTY



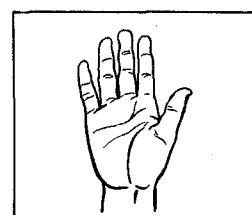
AKHIL BHARTIYA HINDU MAHASABHA



ALL INDIA FORWARD BLOC
(MARXIST GROUP)



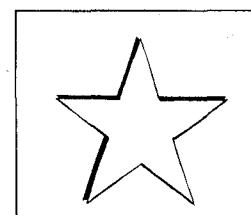
REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PARTY



ALL INDIA FORWARD BLOC
(RUKIAR GROUP)



REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA



BOLSHEVIK PARTY OF INDIA

Finally, the Election Commission published on the 8th September, 1951, the following list of approved symbols to be used at the elections:—

1. Two bulls* with yoke on
2. Tree
3. Standing Lion
4. Human Hand
5. Horse and Rider
6. Hut
7. Rising Sun
8. Elephant
9. Ears of corn and a sickle
10. Spade and Stoker
11. Flaming torch (Mashal)
12. Star
13. A cultivator winnowing grain
14. Lamp (Deepa)
15. Bow and arrow (except in Bihar)
16. Railway engine
17. Cycle
18. Cart
19. Boat
20. Flower
21. Pitcher
22. Ladder
23. Scales
24. Cock
25. Camel and
26. A twig with two leaves.

The first 14 items of the above list having been reserved for the national parties as mentioned above, none of them was available for selection by a candidate not belonging to the party concerned. The Commission directed therefore that no candidate shall choose, except with the permission of the Returning Officer, any of these 14 symbols.

^F The description has since been altered to "Two bullocks with yoke on".

Free symbols

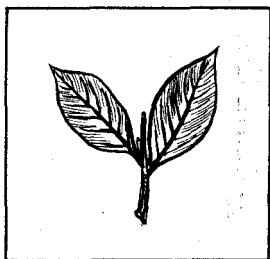
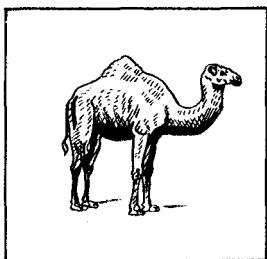
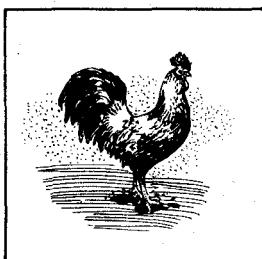
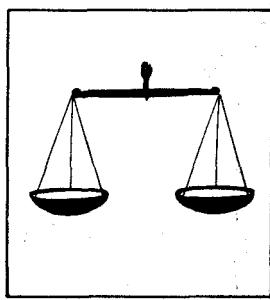
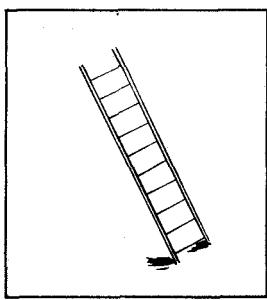
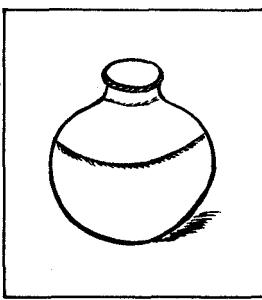
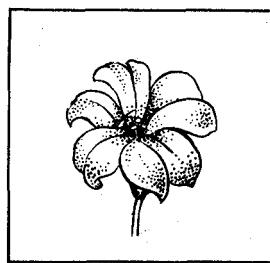
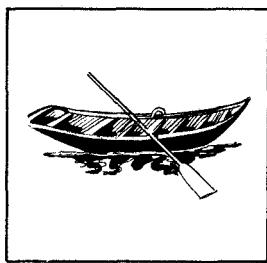
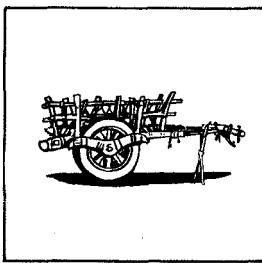
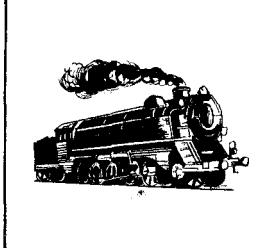
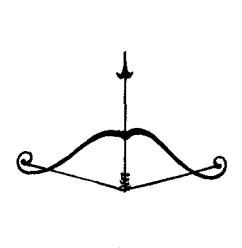
It was also decided that if any all-India or national party did not set up any candidate at all in any particular State, the symbol allotted to it would be "free" in that State and could be made available, if necessary, to a "state party" (i.e., a party functioning within a State only) or to an independent candidate, in that State.

Reservation of symbols for State parties.

The powers to reserve for state parties symbols other than those reserved for all-India parties were delegated by the Commission to the Chief Electoral Officers. The state parties were advised to make out their claim for a symbol and to express their preferences before the Chief Electoral Officers who were directed to announce their decisions by the 30th September, 1951. The following parties were recognized as state parties in the States mentioned below. The symbols reserved for them in different States were as follows:—

Name of State	Name of the Party	Symbol allotted
Bihar . .	1. Lok Sewak Sangh 2. All India United Kisan Sabha. 3. Jharkhand Party 4. Chota Nagpur and Santal Parganas Janta Party.	Railway engine Cart. Cock Cycle
Bombay . .	1. Peasants' and Workers' Party 2. Bharatiya Shetkari Kamgar Paksha (Kamgar Kisan Paksha). 3. Nationalist Party of India 4. Joint front of :— (i) Communist Party of India (ii) Left Socialist Group and (iii) Kamgar Kisan Paksha	Cart Cycle Camel Railway engine (in Greater Bombay only).
Madhya Pradesh . .	1. Bharatiya Lok Congress 2. Madhya Pradesh Peasants' and Workers' Party <i>alias</i> Shatkari Kamgar Paksha.	Pitcher Cart
Madras . .	1. The Justice Party 2. The Madras State Muslim League Party. 3. The Commonwealth Party 4. The All India Republican Party. 5. The Tamil Nad Toilers Party 6. The All India Agriculturists' Union.	Scales Ladder Cycle Railway engine Cock Cart (without bullocks).
Orissa . .	All India Ganatantra Parishad . .	Bow and arrow

DESIGNS OF SYMBOLS FOR STATE PARTIES
AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES



Name of State	Name of the Party	Symbol allotted
Punjab .	1. Shiromani Akali Dal . . . 2. Lal Communist Party, Hind Union. 3. Bharat Lok Congress . . . 4. Punjab Depressed Classes League.	Bow and arrow Railway engine Pitcher Scales
Uttar Pradesh	1. U. P. Praja Party . . . 2. U. P. Revolutionary Socialist Party. 3. U. P. Soshit Sangh . . .	Cart Bow and arrow Cock
Hyderabad .	1. All Hyderabad Trade Union Congress. 2. All Hyderabad Kisan Sabha . . . 3. Democratic Peoples Front . . . 4. League of Socialist Workers . . . 5. Hyderabad State Depressed Classes Association. 6. Hyderabad State Praja Party . . . 7. Independent League . . . 8. Peasants' and Workers' Party . . . 9. Republican Party . . . 10. United Scheduled Castes Federation.	Railway engine Cart Flower Cock Ladder Bow and arrow Boat Cycle Scales Camel
Madhya Bharat	1. Bharat Bhumi Sewak Sangh, Gwalior 2. Madhya Bharat Kisan Congress Samiti, Ujjain.	Boat Cart
Mysore	1. Mysore Janatha Party . . . 2. Mysore Praja Sangh . . .	Scales Flower
P.E.P.S.U.	1. Akali Party . . . 2. Lal Communist Party . . .	Bow and arrow Railway engine
Rajasthan .	Kisan Janta Sanyukt Party . . .	Cart
Saurashtra .	Saurashtra Khedut Sangh . . .	Cart
Travancore-Cochin.	1. Democratic Congress Party . . . 2. Tamil Nad Congress Party . . . 3. Travancore Tamil Nad Congress Party. 4. Tamil Nad Peoples' Front . . . 5. Kerala Socialist Party . . . 6. Travancore-Cochin Republican Praja Party. 7. Cochin Party . . . 8. Scheduled Castes National Federation.	Cock Cart Pitcher Bow and arrow Ladder Scales Flower Boat
Ajmer .	1. Kisan Sangh . . . 2. Gram Sewa Dal . . . 3. Pursharthi Panchayat . . . 4. Krishak Hitkari Sangh . . .	Camel Cart Ladder Scales
Bhopal	Kisan Mazdoor Mandal . . .	A cultivator winnowing grain.
Tripura	1. Tripura Ganatantrik Sangha 2. Sat Sangha . . .	Ladder Bow and arrow
Vindhya Pradesh.	1. Vindhya Pradesh Sarvajanik Sabha. 2. Vindhya Pradesh Kisan Sabha.	Flower Cart

Subsequent changes.

After the allotment of symbols to the parties, certain party alliances, affiliations and mergers took place which necessitated re-allotment of symbols to the affected parties. In Punjab, a party called the Provincial Zamindara League, which was subsequently recognised as a state party by the Chief Electoral Officer, represented that in view of its affiliation with the Krishikar Lok Party (a national party), the symbol "A cultivator winnowing grain" which had been allotted to the Krishikar Lok Party might be allotted to the candidates to be set up by the League. As the Krishikar Lok Party also supported this request, the Commission recognised this alliance between the two parties by complying with the request.

In Hyderabad, four parties, namely, the All Hyderabad Trade Union Congress, the All Hyderabad Kisan Sabha, the Democratic Peoples' Front and the League of Socialist Workers, which had been recognized as state parties and allotted "Railway engine", "Cart", "Flower" and "Cock", respectively, as their symbols, merged into a single party called "The Peoples' Democratic Front". This new party was also recognized and the symbol "Human Hand" was allotted to it on the 10th November, 1951, while the symbols "Railway engine", "Cart", "Flower" and "Cock" were declared to be "free" symbols in the State.

In Travancore-Cochin, the Democratic Congress Party which had been recognized as a state party and allotted "Cock" as a symbol, subsequently merged into the Indian National Congress and the party's symbol was thereafter transferred to the list of "free" symbols in the State.

In Ajmer, the Krishak Hitkari Sangh had been recognized as a state party and was allotted "Scales" as its symbol. Later, the party merged into the Jan Sangh and the symbol originally allotted to the party was made free.

In Mysore, two parties, namely, the Mysore Janatha Party and the Mysore Praja Sangh had been recognized as state parties and allotted "Scales" and "Flower", respectively, as their symbols. The two parties subsequently merged into the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party (a national party) and the symbols allotted to those parties were thereupon made free.

In Madras, the Andhra Ryotu Kooli Praja Party which was not recognised as a party for the allotment of symbol, entered into an electoral alliance with the Krishikar Lok Party and adopted that party's symbol.

The following parties also demanded recognition as national parties but the Commission could not agree to their request as none of them had sufficient standing or following in the country, in the Commission's estimate, to merit such recognition:—

1. All India Agriculturists' Union
2. The Indian Union Muslim League
3. Forward Communist Party of India
4. All India Republican Party
5. Socialist Unity Centre
6. West Bengal Provincial Co-operative Societies Federation
7. The Party of National Synthesis
8. The Swarajya Sabha
9. Akhil Bhartiya Mahila Sangh
10. Peasants and Workers Party
11. National Party of India
12. All India Refugee Parliamentary Board
13. Peasants and Workers League
14. All India Ganatantra Parishad
15. Shiromani Akali Dal

The Commission directed the Returning Officers to observe the following instructions while allotting symbols to candidates:—

Procedure
for allotting
symbols to
candidates.

- (1) The appropriate symbols should first be assigned to the official candidates of the "recognised" parties for whom symbols had been reserved.
- (2) In assigning symbols to the remaining candidates, the first choice of a candidate should be accepted if it did not clash with the first choice of any other candidate. If there was any such clash, the Returning Officer should decide the matter by drawing lots. If a candidate cannot be allotted his first choice, he should be allotted his second or third choice, as the case may be, by following the same procedure.

If it was not found possible to allot any of the three symbols mentioned by a candidate in his nomination paper, the Returning Officer might allot to him any other symbol at his disposal.

(3) In a two-member constituency, a party's candidate eligible to contest the general seat only, should be allotted the symbol reserved for the party. The party's Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe candidate should be allotted the same symbol enclosed in one thick black circle printed round the symbol. In a three-member constituency, a party's Scheduled Caste candidate should be allotted the party symbol enclosed in one thick black circle while its Scheduled Tribe candidate should be allotted the party symbol enclosed in two concentric thick black circles printed round the symbol at a little distance from each other.

(4) The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates not sponsored by any recognised party, should be given plain 'free' symbols without any thick black circle.

(5) The symbols allotted to all-India parties should be printed by the States according to the designs approved by the Commission. For a state party, the design of their symbol should be obtained from the party concerned and then formally approved. The designs of "free" symbols should be approved by the Chief Electoral Officers.

(6) In affixing symbols at the polling station, care should be taken to paste one symbol inside each box in addition to the one pasted on its front vertical side, so that, in case of doubt or dispute through loss or damage to the outer symbol, the identity of the box might be established beyond doubt by reference to the symbol pasted inside the ballot box after it has been opened at the time of counting.

Designs of symbols

In approving the designs of symbols, the Commission (in respect of national parties) and the Chief Electoral Officers (in respect of state parties) generally accepted the designs suggested by the parties themselves. A national party was permitted to suggest any variation in the design of its symbol to be used in any particular State so that the symbol might be more readily recognized by the voters in that State. Photostat copies of the approved designs of symbols reserved for the national parties were supplied by the Commission to the respective

parties to avoid any misunderstanding or dispute about the approved design. In order to avoid any dispute between the parties and to guard against the risk of any confusion in the minds of the voters at the time of the polling, the Commission insisted that no design of any symbol must include in it any part of any other symbol.

The Commission advised the State Governments that a minimum of four or five copies of each symbol might be printed for each polling station or booth. Two of these copies would be pasted inside and outside the ballot box. A third copy of each symbol would be required for display outside the polling station or booth, along with other symbols, for the benefit of the voters waiting outside the polling station or booth. In all, 42·1 million symbols were printed.

Printing of symbol.

Although the vast majority of the Returning Officers correctly followed the Commission's instructions regarding the allotment of symbols, there were a few isolated instances in which serious mistakes were committed by Returning Officers at the time of the scrutiny of nominations and allotment of symbols. For instance, in Bihar, Punjab, Madras, Mysore and Madhya Bharat, some Returning Officers allotted the same symbol to more than one candidate in the same constituency. These mistakes were, of course, rectified in time. In Mysore, some Returning Officers assigned the symbol reserved for an all-India Party to an independent candidate. In Rajasthan the nomination papers of two candidates were rejected solely for the reason that they had selected a symbol allotted to a party, and did not produce letters of authority from that party to the effect that they were the official candidates of the party.

Comments on the working of the system.

On the whole, however, the Commission's instructions regarding allotment of symbols were well understood and observed. The decision to allot one symbol to each of the all-India and state parties for all elections proved very convenient both to the parties and to the election authorities and was widely appreciated. The voters also found it easy to remember the party alignment of a candidate and to identify his ballot box by the symbol allotted to him. In fact no case was reported in which a voter found it difficult to locate or understand a symbol. One difficulty, however, might have been felt in the working of the symbol system. There were cases in which the same symbol was allotted to two independent candidates, one contesting

the election to the House of the People and the other to the State Legislative Assembly, and some voters might conceivably have been confused between the two at the time of polling. The remedy for this would obviously be to avoid allotting, as far as practicable, the same symbol to two different independent candidates contesting two different elections which take place simultaneously in the same area. Discretion should also be given to the Election Commission to direct a correction being made in the allotment of symbols wherever necessary.

**Withdrawal
of recogni-
tion after
the elec-
tions.**

It was unavoidable, for reasons already mentioned, that as many as 14 parties had to be given "recognition" on an *ad hoc* basis as national parties and had symbols reserved for them in the general elections. This number was far too high. After the general elections were over, full details of the electoral support obtained by each party became available and the Commission reviewed its earlier decision in the light of these details—which furnished authoritative proof of the standing of each party in a State, or in the entire country. The Commission decided that if the total number of valid votes polled by all the candidates set up by a political party formed too low a percentage of the total number of valid votes cast in the general elections, such a party had no claim to have a symbol reserved to itself. In view, however, of the fact that some of the parties had been newly formed and had very little time to organize themselves before the general elections, the Commission fixed the minimum standard for "recognition" at the very low figure of 3 per cent of the valid votes polled in the elections. In the case of the national parties, the percentage was calculated with reference to the votes polled for election to the House of the People, while in the case of the State parties, the votes recorded for election to the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned were taken into account. On the above basis, a decision was taken on the 6th February, 1953, continuing 'recognition' to the following four parties only as national parties:—

1. The Indian National Congress;
2. The Praja Socialist Party (formed by the merger of the Socialist Party and the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party);
3. The Communist Party of India; and
4. All India Bharatiya Jan Sangh.

All other parties ceased thereafter to be recognised as national parties for the purpose of allotment of symbols.

At the same time, for the sake of uniformity, the Election Commission itself took over the task of revising the list of the recognised state parties as well. After such revision, the number of state parties was reduced from 59 to 19, and the following parties only now continue to be recognised as state parties in the States noted against each:—

Name of state party	States in which recognised
1. Forward Bloc (Marxist) . . .	West Bengal.
2. Hindu Mahasabha . . .	West Bengal, Madhya Bharat, Saurashtra and Bhopal.
3. Ram Rajya Parishad . . .	Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Rajasthan, Ajmer and Vindhya Pradesh.
4. Scheduled Castes Federation . . .	Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Hyderabad, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Vindhya Pradesh.
5. Revolutionary Socialist Party	Travancore-Cochin.
6. Krishikar Lok Party . . .	Madras and Rajasthan.
7. Chhota Nagpur and Santal Parganas Janta Party . .	Bihar.
8. Jharkhand Party . . .	Bihar.
9. Peasants and Workers Party . .	Bombay.
10. Tamilnad Toilers Party . .	Madras.
11. Shiromani Akali Dal . .	Punjab.
12. Provincial Zamindara League . .	Punjab.
13. People's Democratic Front . .	Hyderabad.
14. Peasants and Workers Party . .	Hyderabad.
15. Saurashtra Khedut Sangh . .	Saurashtra.
16. Travancore Tamilnad Congress . .	Travancore-Cochin.
17. Pursharthi Panchayat . . .	Ajmer.
18. Kisan Mazdoor Mandal . . .	Bhopal.
19. Ganatantrik Sangha . . .	Tripura.

The number of "recognised" parties—national or state—has thus appreciably declined since the general elections. This is a welcome development as it shows that, generally speaking, the electorate care as little for independent candidates as for minor or splinter parties and prefer elections to be fought along clear-cut party lines.

No change was made in the symbol of the party whose recognition was continued. As a result of the merger of two of the national parties, namely, the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party and the Socialist Party of India into the new Praja Socialist Party, the Commission gave recognition to this new party and allotted 'Hut' as its symbol, as desired by it.

Extension of the symbol system to other elections.

After the general elections, the Commission received requests from several political parties and State Governments for permission to allot to candidates of the recognized political parties, at the elections to Local Bodies, the same symbols as had been allotted to them in the general elections. After a careful consideration of the matter, the Commission took the view that the symbols allotted to the parties at the general elections had become closely associated with them in the public mind and that such association should be further strengthened in every way so that the idea underlying the symbol system might take deeper and deeper root and the task of the parties, candidates, the general public, and the election officials might, to that extent, become easier in all future elections. The Commission further felt that a certain amount of confusion might arise in the public mind if the same party had different symbols for different kinds of elections and agreed that the parties might be allotted the same symbols at elections to Local Bodies. An overall idea of the success achieved by the important All-India political parties in the elections may be obtained from the following tables and the maps:—

Name of Party	House of the People		Legislative Assemblies	
	No. of contesting candidates	No. elected (including unopposed returns)	No. of contesting candidates	No. elected (including unopposed returns)
Indian National Congress	472	364	3,153	2,246
Socialist Party of India	256	12	1,799	125
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	145	9	1,005	77
Communist Party of India	49	16	465	106
All India Bharatiya Jan Sangh	93	3	717	35

**COMPARATIVE STRENGTH OF PARTIES
IN THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE**

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS 499

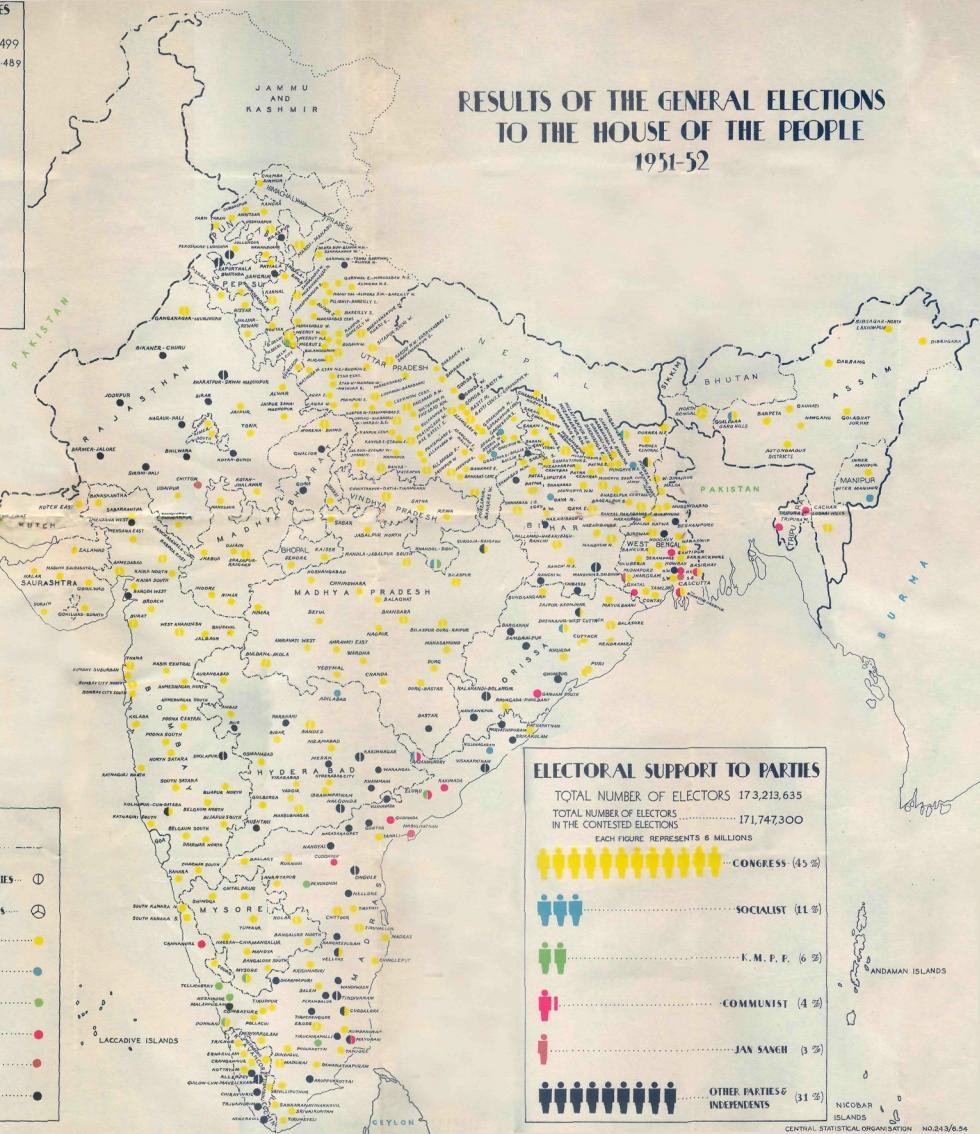
TOTAL NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS 489

CONGRESS	449
SOCIALIST	12
K.M.P.P.	9
COMMUNIST	16
JAN SANGH	7
OTHER PARTIES & INDEPENDENTS	35
TOTAL	489

TOTAL NUMBER OF NOMINATED MEMBERS 10

JAMMU KASHMIR	8
ASSAM TRIBES	1
ANGLO INDIAN & NICOBAR	1
ANGLO INDIAN	2
TOTAL	10

**RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE
1951-52**



REFERENCES

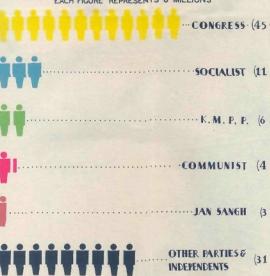
STATE BOUNDARY
DOUBLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES
THREE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES
CONGRESS
SOCIALIST
K.M.P.P.
COMMUNIST
JAN SANGH
OTHER PARTIES & INDEPENDENTS

ELECTORAL SUPPORT TO PARTIES

TOTAL NUMBER OF ELECTORS 173,213,635

TOTAL NUMBER OF ELECTORS
IN THE CONTESTED ELECTIONS 171,747,300

EACH FIGURE REPRESENTS 6 MILLION



CENTRAL STATISTICAL ORGANISATION NO.243/6.54

G. SEN GUPTA

OFFSET BY THE ASIAN ART PRINTERS LTD. NEW DELHI-1.

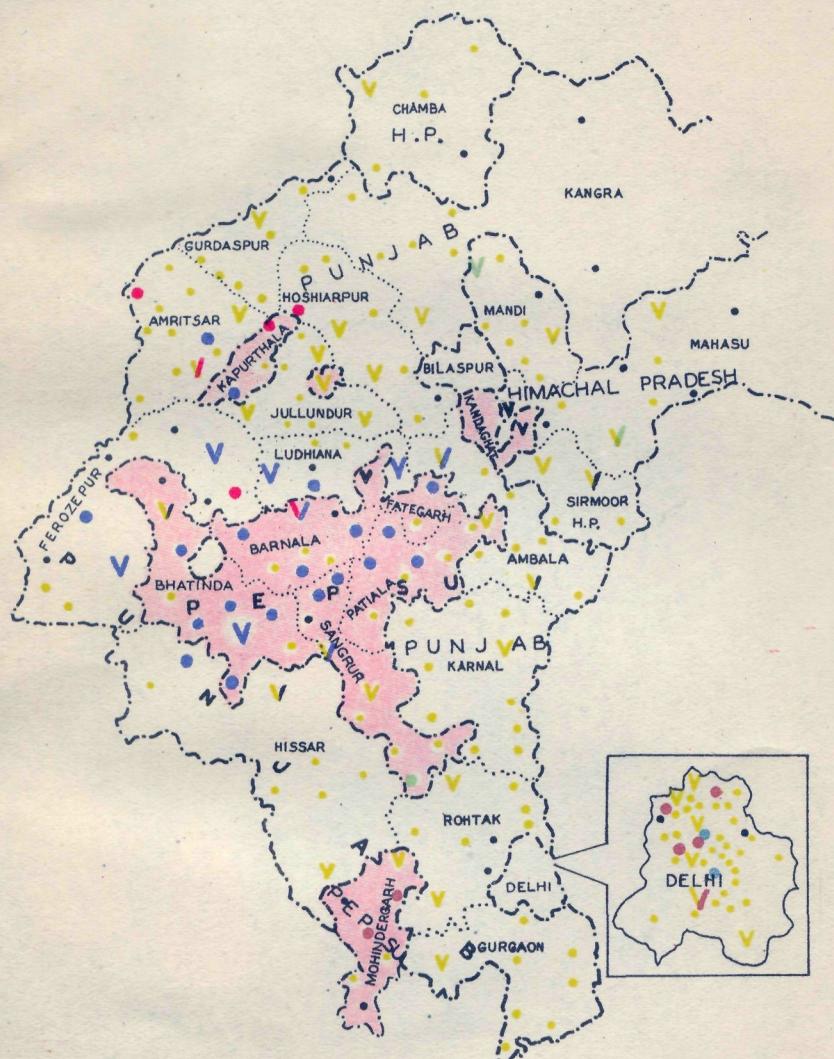
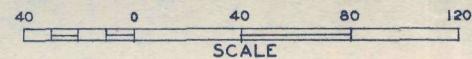
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DISTRICT BOUNDARY	—
SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES	—
DOUBLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES	—
CONGRESS	[Yellow]
AKALI PARTY	[Blue]
COMMUNIST	[Red]
JAN SANGH	[Maroon]
K.M.P.P.	[Green]
SOCIALIST	[Blue]
OTHER PARTIES & INDEPENDENTS	—

RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES

1951-52

PUNJAB, PEPSU, HIMACHAL PRADESH & DELHI



G. SEN GUPTA

CENTRAL STATISTICAL ORGANISATION
NO. 384/12.54

REFERENCES

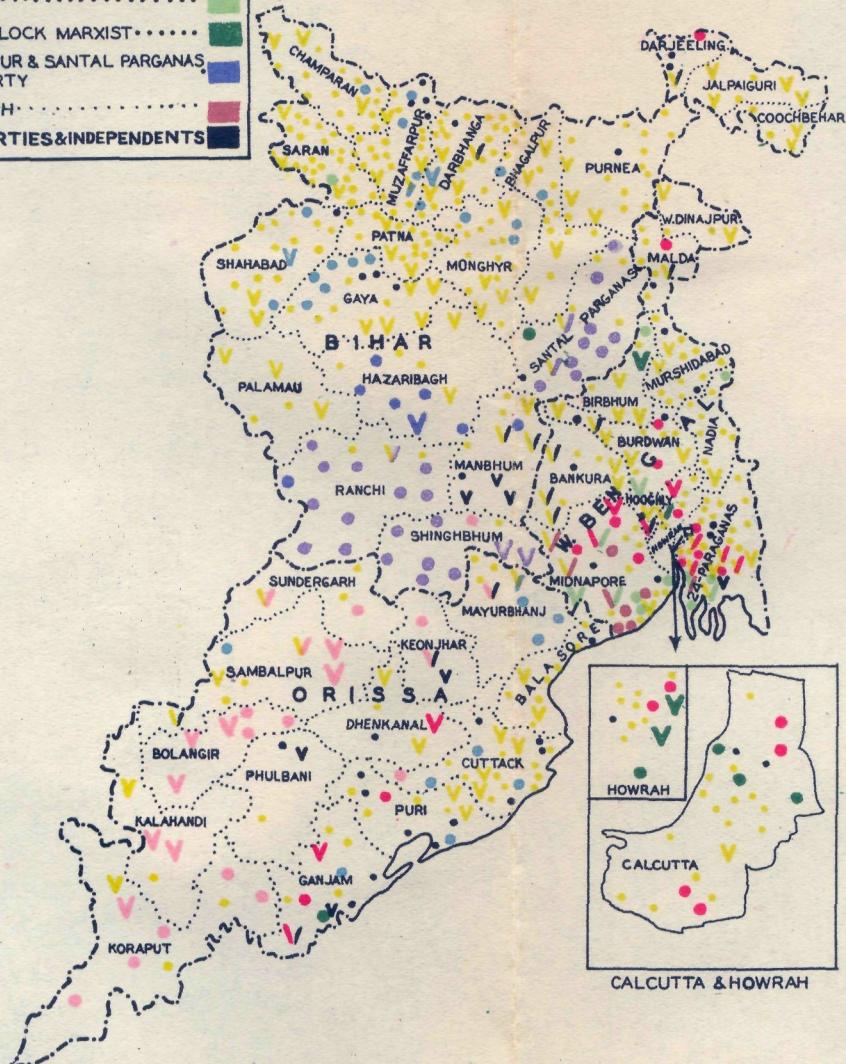
STATE BOUNDARY
DISTRICT BOUNDARY
SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES	o
DOUBLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES	v
CONGRESS	yellow
COMMUNIST	pink
SOCIALIST	blue
JHARKHAND	purple
GANATANTRA PARISHAD	pink
K.M.P.P.	green
FORWARD BLOCK MARXIST	black
CHOTA NAGPUR & SANTAL PARGANAS	blue
JANATA PARTY	black
JAN SANGH	pink
OTHER PARTIES & INDEPENDENTS	black

RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES

1951-52

WEST BENGAL, BIHAR & ORISSA

A horizontal scale bar with numerical markings at 50, 100, 150, and 200. The scale is divided into smaller, unlabeled increments. The word "SCALE" is centered below the bar.

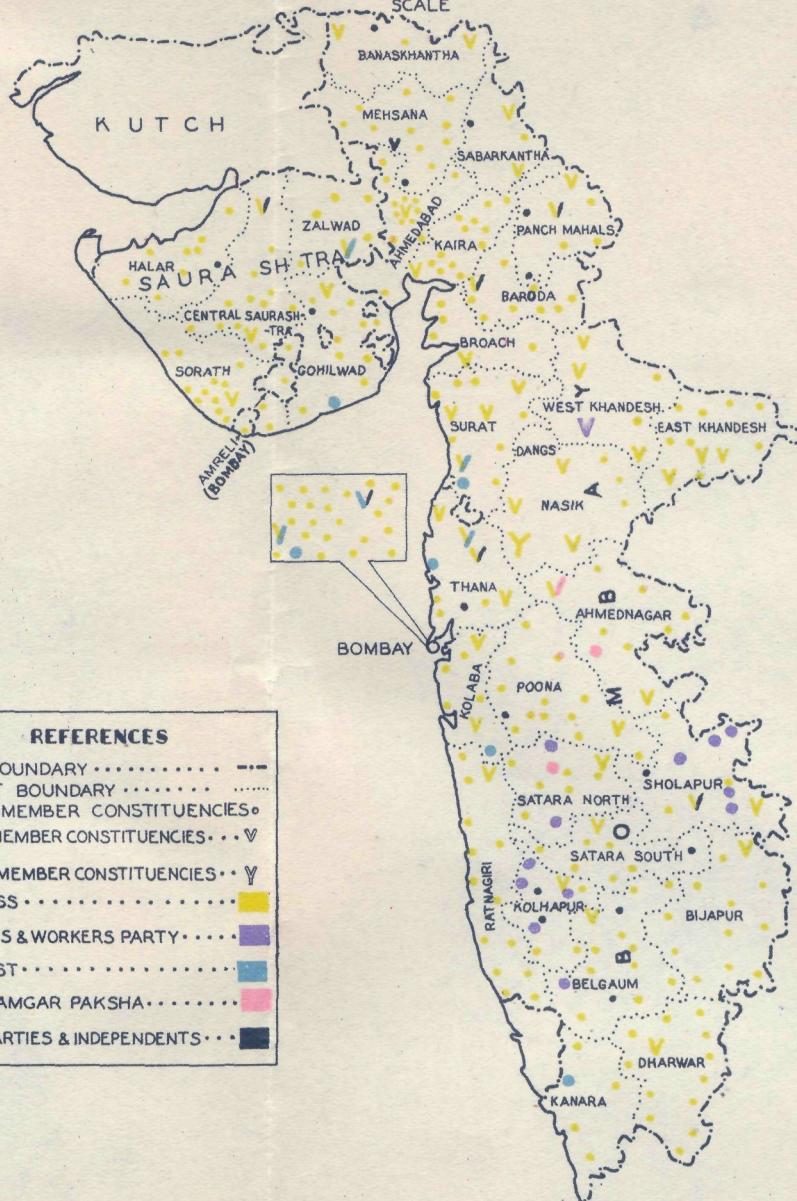


RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES

1951-52

BOMBAY & SAURASHTRA

SCALE
50 0 50 100 150 200



REFERENCES

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| STATE BOUNDARY | --- |
| DISTRICT BOUNDARY | ----- |
| SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES | Yellow V |
| DOUBLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES | Blue V |
| THREE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES | Yellow square |
| CONGRESS | Yellow |
| PEASANTS & WORKERS PARTY | Purple |
| SOCIALIST | Teal |
| KISAN KAMGAR PAKSHA | Pink |
| OTHER PARTIES & INDEPENDENTS | Dark Blue |

RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

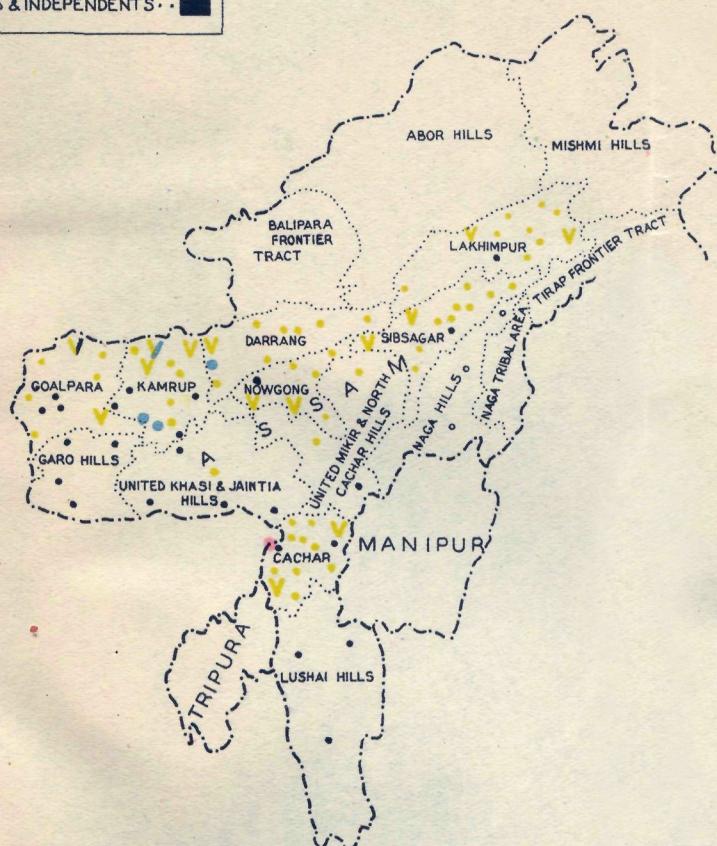
1951-52

ASSAM

50 0 50 100 150 200
SCALE

REFERENCES

- STATE BOUNDARY
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES •
- DOUBLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES ..▼
- CONGRESS
- SOCIALIST
- OTHER PARTIES & INDEPENDENTS ..■



REFERENCES

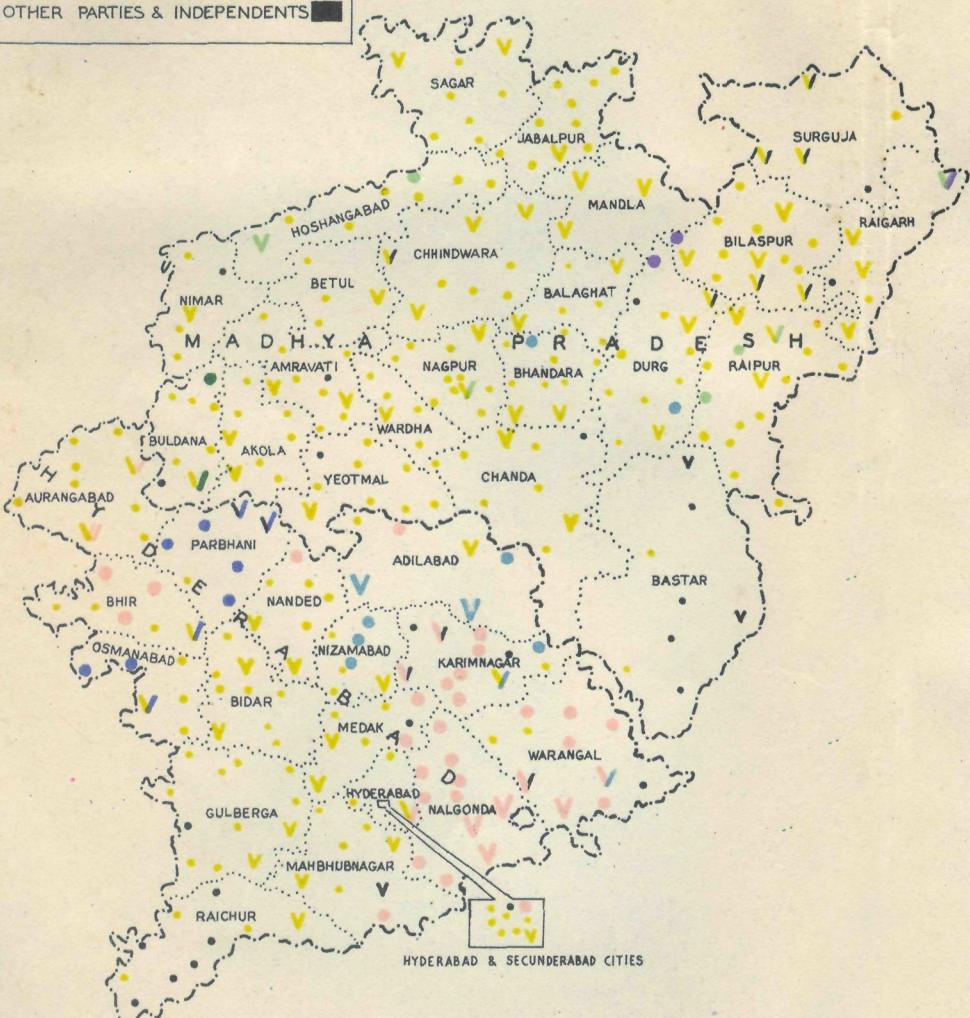
STATE BOUNDARY	—
DISTRICT BOUNDARY	—
SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES ◊	●
DOUBLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES △	△
CONGRESS	■
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC FRONT	◆
SOCIALIST	■
PEASANTS & WORKERS PARTY	■
K.M.P.P.	■
RAM RAJYA PARISHAD	■
SHETKARI KAMGAR PAKSHA	■
OTHER PARTIES & INDEPENDENTS	■

**RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS
TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES**

1951-52

MADHYA PRADESH & HYDERABAD

50 0 50 100 150 200
SCALE



REFERENCES

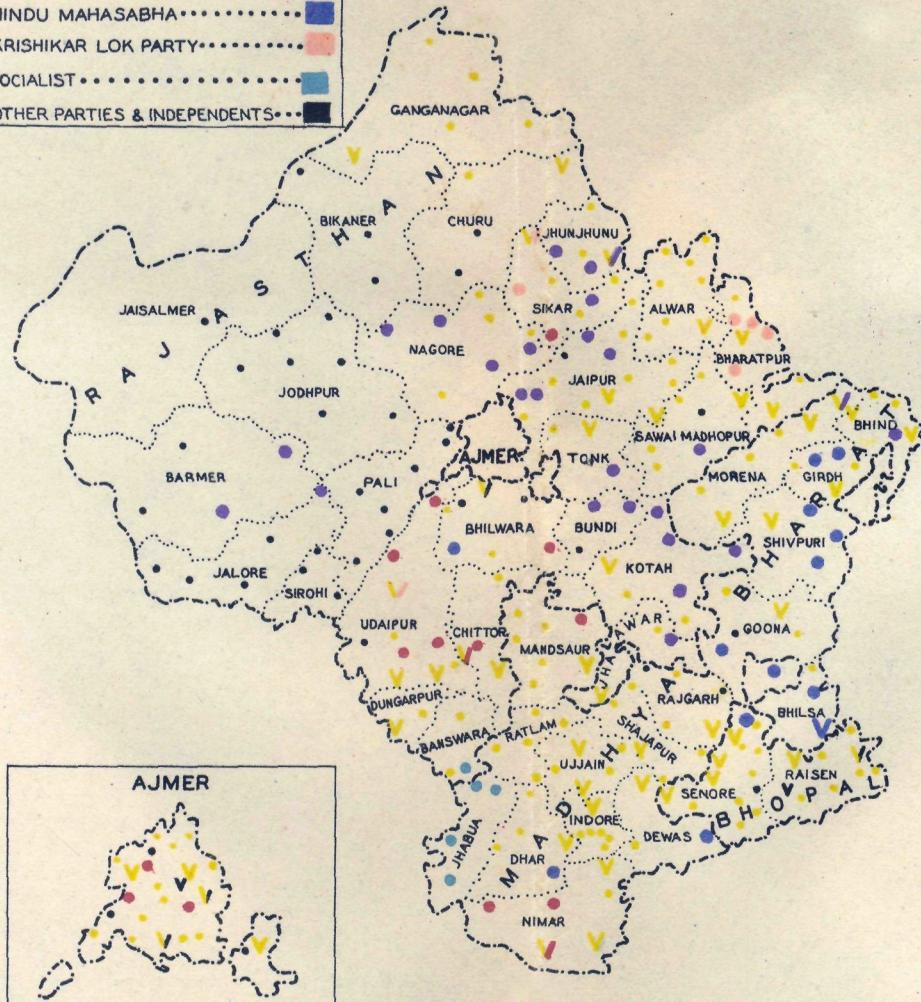
STATE BOUNDARY	---
DISTRICT BOUNDARY
SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES	○
DOUBLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES	▼
CONGRESS	Yellow
RAM RAJYA PARISHAD	Purple
JAN SANGH	Maroon
HINDU MAHASABHA	Blue
KRISHIKAR LOK PARTY	Red
SOCIALIST	Cyan
OTHER PARTIES & INDEPENDENTS	Dark Blue

RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES

1951-52

RAJASTHAN, MADHYA BHARAT, BHOPAL & AJMER

50 0 50 100 150 200
SCALE



REFERENCES

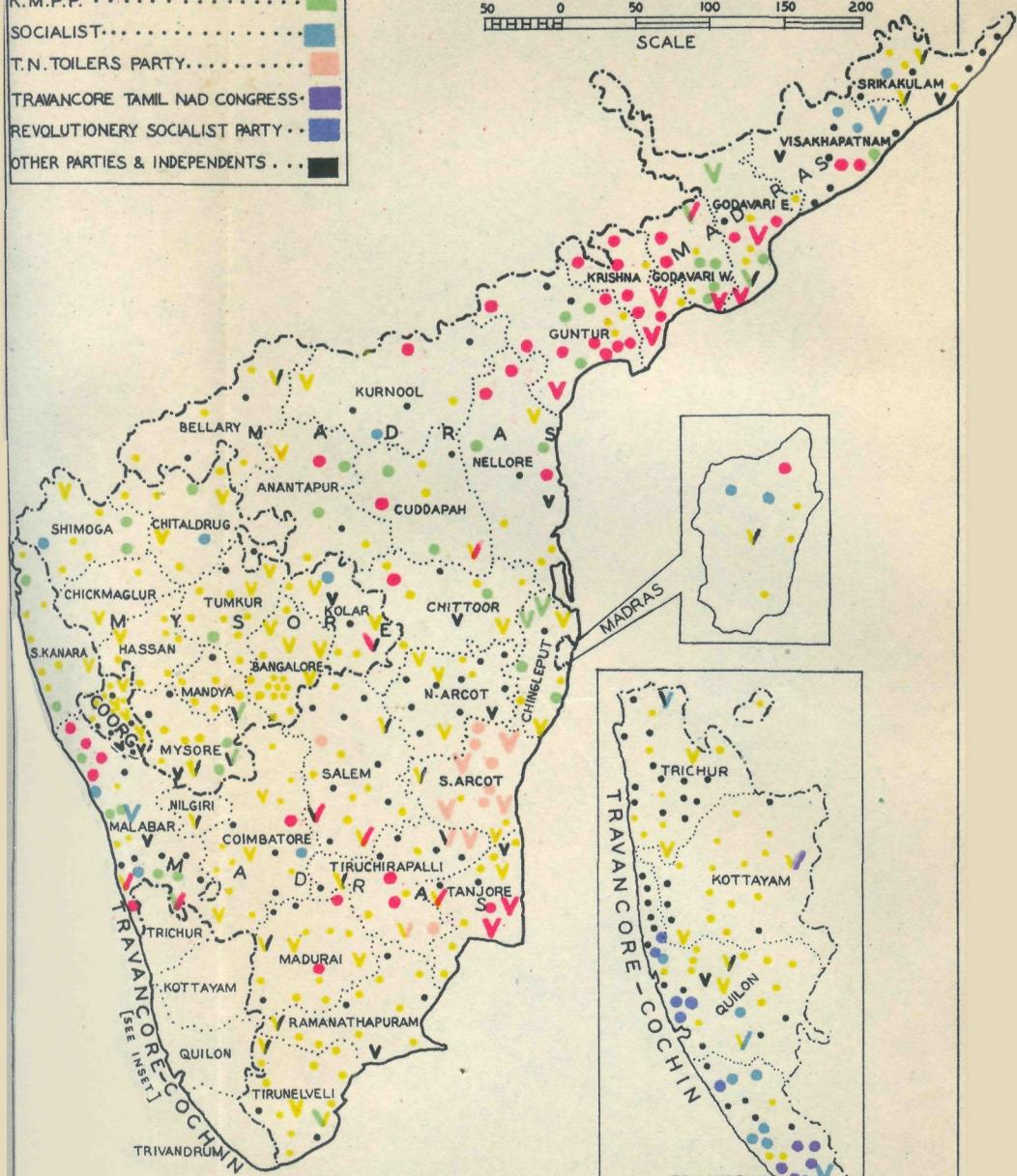
STATE BOUNDARY	— — —
DISTRICT BOUNDARY	— —
SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES	•
DOUBLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES	V
CONGRESS	Yellow
COMMUNIST	Pink
K.M.P.P.	Green
SOCIALIST	Blue
T.N. TOILERS PARTY	Red
TRAVANCORE TAMIL NAD CONGRESS	Purple
REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PARTY	Dark Blue
OTHER PARTIES & INDEPENDENTS	Black

**RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS
TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES**

1951-52

MADRAS, MYSORE, TRAVANCORE-COCHIN & COORG

50 0 50 100 150 200
SCALE



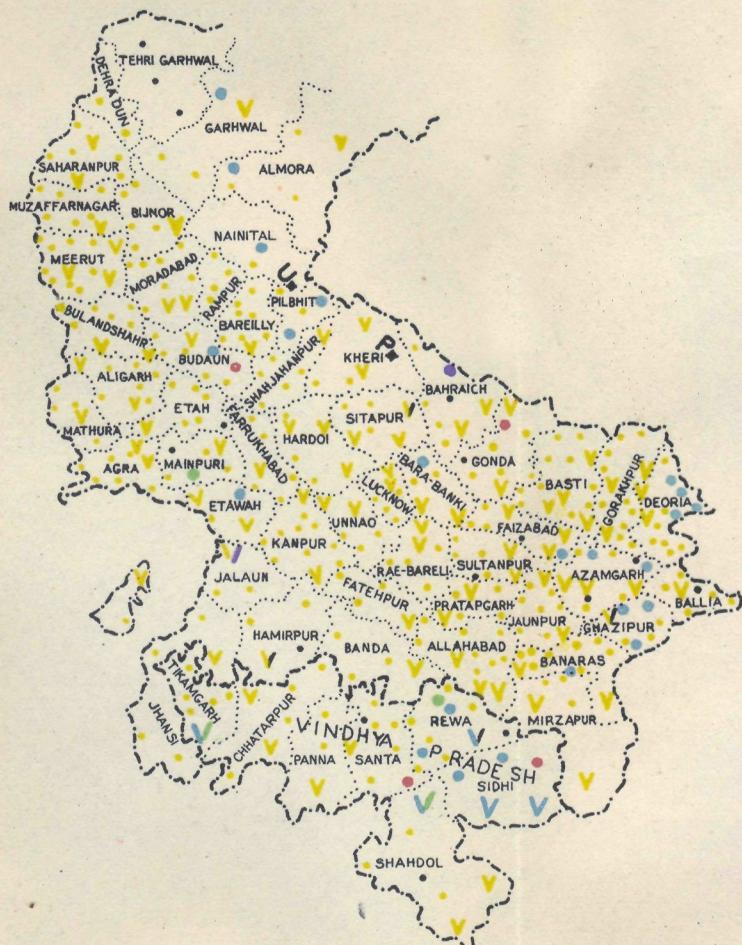
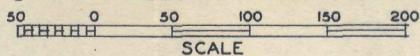
REFERENCES

STATE BOUNDARY	-----
DISTRICT BOUNDARY
SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES	○
DOUBLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES	▽
CONGRESS	■
SOCIALIST	□
JAN SANGH	■
K.M.P.P.	■
U.P. PRAJA PARTY	■
OTHER PARTIES & INDEPENDENTS	■

RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES

1951-52

UTTAR PRADESH & VINDHYA PRADESH



CHAPTER X

MATERIALS FOR POLLING

One of the important matters that had to be taken up long before the general elections was the question of making arrangements for the supply of the more important items of polling materials.

The Commission eventually undertook the responsibility for arranging the supply of the following materials to the States:—

- (a) ballot boxes,
- (b) paper seals for ballot boxes,
- (c) ballot papers, and
- (d) indelible ink.

All other election materials had to be arranged for by the State Governments themselves.

An urgent task was to select a suitable design or designs of ballot boxes, and to arrange for their manufacture and supply. The law provides that ballot boxes used in the elections must be of a design approved by the Election Commission. The Commission was anxious that the boxes used in the general elections should inspire public confidence and that so far as was practicable, they should be so made that any tampering with their contents would be rendered impossible. On the other hand, it was also necessary in the interest of economy that the boxes should not be too costly. The Commission decided ultimately that all ballot boxes should be made of steel in accordance with specifications laid down by it and that they should be so designed as to render unnecessary the use of separate locks for securing them. The following were the more important basic specifications prescribed by the Commission:—

Every box should measure 8" high \times 9" long \times 7½" wide, the lid being fixed by inside hinges. It should be made of steel of 20 gauge. Unpickable locking should be provided to secure the lid to the box, and a slot about 2" long and $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide should be provided in the lid, for the insertion of ballot papers. The box should be so made that when the lid is locked the slot can be left fully open

Arrange-
ments made
by Election
Commission.

Ballot
boxes.

for polling and can later be effectively closed against any further insertion of ballot papers once polling is over. The general construction must be such as to make the box fraud-proof. It must not be possible to insert ballot papers through the edges where the lid shuts upon the box, or through any surface or joint of the box—the slot in the lid being the only opening for inserting ballot papers. All exterior fittings, including the handle, should be so accommodated that no part may project beyond the six surface planes of the box. This was to ensure that the ballot boxes may be packed together or stacked upon each other compactly.

Public notice was given inviting manufacturers to submit designs of ballot boxes to the Commission for approval. Several firms submitted their designs which were subjected to severe tests. After these tests, the designs submitted by the following firms were approved. The prices at which the firms undertook to make the supplies are also mentioned:—

	Price per box Rs. A. P.
1. M/s. Godrej & Boyce Mgf. Co. Ltd., Bombay	5 0 0
2. M/s. Hyderabad Allwyn Metal Works Ltd., Hyderabad, Sanatnagar	4 15 0
3. M/s. Bungo Steel Furniture Ltd., Calcutta	4 6 0
4 M/s. Oriental Metal Pressing Works, Bombay	4 15 0
5. U. P. Government design (through the following manufacturers)	5 1 0
(1) M/s. Imperial Surgical Co., Lucknow.	
(2) M/s. Ganeshdas Ramgopal & Sons, Lucknow.	
(3) M/s. Peepal Iron and Steel Industries, Kanpur.	
(4) M/s. Bhatia Safe Works, Kanpur.	
(5) M/s. Gopal Metal Works, Lucknow.	
(6) M/s. Northern India Iron Press Works, Lucknow.	
(7) M/s. Hanuman Engineering Works, Lucknow.	
(8) M/s. Bharat Safe and Steel Industries, Kanpur.	
(9) M/s. Charan Safe Works, Kanpur.	
(10) M/s. B. T. Paul and Sons, Kanpur.	
(11) M/s. Delhi Iron and Steel, Co. Ltd., Ghaziabad.	
(12) M/s. Punjab Iron Electrical Works, Lucknow. and	
(13) M/s. Kripps Machine Tools (India) Ltd., Kanpur.	

	Price per box Rs. A. P.
6. Government of Madhya Pradesh Workshop.	5 0 0
7. M/s. Kalinga Refrigerators Ltd., Cuttack .	6 0 0
8. M/s. Steel Age Industries Ltd., Bombay .	5 0 0
9. M/s. Hasambhoy Jetha, Bombay . .	4 15 0
10. M/s. Gwalior Engineering Works, Gwalior .	6 12 0
11. M/s. Premier Engineering Works, Connaught Circus, New Delhi. . ; .	5 0 0
12. M/s. Ajax Products Ltd., Madras . .	5 4 0

The State Governments were given the option of selecting any of these approved designs for their requirements and were required to place orders and arrange their own supplies direct from the manufacturers.

In assessing the requirements of ballot boxes the Commission assumed that (i) there would be approximately four candidates for election to each seat in a constituency and that (ii) roughly one thousand voters would be required to vote at one polling booth. On this basis, the total requirement of ballot boxes was originally assessed at 19,05,324. The number of ballot boxes actually purchased by the States was as follows:—

Name of the State	Number of boxes
Assam	53,000
Bihar	2,60,390
Bombay	1,85,643
Madhya Pradesh	1,41,850
Madras	3,06,754
Orissa	88,856
Punjab	1,25,000
Uttar Pradesh	5,44,800
West Bengal	2,89,170
Hyderabad	1,00,000
Madhya Bharat	53,016
Mysore	58,000
P.E.P.S.U.	31,000
Rajasthan	91,000
Saurashtra	16,000
Travancore-Cochin	65,000
Ajmer	4,600

Bhopal	5,050
Bilaspur	680
Coorg	1,276
Delhi	11,700
Himachal Pradesh	5,665
Kutch.	2,400
Manipur	6,000
Tripura	4,000
Vindhya Pradesh	23,000
GRAND TOTAL	24,73,850

In addition, 1,11,095 wooden ballot boxes had to be used in the State of Madras as one of the manufacturers defaulted in supplying steel ballot boxes in time.

The ballot boxes cost a total sum of Rs. 1,22,87,349. The originally estimated requirement of four ballot boxes per seat at each polling station was exceeded in several States on account of the candidates numbering more than four per seat in many constituencies and an additional supply of ballot boxes had to be rushed at very short notice to almost every State.

In order to secure the large supply of steel required for the manufacture of the boxes, the Commission arranged, through the Ministry of Industry and Supply, the release of steel to the manufacturers with whom orders had been placed by the State Governments. In all, 8165.45 tons of steel were consumed in manufacturing the ballot boxes.

With a view to avoid confusion during the simultaneous holding of the poll for the House of the People and State Legislative Assemblies (or Council of States Constituencies), the ballot boxes were made in two different groups of colours for elections respectively to the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies (or Council of States Constituencies). The following colours were prescribed by the Commission:—

House of the People

1. Olive green,
2. Meadow green,
3. Pale green , and
4. Brunswick green.

Legislative Assembly (or Council of States (Constituencies)

1. Chocolate,
2. Mahogany,
3. Teak,
4. Dark tan, and
5. Bronze.

It was left to each State Government to select the particular colours for use in the State. The slot of each ballot box was marked out prominently by painting the area around it bright white, so that the voter's attention might be pointedly drawn to it in the polling booth and he might readily know where to insert his ballot paper.

It was suggested to each State Government that it should order its entire requirement of ballot boxes from one firm only so that there might be uniformity in the design of ballot boxes throughout the State. This direction was generally followed and proved convenient as the entire polling personnel in a State was required to be trained in the use of one design of boxes only.

In spite, however, of all precautions taken to ensure timely supply of ballot boxes to meet the requirements of the various States, difficulties were experienced in respect of supplies to the States of Madras, West Bengal, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh as a result of default made in the delivery of ballot boxes to these States by a few manufacturers.

The Government of Madras initially placed their order for the supply of ballot boxes on two firms, namely, Messrs. Hyderabad Allwyn Metal Works Ltd. of Hyderabad, and Messrs. Bungo Steel Furniture Limited, Calcutta. In October-November 1951, there was a serious break-down in supplies from Messrs. Bungo Steel Furniture Limited, Calcutta, and this affected the supplies to the States of Madras, Orissa and West Bengal. Ultimately, Messrs. Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited of Bombay were persuaded to manufacture as many as 1,62,149 additional boxes at short notice in order to make good the shortage in the States of Orissa and West Bengal. Madras was allowed to utilize 24,681 old wooden boxes and 86,414 new wooden boxes for the same reason. The rest of the shortage in Madras was met by a further supply made by Messrs. Hyderabad Allwyn Metal Works Ltd. of Hyderabad.

The requirements of ballot boxes for use at elections to the Madras Legislative Assembly were thus met. It was found, however, in course of the elections that the number of ballot boxes available for election to the House of the People from that State was likely to fall short of requirement for the reason that in four Parliamentary constituencies, one of which was a two-member constituency, the counting of votes could not be undertaken on the dates originally fixed for the purpose as re-poll had to be ordered at some polling stations. The ballot boxes used in these constituencies could not therefore be made available for later use elsewhere as had been originally planned for. There was no time left at that stage to get a fresh supply of new ballot boxes. In order to meet this difficulty rule 34C was added to the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1951, which enabled the Returning Officers to set free a sufficient number of ballot boxes even before taking up the counting of votes.

In Uttar Pradesh, the State Government distributed orders for manufacturing 3,50,000 ballot boxes of the same design to 13 different firms within the State. Some of these firms failed to deliver the boxes in time, and Messrs. Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited, Bombay had to supply 1,94,800 ballot boxes to make good the shortage.

Although 12 different designs of steel boxes had been approved by the Commission, in actual practice only 5 of them were selected by State Governments for use, apart from the wooden boxes that had to be brought into use in Madras to make good the shortage there.

Ballot boxes of the following designs were used at the general elections in the quantities mentioned against each:—

1. Design of M/s. Godrej and Boyce Mfg. Co., Bombay	12,84,369
2. Design of M/s. Hyderabad Allwyn Metal Works Ltd., Hyderabad	3,80,507
3. Design of M/s. Bungo Steel Furniture Ltd., Calcutta	2,52,124
4. Design of M/s. Oriental Metal Pressing Works, Bombay	65,000
5. Design of Uttar Pradesh Government (also adopted by Madhya Pradesh)	4,91,850
6. Wooden boxes (in Madras only)	1,11,095
GRAND TOTAL .	<u>25,84,945</u>

All the designs proved satisfactory in actual working. There was indeed some criticism in a few instances about the unsuitability of some of the boxes, but in all such cases it was found after enquiry that the complaints were either wholly unjustified or arose because some Presiding Officers had not properly followed the instructions for the use of the boxes and had not sufficiently secured them after polling.

In no case has it been proved that there was any tampering with any ballot box although this ground had been taken in a few election petitions filed after the elections.

Of the various types of ballot boxes approved by the Commission, those manufactured by Messrs. Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Bombay, Messrs. Hyderabad Allwyn Metal Works Ltd., Hyderabad and Messrs. Oriental Metal Pressing Works, Bombay, require the use of paper seals for securing the boxes against tampering. These types of boxes were so constructed that after the paper seal had been affixed to a box and the box closed, it could not be opened again without breaking the paper seal. Before polling commenced, the signatures or seals of the polling agents of the candidates were taken on the paper seal after which it was affixed to the box which was then closed. The signatures on seals were taken so that in case anyone tampered with the ballot box thereafter, he would have to break the signed or sealed paper seal and could not possibly replace it by a fresh paper seal bearing such signatures or seals. It was decided to print the paper seals centrally with an intricate design as a further safeguard against possible forgery or suspicion thereof.

Paper seals.

The Election Commission consulted the Master, India Security Press, Nasik, and approved a suitable design for paper seals to be used for each type of ballot box. The seals were of two sizes and were made of water-marked paper. The words "ELECTION COMMISSION INDIA" were closely printed on the seals in pink colour to form the background on one face of the seal. The expenditure incurred on paper seals amounted to Rs. 11,243-8-0. As each paper seal served the purpose of a dependable lock, the amount saved as a result of using paper seals, or otherwise securing the ballot boxes instead of using costly locks, was considerable. With about 26,00,000 ballot boxes, the saving on this item alone amounted to about Rs. 1,00,00,000.

The Commission also decided that all ballot papers should be printed centrally. The work of printing ballot papers was entrusted to the Security Press, Nasik. There was no difference in the design of ballot papers for elections to the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies except that a thick vertical bar of olive green colour was printed on ballot papers to be used for elections to the House of the People, while a similar chocolate-coloured bar was printed instead on ballot papers to be used for elections to the State Legislative Assemblies (or Council of States Constituencies). Watermarked paper was used for the printing of all ballot papers.

The size of each ballot paper was $3\frac{2}{5}$ " x 2". At a later stage, some difficulty was felt in Hyderabad inasmuch as, through a mistake, the slot of the Allwyn type boxes manufactured for that State measured only $1\frac{11}{39}$ " in length, instead of the prescribed 2", and was, therefore, slightly smaller than the width of the ballot papers. The Commission wanted to avoid the necessity of folding any ballot paper before insertion into the slot. Accordingly, the width of the ballot papers was ultimately reduced by $\frac{1}{8}$ " in respect of those printed for use in Hyderabad.

The names of the candidates were not printed on any ballot paper which contained only a serial number with a prefix consisting of two letters which denoted the State in which the ballot paper was to be used (e.g. AS for Assam, BR for Bihar and so on). The words "ELECTION COMMISSION INDIA" were closely printed in pink all over the surface of each paper to form the background. The serial numbers were printed in black, while the national crest was in white.

According to law, a voter in a multi-member constituency has as many votes as there are seats to be filled up but his votes are distributive and not cumulative. In order to prevent cumulative voting in two-member constituencies, the Commission arranged for the printing of two ballot papers each bearing the same serial number, one of them with an added suffix "A" to distinguish it from the other. The two varieties of ballot papers were separately packed in bundles of one hundred each, one bundle containing ballot papers bearing the bare serial numbers but no suffix, while the corresponding bundle of the other variety contained ballot papers bearing the same serial

NEW DESIGN OF THE BALLOT PAPERS (INTRODUCED IN 1953)

I

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

BR

999999

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

BR

999999



सत्यमेव जयते

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

BR

999999 A

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

BR

999999 A



सत्यमेव जयते

In a three-member constituency, three ballot papers with the same serial number are issued to each voter with suffixes A, B and C respectively printed on them to check cumulative voting.

[To face p. 103.]

DESIGN OF BALLOT PAPERS USED AT THE GENERAL ELECTIONS, 1951-52

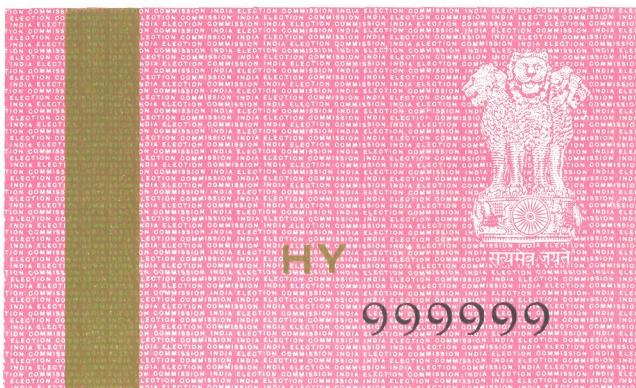
I

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

(For Two-Member Constituencies)

II

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

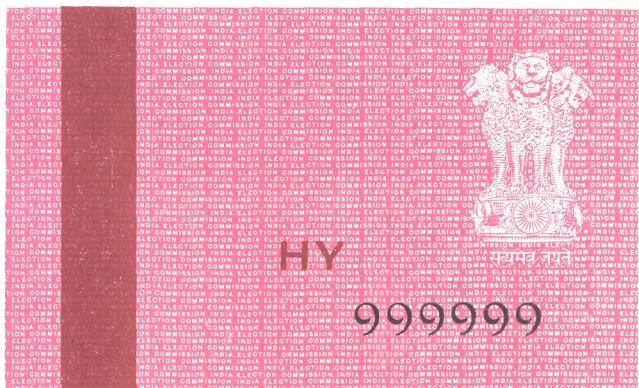


HY

999999



संघराज

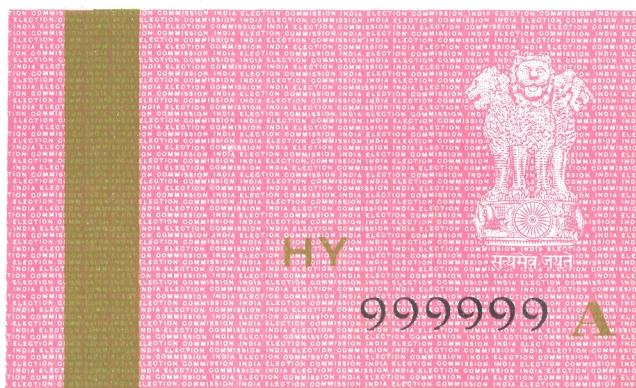


HY

999999



संघराज

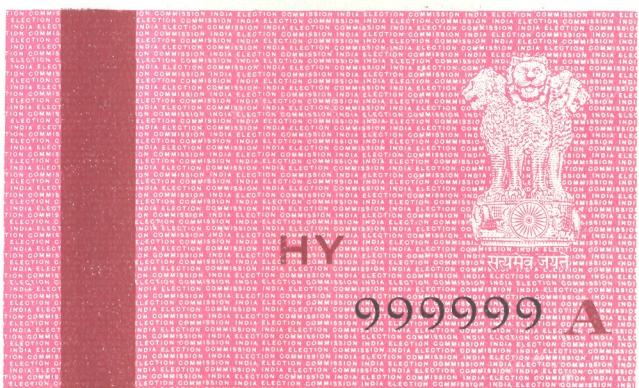


HY

999999 A



संघराज



HY

999999 A



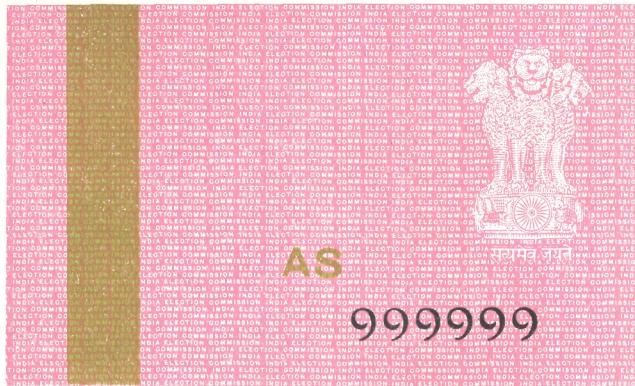
संघराज

The letters 'HY' were used for Hyderabad ballot papers. Similar suitable distinguishing letters were used for ballot papers of other States.

DESIGN OF BALLOT PAPERS USED AT THE GENERAL ELECTIONS, 1951-52

I

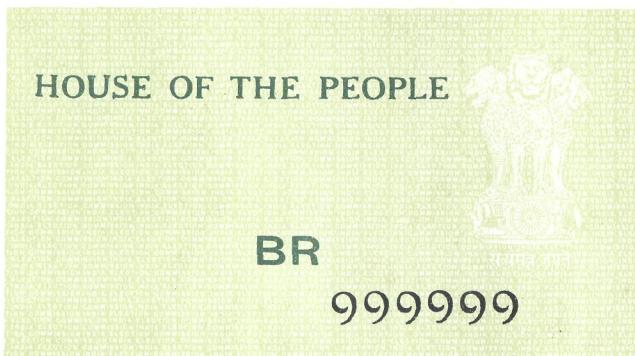
HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE



NEW DESIGN OF BALLOT PAPERS (INTRODUCED IN 1953)

1

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE



The letters 'AS' were used for Assam and the letters 'BR' for Bihar ballot papers. Similar suitable distinguishing letters were used for ballot papers of other States.

SECTION
MISSION
COM-
TIE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



BR

999999

numbers along with the suffix "A". For elections in three-member constituencies (which numbered two only), the Commission arranged for the printing of three ballot papers, each bearing the same serial number but with suffixes "A", "B" and "C" respectively. Each voter in a multi-member constituency receives two or three ballot papers, as the case may be, all bearing the same serial number but distinguishable by the suffix or suffixes. The voter is expected to cast each ballot paper into a different box. At the time of counting of the votes in multi-member constituencies, the counting staff are required first to arrange all the ballot papers found in each ballot box serially. As soon as this is done, every case of cumulative voting is at once detected and all but one of the ballot papers with the same serial number found in the same ballot box are rejected.

A total of 180 tons of paper was used for six hundred million ballot papers, the cost amounting to Rs. 10,77,401-13-0.

Unfortunately, the distinguishing vertical bars (olive green and chocolate) printed on the ballot papers did not prove distinctive enough on account of the pink background, particularly when the bars were printed in a comparatively light colour. This caused confusion at some polling stations, more so in places which were badly lighted. As a result, polling officers in these polling stations issued to the voters Assembly ballot papers for House of the People elections and *vice versa*. There were 1,216 such cases of interchange of ballot papers due to inadvertence. Most of such cases of irregular use of ballot papers were detected before counting commenced and were set right by the Commission by authorising the use of the wrong variety of ballot papers inadvertently issued to the voters at the polling stations. In order, however, that such confusion may not arise in future elections through inadequate differences in the designs of the two kinds of ballot papers, the Commission has since changed the designs of both kinds of ballot papers so as to make them more readily distinguishable from each other. As an additional precaution, the name of the Legislature has also been printed on each ballot paper.

Samples of the old and the new designs of ballot papers are shown in the plates opposite.

Indelible
ink.

The special provision made in rule 22 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1951, for preventing personation of electors, requires that the voter shall, before receiving his ballot paper, allow inspection of his left forefinger to the Presiding Officer or a Polling Officer. If his finger bears no mark of indelible ink, then only a ballot paper will be issued to the voter, but the finger would first be marked with indelible ink. The indelible ink for marking voters' fingers was manufactured at the request of the Commission by the Indian Council of Scientific & Industrial Research. It has to be applied on the finger with a small glass rod. The mark made with this ink lasts for one week or more. A few complaints were received that the mark could be rubbed away or that it disappears when treated with some chemical or other. All such complaints were carefully investigated and were found to be unjustified. The Commission was satisfied that in all such cases the voters' fingers had not been properly marked. When the ink is properly applied to the finger according to the directions, the mark is indelible for a week or more and serves the purpose for which it is intended. That the ink proved quite satisfactory is evidenced by the fact that it is being used at many Local Bodies' elections as well.

A total of 3,89,816 phials of indelible ink were supplied to the States at a cost of Rs. 2,27,460.

Other
election
materials.

The State Governments were directed to make their own arrangements for the supply of all other polling materials. It was reported to the Commission that difficulty was experienced in practice in securely fixing the symbols on the ballot boxes and that the labels bearing the symbols often peeled off from the ballot boxes. In order to meet this difficulty, the Commission has since suggested the use of a special adhesive also produced by the Indian Council of Scientific & Industrial Research. The recommended adhesive has been found very satisfactory in practice.

An idea of the polling materials and other items that have to be supplied to each polling party for use in a polling station may be obtained from the following exhaustive list which was drawn up by the Commission and circulated to the Returning Officers whose duty it is to ensure that each polling party is adequately supplied with its requirements.

List of polling materials required at a polling station:

1. Ballot boxes
2. Working copies of electoral rolls
3. Ballot papers
4. Indelible ink
5. Paper seals
6. Labels bearing symbols of candidates
7. Identity slips
8. Tendered ballot paper forms (Form 7)
9. List of tendered votes form (Form 8)
10. List of challenged votes form (Form 9)
11. Ballot paper account (Form 10)
12. Thumb impression pad and ink
13. Envelopes
14. Form of notice under rule 19(3)(a)
15. Form of notice under rule 19(3)(b)
16. Pencils—ordinary and copying
17. Ink and pens
18. Foolscap paper
19. Blotting papers
20. Nibs
21. Pins
22. A knife
23. A pair of scissors
24. Ink pads
25. Gum-paste
26. Sealing wax
27. Candles
28. Match box
29. Twine and pieces of wire
30. Sewing needles
31. Presiding Officer's seal
32. Packing materials
33. Screens for polling compartments
34. Furniture (chairs, tables, benches, stools, etc.)
35. Lanterns or other lights, and kerosene oil
36. Address tabs.

CHAPTER XI

THE ELECTION PROGRAMME

**Elections to
the House
of the
People,
Legislative
Assemblies
and Council
of States
constituencies.**

As soon as the work of delimiting the constituencies was over, it was possible to take up the question of fixing the programme for polling. The actual polling dates were fixed with due regard to the preparations made, and the climatic and geographical conditions in the various States. The Chini and Pangi Assembly constituencies of the hilly State of Himachal Pradesh were the first to go to the polls, as it was necessary to complete the polling in those areas before snow-fall which is usual there in early November. Statutory notifications calling upon these two constituencies to elect members and fixing the dates for the various stages of the elections were issued on the 10th September, 1951. The poll was taken simultaneously, as everywhere else, for elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assembly. Polling took place on the 25th, 27th, 29th and 31st October, and the 2nd November, 1951, in these two constituencies. Polling in the remaining constituencies in Himachal Pradesh was completed by the 30th November, 1951, except that re-polling had eventually to be held on slightly later dates at three polling stations as a result of irregularities committed there. On account of the difficulties arising from the geographical conditions of the State, and the poor means of transport and communication, polling had to be spread over a period of 37 days, commencing from the 25th October, 1951. Actual polling took place on 17 days only.

The Thiruvella and Trichur Parliamentary constituencies (each comprising 8 Assembly constituencies) of Travancore-Cochin were the next to go to the polls on the 10th December, 1951. Polling in the other constituencies in that State took place later in December and in the first week of January, 1952. In Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Hyderabad and Punjab, polling commenced during December, 1951. All the remaining States went to the polls during January, 1952. Polling in the northern hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh took place late in February, 1952, after snow had melted there. The detailed programme is contained in Part VIII of Volume II of the Report.

On account of a few cases of adjourned poll, as also of re-poll, ordered at a few polling stations where there had been serious irregularities or tampering with ballot boxes during poll, the Commission extended the time for the completion of the elections in respect of some constituencies in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bhopal and Himachal Pradesh.

The first notification containing the names of the members elected and nominated to the Legislative Assembly was issued by Madhya Pradesh and Saurashtra on the 9th February, 1952, and the last such notification was issued on the 17th May, 1952, by Coorg. The notification under section 73 containing the names of persons elected and nominated to the House of the People was issued on the 2nd April, 1952.

The question of holding elections to the Council of States and the Legislative Councils had also to be taken up meanwhile. A notification under section 12 was issued by the President appointing the first day of April, 1952, as the date before which the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of each Part A and Part B State (except Jammu and Kashmir), and the members of the electoral colleges of each of the Part C States of Ajmer, Bhopal, Delhi, Kutch, Tripura, Vindhya Pradesh and of the group of the States of Himachal Pradesh and Bilaspur, were to elect members to fill the seat or seats allotted to each such State or group of States in the Council of States. The dates for the various stages of the election were fixed under section 39 as follows:—

- (a) The 13th March, 1952, as the last date for making nominations.
- (b) The 14th March, 1952, as the date for scrutiny of nominations.
- (c) The 17th March, 1952, as the last date for withdrawal of candidatures; and
- (d) The 27th March, 1952, as the date for taking of the poll.

Early in October, 1951, the work of preparing the electoral rolls for the graduates', teachers' and local authorities' constituencies for the seven States which have Legislative Councils was taken up. After claims and

objections had been disposed of, the rolls were finally published in the various States by the following dates:—

Bihar	28-2-1952
Bombay	20-2-1952
Madras	30-1-1952
Punjab	7-2-1952
Uttar Pradesh	4-3-1952
West Bengal	7-4-1952
Mysore	12-3-1952

Soon after this, the Governor or Rajpramukh concerned issued notifications under sections 18 and 39 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, fixing the following time-table for elections to the Legislative Councils:—

Election by Council Constituencies

Name of State	Date of issue of notification under section 18(i) (a)	Last date for filing nominations	Date of poll
Bihar	29-2-1952	8-3-1952	14-4-1952
Bombay	21-2-1952	29-2-1952	8-4-1952
Madras	30-1-1952	11-2-1952	17-3-1952
Punjab	11-2-1952	21-2-1952	4-4-1952
Uttar Pradesh	6-3-1952	15-3-1952	20-4-1952
West Bengal	15-4-1952	24-4-1952	29-5-1952
Mysore	15-3-1952	24-3-1952	28-4-1952

Election by Members of the Assembly

Name of State	Date of issue of notification under section 18(i) (b)	Last date for filing nominations.	Date of poll
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Bihar	4-3-1952	14-3-1952	26-3-1952
Bombay	3-3-1952	13-3-1952	26-3-1952
Madras	4-3-1952	13-3-1952	27-3-1952
Punjab	3-3-1952	13-3-1952	27-3-1952
Uttar Pradesh	4-3-1952	16-3-1952	28-3-1952
West Bengal	4-3-1952	13-3-1952	31-3-1952
Mysore	4-3-1952	13-3-1952	27-3-1952

The question of holding elections to the offices of the President and the Vice-President was next taken up by the Commission and under sub-section (1) of section 4

of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, the following programme was fixed for the election to the office of the President:—

- (a) the 12th April, 1952, as the last date for making nominations;
- (b) the 14th April, 1952, as the date for scrutiny of nominations;
- (c) the 17th April, 1952, as the last date for withdrawal of candidatures; and
- (d) the 2nd May, 1952, as the date for taking of the poll.

The following programme was fixed under sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, (XXXI of 1952), in respect of the election to the office of the Vice-President:—

- (a) the 21st April, 1952, as the last date for making nominations;
- (b) the 22nd April, 1952, as the date for scrutiny of nominations;
- (c) the 25th April, 1952, as the last date for withdrawal of candidatures; and
- (d) the 12th May, 1952, as the date for taking of the poll.

The general elections, which commenced on the 10th September, 1951 when the first notifications under sections 15 and 17 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, were issued in respect of Himachal Pradesh, concluded on the 4th June, 1952, when the election to the West Bengal Legislative Council was completed.

Duration of
the general
elections.

Thus the entire programme of the first general elections took more than eight months to complete. In fact, however, polling for Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies commenced on the 25th October, 1951, in Himachal Pradesh, and ended on the 21st February, 1952 with the completion of elections in Uttar Pradesh. Thereafter, the other elections were taken up as soon as this could be conveniently done. Some of the States did not find it possible or advisable to complete the process of election within a shorter period for fear of the risk of putting too great a strain on their man-power and other resources.

They, therefore, provided sufficient gaps in drawing up their programmes. As these were the first elections on such a gigantic scale, the Commission did not press them to adopt a shorter time-table.

A small State like Himachal Pradesh took as many as 37 days to complete polling. The Commission did not, for the reason already stated, like to impose a compressed programme. It is hoped, however, that the position has somewhat improved since then and the Commission would in future endeavour to ensure that polling for general elections takes place simultaneously all over India and is completed in each State within something like three weeks, at the most.

Scope for reducing the period.

A minimum of 42 days is required under the present law between the notification calling for an election and the commencement of polling. The major portion of this period is taken up by the minimum gap of 30 days which must be allowed between the last date for the withdrawal of candidatures and the commencement of the poll [vide section 30(d) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951]. The Commission recommends that this gap can and should be conveniently reduced to 21 days. If this recommendation is adopted, the total election period would be reduced to something like nine weeks, as follows:—

From the date of notification to commencement of poll	33 days
Taking of the poll	21 days
Counting and declaration of results	9 days
	<hr/> 63 days.

In most of the States, however, as many as 21 days will not be required for the taking of the poll, and the counting and declaration of results will also take less than 9 days. In actual practice, therefore, the programme for the next general elections can be appreciably compressed if the above proposal is accepted.

Simultaneous elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies.

Another point which deserves special emphasis here is the desirability, if not the necessity, of holding simultaneous elections for the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies. Leaving aside the cases of Travancore-Cochin, P.E.P.S.U. and Andhra, where fresh general elections had since to be held, there is at present a certain amount of divergence in the dates of expiry of

the terms of the different Legislative Bodies. In order that simultaneous elections may be held, it may be necessary to dissolve some of the Legislatures slightly prematurely. Such an arrangement will not only save a great deal of avoidable expenditure, but will also be convenient from the point of view of the candidates, political parties, and the election machinery.

January and February appear to be the best months for polling, taking the country as a whole. The Commission feels that apart from premature dissolution of a legislature due to extraordinary circumstances, all future general elections should be so timed that polling may take place in January or February.

Suitable
period
of polling
for general
elections.

CHAPTER XII

NOMINATIONS

Filing of nomination paper.

A nomination paper in the prescribed form must be formally presented before the Returning Officer by or on behalf of a candidate for election. Certain formalities have to be observed in this connection. A proposer and a seconder have to subscribe to the nomination paper and the candidate must also agree in writing to the nomination. The nomination paper has to be delivered to the Returning Officer at the place notified by him between the hours of 11 A.M. and 3 P.M. on or before the last date fixed for the filing of nominations. Only the candidate in person or his proposer or seconder is competent to deliver the nomination paper to the Returning Officer. The candidate must himself be registered as a voter in some constituency or other of the House to which he seeks election and his proposer and seconder must be voters enrolled in the particular constituency in respect of which the nomination is made. The proposer and seconder are entitled to subscribe as many nomination papers as there are vacancies to be filled and no more.

The nomination paper of every candidate is required to be accompanied by:

- (1) a declaration in writing appointing an election agent;
- (2) a receipt showing that the necessary deposit has been made for the candidature;
- (3) a declaration making the choice of a symbol.

In the case of a candidate desiring election to a seat reserved for the Scheduled Castes or for the Scheduled Tribes, his nomination paper must, in addition, be accompanied by a declaration verified by a Magistrate that he belongs to a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe.

Form of nomination paper.

The form in which nomination papers were to be presented was specified in Schedule II of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1951. The form was devised as an omnibus

one for use in elections to any legislature. During the general elections it was found to be somewhat too lengthy and cumbrous. It has since been simplified and replaced by six separate forms, each of which is to be used in elections to a different House.

In all, 5,155 nomination papers, in respect of 2,833 persons, were filed for elections to the House of the People and 42,244 nomination papers in respect of 23,287 candidates were filed for elections to the State Legislative Assemblies. The following table shows the number of persons (i) who filed their nomination papers, (ii) whose nomination papers were rejected, (iii) who withdrew their candidatures and (iv) who remained contesting candidates:—

Name of the House	Total No. of candidates	No. of nomination papers whose papers were rejected	No. of candidates who withdrew their candidatures	No. of contesting candidates
House of the People . . .	2,833	133	826	1,874
Legislative Assemblies of States . . .	23,287	1,405	6,521	15,361
TOTAL . . .	26,120	1,538	7,347	17,235

It was felt that some candidates might find it difficult to appreciate the legal technicalities of the provisions of the two Acts and the Rules made thereunder. The Commission accordingly issued a handbook containing the provisions of the election law which concerned the candidates. An attempt was made therein to give a clear exposition of the law on matters such as qualifications and disqualifications for membership of Legislatures, filing of nomination papers and matters ancillary thereto, scrutiny of nomination papers, withdrawal of candidatures, election agents, etc. The handbook was more or less a compilation of "do's" and "don'ts" for candidates. The subjects covered were arranged in a chronological order. The candidates'

Candidates' handbook.

attention was pointedly drawn to the common pit-falls into which they might land themselves unless they were careful. The book proved to be of considerable assistance to the candidates and their agents. In a large number of cases it was referred to by the Returning Officers at the time of scrutiny.

**Commission's
Instructions
to Returning
Officers.**

Considerable difficulty was experienced by the average Returning Officer at the time of the scrutiny of nomination papers. He had no precedents to follow and the law being new, he had to interpret it unaided as best as he could. The Commission was anxious that nomination papers should be scrutinised properly. It was also aware that the more inexperienced Returning Officers would find a good deal of difficulty in the matter in the absence of any guidance. The Commission accordingly issued circular instructions inviting the attention of the Returning Officers to the relevant provisions of the law and giving suitable directions in accordance therewith. The candidates were also cautioned by a press note against possible mistakes in the filling and presentation of nomination papers. They were given detailed advice as to how to fill in the entries which relate to the electoral rolls.

In addition, the Commission took care to clarify the position in case of deviations from the rules of procedure laid down for the declaration of choice of symbols by candidates. The pointed attention of the Returning Officers was invited to sub-section (4) of section 36 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which lays down that no nomination paper shall be rejected on a technical ground. Without purporting to encroach on the discretion or judgment of the Returning Officers, the Commission conveyed its view that any defect in the matter of choice of symbols in the nomination paper was technical in nature inasmuch as the assigning of a symbol to a candidate was a matter which lay ultimately within the discretion of the Returning Officer who could assign a symbol to a candidate which was not included in the list of the three symbols mentioned in his nomination paper. The commission announced by a press note that if a candidate, through ignorance or carelessness, failed to mention more than one symbol in his nomination paper, such a defect should be considered a minor defect and overlooked. It was further announced that if the first of any of the three symbols mentioned by a candidate in his nomination

paper was a symbol already reserved for another political party, or even if the candidate completely failed to specify his choice of symbols, the defect should be treated as minor and technical.

The Returning Officers were further directed to see that any clerical errors in a nomination paper in regard to the names or serial numbers of the candidate and his proposer or seconder were corrected at the time of its presentation.

In the great majority of cases, the Returning Officers carried out the scrutiny of nomination papers quite satisfactorily.

A number of objections urged against nomination papers raised substantial issues of fact and law, e.g., cases in which the eligibility of the candidates for election was challenged on the ground of their being disqualified under the Constitution or the Act. The law requires Returning Officers to hold only a summary enquiry before deciding such objections. Most of the Returning Officers followed the procedure satisfactorily. A few, however, went too much into details and made the proceedings too protracted, while a few others passed too cryptic orders.

Nature of
objections
raised
against
nomination
papers.

Unfortunately, some of the Returning Officers could not correctly appreciate the nature of their powers and duties under the law and there were several instances in which nomination papers were rejected on account of purely technical and even flimsy defects which could not be said to be of a substantial character. Some idea of the flimsy grounds on which nomination papers were rejected will be obtained from the following typical instances:—

Improper
rejection of
nomination
papers.

- (1) The candidate's proposer was holding an office of profit (Election Petition No. 147 of 1952).
- (2) The word "State" was added in the nomination form to the name of the Legislative Assembly, e.g., in one case, it was described as "West Bengal State Legislative Assembly" instead of "West Bengal Legislative Assembly" (2 E.L.R. 125).

- (3) Only one symbol was chosen by the candidate instead of three (2 E.L.R. 301).
- (4) The candidate had been selected for appointment to an office of profit (5 E.L.R. 48).
- (5) The candidate's name was entered in the list of assessors for trial of sessions cases.

The position was particularly bad in P.E.P.S.U. where as many as 33 election petitions were filed to challenge the result of elections to the Legislative Assembly which had a total of 50 constituencies. Four of these petitions were subsequently withdrawn, and 11 elections were declared void on account of improper rejection of nomination papers. As a result, 16 candidates were unseated. Some of the decisions given by the Returning Officers in the State at the time of scrutiny were patently unsatisfactory. For instance, the nomination paper of one candidate for election from the Kandaghat two-member constituency, was rejected only on the ground that the particulars of the election agent had not been given and the election agent's appointment had not been made in Form 5-A. In fact, the candidate was his own election agent and the rejection of the nomination paper was, therefore, uncalled for. The election was ultimately set aside (2 E.L.R. 140). In the case of the Amloh-Payal two-member constituency, the nomination papers of two candidates were rejected on the ground that the constituency and the particulars of the area in the roll of which the names of the proposers and seconders were mentioned, had not been stated. The name of the village had, in fact, been mentioned in both the cases and the name of the constituency had been mentioned in item (1) of the nomination paper. The Tribunal set aside the election in this case also (Election Petitions Nos. 69 and 150 of 1952). Similar was the history in regard to the election from the Sirhind constituency (4 E.L.R. 302). The election from the Dhilwan constituency was declared void on account of the improper rejection of the nomination paper of one of the candidates (2 E.L.R. 401). The Returning Officer in this case had taken the view that the particulars of the area in the roll of which the name of the candidate was included had not been correctly given. In fact, the name of the constituency, thana and district had been given, and the only ground for rejection of the nomination paper was that the name of the post office had not been stated.

Out of a total of 17,235 contesting candidates, the number of candidates set up by the political parties, and of independent candidates, was as follows:—

Name of the Party	Total number of Parliamentary candidates	Total number of Assembly candidates	Number of candidates set up by the parties and of independent candidates.
Congress	479	3,192	
Socialist	256	1,802	
Communist Party of India	49	465	
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	146	1,006	
Jan Sangh	93	718	
Scheduled Castes Federation	34	241	
Ram Rajya Parishad	62	342	
Krishikar Lok Party	29	139	
Hindu Mahasabha	31	211	
Forward Bloc (M)	24	158	
Forward Bloc (R)	6	62	
Revolutionary Socialist Party	8	58	
Revolutionary Communist Party of India	1	13	
Bolshevik Party of India	1	14	
Local Parties in States	131	1,047	
Independents	524	5,893	
TOTAL	1,874	15,361	

It will be noticed that the independent candidates formed as much as 37·2 per cent of the total number of candidates.

Only 93 candidates were returned unopposed. Out of these, 41 candidates were elected to seats reserved for members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. As many as 72, out of the total of 93, were official candidates of the Indian National Congress.

Out of a total of 338 election petitions arising out of the general elections, 116 contained allegations regarding improper rejection of nomination papers. Quite a large number of such rejections was due to lack of proper appreciation of the provisions of the law on the part of the Returning Officers. 64 of such rejections have been held to be improper and the Election Tribunals have declared several elections to be void on that account. The question of amending the law suitably in order to find a

Unopposed returns.

Suggested amendments to the Law.

remedy for this unsatisfactory state of affairs has since been taken up and an amending Bill is now pending in Parliament. It is proposed in this Bill to do away with the provision requiring the appointment of an election agent in the nomination paper itself. It has been proposed instead that until any such specific appointment is made by a candidate, he should be deemed to be his own election agent. The nomination paper is also proposed to be simplified. Another provision of the Bill relates to the rule of evidence contained in sub-clause (a) of sub-section (7) of section 36 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which is not suitably worded. A certified copy of an entry in the electoral roll of a constituency can only be evidenced of the fact that the individual referred to in the entry is, for the time being, registered as an elector in the constituency. It cannot obviously establish the conclusiveness of his right to stand for the election irrespective of all other considerations relevant to the matter, as the present wording of the section would seem to suggest.

The Election Commission would, in fact, recommend a far more thoroughgoing amendment of the law governing the filing and scrutiny of nomination papers. There is a good deal of scope for doing away with most of the non-essential technicalities which at present encumber this branch of the election law. The law should be so amended and the form of nomination papers so simplified that a duly qualified candidate filing his nomination within time may not run any risk of his nomination paper being rejected through a mere technical lapse or defect in the same.

The Election Commission accordingly recommends that the law should be amended on the following lines:—

C (a) It should be enough that a candidate is eligible to have his name registered as a voter in a constituency. Law should not go further and insist that he is, in fact, so registered. If his name is included in the roll, so much the better, of course. If not, he should be required to prove his eligibility, if challenged. Electoral rolls are bound to remain incomplete and unsatisfactory, more or less, even after the most painstaking preparation or revision; and experience has demonstrated that such insistence works harshly in many instances. Indeed, it was considered necessary from the very beginning to devise palliatives by way of last-minute inclusion of names in the electoral

rolls after exacting a penalty. The necessity for any such palliative will disappear if the suggestion is adopted.

(b) The law now requires that every nomination paper must be subscribed by a proposer and a seconder and that each of them must be an elector in the constituency in question. This provision may conveniently be done away with. It is a mere technicality which has been borrowed from the British and earlier Indian election law and has no intrinsic merit. A candidate who is unable to enlist the support of even two of the electors in the constituency will never risk his deposit money and undergo other election expenses by offering himself for election, and no useful purpose is therefore served by insisting that the nomination paper must be subscribed by a proposer and a seconder. The amending Bill now pending in Parliament seeks to do away with the seconder but retains the proposer. The reform which is admittedly necessary should, in the view of the Commission, be carried to its logical conclusion and the requirement of a proposer should disappear as well.

(c) A candidate should be deemed to be his own election agent until he has formally appointed some other person to be his election agent.

The above reforms, if carried out, will make the nomination paper a much simpler document and will effectively avoid the rejection of any nomination papers on mere technical grounds. This will, in turn, lead to a reduction in the number of election petitions and the setting aside of many elections, thus saving a good deal of waste of time and money—both public and private.

There is a large volume of opinion in favour of providing for an appeal against the order of a Returning Officer either accepting or rejecting a nomination paper. After a careful consideration of the whole problem, the Election Commission is unhesitatingly opposed to any such proposal. The real remedy against the weaknesses in the present law is to be obtained not by providing still more intricate and dilatory procedure involving litigation but by making the law simpler and by discarding non-essential technicalities so that candidates and Returning Officers may not stumble over them and commit careless or un-intentional mistakes. It will only introduce fresh confusion and result in much avoidable litigation and delay if, on the other hand, the scope for committing mistakes is

left untouched but appeals and other legal remedies are provided against mistaken orders resulting largely from the technicalities and the intricacies of the present law. There is every reason to apprehend that once such an appeal is provided for, too many interested persons will avail of the opportunity unscrupulously and the appellate authorities will be literally flooded with appeals against acceptances and rejections of nomination papers. This cannot but seriously upset all election time-table in future. The finality of the list of validly nominated candidates will be held up indefinitely even if the appellate authorities are required to and actually dispose of these appeals within a time limit. Judging from the experience of the Election Tribunals whose decisions were sought to be made final in law, aggrieved parties are certain to approach the higher courts for getting the orders of the appellate authorities set aside on the ground of want of jurisdiction, excess or non-exercise of jurisdiction and the like. It is also very likely that stay orders and writs will be obtained at every stage so that the completion of any election within a reasonable period will be difficult. The Election Commission feels accordingly that no right of appeal should be allowed against the order of a Returning Officer accepting or rejecting a nomination paper. Persons who feel aggrieved by such orders—and their number will be very much smaller in case the Commission's earlier suggestions are accepted—may very well be left to the remedy of challenging the result of an election only by an election petition after the election has been completed.

CHAPTER XIII

ELECTION AGENTS

Before filing his nomination paper, every candidate is required to appoint in writing either himself or one other person to be his election agent. The form of nomination paper prescribed at the time of the general elections included a declaration to be signed by the candidate recording the appointment of his election agent.

Speaking generally, candidates appointed themselves as their own election agent. The percentage of candidates who were their own election agents for election to the various legislatures was 88·4. The system of election agents cannot therefore be said to have been very popular with candidates.

The provisions relating to the appointment of election agents were not properly understood by many candidates with the result that the nomination papers of 178 candidates were rejected at the time of scrutiny for failure to make the appointments in accordance with law. In the Commission's opinion, it is not the intention of law that nomination papers should be rejected for such a defect. In order to eliminate the possibility of such rejections in the future, the appointment of election agents should be made optional for candidates and allowed to be made at any time after the filing of the nomination paper. It would be desirable to amend the law so as to provide that a candidate would be deemed to be his own election agent until he specifically appoints another person to be his agent. If this suggestion is adopted, any irregularity or defect in the appointment of the agent would not affect the nomination paper in any way.

Working of
the system

The unpopularity of the system is perhaps explained by the stringent manner in which the law is generally administered and applied. It is probable, however, that once the candidates are assured that any irregularity in the appointment of their election agents will not affect the validity of their nomination papers, the system of election agents may be more extensively availed of. A candidate is generally kept so busy with his election campaign that

the appointment of a separate election agent should give him substantial relief and result in the keeping of better accounts of election expenses.

Duties of an
election
agent.

The main duty of an election agent is to maintain full and regular books of accounts showing details of the expenditure incurred on the candidate's election. The appointment of an election agent, in fact, does not terminate until after the formal scrutiny and acceptance of the return of election expenses. Out of a total of 3,187 candidates who appointed persons other than themselves as their election agents, 855 incurred disqualifications for membership of Legislatures, and for voting, on account of failure to lodge their returns of election expenses within the time and in the manner required by law. This shows that 26.8 per cent of the election agents did not realise that it was their main responsibility to see that proper and full accounts were timely rendered of the expenditure incurred at the election. Out of a total of 855 election agents who had thus incurred disqualifications, the Commission ultimately ordered the removal of the disqualifications of 221 after obtaining their explanation and getting the defects rectified as far as practicable. 69 out of them pleaded ignorance of law in the representations made by them for removal of their disqualifications. 46 were under the impression that their candidates having ceased to be contesting candidates on account of the rejection of their nomination papers or of voluntary withdrawal of candidature, they were not required to file any returns of election expenses. Elsewhere, the Commission is recommending that the law should be amended so as to make it unnecessary for all but contesting candidates to file a return of election expenses. As many as 510 election agents failed to discharge the responsibility of filing the return of election expenses, although the candidates actually contested the elections. It cannot, therefore, be said that election agents in general realised or discharged their responsibility.

The system of election agents cannot, in view of the above facts, be said to have worked very satisfactorily.

CHAPTER XIV

THE POLL

In selecting the location of polling stations, the Scheme of Commission directed that the following considerations should be kept in view:— Polling Stations.

- (i) There should not, ordinarily, be more than 1000 voters for a polling booth.
- (ii) A polling station should serve a geographically well-defined area.
- (iii) Where absolutely necessary, separate polling booths should be provided for women voters.
- (iv) A voter should not, ordinarily, be required to travel more than three miles to reach his polling station.
- (v) Polling stations should not be located in places of religious worship.

Public buildings were generally preferred for the location of polling stations. As these were not always available in sufficient numbers, dak bungalows, and even private buildings, were made use of. Care was taken to use the private buildings with the consent of the owners, and on payment of compensation, as necessary. In all 23,222 private buildings were used.

Due to the absence or shortage of suitable buildings, recourse had to be taken at some places to inexpensive temporary structures specially erected to serve as polling stations. The cheapest materials available were used for these structures and furniture was improvised wherever necessary. 16,088 such temporary structures were erected at a cost of Rs. 11,37,913-11-0. The temporary structures served the purpose well, and in no case had polling to be adjourned because of their proving unsuitable.

The Commission prescribed the manner in which lists of polling stations were to be published so that the voters could, without difficulty, know at which polling station or booth they were to cast their votes.

A total of 1,32,560 polling stations, with 1,96,084 polling booths, were set up throughout the country. Of these, 94,431 polling stations had one booth each. In spite of the Commission's instructions that the number of booths should be restricted as far as possible at a polling station, there was an instance in Uttar Pradesh where the number of booths in one polling station was as many as 19. Such multiplicity of booths involves a risk of confusion during polling. The Commission would accordingly prefer only single-booth polling stations at future elections. Necessary amendment in the law has already been proposed. On an average, there was one polling booth for every 884 voters.

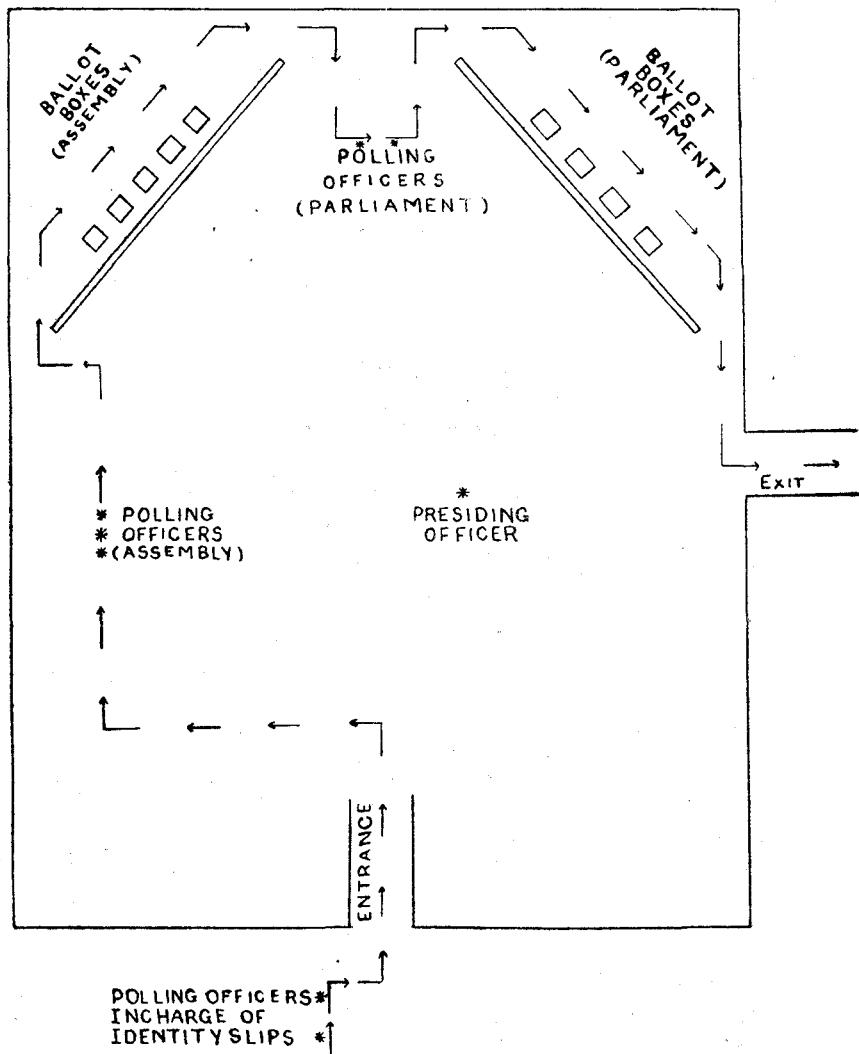
Voting by women.

As a rule, men and women voters voted at the same polling station or booth. At least one woman was appointed to assist the presiding officer at every polling station as far as possible. Wherever it was felt that on account of local custom women voters would find it difficult to appear at polling stations and cast their votes unless special facilities were provided for them, arrangements were made to set up separate women's booths. As far as possible, women polling officers were employed at such booths. At polling booths where both men and women voters voted, they were formed into separate queues and allowed to vote in alternate batches. A total of 27,527 booths were reserved for women voters all over the country.

Difficulties.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in making arrangements for the taking of the poll in desert or hilly areas where the terrain was difficult. In such areas, the density of population being very low, it was not possible to provide a polling station for every one thousand voters within three miles from the voters' homes. The number of polling stations had therefore to be increased in such areas. The smallest polling station in one such area catered for only 9 voters. The distances also could not be kept down in such cases to three miles. This did not, however, always deter the voters from going to the polling stations to cast their votes. For instance, the percentage of polling in the hilly tracts in West Bengal, and in the desert areas of Rajasthan, was 85·2 and 27·7 respectively.

In order to ensure the setting up of polling stations on proper lines, the following rough lay-out plan was suggested to all Returning Officers:—



The plan was substantially adopted at all polling stations. In out of the way places, polling stations had sometimes to be improvised to meet merely the barest minimum requirements. For instance, in some of the desert areas of Rajasthan, open-air polling stations were set up and small huts or tents were erected only to serve as secret voting compartments. The ballot boxes were placed in such huts or tents and the voters went into

them one by one to cast their votes, all previous proceedings having been held in the open. Care was taken in every such case to ensure that the voting was secret.

**Staggering
of the poll.**

Except in the State of Delhi, it was found impracticable to complete the poll in all the constituencies of a State in a single day. The area of a Parliamentary constituency was normally so large that except in rare cases where sufficient facilities were available, polling had to be spread over a number of days. Lack of adequate polling personnel, and difficulties created by the absence of transport facilities, made it difficult in some of the States to complete polling even in an Assembly constituency in one day. The polling dates, therefore, had to be fixed with due regard to the circumstances prevailing in each State. In States in which polling was spread over a number of days, each polling party was assigned a number of polling stations, and the programme was so arranged that the party went on its beat, completing polling at the stations assigned to it, one after another, on the dates notified for those areas. In order to ensure that the polling parties reached their destinations in time and took preliminary steps for the setting up of polling stations, an interval of a day or more was allowed between the dates fixed for the taking of the poll. Thus only was it possible for one polling party to take the poll at a number of stations on different dates and the difficulty arising from the shortage of polling personnel was solved. While polling in 126 Parliamentary and 1,846 Assembly constituencies was completed in one day, it was spread over in the rest of the constituencies. The longest period taken was in Punjab where it took as many as 25 days to take the poll in the Hoshiarpur Parliamentary constituency. The Commission feels that with better planning in future, it will be possible to reduce the period of poll in every constituency to reasonable limits.

As poll had to be taken at 1,32,560 polling stations with 1,96,084 polling booths, it is not surprising that the magnitude of the task should have presented almost insuperable difficulties. The first problem was to find the vast army of polling personnel of a minimum standard. The resources of the State Governments in man-power were utilised to the maximum extent possible, and recourse had also to be taken to the employees of local bodies and Government-aided institutions. The maximum strength of the polling personnel that could be mustered necessarily

determined the period required for the taking of the poll. Wherever the number was insufficient, polling had to be staggered over a number of days. As a rule, it was so arranged that in every big city the poll was completed on a single day. In the city of Calcutta, for instance, 826 polling stations were set up with 1,918 polling booths and the poll was taken on a single day with the help of 4,175 polling officers and 11,052 policemen.

In some States, a good deal of difficulty was experienced in the transport of polling parties and polling materials on account of their peculiar physical features like snow-capped mountains, vast deserts, wide unfordable rivers, dense forests and other difficulties. A few typical instances may be cited.

Parts of Himachal Pradesh remain snow-bound for a number of months every year and during these months it is physically impossible to arrange the transport of polling parties over the snow-bound areas. The voters also would find it impossible to attend the polling stations. Elections to the Chini and Pangi Assembly constituencies, and the corresponding portions of the Parliamentary constituencies, had therefore to be arranged in a hurry before snow-fall. It was just possible to complete the polling in these areas in time. Even then, it took about a week after the poll to transport the ballot boxes to Chamba and Kasumpti, the headquarters of the respective Returning Officers, for the counting of votes.

In the hilly areas of the Outer Manipur Parliamentary constituency, considerable difficulty was faced in procuring porters for the transport of ballot boxes and other polling materials to the polling stations and no other means of transport were available. The support of the hill chiefs was in the end secured for obtaining a supply of porters, by promising to those who helped a piece of red blanket and a gun license by way of reward. Elephants were employed for transport in some parts of Tripura but in most cases the polling parties had to reach their polling stations on foot covering a distance of about forty miles per day. In parts of the Mohindergarh and Kohistan districts of P.E.P.S.U., serious transport difficulty was caused by snow and the difficult mountainous nature of the area. Camels, mules, ponies and porters had to be used for transporting the polling parties and their equipment.

Transport difficulties.

Himachal Pradesh.

Manipur,
Tripura and
P.E.P.S.U.

Rajasthan.

In Rajasthan, there are vast desert areas with no roads whatsoever. Telegraphic and telephonic facilities are not generally available and even the transport of ordinary mail takes considerable time. In the districts of Barmer and Jalore in particular, ordinary motor vehicles were not good enough for such tracks as exist and high-powered Army vehicles had to be specially arranged for in order to transport the polling parties from place to place. Even these vehicles often got marooned in sand and at one stage it was feared that the polling arrangements would completely break down. The entire stock of jeeps in the State was then pooled and sent to the two districts, and it was only then that it was possible, with great difficulty, to complete the polling programme according to schedule. The difficulties experienced in Jaisalmer, and some other desert districts like Jodhpur, were solved by arranging transport of polling parties on camels. For this, a large number of camels had to be hired, and each polling party moved like a caravan.

The means of communication were also wholly inadequate in the State, and the facility of trunk telephone was not available in many of the district headquarters. The Posts and Telegraphs Department arranged for special telephone facilities wherever possible, and also opened many temporary post offices. In a large number of centres, where such facilities could not be provided, wireless transmitters were installed. All these arrangements helped the completion of the poll according to schedule. It is remarkable that there was not a single instance in which polling had to be adjourned because of the inability of the polling party to reach the polling station in time. A Control Room under the direct control of the Chief Electoral Officer was organised at the capital of the State, Jaipur, and functioned in three shifts round the clock. The Control Room was in possession of full and up to date data regarding the polling parties, the means of communication and transport, and effectively controlled the entire operations. It was referred to for various urgent problems arising in far-off stations and gave prompt directions and decisions in order to solve them.

Assam.

In some of the hilly areas of Assam, polling parties and porters had to march on foot for days together through virgin and trackless forests to reach their polling stations.

In order that they might not lose their way in the forests and thus upset the polling programme, it was found necessary to send an advance party in each case which marked out the shortest routes to the polling stations on wayside tree-trunks all along the way, for the guidance of the polling parties.

Although sufficient training was given to the polling personnel, it was felt that it would be helpful if simple written instructions for their guidance were also made available to them. A set of model instructions was drawn up by the Commission and the State Governments were requested to adopt them with suitable modifications. These instructions were found very useful.

Model instructions
for Presiding Officers.

Out of 17,500 contesting candidates, as many as 4,194 did not appoint any polling agents at all. This was unfortunate inasmuch as polling agents who represent the candidates at the polling stations are expected to play an important part in enforcing the precautionary checks which the law has laid down to ensure that polling takes place in a fair and honest manner and that the ballot boxes are handled and sealed properly. It has been reported that most of the polling agents were ignorant of their duties and functions and were very often mere passive spectators of the proceedings. The Presiding Officers of course helped the polling agents to acquire a working knowledge of their duties and responsibilities in course of the proceedings, but even then they were a poor substitute for what the law had intended them to be, namely, a body of intelligent and alert persons who could, by properly carrying out their duties, materially enhance public confidence in the verdict of the ballot box. Although the best use was not made of the system of polling agents, a good beginning has been made and polling agents may be expected to play a more and more important role in future.

Polling agents.

Even at polling stations at which no polling agents had been appointed, polling went on according to law and no complaints were received of any irregularities committed by the Presiding Officers. Public confidence in the Presiding Officers is revealed by the fact that at some polling stations the polling agents did not even consider it

necessary to sign the paper seals and they were content merely to challenge the identity of a voter in case of doubt.

Working of the system.

Rule 12 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1951, requires polling agents to be appointed at least three days before the commencement of the poll. The time-limit was found too harsh in practice and many candidates found it difficult to make the appointments in time or to secure on the prescribed forms the signatures of their polling agents who were scattered all over the constituencies.

The Commission is satisfied that the relevant rules should be suitably amended so as to simplify them and make them more workable.

Hours of Poll.

The Governments concerned fixed the hours of poll which were as follows:—

8 hours poll.—Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Hyderabad, Pepsu, Rajasthan and Manipur (with no break for lunch). Himachal Pradesh & Tripura (excluding half an hour's break). U.P., West Bengal, Madhya Bharat, Mysore, Ajmer, Bhopal & Delhi (excluding one hour's break).

8½ hours poll.—Vindhya Pradesh (with no break). Coorg (excluding half an hour's break).

9 hours poll.—Saurashtra (with no break). Kutch (excluding half an hour's break). Madras & Travancore-Cochin (excluding one hour's break).

10 hours poll.—Bombay (with no break).

Polling commenced at the scheduled hour at all polling stations except 91 where the delay was made good by extending the hour of closure. No case was reported in which voters had to go away without casting their votes on account of the closure of polling. Instructions had been issued to Presiding Officers inviting their particular attention to the provisions of the law permitting all electors present within the polling station at the hour of closure of the poll to vote even after that hour. Polling was heavier in the morning and afternoon hours as compared to the middle of the day.

On the whole there was heavier polling in urban areas.

The maximum and minimum percentage of poll occurred in the following constituencies:—

Parliamentary constituency	Percentage of polling	Assembly constituency	Percentage of polling	Percentage of poll.
Kottayam (Travancore-Cochin)	80.5	Bharani Kavu (Travancore-Cochin.)	92.6 (Maximum)	
Shahdol-Sidhi (Vindhya Pradesh)	18.0	Udayagiri-Mohana (Orissa).	10.1 (Minimum)	

Not a single vote was cast at the Nurpur (West Bengal), Intali (Rajasthan), Juni-Chhapri (Saurashtra) and Kitchener Road (Tents) (Delhi) polling stations. Apart from this, the polling stations with the highest and lowest number of votes polled were the following:—

Name of polling station	Total No. of voters	No. of voters who cast their votes
Sitala M. E. School (West Bengal)	1,366	1,361 (Highest)
Venkataramanujapuram (Madras)	1,476	1 (Lowest)

Out of a total of 17,32,13,635 voters, 8,86,12,171 cast their votes for elections to the Parliament. The over-all percentage of voting was thus 51.15 which is by no means unsatisfactory.

In 2,306 cases only, the identity of voters was challenged during polling. 1,732 such objections were rejected, and a sum of Rs. 17,320 was forfeited on that account. If a person has already cast a vote in the name of a voter and subsequently, another person turns up and claims to be that voter, the latter is allowed to vote on a special type of ballot paper which is then preserved in a sealed cover. Such a vote is not counted and is known as a tendered vote. There were 58,887 cases of tendered votes in the whole of the country.

These figures of challenged votes and tendered votes taken along with 817 reported cases of alleged personation

Challenged and tendered votes.

Personation.

would seem to suggest that the incidence of personation was negligible at the poll. Complaints reached the Commission, however, that there had been a considerable amount of personation at the poll in a few urban areas. The Commission is satisfied that there was virtually no personation in the rural polling stations which naturally constitute the vast majority of such stations. There is no doubt that there is a good deal of scope for personation in urban areas where it often happens that even a neighbour does not know another neighbour by face or name—and this is particularly true of congested areas in big cities or industrial areas with floating populations. It is difficult in such cases for the polling officers or the polling agents to detect cases of personation. It seems very difficult, however, to evolve a simple and workable remedy for this evil assuming that it exists to any large extent.

**Interchange
of ballot
papers and
ballot boxes.**

Due to the carelessness of some Presiding Officers, there was an interchange of Parliamentary and Assembly ballot boxes or ballot papers at some polling stations. In all, there were 181 cases of interchange of ballot boxes and 692 cases of interchange of ballot papers. All these cases were reported to the Commission for orders. In 43 cases out of these, a repoll was ordered. Where the interchange of ballot papers came to notice only at the time of counting, such ballot papers had to be rejected under the law. If the mistake was detected earlier and brought to the notice of the Commission in time, the latter invariably regularised the issue of the particular ballot papers issued by mistake to the voters and such votes were thereafter counted. The interchange of ballot papers usually took place as a result of the differently coloured vertical bars meant to distinguish the Parliamentary from the Assembly ballot papers not being very distinct from one another. The Commission has since changed the design of the ballot papers so as to make them much more readily distinguishable from each other. The name of the House for which the ballot paper is to be used is also printed on each ballot paper of the new designs so that the risk of interchange of ballot papers has been minimised. [Vide illustrations facing page 103].

**Adjourned
poll and
repoll.**

There were in all 93 cases in which polling had to be adjourned under section 57 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The number of stations at which such

adjournment was ordered, and the reasons for adjournment were as follows:—

Reasons for adjournment	No. of polling stations
Interchange of ballot papers	1
Non-supply of the electoral roll at the polling station .	10
Breach of law and order.	7
Loss of ballot papers	2
Adverse weather	11
Defective ballot boxes	8
Defective indelible ink	1
Mistake in pasting symbols on ballot boxes	1
Failure to provide sufficient ballot boxes .	1
Tampering of ballot boxes or paper-seals during poll .	35

Polling was resumed on a later date in each of the above cases after due notice to the voters. In addition, fresh poll had to be ordered at 107 polling stations on account of damages to ballot boxes discovered at the time of counting.

The Lahaul and Spiti areas of Kangra District in the Kulu constituency of the Punjab Legislative Assembly remain snow-bound from about the second or third week of October to the end of April and the conduct of poll in those areas is physically impossible after snow-fall. Although the State Government had been warned by the Commission in June, 1951, about the desirability of holding the elections in the hilly tracts of the Kangra district in October (in the same way as polling was held early in Pangi and Chini Assembly Constituencies in Himachal Pradesh), the State Government allowed the matter to slide and the opportunity to hold an early poll in the area was lost. The Commission had therefore no alternative but to allow the poll to be held in the Lahaul and Spiti areas at polling stations located within the constituency but outside the snow-bound areas at places far away from the voters' homes. The voters naturally failed to reach such polling stations and their grievance that they had not been given a reasonable opportunity to vote was perfectly legitimate. The Commission very much regrets this instance of virtual denial of the exercise of the right to vote to a large body of voters who

Virtual denial
of voting
facility.

numbered 6,348. Every endeavour must be made to avoid such cases in future elections.

Law and Order.

It is only natural that feelings should run high at the general elections. As the election campaign of the parties and the candidates gained momentum and the day of poll approached nearer, fears were expressed in many quarters about probable breaches of law and order. The elections were going to strain the personnel resources of the State Governments to the utmost and it was widely apprehended that the occasion might be taken advantage of by anti-social elements, and even ordinary crimes might record a steep rise. The State Governments had, therefore, to face the double responsibility of making arrangements for the peaceful conduct of the elections at 1,96,084 polling booths in the country, as also of ensuring that anti-social elements took no undue advantage of the situation. The arrangements for the maintenance of law and order had therefore to be planned with extreme care.

A sufficient number of policemen was provided at each polling station and wherever necessary, village Chowkidars or home-guards, etc., were made available for such duties. In addition to the police force provided at the polling stations, additional forces were kept in reserve at suitable points to serve as striking forces for meeting any unforeseen developments. Mobile parties of Police were detailed in some States for going round excitable areas in order to inspire public confidence. Special precautions were also taken in respect of likely trouble-spots. The law prohibits public meetings on any polling day and canvassing near a polling station. These provisions proved very salutary.

All these arrangements had the desired effect and 88·6 million voters actually cast their votes in a perfectly peaceful atmosphere. In fact, in most areas the cities, towns and villages wore almost a festive appearance and there was perfect discipline and good humour all round. An additional cause for gratification was that there was no increase in the incidence of crime during the entire period of the elections.

No breaches of law and order occurred at any of the polling stations in most of the States. There were, in all, minor cases of breaches of law and order at 80 polling

stations scattered over the States of Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, P.E.P.S.U., Saurashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Vindhya Pradesh.

The total number of electoral offences reported during, or in regard to, the poll was 1,250, the details being as follows:—

Electoral
offences.

Disorderly conduct at election meetings	11
Convening, holding or attending public meetings within a constituency on a polling day	21
Illegal hiring or procuring of conveyances for the transport of voters	10
Canvassing within one hundred yards of a polling station	100
Disorderly conduct in or near polling stations	62
Misconduct at polling stations	21
Impersonation of voters	817
Fraudulent defacing or destroying or removing a list or notice or other document fixed by or under the authority of a Returning Officer	5
Fraudulent insertion into ballot boxes of anything other than a ballot paper	23
Destroying, taking away or otherwise interfering with ballot boxes or ballot papers	59
Fraudulent defacing or destroying ballot papers or the official mark on ballot papers	15
Fraudulent taking of, or attempting to take, ballot papers out of a polling station	106

In view of the total of 88·6 million voters actually participating in the poll, these figures of crimes reported to have been committed in relation to the elections are almost insignificant and rather highlight the essentially law-abiding and peaceful manner in which the elections were conducted all over the country.

In order to avoid any difficulty in postal ballot facilities to persons, entitled to the same, the Commission directed that the names of such persons except those under preventive detention, should be listed in a separate part of the electoral roll of each constituency. The names of

Postal
ballot.

the following classes of voters were, therefore, listed separately:—

- (i) Members of the Armed Forces of the Union;
- (ii) Persons employed under the Government of India in a post outside India;
- (iii) Persons holding any office in India declared by the President to be an office to which the provisions of section 20 (4) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, apply; and
- (iv) The wives of persons referred to in items (i) to (iii) above.

A separate list of persons under preventive detention was also prepared and special arrangements were made to send postal ballot papers to them.

In all, 2,96,828 postal ballot papers were issued. A large percentage of the covers containing the postal ballot papers addressed to members of the Armed Forces were returned undelivered on account of incorrect addresses. Approximately 1,07,000 voters exercised their right to vote by postal ballot within the prescribed time-limit.

Working of the system.

The system of postal ballot did not work very satisfactorily particularly in the case of the Armed Forces personnel. The main reason for this was that changes in the addresses of such voters had not been intimated to the Returning Officers in time. The voters also found it difficult to vote intelligently as the party affiliations of the candidates had not been indicated in the ballot papers. As they reside away from their constituencies, they were completely ignorant of such affiliations. The Commission is taking necessary action to find a remedy for these difficulties.

Although the persons detailed for polling duties and the polling agents of candidates were entitled to vote by postal ballot, little use was made of this facility, partly through ignorance of the provision and partly because they did not find it practicable to apply in time to the Returning Officers for the issue of the postal ballot papers.

CHAPTER XV

COUNTING OF VOTES AND DECLARATION OF RESULTS

The Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1951, do not lay down the detailed procedure to be followed at the counting of votes. In order to secure uniformity in this respect, detailed instructions on the subject were issued by the Chief Electoral Officers of all States except the States of Bombay, Orissa and Himachal Pradesh. The instructions covered the counting of votes in single-member and multi-member constituencies and proved helpful to the Returning Officers.

It had originally been expected that all the votes could conveniently be counted at a counting centre situated within an Assembly constituency. This proved difficult in actual practice in a few constituencies and the relevant rule was amended so as to allow counting at a place outside the constituency or in more places than one, wherever necessary. Apart from such exceptional cases, votes were invariably counted at a place within the constituency. In exceptionally difficult cases, the Commission authorised the Chief Electoral Officer to allow counting at a place outside the constituency, as for instance, where there was no suitable place for counting within the constituency or where the headquarters of the Returning Officer was outside the constituency and he could not, on account of other duties, leave his headquarters for the counting of votes.

In the case of Parliamentary constituencies, counting was allowed at not more than five places. Here also, the Chief Electoral Officer was allowed to permit counting at a place outside the constituency, wherever necessary.

The Commission was anxious that counting of votes should take place as soon after the poll as was practicable. For many practical reasons, however, the counting

of votes could not be taken up in most constituencies immediately after the completion of polling. In the first place, on account of poor transport facilities it was found difficult, except in urban constituencies, to collect the ballot boxes speedily enough at the counting centre or centres from all the polling stations so as to make the counting of votes possible on the day following the poll. Even in the case of urban constituencies, the ballot boxes had to be collected and sorted out candidate-wise. Another cause of delay was that in many instances, the same officer had been appointed Returning Officer for several constituencies, so that after the completion of poll in one constituency, he had to be busy with the polling arrangements in the other constituencies under his charge. Counting was, therefore, taken up as and when possible, and in one constituency after another. It is a fact that this delay in counting gave rise to some amount of dissatisfaction and criticism. On the other hand, there was a considerable volume of opinion which favoured the view that counting of votes should not be commenced in a State until all the polling was over, the reason advanced being that the results declared in one constituency would unduly influence the trend of voting in other constituencies which went to the poll later. The Commission is not satisfied that the reason is a valid one.

Some States like Madras and Bombay managed, by well-planned administrative arrangements, to commence counting of votes with commendable promptitude. Other States like West Bengal, Mysore etc. did not undertake any counting until all polling in the State was over. With the experience gained in the last general elections and in view of the public impatience and dissatisfaction at such delays, it is expected that the State Governments will, in future elections, emulate the good example set by Madras and Bombay.

Time taken
in counting.

Actual counting in a single-member Assembly constituency normally took 4 or 5 working hours, while in a Parliamentary constituency it took nearly 2 days. In multi-member constituencies, however, counting of votes was a more complicated process as care had to be exercised to check cumulative voting. In order to exclude cumulative votes, the ballot papers in each ballot box had to be arranged in serial order and whenever more ballot papers than one with the same serial number

were found in the same box, all but one of them had to be rejected. In one constituency in Bihar there were as many as 78 thousand cumulative votes. Counting of votes in such constituencies, therefore, took a longer time. There were some instances of unjustifiably protracted counting as well. For instance, in one two-member Parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh, counting of votes took as many as 20 days. Similarly, in Travancore-Cochin, counting of votes in a two-member Assembly constituency took 12 days. In two-member Assembly constituencies it took, on an average, as many as 15 working hours to count the votes. The preparation of the statement prescribed for the record of rejected ballot papers (Form 15) took considerable time. It should be possible to devise means for materially reducing the clerical labour involved in preparing this statement.

While it is not possible to reduce the time taken in the physical act of counting of votes, the Commission has decided that in all future elections the programme should be so drawn up as to reduce the period between the completion of the poll and the counting of votes to the minimum. This would inspire greater confidence and reduce, if not eliminate, a good deal of avoidable criticism which takes advantage of the long period during which the ballot boxes are kept in the custody of Returning Officers before the counting of votes.

A few complaints were received in respect of counting of votes. These were examined and most of them were found to be either baseless or highly exaggerated. Many of the complaints proceeded from ignorance of the provisions of law. The Commission is satisfied that counting took place in accordance with law and no case came to the Commission's notice in which any illegality was deliberately committed.

The case of the Bulsar-Chikhli constituency of the Bombay Legislative Assembly attracted country-wide attention at the time and deserves special mention. It was a two-member constituency. The unreserved seat was contested by three candidates, namely, Dr. Amul Desai (Socialist), Shri Morarji R. Desai (Chief Minister and Congress candidate) and Shri Janardan B. Desai (Independent). The counting of votes commenced in the morning of the 13th January, 1952, and concluded

The Bulsar-Chikhli case.

shortly after midnight of the 14th January, 1952. Dr. Amul Desai was found to have topped the poll for the unreserved seat securing 173 votes more than the second highest candidate, Shri Morarji R. Desai. Shri Morarji R. Desai's agent applied for a re-count at this stage. While Dr. Amul Desai opposed the application, another socialist candidate, Shri Nanubhai, belonging to the Scheduled Castes, also applied for a re-count. The Returning Officer ordered a re-count and fixed 10 a.m. on the 15th January, 1952, for the same. Care was taken to seal, pending the re-count, all the bundles of ballot papers, to the satisfaction of the candidates. When the re-count was proceeding, the Returning Officer was informed that some torn pieces of ballot papers were lying in the cesspool behind the urinal in the premises. As a matter of fact, some torn bits of paper resembling ballot papers had been noticed there even on the night of the 14th January but had been taken at that time to be pieces of paper seals. On receiving this information on the 15th morning, the Returning Officer ordered a Police Officer to enquire into the matter. Meanwhile, the re-counting proceeded. In course of the re-count, some mistakes were detected in recording the number of votes in the first count. The revised figures were accepted at the re-count by all concerned. Meanwhile, the Police Officer reported that the pieces of paper found in the cesspool were in fact pieces of ballot papers. Dr. Amul Desai thereupon asked for a postponement of the re-count. The Returning Officer had the torn pieces of ballot papers collected and examined them. There was nothing to indicate who was responsible for tearing the ballot papers into pieces and throwing them there. Dr. Desai reiterated his demand for a postponement of the re-count which was ultimately adjourned with the consent of all the candidates. It was resumed on the 17th January, 1952, in the presence of the Regional Election Commissioner who had been deputed by the Commission to make an investigation into the matter, and to supervise the re-count of the votes. As a result of this re-count, Dr. Amul Desai was declared to have been elected to the unreserved seat defeating Shri Morarji R. Desai by 19 votes. A careful scrutiny of the ballot paper accounts received from all the polling stations revealed that in respect of the ballot papers from the Vankal polling station, there had been a mistake during the first count in recording the

number of votes polled by Dr. Amul Desai. Dr. Amul Desai had actually polled 168 votes at this polling station and not 268 as wrongly recorded during the first count. A similar check of ballot paper accounts from other polling stations resolved the remaining discrepancies between the first and the second counts, which also arose from mistakes in the number of votes recorded during the first count. The pieces of the torn ballot papers were reconstructed and it was found that they made up 13 ballot papers only. Their serial numbers showed that they related to the Faldhara and Tankal polling stations of the constituency. The entries in the ballot paper accounts of these stations were checked with the number of ballot papers actually found in the ballot boxes from those stations. It was found that all but 14 ballot papers issued at these two polling stations had been found in the ballot boxes received from those stations. As against this shortage of 14 ballot papers, 13 ballot papers had been recovered in torn condition and one ballot paper only thus remained unaccounted for. These facts made it clear that 13 or 14 ballot papers had been somehow obtained by some mischief-maker at some point of time before the first count and torn into pieces which were thrown near the premises in order to create suspicion against the honesty of the counting and the correctness of the result when it came to be declared. It was not possible to ascertain definitely how or when the culprit or culprits managed to secure these 13 or 14 ballot papers. One plausible theory is that the ballot papers had been abstracted at the place of counting after the ballot boxes for these polling stations had been opened but before the completion of the counting of the ballot papers found in these ballot boxes. It cannot be said for certain in whose favour in such a case these 13 or 14 ballot papers might have been cast. Another alternative theory is that some mischief-maker collected these 13 or 14 ballot papers at the polling stations on the day of the poll from the individual voters to whom they had been issued by the polling officers but who had clandestinely taken the ballot papers out of the polling station and that at the time of counting, these illegally obtained ballot papers had been deliberately utilised in the above manner in order to throw suspicion on the proceedings. It is not possible to opine now as to which candidate's interest was meant to be advanced by creating such suspicion. Fortunately, the number of ballot papers in-

volved in this attempt at creating mischief was too small in any case to affect the result of the counting in any way; inasmuch as there would be no difference in the final result to whichever candidate one decided to credit these ballot papers. No reasonable doubt can, therefore, arise that the declared result of the election did not truly represent the will of the electorate in the constituency. The Commission felt, however, that further thorough and careful enquiries should be made in order to trace the culprit if possible and under its direction, a formal complaint was lodged with the Police who held further detailed investigations into the matter. No sufficient materials could, however, be collected to support a criminal charge against any person and the matter had to be finally dropped.

CHAPTER XVI

DEPOSITS AND FORFEITURES.

In view of the requirement that a candidate shall not be deemed to be duly nominated at an election unless he deposits, or causes to be deposited, the sum prescribed under section 34 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. 26,489 out of a total number of 26,507 nominated candidates made the deposits. The nomination papers of 18 candidates were rejected for failure to make the necessary deposit. The nomination papers of 14 candidates were rejected for making inadequate deposits. A total sum of Rs. 67,59,735, was deposited by the candidates all over the country.

The nomination of 1,588 candidates were rejected Refunds. at the time of scrutiny, and 7,419 candidates withdrew their candidatures within the prescribed time-limit. Their deposits, amounting to Rs. 20,03,340 were refunded. Deposits in respect of 10 candidates were refunded to their heirs as they died before the commencement of polling.

The deposits made by 9,198 candidates were forfeited Forfeitures. on account of their failure to secure votes (a) exceeding one-sixth of the total number of votes polled in the case of a single-member constituency, or (b) in the case of a constituency returning more than one member, one-sixth of the total votes polled divided by the number of members to be elected. The details are as follows:—

Name of the House	No. of contesting candidates	No. of candidates whose deposits were forfeited
House of the People	1,874	748
State Legislative Assemblies	15,361	8,362
Electoral Colleges	265	88
TOTAL	17,500	9,198

A sum of Rs. 4,02,150 was thus forfeited to the Central Government and a sum of Rs. 17,08,125 to the State Governments.

Details of forfeitures according to parties.

The independent candidates suffered most from forfeiture of deposits. The candidates of the five major political parties, viz., the Indian National Congress, Socialist Party, Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party, Jan Sangh and the Communist Party of India, also suffered appreciably as the following table will show:—

Name of the Party	Total No. of candidates set up by the Party	Total No. of candidates who forfeited their deposits	Total sum (in rupees)
Indian National Congress	3,747	101	23,575
Socialist Party	2,077	1,147	3,06,005
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	1,152	730	1,83,075
Communist Party of India	536	212	51,600
Jan Sangh	812	536	1,21,700
Other Parties	2,656	1,505	1,13,395
Independents	6,520	4,967	13,10,925

Forfeitures in elections

A question arose whether the provisions of section 158(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, regarding forfeiture of deposits applied in the case of an election to the Council of States by (i) the elected members of the Legislative Assembly of a State or (ii) the members of the Electoral College of a Part 'C' State or group of such States, or, in the case of an election to the Legislative Council of a State, by (i) the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State or (ii) the Council Constituencies. The Commission considered that the question was a doubtful one and that it would not therefore be proper to enforce the forfeiture clause in these elections. Instructions to that effect were issued to the Chief Electoral Officers.

Voting generally along party lines-little chance for independent candidates.

Out of 748 candidates who forfeited their deposits in respect of elections to the House of the People, as many as 349, or 46.6 per cent, were independent candidates. In the case of elections to State Legislative Assemblies and Electoral Colleges, out of a total of 8,450 candidates who forfeited their deposits, as many as 4,618, or 54 per cent, were independent candidates. It is

clear from these figures that a large number of independent candidates entered the contest too lightly without taking care whether they had any reasonable prospect of securing the votes of at least one-sixth of the electorate. Another reasonable inference that can be drawn is that the electorate by and large preferred to vote along party lines and generally refused to vote in favour of unattached independent candidates.

[For the 3,862 seats for elections to various legislatures, there were 17,500 contesting candidates, making an average of about 5 for each seat. This multiplicity of candidates led to a considerable wastage of man-power and resources, not only to the candidates themselves but also to the country at large. The Commission expects that the tendency of too many candidates standing for election will gradually diminish and that no legislative deterrent will be necessary.] It is interesting to note in this connection that in the recent general elections held in P.E.P.S.U., Travancore-Cochin and Andhra the average number of candidates per seat was 4, 2 and 3 as compared to 6, 4 and 4·6 respectively in the general elections held in 1951-52. A study of the 206 bye-elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies held after the general elections up to the 31st December, 1954, also shows that the average number of candidates for each seat in these bye-elections was 2·8 and 2·7 respectively. [In case it is considered necessary at any time in the future to apply any legislative remedy, the easiest and most obvious one would be to provide that a candidate who fails to secure one-fifth of the total number of valid votes polled will forfeit his security deposit. The limit at present prescribed by law is one-sixth.

Multiplicity
of candidates.

PART III

ELECTIONS TO UPPER HOUSES OF LEGISLATURES

CHAPTER XVII

THE COUNCIL OF STATES

The Council of States had, at its inception, a total of 216 members, of whom 12 were nominated by the President and the other 204 were representatives of the States. As stated elsewhere in this report, of the 204 seats allotted to the States, only two have been allotted to groups of States—one to the group formed by Ajmer and Coorg and the other to the second group formed by Manipur and Tripura. At the initial constitution, the seat allotted to the Ajmer—Coorg group was filled by Ajmer, and to the Manipur—Tripura group by Tripura.

Election to
the Council
of States.

All the representatives of the States, other than Jammu & Kashmir, Kutch and Tripura, were elected to the Council of States by the elected members of the respective Legislative Assemblies. The four representatives of Jammu & Kashmir were chosen by the President on the recommendation of the State Government as required by the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1950, (C.O. 10). In actual practice, the State Government acted upon a unanimous resolution of the Constituent Assembly of the State in recommending the names of the persons to be chosen by the President. The representatives of Kutch and Tripura, which have no Legislative Assemblies, were elected by electoral colleges specially constituted for the purpose by election on adult franchise.

On the 4th March, 1952, the elected members of all the Legislative Assemblies and of the electoral colleges of Kutch and Tripura were called upon to elect representatives to the Council of States. The elections were completed by the end of March, 1952.

In all, 345 candidates filed their nomination papers for election to the Council of States. The nomination papers of 6 candidates were rejected at scrutiny and 57 others withdrew from contest, leaving 282 candidates in the field.

Number
candidates.

Uncontested
returns.

There was no contest in six States or group of States, and 9 members were returned uncontested therefrom, viz., 4 from Saurashtra and one each from Ajmer, Bhopal, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh-Bilaspur and Kutch.

Counting
and declara-
tion of
results.

In order that the Returning Officers might get familiar with the method of counting of votes according to the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, the Commission held special demonstrations of the system for the benefit of the Returning Officers at New Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay. This proved helpful to the Returning Officers and there was no delay or difficulty in counting the votes or declaring the results. The names of all the elected candidates were published in the Gazette of India of the 31st March, 1952. The names of the persons nominated by the President were published in the Gazette of India of the 2nd April, 1952.

Forms of
office of
members.

The Council of States is not subject to dissolution, and as nearly as possible one-third of its members retire on the expiration of every two years in accordance with the provisions of article 83 of the Constitution and section 154 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

The term of office of the representatives from the Ajmer-Coorg group and the Tripura-Manipur group is two years. Accordingly, the representatives elected by Ajmer and Tripura at the initial constitution of the Council of States automatically retired in 1954 on the completion of their term, and the resulting vacancies have been filled by representatives elected from Coorg and Manipur respectively. The term of office of the members of the Council of States as first constituted, commenced on the 3rd April, 1952. In order to decide the individual terms of office of the members who had all been elected simultaneously, the President, after consultation with the Election Commission, made the Council of States (Term of Office of Members) Order, 1952, according to which the members of the Council of States were to be grouped State-wise and the members of each group divided into three categories. The President's order further provided that the term of office of a member would expire on the 2nd day of April, 1958, 1956, or 1954, according as he was placed in the first, second or third category. The names of the members to be placed

in each of these categories were to be determined by the Election Commission by drawing lots in public after public notice. The lots were drawn on the 29th November, 1952, in the Commission's office, by the Chief Election Commissioner, and the category to which each member was to belong was thus determined. In the result, the terms of office of the members belonging to each all-India Party came to be determined as follows:—

Name of Party	Total number of members with a term of		
	6 years	4 years	2 years
1. Indian National Congress	48	52	46
2. Jan Sangh	1
3. Communist Party of India	4	1	5
4. Krishikar Lok Party	1	1	..
5. Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	1	..	1
6. Socialist Party of India	1	2	4
7. Scheduled Castes Federation	1	1
8. Forward Bloc (Marxist)	1	..
9. Hindu Mahasabha	1
10. Others	18	14	15

CHAPTER XVIII

THE STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS

Composition of the Legislative Councils. Only seven States *viz.*, Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Mysore have Legislative Councils. The Third Schedule to the Representation of the People Act, 1950, sets out the strength of each of these Councils and the number of seats to be filled by—

- (a) election by members of the local authorities,
- (b) election by graduates,
- (c) election by teachers,
- (d) election by the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State,
- (e) nomination by the Governor or the Rajpramukh.

According to that Schedule, the Bihar, Bombay, Madras and Uttar Pradesh Legislative Councils consist of 72 seats each, while the West Bengal Legislative Council has 51 seats and Punjab and Mysore Legislative Councils have 40 seats each. In accordance with article 171(4) of the Constitution, the seats allotted to the local authorities, graduates and teachers are filled by election from territorial constituencies.

Delimitation of constituencies. The procedure laid down for the delimitation of these constituencies was the same as in the case of Parliamentary and Legislative Assembly constituencies. The orders of delimitation were made by the President in consultation with the Election Commission. As the election from these constituencies is by proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, the Commission was of the view that the territorial constituencies formed for the purpose should, as far as practicable, be multi-member constituencies. While most Parliamentary Advisory Committees agreed with the Commission's view and recommended multi-member constituencies, the Bombay Parliamentary Advisory Committee, except in the case of the Bombay City (Local Authorities) constituency, recommended single-member constituencies. The President's order followed the recommendations of

the Parliamentary Advisory Committee and, except in the one case mentioned, single-member constituencies were created in the State. The delimitation orders relating to Councils were later approved by Parliament with some modifications.

The electoral rolls for each of these territorial constituencies are required to be prepared with reference to the first day of April of the year of preparation. This date is known as the qualifying date.

The following persons are qualified for registration as voters in each of these territorial constituencies:— Qualification of voters.

- (a) *Local Authorities' constituencies*.—Every person who, on the qualifying date, is a member of any local authority within the constituency.
- (b) *Graduates' constituencies*.—Every person who, on the qualifying date, is ordinarily resident in the constituency and has for three years before that date been either a graduate of a University or is in possession of any equivalent qualification specified in that behalf by the State Government with the concurrence of the Election Commission.
- (c) *Teachers' constituencies*.—Every person who, on the qualifying date, is ordinarily resident in the constituency and has, within six years immediately before that date, for a total period of at least three years, been engaged in teaching in any of the educational institutions within the State which have been specified in that behalf by the State Government with the concurrence of the Election Commission as being not lower in standard than a Secondary School.

Each of the seven State Governments issued, with the concurrence of the Election Commission, notifications specifying the qualifications which are to be deemed to be equivalent to that of a graduate in the State. The educational institutions which are to be deemed to be not lower in standard than a secondary school were also specified by notifications in each of these States.

Although the electorates for these Council constituencies were considerably smaller than those for the Assembly constituencies, the preparation of the electoral

Preparation of electoral rolls.

rolls for the graduates' and teachers' constituencies proved somewhat difficult. It was not practicable for enumerators to go from house to house all over a State and collect the names of the voters. As there would not be a qualified graduate or teacher in most houses, the effort involved in such a house to house enquiry would have been too costly, dilatory and wasteful. The rules accordingly provided that in connection with the preparation of the electoral rolls for the graduates' and teachers' constituencies, the Chief Electoral Officer of the State would issue public notices inviting applications from qualified voters for registration in the electoral rolls for these constituencies and the applicants would be registered after proper scrutiny.

The Chief Electoral Officers issued the prescribed notices. Electoral rolls, in the form prescribed by the Commission, were prepared in draft on the basis of these applications and preliminarily published for claims and objections. The preliminary electoral rolls were revised in the light of the decisions of the Revising Authorities on the claims and objections. The rolls were finally published in the different States between January and April, 1952.

The total number of elected seats and of the electors in the Council constituencies of the various States was as follows:—

Name of the State	Total No. of elected seats	Total No. of electors
1. Bihar	36	19,239
2. Bombay	36	48,377
3. Madras	36	64,992
4. Punjab	19	17,179
5. Uttar Pradesh	36	41,945
6. West Bengal	25	32,940
7. Mysore	19	18,052

Programme
of election.

After the preparatory work was complete, programmes were settled for the various stages of the elections to

the Legislative Councils of the seven States. The following were the dates of notification and the poll for these elections:—

ELECTIONS BY TERRITORIAL CONSTITUENCIES

Name of the State	Date of issue of notification	Date of poll
1. Bihar	29-2-1952	14-4-1952
2. Bombay	21-2-1952	8-4-1952
3. Madras	30-1-1952	17-3-1952
4. Punjab	11-2-1952	4-4-1952
5. Uttar Pradesh	6-3-1952	20-4-1952
6. West Bengal	15-4-1952	29-5-1952
7. Mysore	15-3-1952	28-4-1952

ELECTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES

Name of the State	Date of issue of notification	Date of poll
1. Bihar	4-3-1952	26-3-1952
2. Bombay	3-3-1952	26-3-1952
3. Madras	4-3-1952	27-3-1952
4. Punjab	3-3-1952	27-3-1952
5. Uttar Pradesh	4-3-1952	28-3-1952
6. West Bengal	4-3-1952	31-3-1952
7. Mysore	4-3-1952	27-3-1952

The elections were completed by the end of May, 1952, in all the States.

The total number of candidates at these elections was as follows:—

Name of the State	Total number of nominated candidates	Total number of contesting candidates
1. Bihar	153	128
2. Bombay	139	114
3. Madras	253	207
4. Punjab	146	78
5. Uttar Pradesh	148	112
6. West Bengal	146	128
7. Mysore	78	64

Polling. The elections were held according to the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

The members of the Legislative Assemblies voted by personal ballot, while voting was by postal ballot in the case of the graduates', teachers' and local authorities' constituencies.

The percentage of polling was as follows:—

Name of the State	Election by members of the Legislative Assembly	Percentage of polling		
		Council constituencies	Graduates' Teachers'	Local Authorities'
1. Bihar	95·72	81·6	84·8	94·9
2. Bombay	98·4	59·3	62·50	62·16
3. Madras	100	72·02	83·21	97·00
4. Punjab	100	85·79	91·61	94·79
5. Uttar Pradesh	98·6	75·49	82·98	92·67
6. West Bengal	97·91	78·45	81·44	96·66
7. Mysore	98·98	54·87	73·74	96·23

The names of the members nominated by the Governors (the Rajpramukh in the case of Mysore) were notified between March and May, 1952, in the different States.

Nomination
of members.

Like the Council of States, the Legislative Councils are not subject to dissolution, but as nearly as possible one-third of the members of each Council retire at the end of every second year. The power to curtail the terms of office of those of the members who have to retire at the end of the first two years and the first four years respectively after the initial constitution of a Legislative Council is vested in the Governor or the Rajpramukh, as the case may be.

Term of
Office.

In pursuance of this power, orders were made in consultation with the Election Commission by the Governors of Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and the Rajpramukh of Mysore.

The Election Commission did not insist on absolute uniformity in the details of the procedure laid down by these orders. In most of the States members were required by these orders to be divided into three categories by drawing lots in public. The terms of office of the members placed in the first, second or third category expired at the completion of six, four, or two years, respectively. In some cases, however, the members were first divided into groups on the basis of territorial or linguistic areas and members of each such group were next divided into the three categories. In Madras, however, the terms of office of the members of the Legislative Council who had been elected by the Madras Legislative Assembly were determined strictly by the order in which they had originally been elected in 1952 to the Council. The first eight members who were then elected got a term of six years, the next eight four years and the last eight two years.

The terms of office of the nominated members in all States except Madras and Uttar Pradesh were decided by lots. In Madras and Uttar Pradesh, the terms of office of the nominated members were fixed by the Governors of these two States by executive orders.

In the result, the terms of office of the members belonging to the various political parties came to be determined as follows:—

Name of State	Name of Party	Total No. of members with a term of		
		6 years	4 years	2 years
Bihar	Congress . .	14	14	15
	Independents . .	4	5	3
	Socialist . .	1	1	..
	Janta . .	1	..	1
	Jharkand	1
Bombay	Congress . .	17	17	14
	Socialist	3
	Hindu Mahasabha	1
	Independents . .	3	3	1
	Peasants' and Workers' Party	1
Madras	Congress . .	3	3	5
	Socialist	1
	Communist . .	3	1	..
	K. M. P. P. .	2	..	1
	Independents . .	12	16	13
Punjab	Congress . .	3	3	5
	Communist	1	..
	Akali . .	1
	Independents . .	6	7	6
Uttar Pradesh	Congress . .	15	16	16
	Socialist . .	1	..	2
	Independents . .	4	4	2
West Bengal	Congress . .	10	10	8
	K. M. P. P. .	1	1	..
	Independents . .	2	2	4
	Jan Sangh	1
	Forward Bloc (M)	..	1	..
	Communist . .	1	..	1
Mysore	Congress . .	5	8	6
	K. M. P. P. .	1	..	3
	Socialist	1	..
	Independents . .	4	2	2

PART IV

PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

CHAPTER XIX

PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

The law covering elections to the offices of the President and the Vice-President of India is contained in The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952. Detailed Rules were made under the Act. An Order called 'The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) (Amendment) Order, 1952' was made by the President on the 20th of March, 1952, providing that the representatives of Jammu and Kashmir State in either House of Parliament and the members of the Constituent Assembly of the Jammu and Kashmir State shall be deemed to be elected members of the respective Houses of Legislature so far as articles 54 and 55 of the Constitution relating to the election of the President are concerned. These members could thus vote in the election.

The Law.

It was within this legislative frame-work that the elections to the offices of the President and the Vice-President were held.

The President is elected by an electoral college consisting of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament and the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States. The voting is by secret ballot. The Election Commission prepared the list of the members of the electoral college during March and April, 1952. This list was published by the Election Commission on the 22nd April, 1952, and contained the names of 4,056 electors.

Election of
the President.

Shri M. N. Kaul, Secretary to Parliament, was appointed as the Returning Officer and the Secretaries of the various Legislative Assemblies were appointed as Assistant Returning Officers in their respective States.

Returning
and Assist-
ant Return-
ing Officers

The following programme was fixed for the various stages of the election:—

Programme
of election.

- (a) the 12th April, 1952, as the last date for making nominations;

- (b) the 14th April, 1952, as the date for the scrutiny of nominations;
- (c) the 17th April, 1952, as the last date for the withdrawal of candidatures; and
- (d) the 2nd May, 1952, as the date of the poll.

The programme was notified in the Gazette of India and in the State Gazettes on the 4th of April, 1952. At the same time, public notice of the intended election was also given.

Places and hours of poll. The Commission's notification fixing the places of poll issued on the 17th April, 1952. These were the Parliament House in New Delhi and the premises in each State where the Legislative Assembly of the State held its sittings. The hours of the poll were fixed from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Scrutiny of nominations. The Returning Officer fixed 11 A.M. on the 14th April, 1952, for the scrutiny of nominations. In all, 16 nomination papers of 14 candidates were filed. Of these, 10 nomination papers of 9 candidates were rejected. No candidate withdrew his candidature, so that there were 5 validly nominated candidates who contested the election.

Number of votes of each elector. Article 55 of the Constitution requires that there shall be uniformity in the scale of representation of the different States at the election of the President. The article also makes detailed provisions for calculating the number of votes which each elected member of Parliament and of the Legislative Assembly of each State is entitled to cast at the election. Calculations made on that basis yielded the following result:—

Name of Legislature	Number of votes for each member
Parliament	494
Legislative Assemblies :—	
Assam	79
Bihar	119
Bombay	104
Madhya Pradesh	90
Madras	145
Orissa	103

Punjab	100
Uttar Pradesh	143
West Bengal	102
Hyderabad	101
Jammu and Kashmir	59
Madhya Bharat	79
Mysore	81
P.E.P.S.U.	55
Rajasthan	92
Saurashtra	66
Travancore-Cochin	79
Ajmer	24
Bhopal	28
Coorg	7
Delhi	31
Himachal Pradesh	30
Vindhya Pradesh	65

The Election Commission arranged to have ballot boxes of a special design manufactured for use at the Presidential election and these were supplied to the Returning Officer and the Assistant Returning Officers. Every ballot box was to be locked and sealed after polling in the presence of the candidates or their representatives.

Ballot papers were printed in two colours—pink and green—respectively for the members of Parliament and the members of the State Legislative Assemblies.

A member of a Legislative Assembly was required to vote in his own State, that is, in the place specified for polling in the premises of the Legislative Assembly of the State. A member of Parliament was required to vote in the Parliament House in New Delhi or in the State from which he had been elected. In order to enable a member of Parliament to vote in any other State, in case he happened to be there on the date of the poll, the Election Commission issued special permits. This facility was availed of by 23 members of Parliament. Postal ballot was arranged for two electors who were in preventive detention on the date of the poll. One of them was a member of the Council of States from Hyderabad, and the other a member of the Saurashtra Legislative Assembly. Both of them cast their votes. After polling had been

duly completed in a State, the sealed ballot boxes, separate sealed covers containing the keys, and packets of all other papers used at the poll, were sent to the Returning Officer at New Delhi by the Assistant Returning Officer.

Counting of votes. The Returning Officer counted the votes in the Parliament House, New Delhi, on the 6th May, 1952. Counting was completed on the same day and the total number of votes polled by each candidate was as follows:

1. Dr. Rajendra Prasad	5,07,400
2. Shri K. T. Shah	92,827
3. Shri Thatte Lakshman Ganesh	2,672
4. Shri Hari Ram	1,954
5. Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterjee	533

Result of election. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was declared elected to the office of the President of India and the notification announcing this under section 12 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, was published on the same day.

Election of the Vice-President. Under article 66 of the Constitution, the Vice-President is elected by members of both Houses of Parliament assembled at a joint meeting in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. The voting is by secret ballot. The list of electors for the Vice-Presidential election was prepared by the Commission and was published on the 18th of April, 1952. It contained the names of 715 electors. Shri M. N. Kaul, Secretary to Parliament, was appointed Returning Officer for the election and a few Assistant Returning Officers were appointed to assist him. On the 12th April, 1952, the Election Commission published the following programme for the election:—

- (a) the 21st April, 1952, as the last date for making nominations;
- (b) the 22nd April, 1952, as the date for the scrutiny of nominations;
- (c) the 25th April, 1952, as the last date for withdrawal of candidatures; and
- (d) the 12th May, 1952, as the date of the poll.

Three nomination papers of two candidates were filed. On the date of scrutiny, the two nomination papers of Shri S. Radhakrishnan were found to be in order. The nomination paper of the other candidate, Janab Shaik Khadir Hussain of Chowk Mahal, Nandyal, Kurnool District, was rejected under rule 4 (2) of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1952. As Shri S. Radhakrishnan was the only validly nominated candidate, the Returning Officer declared him to be duly elected to the office of the Vice-President on the 25th April, 1952. The notification under section 12 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, issued on the same day.

Nominations,
Scrutiny
and result.

PART V

RETURNS OF ELECTION EXPENSES

CHAPTER XX

RETURNS OF ELECTION EXPENSES

Every person who has been nominated as a candidate at an election is required by law to lodge with the Returning Officer a return of his election expenses signed by him and his election agent. The time limit for lodging the return is 45 days from the date of publication of the result of the election to which the expenses relate. The return is to be drawn up in the prescribed form and has to be accompanied by declarations as to its correctness by the candidate and his election agent. Every such declaration is required to be written on non-judicial stamped paper of the value of Rs. 2/- and made on oath or solemn affirmation before a magistrate. If the candidate is absent from India and accordingly unable to sign the return and make the declaration, the law permits his election agent alone to lodge the return with his declaration. The candidate is, however, required to lodge, within fourteen days after his return to India, a declaration on oath or solemn affirmation before a magistrate, in the prescribed form. The law relating to returns of election expenses is applicable to all elections including elections for filling a seat or seats in the Council of States and to an election by the members of the Legislative Assembly of a State to fill a seat or seats in the Legislative Council of that State.

For default in lodging the returns within the time and in the manner required by law, the following penalties have been prescribed:—

- (i) The person making the default is disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament or of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of a State for a period of 5 years [Section 7 (c) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951]; and
- (ii) if default is made in making the return, or if the return filed is found, either upon the trial of an election petition or by any court in a judicial proceeding, to be false in any material particular, the candidate and his agent are disqualified

for voting at any election for a period of five years from the date by which the return was required to be lodged. (Section 143 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951).

Scrutiny of returns.

Under sections 7(c) and 144 the Election Commission has been given the power to remove the disqualifications so incurred.

After a return of election expenses has been lodged, the Returning Officer gives notice of the date of its presentation, and of the time and place at which it can be inspected. Within 10 days from the last date for filing of return, the Returning Officer submits, for the information of the Election Commission, a statement containing the names of all candidates and their election agents together with a report whether they have lodged their returns of election expenses. If any returns have not been lodged within the time and in the manner required by the law, he must specially mention the same. Simultaneously, he publishes a list containing the names of all candidates and their election agents who have been reported by him to the Commission for failure to lodge their returns in time and in the prescribed manner. Thereafter, the Commission decides whether there has in fact been any default in the submission of the return and whether the candidate or the election agent has thereby incurred any disqualifications under section 7(c) or section 143 of the Act. The names of the persons against whom adverse decisions are given by the Commission are notified. They may, however, make representations to the Commission for the removal of their disqualifications. After the Commission has taken a decision on such representations, it publishes a final list of persons whose disqualifications have not been removed.

Immediately after the general elections, numerous enquiries were made of the Commission in respect of the scope of the term 'total expenses' and of the classification of certain items of expenditure. The Commission expressed its views on a number of doubtful points and these were generally followed by the candidates in drawing up their returns of election expenses.

Maintenance of election accounts.

In spite of the statutory provisions requiring returns of election expenses to be made, election accounts do not appear to have been kept properly by most candidates. A

return is really a classified abstract of the detailed accounts meant to be kept contemporaneously by the candidate or his election agent and it is necessary that the entries made in a return should be supported by detailed account books and vouchers. From the terms of Section 76 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, it would appear that the candidates and their election agents are expected to keep at least a cash book and a receipt book. If the cash book contains subsidiary sections to cover each separate head of expenditure e.g., paid workers, printing, transport, postage and telegrams, advertisements, etc., a candidate should not have any difficulty in drawing up the return of his election expenses.

Out of 27,915 candidates and 3,187 election agents at the general elections, as many as 7,724 candidates and 855 election agents failed to submit their returns of election expenses in due time and in the proper manner and accordingly incurred the disqualifications under sections 7(c) and 143 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The number of disqualified candidates and agents in respect of the different Houses of the legislatures was as follows:—

Number of candidates who incurred disqualifications.

Name of House	Total number of nominated candidates	Total Number of candidates disqualified	Total Number of election agents disqualified.
I	2	3	4
1. Council of States . . .	345	30	3
2. House of the People. . .	2,833	648	75
3. Legislative Councils . . .	1,063	135	20
4. Legislative Assemblies . . .	23,287	6,792	737
5. Electoral Colleges . . .	387	119	20
TOTAL . . .	27,915	7,724	855

The task of the Commission in scrutinising the reports of the Returning Officers on the returns of election expenses in respect of 27,915 candidates and 3,187 election agents proved a very heavy one. At the same time, the representations of 3,153 persons for removal of their disqualifications under sections 7(c) and 144 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, had to be dealt with. Almost half the entire office staff of the Commission were engaged in this task. As long as eight months were required to dispose of all these reports and representations.

Cause of default.

The defaults in lodging the returns of election expenses within the time and in the manner required by law were mostly due to the technical and intricate nature of the law and the ignorance of the same on the part of the candidates and agents. Many of the candidates who had withdrawn their candidature, or had not incurred any expenditure at all, or whose nomination papers had been rejected, laboured under the mistaken idea that they were not required to file any return of election expenses. Some candidates who were their own election agents did not realise that the law technically required them to file separate declarations once in their capacity as candidates and again as their own election agents. Other candidates did not use non-judicial stamps for their declarations as required by law. In a few cases, the declarations had not been attested by magistrates. Another defect often noticed was that the different items of expenditure had not been properly classified and vouchers had not been attached in support thereof. In many cases the "receipts" part of the return was left blank. Many of the candidates were under the wrong impression that inasmuch as the money they had spent was their own and had not been received from any outside source, it was not necessary to fill in the "receipts" part of the return at all.

Lenient view taken.

In view of the large number of defaults committed in good faith through misunderstanding or ignorance of the law, the Commission decided to take a lenient view in the matter and removed the disqualifications in every case in which the defects did not appear to have been wilful, or were adequately explained and rectified. Many of the non-contesting or defeated candidates who had been disqualified for their default did not, however, make any representation for the removal of their disqualifications. Obviously, they were not serious in offering themselves as candidates.

The number of candidates whose disqualifications were removed upto the 30th June, 1954, was as follows:—

Name of House	Number of candidates whose disqualifications were removed
1. Council of States	19
2. House of the People	305
3. Legislative Councils	58
4. Legislative Assemblies	2,102
5. Electoral Colleges	22

Disqualifications of elected candidates.

The consequences of disqualifications would be serious indeed in the case of an elected candidate unless these are removed in time before they take effect or unless the Election Commission postpones the date when they would normally take effect under the law. Once the disqualifications have taken effect—and they do so on the expiry of two months from the last date for lodging the returns of election expenses—the elected member ceases to continue as a member by operation of law and his seat becomes vacant. Many of the elected candidates appeared to be ignorant of this severe penalty and did not care to keep themselves informed as to whether the returns lodged by them had been accepted as having been lodged in time and in the proper manner. As a consequence, they failed to make representations to the Election Commission for postponing the imposition of the penalty or for removing the disqualifications. In order to avoid a spate of bye-elections for such technical defaults, the Election Commission arranged for the prompt examination and disposal of the returns of elected candidates. In 134 cases, the Commission extended *suo motu* the period of two months so that elected candidates might retain their seats and complete the formalities in regard to their returns of election expenses. These candidates were simultaneously informed of their default and all of them eventually submitted representations during the extended period for the removal of their disqualifications. Their disqualifications were duly removed after the defects in their returns of election expenses had been rectified.

In spite of such vigilance and leniency, as many as eleven elected members actually incurred the disqualifications on the expiry of the statutory period as they had made no representations to the Commission. There were certain special features in each case which resulted in their cases escaping the notice of the Commission before their disqualifications took effect. No *suo motu* action to extend the period could, therefore, be taken by the Commission in time. Of these 11 candidates, one was a member of the Bihar Legislative Council and the others were members of different State Legislative Assemblies. Before deciding whether the seats of these members had become vacant under article 190(3) of the Constitution, the Commission gave each of them a hearing and ultimately decided to take a lenient view of their default. In the case of the

member of the Bihar Legislative Council, the Commission was satisfied that the return was not really defective and that no disqualifications had in fact been incurred by him. The period during which the disqualifications were not to take effect was eventually extended in the case of each of the other ten members with retrospective effect, and they eventually rectified the defects in their returns.

For obvious reasons the Commission has been very lenient in the matter of removal of disqualifications after the first general elections. There will be less and less justification for extending the same measure of leniency in the future after the law has become familiar. Persons who offer themselves for election to the country's Legislatures may reasonably be expected by the time of the next general elections to display a higher standard of appreciation of their legal duties and responsibilities in the matter.

Maximum scale of expenses.

Schedule V of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1951, specifies the maximum amount of election expenses permissible to candidates. In the case of the Assembly constituencies of Part A and Part B States, these limits vary from Rs. 4,000/- to Rs. 8,000/- in a single-member constituency and from Rs. 8,000/- to Rs. 12,000/- in a two-member constituency. In the only three-member Assembly constituency in the State of Bombay, the maximum was fixed at Rs. 16,000/-. For Parliamentary constituencies, the maximum prescribed was Rs. 25,000/- in a single-member constituency and Rs. 35,000/- in a two-member constituency. In the case of the only three-member Parliamentary constituency in West Bengal, the maximum fixed was Rs. 40,000/-. Experience has shown that these scales were fixed too low and complaints were received by the Commission that the returns of election expenses lodged by many of the candidates were not correct and the total expenditures shown therein was much below what had actually been spent by them.

The Commission is of the opinion that the scales of expenditure prescribed are too low and should be raised appreciably.

Suggested improvements in the law.

Under the existing law, the disqualifications under section 7(c) and 143 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, accrue automatically by operation of law, and the Commission is bound to notify the disqualifications. As

already mentioned, many of the candidates were disqualified for technical and minor defects in their returns of election expenses. A good deal of time and energy were unnecessarily wasted in the first place in formally notifying their disqualifications and then subsequently, in dealing with their representations for removing their disqualifications and getting the defects removed, and finally, in notifying the removal of these disqualifications. The number of returns of election expenses which have to be dealt with after general elections are so large that there is unavoidable delay in dealing with them, both in the Returning Officer's office and in the office of the Commission. The candidates and their election agents usually remain in the dark about any defects in their returns which may ultimately come to be noticed by the Returning Officer or the Election Commission whose decision is often taken long after they have already become subject to the disqualifications. They have thus no sufficient opportunity for removing any defects before disqualifications have actually been incurred by them. This is a very unsatisfactory position which should be remedied. The law should be amended so as to provide that the disqualifications will not accrue automatically, but only after a specific decision to that effect has been made by the Commission. Before reaching any such decision, the Commission may be required to serve a notice on the defaulter and afford him an opportunity of being heard in his defence or of rectifying the defects in his return. In that case, section 8(1)(b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, will be redundant and may be deleted.

[Failure to lodge a return of election expenses has not been made a corrupt or illegal practice nor an electoral offence at present. The defaulter cannot, therefore, be disqualified for registration as an elector within the meaning of section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. According to article 326 of the Constitution, therefore, such a defaulter has a constitutional right to be registered as an elector. To this extent, the provisions of section 143 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, denying such right are open to objection. The Commission would suggest that the anomaly should be removed by making the default in lodging the return of election expenses a corrupt practice, unless such default has been condoned by the Election Commission.]

Experience has shown that no useful purpose is served by requiring candidates whose nomination papers have been rejected, or who have formally withdrawn from contest, to file returns of election expenses. Such candidates naturally incur very little or no expenditure and since they drop out at a very early stage of the election proceedings, it is nothing but a legal nicety to require them to file such returns. It is in fact an avoidable waste of time and energy to make it obligatory for such non-contesting candidates to give an account of their election expenses. The Commission is, therefore, of the opinion that the legal obligation of lodging a return of election expenses should be confined only to the contesting candidates, i.e., candidates whose names are entered in the list of validly nominated candidates published under rule 11. In fact, an amendment of the law to this effect is now under the consideration of Parliament.

Another point that requires further consideration relates to the concession allowed under sub-section (3) of section 76 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to candidates who have gone abroad before the last date for lodging their returns. The election agents of such candidates have been authorised to sign and lodge the returns while the candidates have been allowed by law to file their own declarations in support of the returns within fourteen days of their return to India. Only six cases of this kind have occurred so far, one of them relating to a bye-election. Two cases each relate to West Bengal and Bombay, and one each to Hyderabad and Uttar Pradesh. Only in the case relating to Uttar Pradesh, the requirements of the law were fulfilled. In the remaining five cases, the candidates did not fully understand the provisions of the law and incurred disqualifications. It is clear that the provisions of the sub-section have served no useful purpose. Besides, the onus has been placed upon the Returning Officer of ascertaining the date of the candidate's return to India, which is a crucial date for the purpose of computing the last date for the filing of the candidate's declaration. This position is unsatisfactory. The Commission feels that it is unnecessary to retain this provision and that its deletion, as proposed in the amending Bill now before Parliament, is desirable. The suggestion made earlier to the effect that disqualifications will accrue only after a specific decision to that effect has been taken by the Election Commission will be sufficient to meet such cases effectively.

PART VI
ELECTION PETITIONS

CHAPTER XXI

ELECTION PETITIONS AND ELECTION TRIBUNALS

Under the Constitution, no election to either House of Parliament or to the House or either House of the Legislature of a State, can be called in question except by an election petition (article 329). After the general elections, there was a spate of such petitions. The first of these was filed on the 20th December, 1951, and the last (a time-barred one) on the 4th February, 1953. In all, 338 election petitions were filed in respect of elections to the different Houses of Legislatures as follows:

Election Petitions.

Council of States	3
House of the People	39
Legislative Councils	10
Legislative Assemblies	286
Electoral Colleges	Nil
<hr/>						
	TOTAL	.			338	

The Election Commission permitted the withdrawal of 6 of these petitions and 18 petitions were dismissed by the Commission under section 85 of the Act for the following reasons:—

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (1) Failure to present the petition within the prescribed time-limit | . | . | . | . | 9 |
| (2) Failure to deposit the security money | . | | | | 3 |
| (3) Failure to mention the details of alleged corrupt and illegal practices | . | | | | 6 |

Twenty-four elections petitions were thus disposed of by the Election Commission. The other 314 election petitions were referred to Election Tribunals for trial.

Seventeen election petitions were filed against persons who were Ministers, and four against Chief Ministers of States. Of the latter, three petitions were filed against one Chief Minister alone.

Each High Court and each Judicial Commissioner's Court supplied to the Commission in accordance with the provisions of the law—

Constitution of Election Tribunals.

- a list of serving and retired District Judges in the State considered fit for appointment as members of Election Tribunals; and

- (b) a list of advocates of the Court of not less than 10 years' standing considered fit for such appointment.

The Election Commission appoints the Chairman and members of every Election Tribunal. The Chairman of a Tribunal has to be a serving or retired High Court Judge or District Judge. There must be another judicial member who may be a serving or retired District Judge. The third member of the Tribunal has to be an advocate. The Chairman, unless he is a serving or retired High Court Judge, and the members of an Election Tribunal, must be selected from the lists mentioned above.

A total of 460 serving and retired District Judges and 727 advocates were recommended by the High Courts. The Election Commission addressed each of the retired judges and advocates individually enquiring whether he would be willing to serve on an Election Tribunal. Serving judges were not, however, so asked. 671 such enquiries were made and of the persons so addressed, 110 expressed their inability to serve for one reason or another.

In selecting the members of the Tribunals, every care was taken to ensure that the persons selected had no political affiliations or prejudices. Further, the tribunals had to be so constituted that no difficulty might be experienced by the members in following the language in which the witnesses were likely to give their testimony.

In all, 66 Election Tribunals were constituted all over the country for the trial of 314 election petitions. On an average, therefore, each Tribunal had to deal with about 5 cases. Serving or retired High Court Judges or Judicial Commissioners, were appointed as Chairmen for the trial of 25 petitions. 53 serving District Judges were appointed Chairmen, and 40 as judicial members. There was only one case in which a serving District Judge of one State was appointed Chairman of a Tribunal for the trial of petitions arising in two other States.

Cost on Tribunals.

The total expenditure on Election Tribunals up to the end of 1953-54 was in the neighbourhood of Rs. 10,00,000. This cost is shared by the Central and the respective State Governments.

In the interest of economy and practical convenience, Difficulties experienced. the Commission usually appoints as Chairman of an Election Tribunal the District Judge of the district whithin whose limits the constituency concerned or the major portion thereof is situate. Wherever necessary, additional District Judges were temporarily appointed to relieve the District Judges of part of their normal work. At the Commission's request, the High Courts issued instructions to the judges to give priority to the disposal of election petitions.

Retired District Judges were normally appointed to Tribunals functioning in their own States. In some cases, however, retired District Judges from other States were selected for appointment on Election Tribunals.

The selection of retired District Judges and advocates often presented the Commission with considerable difficulty. Appointments were sometimes delayed as a result of a judge or an advocate expressing his unwillingness to accept an offer or not being free to do so.

As regards the advocate members, the main difficulty was that their sanctioned rate of remuneration at Rs. 60/- per day, or Rs. 1,800/- per month, did not prove attractive enough to the comparatively senior and busy members of the profession.

The administrative rules which govern the appointment of members of Tribunals and their staff were very carefully framed. Even then they presented a number of difficulties in actual practice. The Election Commission has been empowered to sanction posts of the Chairmen, members and staff of Election Tribunals for a maximum period of one year only. This necessitated the formal making of numerous avoidable references to the Government of India for extension of the period of such appointments, wherever a Tribunal continued in office over a year. In a few cases as many as 12 to 16 petitions had to be assigned to a single Tribunal. Again, the trial of some election petitions was materially delayed as a result of stay orders from the High Courts or the Supreme Court. For these and other reasons, 23 Election Tribunals required more than a year to dispose of the election petitions referred to them for trial. Formal sanction of the Government of India had to be obtained in each such case for extending their term beyond one year.

Any delay in obtaining such sanction resulted in corresponding delay in the payment of the salaries and other dues to the members and the staff of the Tribunals. This occasioned unnecessary and avoidable correspondence and inconvenience. The Election Commission feels that the administrative rules for Election Tribunals should be amended so as to enable the Commission to extend the term of Election Tribunals beyond one year, whenever necessary.

It has already been mentioned that in a number of cases the trial of election petitions was delayed by stay orders issued by the Supreme Court and the High Courts or the Judicial Commissioner's Courts, on writ and similar applications filed by the parties. In as many as 15 cases, the publication of the final orders of the Tribunals was stayed by superior courts. On the 1st January, 1955, however, only two of these cases were still under stay, the remaining thirteen cases having been disposed of by ~~the~~ superior courts. The orders of the Tribunals were ultimately set aside in only four of these cases. In some cases, retrials were ordered or the Tribunals' orders reversed even after they had taken effect on publication. The Patna High Court ordered retrial in two cases, and the Supreme Court in one. The Bombay High Court also remitted one case back to a Tribunal. In four cases, the Supreme Court upheld the elections which the Tribunals had declared void and in one case it set aside the order of the Mysore High Court which had earlier reversed the decision of the Election Tribunal so that the decision of the Tribunal was in the end upheld. In two cases, the Supreme Court modified the orders of the Tribunals.

Pending
cases.

On the 1st of January, 1955, seven petitions arising from the general elections still remained pending before Election Tribunals. The proceedings had been stayed in two of these cases, and in four other cases the stay orders had been vacated shortly before that date. The seventh petition had been sent back to the Tribunal for a retrial under the orders of the Patna High Court.

Results
of election
petitions.

Out of 314 petitions referred to Election Tribunals, 307 were finally disposed of upto the 1st January, 1955. Allegations were made of improper acceptance or rejection of nomination papers in 183 of the disposed of petitions, of corrupt and illegal practices in 89 petitions, and of non-compliance of the provisions of law in 35 petitions. 156

petitions were dismissed and 128 were allowed, by the Tribunals, while 23 were either withdrawn or abated. 122 elections were declared wholly void, unseating 196 candidates. The orders of the Election Tribunals have, however, not taken effect in respect of 2 of these candidates up to the 1st January, 1955, as the publication of these orders under section 106 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, has been stayed by the order of superior courts. In one remarkable case, the election of all the 24 members elected to the Bihar Legislative Council by the elected members of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, was declared wholly void as the Tribunal held that the nomination papers of some of the candidates had been improperly rejected by the Returning Officer at the time of scrutiny. Same was the case of the 24 members elected to the Madras Legislative Council by the elected members of the Madras Legislative Assembly. Bye-elections had to be held in both these cases.

As a result of the orders passed by Election Tribunals, 27 persons (including 2 in respect of whom the orders had not taken effect up to the 1st January, 1955) were found guilty of corrupt and illegal practices under sections 123 and 124 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

The Election Tribunals declared seven persons elected in place of those unseated by their orders. In one of these cases the Supreme Court set aside the order of the tribunal which declared two of the respondents as duly elected in place of the returned candidates and a bye-election was, therefore, ordered.

The minimum time taken in the disposal of an election petition was 2 months and 22 days. On the other hand, another petition remained pending for the maximum period of 1 year, 9 months and 26 days after which it was withdrawn.

The case of "T. C. Basappa *versus* T. Nagappa and others", decided by the Shimoga Election Tribunal (Mysore), deserves special mention. The Tribunal set aside the election of the opposite party who was the returned candidate and declared the petitioner as duly elected. As a result, the petitioner became a member of the State Legislative

Assembly. On appeal, the High Court set aside the Tribunal's order and the opposite party was restored to his seat. Ultimately, the Supreme Court vacated the order ~~of~~ the High Court and upheld the Tribunal's order. The opposite party was thus again unseated and the petitioner finally became a member of the Assembly.

**Working
of the
system.**

The law relating to Election Tribunals has proved somewhat dilatory and cumbersome and calls for simplification. In the first place, it does not appear at all necessary to set up a Tribunal with as many as three members. When the present law was enacted, the intention was that the Tribunal's decisions would be final and not open to any appeal or revision before a higher court.) As things have turned out, however, the High Courts and the Supreme Court have taken the view that they have jurisdiction to issue writs under articles 226 and 32 of the Constitution in respect of matters in dispute before Election Tribunals and to entertain petitions for revision against the decisions of Election Tribunals under articles 227 and 136 of the Constitution. These powers have been freely exercised and the Election Tribunals have now been held to be Tribunals subordinate to the higher courts and their decisions have in fact been frequently set aside or modified. In the circumstances, there seems to be no longer any justification for setting up costly three-men Tribunals for the trial of election petitions. The Commission suggests that the law should be amended in this respect and an Election Tribunal may be required to consist of one judge only who is or has been a High Court Judge or is or has been a District Judge whose name is included in a list of District Judges suitable in the opinion of the High Court for appointment to an Election Tribunal. In addition, an appeal may be provided against the decision of a Tribunal. Such appeal should lie to the High Court when the Tribunal Judge is of the rank of a District Judge and to the Supreme Court when he is of the rank of a Judge of a High Court.

PART VII

ROLE OF PARTIES, PRESS AND GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

CHAPTER XXII

ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

In a mature democracy, political parties play a very prominent part in all stages of the process of elections. No doubt, with greater experience and better, stabler and more wide-spread organisations, political parties in India also will do so in future years. So far as the last general elections were concerned, the political parties played little part during the period of the preparation and finalisation of the electoral rolls.

The Political
Parties

The entire burden which the tremendous task of enrolling about 173·2 million voters involved had thus to be borne almost exclusively by the governmental machinery in the States acting under the directions of the Election Commission. It is interesting and instructive to note in this connection that in Great Britain, for example, governmental election machinery is almost non-existent in the constituencies and it is the political party organisations in the constituencies which organise house to house enquiries in order to bring to the notice of the registration authorities amendments and additions which are called for in the electoral rolls during its annual revision. It may be confidently expected that a much greater degree of co-operation will be available from our political parties in this regard in the future. It is obviously in the interest of a political party itself to help in bringing into the rolls the names of all eligible voters who may be expected to support it at the poll.

Preparation
of electoral
rolls.

It was only after the final publication of the electoral rolls that some active interest was evinced by the political parties and a few representations were received from them challenging the accuracy of the electoral rolls in certain areas. It was by then too late for the Election Commission to order any further revision, as that would have upset the all-India programme for the general elections.

Some of the political parties took considerable interest in the delimitation of constituencies; but this was confined mainly to parties represented in the Parliamentary

Delimitation
of Constit-
tuencies.

Advisory Committees. It was rather disappointing that other parties did not show much interest in the earlier stages of delimitation and it was only after the President's orders delimiting the constituencies had issued that some suggestions were made for their revision. For the smooth functioning of democracy, it is essential that every political party should have its own view-point on delimitation of constituencies clearly formulated and carefully considered on its merits, before the constituencies are finally delimited.

Allotment of symbols.

One matter, in which all political parties took great interest, was the allotment of election symbols to parties. A conference held by the Chief Election Commissioner for the purpose in New Delhi was attended by seven important all-India parties. There was general agreement amongst the parties regarding the details of a scheme drawn up by the Election Commission for allotment of election symbols to political parties. The scheme was accordingly adopted and given effect to by means of statutory directions issued by the Election Commission.

It was generally appreciated that a party which failed to have the same symbol reserved for all its candidates throughout India would have to face considerable difficulty in its election campaign and publicity arrangements. A large number of political parties applied for reservation of symbols. Although sufficient data were not available with the Commission, an attempt was made to assess the standing and organisation of each of these parties before deciding its claim for reservation of a symbol.

In the end, 14 parties were 'recognised' on an all-India basis, while 52 parties were 'recognised' as 'State' parties in different States. In fact, the word 'recognition' is misleading in a sense. Even a party which was not 'recognised' for the reservation of a common symbol for all its candidates was all the same fully entitled to put up its candidate for every seat. Many of the parties which were not allotted symbols did in fact put up candidates who contested the election on behalf of their respective parties; the only difference being that all the candidates of any such party might not have been allotted the same symbol everywhere.

The allotment of symbols was completed in September, 1951, by which time the elections were drawing near. The political parties got more active at this stage and prospective candidates and party workers engaged themselves in building up local party organisations. A remarkable feature of the increasing tempo was the formation of new political parties all over the country, some of them ultimately proving to be a mushroom growth. The total number of parties went up to as many as 178, excluding the 14 recognised all-India parties. The futility of such hasty formation of new parties without any real roots in the country was hardly realised. It is not surprising that in the gruelling test of the actual elections when they came, most of these parties virtually disappeared, many of their candidates forfeiting their deposits.

Formation of
new political
parties.

With the elections fast approaching, the task of canvassing electoral support soon reached greater and greater dimensions. The political parties stepped up their election campaign in the constituencies, the volume thereof varying according to their respective resources and capacity. One welcome result of such campaign was to enthuse and educate the electorate. As the bulk of the electorate was illiterate, a good deal of educative propaganda was required to be carried out before they could fully understand the true meaning of the elections and appreciate their own role therein. Vast areas had been left untouched in this regard even after all the efforts made by the Press, the Radio and the governmental machinery. It was the party workers and the candidates who, in the ultimate analysis, largely performed the invaluable task of familiarising the mass of the electorate with the process and the mechanics of polling and the implications thereof. This task had to be accomplished within a very short time, and under great physical handicaps arising from vast distances and poor communications in many areas. It is remarkable how well the task was done for 51·15 per cent of the voters actually exercised their franchise at the polls—a fairly good percentage even for countries with long established democratic traditions.

Election
campaign—
education
of voters.

In order to accelerate the pace of polling on the polling day, it was necessary that the entry relating to the elector's name in the electoral roll should be traced out quickly at the polling station. To facilitate this, arrangements were made for the issue of official 'identity slips' to the

Identification
of voters—
parties'
identity
slips.

voters at the entrance of the polling stations. Political parties were encouraged to distribute to the voters, at an earlier stage, their own identity slips containing the necessary particulars so that with the help thereof the official identity slips could be prepared with the minimum loss of time on the polling day. This time-saving device was largely adopted by the parties and the poll was substantially speeded up thereby.

**Co-operation
in maintain-
ing peace
during the
elections.**

The Commission gratefully acknowledges that the most important contribution of the political parties was their peaceful campaigning during the elections. The various provisions of the electoral law for maintaining a peaceful atmosphere were respected by the parties, and instances of breach thereof were negligible. Other provisions of the electoral law made in the interest of orderly polling, as for instance, that prohibiting the transport of voters by conveyances, were also generally observed by the parties. Here and there, stray complaints were no doubt received against one party or the other, but on enquiry no sufficient evidence was available in support of most of such complaints. The political parties co-operated with the Election Commission and with the State election authorities in every way, and it was largely due to this that the task of conducting the elections smoothly and peacefully was so well accomplished.

**Co-operation
in the
future.**

The political parties have gained in experience during the last general elections and the subsequent bye-elections. The Commission would particularly invite more effective help and co-operation from them in the difficult task of revising the electoral rolls. If, along with the effort which the administration makes every year in making the rolls up-to-date and correct, effective co-operation of the political parties is also available, our electoral rolls would soon approach a much more satisfactory degree of accuracy. In this respect, there is a good deal to emulate from the British practice. It is natural that in view of the vastness of the country the parties should find it difficult to set up efficient and far-flung organisations to cover all parts of every constituency as in England. There is, however, considerable room for further improvement in the training of the party workers in election matters so that they may fully appreciate their role and play it effectively. Election agents and polling agents of candidates did not figure as effectively in the actual conduct of elections as

they might have. Now that considerable experience has been gained and, one may hope, the importance of trained personnel realised, it may be confidently expected that parties will give more attention to improving the efficiency of their organisations and workers. They may, for instance, set up field organisations in constituencies on a more or less permanent basis and much of the planning may be done by them well in advance of the actual elections.

One welcome trend is the realisation that multiplicity of parties leads to waste of energy and of votes. There are clear signs that since the general elections the smaller parties have been moving towards a merger or line-up with the bigger parties nearest to them in ideology. The electorate also has helped in the process by voting some of the smaller parties practically out of existence.

Present
trends in
party
line-up.

CHAPTER XXIII

THE PRESS AND THE RADIO

The Press.

In the initial stages, the task of educating the voters and making them increasingly conscious of the approaching general elections fell largely on the Press. Although the Press had given some publicity to the impending elections earlier, it was not until the holding of the polling rehearsals that election news started figuring prominently in newspapers. The publicity given to these rehearsals all over the country attracted considerable attention and increased the popular demand for election news which was adequately met by the newspapers. In due course, election news became the most prominent feature in all sections of the Press.

News papers

As the tempo of electioneering heightened, a large number of new newspapers sprang into existence mainly to meet this temporary demand. Although most of these papers came out with the object of furthering the election propaganda of one party or the other, they nevertheless served the purpose of heightening the interest of the voter in the elections and keeping him posted with the latest election news. As many as 397 newspapers were started during the period of the elections, and most of these ceased to exist after the elections were over.

New features.

Many of the newspapers published special articles explaining in detail the procedure of voting. A few papers introduced a new feature which contained answers to queries from readers relating to subjects like the procedure for registration of voters, disqualifications for membership, election-publicity, election expenses, postal voting, government servants and elections, forfeiture of deposits etc. These efforts by the Press proved very useful in educating the voters, and probably many of the candidates as well.

Publicity arrangements.

The Commission made special arrangements so that election news were made available to the Press as quickly as possible. In order to eliminate delays, a unit of the Press Information Bureau of the Government of India was detailed to work in collaboration with the office of the

Election Commission. The country was thus kept fully informed of all up-to-date election news. At a later stage also, the Press Information Bureau were of great assistance in preparing the statistical analysis of the elections.

In spite of the large-scale illiteracy in the country, the Press thus played an important role in educating the voters and in creating and sustaining a keen interest in the elections in the public mind. As literacy increases, the mighty 'Fourth Estate' is sure to play an increasingly greater part in creating, arousing, and sustaining the interest of the people in election matters, and in helping them to appreciate the issues involved as also the vital importance of exercising their franchise with intelligence and discretion.

Role of
the Press.

The Election Commission invariably met with unfailing co-operation and courtesy from the Press and its relations with all sections of the Press was most cordial throughout.

The need to educate the vast inexperienced electorate was so compelling that the Central and State Governments also had to take a hand in the task. Necessary precautions were, however, taken by the Commission so that governmental publicity might be strictly free from any party bias. A series of documentary films were screened with the sole purpose of educating the voters in election matters, and these were released all over the country.

The film.

Although our broadcasting facilities have yet to make up a good deal of leeway in the more backward rural areas of the country, the radio generally proved to be a potent aid to publicity and mass education. From time to time, the Chief Election Commissioner gave a series of talks on the radio which covered subjects like (1) The General Elections—Democracy's biggest experiment; (2) Delimitation proposals; (3) Holding of a poll; (4) Public servants and Democracy; (5) The citizen voter; (6) The women citizens; (7) Need to educate the voter—the role of the Press, Radio and film, etc. Many of the Chief Electoral Officers broadcast similar talks in the respective States. Arrangements were also made by the All India Radio to give interesting non-party talks or dialogues on elections in order to cater to the needs and tastes of the villagers.

The Radio.

[A question was raised whether broadcasting facilities should be made available to the parties for their election propaganda as is now customary in Great Britain. On account of the multitude of parties, the strength and standing of some of whom were difficult to ascertain, the matter became too controversial and the Election Commission advised Government that it would be almost an impossibility to apportion broadcasting facilities amongst the numerous 'recognised' parties with reasonable fairness and to the general satisfaction of the public. The Government accepted the Commission's advice and no broadcasting facilities were extended to the parties for their election campaign. Now that the number of 'recognised' parties has considerably decreased and their comparative strength in the country accurately ascertained, it may be possible to re-open the question and evolve a reasonably satisfactory scheme for extending this facility to the parties for the next general elections.]

CHAPTER XXIV

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

As the main responsibility of holding elections rested on Government servants, it was imperative that they should conduct themselves impartially, without fear or favour. The Commission impressed on the State Governments the necessity of the Government servants keeping completely aloof from politics and suggested that this should be re-emphasised by means of clear and specific instructions. At the request of the Election Commission, the Government of India and the State Governments issued strict instructions defining the position of Government servants in relation to elections, and inviting their attention to the existing provisions of the rules governing the conduct of Government servants, which exposed them to disciplinary action if they canvassed or otherwise interfered or used their influence in connection with, or took part in, any election to a Legislative body except by way of freely exercising their right to vote. In respect of voting also, they were enjoined not to give any indication of the manner in which they proposed to vote or had voted.

Government
servants
and
elections.

The attention of the Government officers was also **Penalties**, invited to the relevant provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which prescribes drastic penalties for improper conduct on the part of government servants in connection with elections. In fact, the penalties prescribed by the Act for the lapses of election officers were deliberately made drastic so as to help them in resisting any pressure or inducements to which they might be subjected by interested persons, and in maintaining strict impartiality in their election duties. While such strict provisions were made in dealing with actual lapses on the part of Government servants, care was taken in the Act to protect honest officers from unwarranted prosecution and harassment by disgruntled private parties. Section 137(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, lays down that no criminal proceedings can be instituted against an election officer for an electoral offence in the absence of a complaint authorised by the Election Commission, a Regional Commissioner or the Chief Electoral Officer.

In his broadcast talk, on the 20th July, 1951, the Chief Election Commissioner specially addressed the Government servants with reference to their responsibilities in the democratic set-up of the country. He emphasised that they should, while discharging their duties, maintain strict impartiality and see to it that the secrecy of the vote was maintained.

Praiseworthy conduct.

That all these steps had the desired effect is clear from the fact that when the elections were over, the fear expressed previously in some quarters about possible interference in the elections by Government servants was proved to have been completely unjustified,—in fact, there was unanimous praise for the manner in which Government servants had played their difficult and onerous part during the elections. Although the police and the magistracy as such did not have much to do directly with the actual taking of the poll, they proved of great help in the later stages of the election programme and succeeded in maintaining perfect law and order during the entire period of the elections.

Lapses.

After the close of the elections, the Commission, while conveying its appreciation of the part played by Government servants in the successful completion of the work, requested the State Governments to intimate any instances of lapses on the part of the Government servants that might have come to their notice. The reports received from all States were carefully scrutinised. It appeared from these reports that while there were isolated instances of minor lapses on the part of Government servants, there was no case anywhere of any serious abuse of position or authority. In Assam, one Presiding Officer did not attend to his election duties on the polling day. The State Government punished the officer by suspending the increment of his pay. Similar petty lapses were also reported from Uttar Pradesh. In Bihar, one Polling Officer was censured for failure to keep proper guard over the ballot boxes. In Bombay, one Electoral Registration Officer failed to submit claims in respect of 1,600 displaced persons. Two increments of his pay were withheld by way of punishment. One Presiding Officer in Punjab did not place in the polling booth any ballot box for one of the validly nominated candidates. The Commission's expression of displeasure was conveyed to him. Another Presiding Officer in Punjab adjourned the poll on the plea of snow-fall although

this was not quite correct. He was censured. In other similar cases also, suitable action was taken by the State Governments concerned and in no case did the Commission find it necessary to take any further action. The Commission is glad to record that it was not found necessary to prosecute even a single officer under section 134 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, for breach of official duty in connection with the elections.

[The Commission would point out that while sections 129 | Suggestion. and 134 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, impose penalties for improper conduct on the part of those officers who are charged with some duty or other in connection with elections, there is no such provision in respect of the other employees of the Government. The Commission feels that this omission should be made good and the law should be amended so as to make the provisions of section 129 applicable to all Government servants without any exception whether they are charged with any election duty or not. The reason is obvious, for a government officer though not charged with any election duty may be in a position to use his influence improperly and thereby render an election unfair. The law should provide for penalties to cover such cases as well.]

PART VIII
MISCELLANEOUS

CHAPTER XXV

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

For obvious administrative reasons, the work of enumerating the voters and printing the electoral rolls, was delegated to the administrative machinery of the State Governments. The rolls so prepared were of course to be utilised not only for elections to the State Legislatures but also the House of the People. Initially, therefore, the State Governments incurred all the expenditure involved. The Government of India subsequently entered into an agreement with the Governments of Part A and Part B States according to which its share of all election expenditure in every State would be reimbursed to the State Government. This agreement also covered the expenditure to be incurred subsequently in connection with the actual conduct of the elections. According to this agreement, all extra expenditure incurred by a State Government in connection with the preparation and printing of the electoral rolls was to be borne by the Central and State Governments on a half-and-half basis. The same formula also applies to the expenditure incurred in connection with the actual conduct of elections to the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly when they are held simultaneously. Where, however, they are held separately, the Central Government would bear the entire expenditure in connection with elections to the House of the People while the State Government would bear the same for elections to the State Legislative Assembly. The term "extra cost" was defined to mean the extra expenditure actually incurred by a State Government in the preparation and printing of the electoral rolls and the conduct of the elections, but was not to include any share of the existing State establishments. This means that no share of the salaries of the existing officials of the State Governments would be chargeable to the Central Government.

Apportion-
ment of
expenditure
between the
Union and
the States.

As regards expenditure incurred on the preservation and storage of polling materials like ballot boxes, an arrangement was arrived at under which the Government of India agreed to share fifty per cent of the same.

As for the expenditure on elections to the State Legislative Councils, it was decided that the expenditure on such elections, including the expenditure on the preparation of the electoral rolls for the graduates', teachers' and local authorities' constituencies of the Legislative Councils and on the actual conduct of elections in these constituencies would be borne exclusively by the State Governments while the expenditure incurred for elections to the Council of States would be borne wholly by the Central Government. The expenditure incurred for the election of the President and the Vice-President was met by the Central Government.

Part C States being under the direct administration of the Government of India, all expenditure in respect of these States was met by the Central Government.

Total cost of the elections. The over-all expenditure of the elections incurred from 1948 till the completion of the elections in 1952 was in the neighbourhood of Rs. 10·4 crores. Of this, approximately Rs. 5 crores represent the share of the Government of India. The total amount spent in each of the States was as follows:—

	Name of State	Total expenditure		
		Rs.	A.	P.
Assam	.	30,55,732	0	0
Bihar	.	1,12,14,999	12	10
Bombay	.	1,27,79,232	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	.	39,62,249	0	0
Madras	.	1,98,84,194	0	0
Orissa	.	45,85,116	2	2
Punjab	.	39,46,804	5	0
Uttar Pradesh	.	1,70,05,000	0	0
West Bengal	.	90,00,000	0	0
Hyderabad	.	40,82,338	0	0
Madhya Bharat	.	15,89,796	0	0
Mysore	.	24,11,079	15	6
P.E.P.S.U.	.	14,98,187	10	0
Rajasthan	.	41,45,183	11	6
Saurashtra	.	12,71,546	0	0
Travancore-Cochin	.	22,05,107	3	0
Ajmer	.	1,14,8016	10	9
Bhopal	.	1,46,133	0	0
Bilaspur	.	35,389	0	0
Coorg	.	47,628	2	10
Delhi	.	5,31,529	7	6
Himachal Pradesh	.	1,52,228	5	3
Kutch	.	1,25,324	12	0
Manipur	.	1,07,859	0	3
Tripura	.	2,09,788	15	6
Vindhya Pradesh	.	4,06,636	3	3
TOTAL	.	10,45,47,099	5	4

The total cost of the elections accordingly works out at annas 9·6 per voter for both the State and federal elections. The cost would thus be only 4·8 annas per voter per election which appears by no means to be too unreasonable a figure.

Cost per voter.

The total receipts on account of the sale of electoral rolls, inspection fee, forfeiture of deposits, fee for inclusion of names in the electoral rolls after its final publication and copying fee, etc. amounted approximately to Rs. 40·7 lakhs.

Receipts.

The Election Commission had no duties or responsibilities in the matter of sanctioning or providing funds for conducting the elections, except that it was sometimes consulted in an advisory capacity. All the Governments readily co-operated with the Commission by providing the necessary funds for election work and no difficulty was experienced.

The expenditure on the Commission's staff is met out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

The Government of India decided at first that inasmuch as daily and travelling allowances would be paid mainly to Government employees, the payment should not be made from the election funds of the States but should be debited to the normal budget head of the departments in which the Government servants were employed. This decision resulted in several practical difficulties. Very often the normal departmental budget grants were insufficient for meeting such heavy extra-ordinary expenditure. In view of this, the Government of India ultimately agreed to share fifty per cent of the extra cost incurred by the State Governments on the payment of travelling and daily allowances to staff employed on polling and other election duties. The expenditure was allowed to be debited against the election budget, the States having initially provided the funds for meeting the same.

Travelling allowances of polling staff.

Some of the State Governments felt that the scales of daily allowance admissible under the ordinary rules were inadequate in view of the staggering of the poll over a number of days or weeks during which the polling personnel was required to remain continuously on tour. They proposed accordingly to pay them daily allowances at somewhat higher rates so as to enable them to meet their entire out-of-pocket expenses. The Central Government, however, refused to share any such additional expenditure.

It was only in exceptional cases that payments already made according to the higher rates were eventually agreed to.

Difficulties. The arrangements made for payment of travelling and daily allowances to the polling personnel during the general elections often led to hardships. In some of the States, the polling officers had to remain on duty for two to three weeks and they naturally found it difficult to meet their out of pocket expenses initially. Instances have also come to the notice of the Commission in which payment of travelling and daily allowances was considerably delayed for one reason or the other. Some of the bills even now remain to be paid. One solution of the difficulty is to advance a reasonable amount to the polling personnel and adjust the same subsequently in their bills. In areas where transport is too expensive or non-existent, government should arrange for such transport for the polling personnel, if practicable. It is essential that those charged with the performance of election duties, almost always under difficult conditions, do not have to lose financially.

CHAPTER XXVI

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

In the earlier Chapters of this report, the Commission has made a number of recommendations in regard to diverse matters. For the sake of convenient and ready reference, the more important of these recommendations are summarised below:—

1. The necessity of preparing separate electoral rolls for Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies should be done away with, as such duplication of work serves no useful purpose. (Chapter VII).
2. The electoral rolls need not be "prepared" every year and it should be sufficient to revise them every year. (Chapter VII).
3. The Election Commission should be given wider discretionary powers enabling it, whenever necessary, to adopt a simpler and quicker procedure for the revision of the electoral rolls. (Chapter VII).
4. The Commission should be given powers to order a summary revision of the electoral rolls for the local authorities' constituencies with reference to such qualifying date as it may fix in each case. (Chapter VII).
5. The Commission should be given the discretion to correct mistakes in the allotment of symbols. (Chapter IX).
6. The programme for the election should be compressed so as to reduce the time at present taken in holding an election. (Chapter XI).
7. A candidate at an election need not necessarily be a voter. It should be enough if he is eligible to have his name enrolled as a voter. (Chapter XII).
8. The provision that every nomination paper should be subscribed by a proposer and a seconder and that each of the latter must be an elector in the constituency in question should be deleted. (Chapter XII).

9. It should not be necessary for a candidate to make a declaration regarding the appointment of an election agent in the nomination paper. (Chapter XII).
10. Only single-booth polling stations should be provided at all future elections leaving it to the Returning Officer to appoint the same officer as Presiding Officer of more than one polling stations, if necessary. (Chapter XIV).
11. It should suffice if a letter of appointment of a polling agent addressed to the Presiding Officer showing the name and specimen signature of the person appointed is produced on the date of poll. (Chapter XIV).
12. The provisions relating to forfeiture of deposits should not apply to elections to the Council of States and the Legislative Councils. (Chapter XVI).
13. The hardship involved in unseating one of the elected candidates for the fault of another person should be remedied by suitably amending the law. (Chapter VI).
14. Only contesting candidates should be required to lodge returns of election expenses. (Chapter XX).
15. The disqualifications under sections 7(c) and 143 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, should not accrue automatically but only after a specific decision to that effect has been taken by the Commission after a full consideration of the case along with any explanation that the defaulter may offer in his defence. (Chapter XX).
16. The default in lodging a return of election expenses should be made a corrupt practice. (Chapter XX).

17. The requirement that an Election Tribunal should consist of three members should be done away with. Instead, an Election Tribunal should consist of one Judge only who is or has been a High Court Judge, or is or has been a District Judge whose name is included in the approved list of the High Court. An appeal should be provided for against the decision of an Election Tribunal. (Chapter XXI).
18. Section 129 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, should be made applicable to all Government servants without any exception, whether they are charged with any election duty or not. (Chapter XXIV).

CHAPTER XXVII

CONCLUSION

The successful completion of the general elections in India can be said to constitute an important land-mark in the history of democracy. Never before has such a vast electorate gone to the polls. The future of the democratic way of life in India depended very largely on the success of the experiment as also on the extent to which these elections could evoke public enthusiasm and satisfaction. Unless elections are free and fair, public faith in the verdict of the ballot box necessarily suffers, and to that extent there is a failure of democracy.

Looking back on what has been achieved during the first general elections in India, it can be confidently claimed that the elections were free and fair. This has been acknowledged universally and the country has taken its due place amongst the democratic nations of the world.

The task was a formidable one and could not have been carried out satisfactorily without the whole-hearted cooperation of everybody concerned. The greatest credit, of course, goes to the millions of voters who gave ample proof of having realised that it was their right as also their duty to participate in the elections by exercising their franchise. They have earned world-wide admiration by the enthusiasm that they displayed during the elections and the orderly and peaceful manner in which they went to the polls. The political parties and the candidates contributed in no small measure to the success of the experiment.

The government servants had a difficult and vital role to perform. They faced the difficulties and hardships inherent in such a vast administrative undertaking with commendable public spirit. By their conduct during the elections, they have helped in consolidating the healthy tradition that public servants must perform their duties in an entirely independent and non-partisan manner in connection with elections. By doing so, they have not only earned the gratitude of the nation, but have made their own task smoother for the future as well. The Police who had no direct part to play in the elections had all the same a very onerous duty to discharge. They had to maintain

perfect law and order not only during the polling but also before and after polling. That they went through this severe test successfully reflects great credit on their morale and organisation.

The Commission takes this opportunity to express its appreciation of the keenness and devotion displayed by the large number of officers on whose sustained hard work the successful organisation and completion of the general elections depended in a large measure. Considerations of space render it impracticable to name them individually. Even then special mention must be made of the valuable services rendered by the Chief Electoral Officers of the States as also the permanent Secretary of the Commission, Shri P. S. Subramanian, and other members of the Commission's staff.

The Commission must record its deep gratitude to the Press for the invaluable part they played in creating and sustaining public interest in the elections at all stages. The Commission received unfailing help and cooperation from the Press in every matter. The All India Radio extended every facility to the Election Commission and the Chief Electoral Officers for the publicity campaign meant for the general public and thus materially helped in educating the electorate in the intricacies of the election law and procedure.

Ballot papers and paper seals were printed in enormous quantities by the Security Press, Nasik Road, often at very short notice but invariably in good time. The Commission acknowledges their help with gratitude. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research made a valuable contribution by manufacturing and supplying indelible ink for use in the elections. The Commission is also grateful to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for releasing sufficient steel for the manufacture of ballot boxes in spite of an acute shortage of steel in the country. The manufacturers of the ballot boxes also deserve all praise for their ingenuity in designing inexpensive and fraud-proof ballot boxes for use in the elections.

The Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Railway Board readily provided special and prompt facilities for communication and railway transport. The election programme could hardly have been adhered to but for these facilities.

Indeed, the holding of the general elections was a national venture and could be successfully accomplished because of the nation's enthusiasm and determination to carry it through successfully. In such a vast cooperative venture every individual and every organisation has to make a contribution. It is a matter for gratification that everybody pulled his weight in the common task. Now that the first lesson has been learnt, the country can look forward to the future with confidence. There is every reason to hope that future general elections will call forth even greater public spirit and enthusiasm and will serve as a model for all democratic elections.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

EXTRACTS FROM THE CONSTITUTION

1. (1) India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States. Name and territory of
 (2) The States and the territories thereof shall be the the Union.
 States and their territories specified in Parts A, B and C of the First Schedule.
- (3) The territory of India shall comprise—
 (a) the territories of the States;
 (b) the territories specified in Part D of the First Schedule; and
 (c) such other territories as may be acquired.
52. There shall be a President of India. The President of India.
54. The President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of— Election of President.
 (a) the elected members of both Houses of Parliament; and
 (b) the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States.
55. (1) As far as practicable, there shall be uniformity in the scale of representation of the different States at the election of the President. Manner of election of President.
 (2) For the purpose of securing such uniformity among the States *inter se* as well as parity between the States as a whole and the Union, the number of votes which each elected member of Parliament and of the Legislative Assembly of each State is entitled to cast at such election shall be determined in the following manner:—
 (a) every elected member of the Legislative Assembly of a State shall have as many votes as there are multiples of one thousand in the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the State by the total number of the elected members of the Assembly;
 (b) if, after taking the said multiples of one thousand, the remainder is not less than five hundred, then the vote of each member referred to in sub-clause (a) shall be further increased by one;
 (c) each elected member of either House of Parliament shall have such number of votes as may be

obtained by dividing the total number of votes assigned to the members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States under sub-clauses (a) and (b) by the total number of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament, fractions exceeding one-half being counted as one and other fractions being disregarded.

(3) The election of the President shall be held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot.

Explanation.—In this article, the expression “population” means the population as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published.

Term of office of President. 56. (1) The President shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office.

Qualification for election as President. 58. (1) No person shall be eligible for election as President unless he:—

- (a) is a citizen of India,
- (b) has completed the age of thirty-five years, and
- (c) is qualified for election as a member of the House of the People.

(2) A person shall not be eligible for election as President if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State or under any local or other authority subject to the control of any of the said Governments.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this article, a person shall not be deemed to hold any office of profit by reason only that he is the President or Vice-President of the Union or the Governor or Rajpramukh or Uparajpramukh of any State or is a Minister either for the Union or for any State.

Time of holding election to fill vacancy in the office of President and the term of office of person elected to fill casual vacancy. 62. (1) An election to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of President shall be completed before the expiration of the term.

(2) An election to fill a vacancy in the office of President occurring by reason of his death, resignation or removal, or otherwise shall be held as soon as possible after, and in no case later than six months from, the date of oc-

cence of the vacancy; and the person elected to fill the vacancy shall, subject to the provisions of article 56, be entitled to hold office for the full term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office.

63. There shall be a Vice-President of India.

The Vice-President of India.
Election of Vice-President.

66. (1) The Vice-President shall be elected by the members of both Houses of Parliament assembled at a joint meeting in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot.

(2) The Vice-President shall not be a member of either House of Parliament or of a House of the Legislature of any State, and if a member of either House of Parliament or of a House of the Legislature of any State be elected Vice-President, he shall be deemed to have vacated his seat in that House on the date on which he enters upon his office as Vice-President.

(3) No person shall be eligible for election as Vice-President unless he—

- (a) is a citizen of India;
- (b) has completed the age of thirty-five years;
and
- (c) is qualified for election as a member of the Council of States.

(4) A person shall not be eligible for election as Vice-President if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State or under any local or other authority subject to the control of any of the said Governments.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this article, a person shall not be deemed to hold any office of profit by reason only that he is the President or Vice-President of the Union or the Governor or Rajpramukh or Uparajpramukh of any State or is a Minister either for the Union or for any State.

67. The Vice-President shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office.

* * * *

Term
office of
Vice-Presi-
dent.

68. (1) An election to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of Vice-President shall be completed before the expiration of the term.

Time of holding election to fill vacancy

in the office
of Vice-
President
and the
term of
office of
person
elected to
fill casual
vacancy.

Matters
relating to
or connected
with the
election of
a President
or Vice-
President.

Constitution
of Parlia-
ment.

Composition
of the
Council of
States.

(2) An election to fill a vacancy in the office of Vice-President occurring by reason of his death, resignation or removal, or otherwise shall be held as soon as possible after the occurrence of the vacancy, and the person elected to fill the vacancy shall, subject to the provisions of article 67, be entitled to hold office for the full term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office.

71. (1) All doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with the election of a President or Vice-President shall be inquired into and decided by the Supreme Court whose decision shall be final.

(2) If the election of a person as President or Vice-President is declared void by the Supreme Court, acts done by him in the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of the office of President or Vice-President, as the case may be, on or before the date of the decision of the Supreme Court shall not be invalidated by reason of that declaration.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Parliament may by law regulate any matter relating to or connected with the election of a President or Vice-President.

79. There shall be a Parliament for the Union which shall consist of the President and two Houses to be known respectively as the Council of States and the House of the People.

80. (1) The Council of States shall consist of—
 (a) twelve members to be nominated by the President in accordance with the provisions of clause (3); and
 (b) not more than two hundred and thirty-eight representatives of the States.

(2) The allocation of seats in the Council of States to be filled by representatives of the States shall be in accordance with the provisions in that behalf contained in the Fourth Schedule.

(3) The members to be nominated by the President under sub-clause (a) of clause (1) shall consist of persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as the following, namely:—

Literature, science, art and social service.

(4) The representatives of each State specified in Part A or Part B of the First Schedule in the Council of States shall be elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assembly of the State in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

(5) The representatives of the States specified in Part C of the first Schedule in the Council of States shall be chosen in such manner as Parliament may by law prescribe.

81. (1) (a) Subject to the provisions of clause (2) and of articles 82 and 331, the House of the People shall consist of not more than five hundred members directly elected by the voters in the States.

Composi-
tion of the
House of
the People..

(b) For the purpose of sub-clause (a), the States shall be divided, grouped or formed into territorial constituencies and the number of members to be allotted to each such constituency shall be so determined as to ensure that there shall be ¹[* * *] not more than one member for every 500,000 of the population.

(c) The ratio between the number of members allotted to each territorial constituency and the population of that constituency as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout the territory of India.

(2) The representation in the House of the People of the territories comprised within the territory of India but not included within any State shall be such as Parliament may by law provide.

(3) Upon the completion of each census, the representation of the several territorial constituencies in the House of the People shall be readjusted by such authority, in such manner and with effect from such date as Parliament may by law determine:

Provided that such readjustment shall not affect representation in the House of the People until the dissolution of the then existing House.

¹The words and figures "not less than one member for every 750,000 of the population and" were omitted by the Constitution (Second Amendment) Act, 1952, *Gazette of India, Extraordinary*, Part II, Section 1, dated 2-5-1953.

Special provision as to representation of States in Part C and territories other than States.

82. Notwithstanding anything in clause (1) of article 81, Parliament may by law provide for the representation in the House of the People of any State specified in Part C of the First Schedule or of any territories comprised within the territory of India but not included within any State on a basis or in a manner other than that provided in that clause.

Duration of Houses of Parliament.

83. (1) The Council of States shall not be subject to dissolution, but as nearly as possible one-third of the members thereof shall retire as soon as may be on the expiration of every second year in accordance with the provisions made in that behalf by Parliament by law.

(2) The House of the People, unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer and the expiration of the said period of five years shall operate as a dissolution of the House:

Provided that the said period may, while a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation, be extended by Parliament by law for a period not exceeding one year at a time and not extending in any case beyond a period of six months after the Proclamation has ceased to operate.

Qualification for membership of Parliament.

84. A person shall not be qualified to be chosen to fill a seat in Parliament unless he—

(a) is a citizen of India;

(b) is, in the case of a seat in the Council of States, not less than thirty years of age and, in the case of a seat in the House of the People, not less than twenty-five years of age; and

(c) possesses such other qualifications as may be prescribed in that behalf by or under any law made by Parliament.

Vacation of seats.

101. (1) No person shall be a member of both Houses of Parliament and provision shall be made by Parliament by law for the vacation by a person who is chosen a member of both Houses of his seat in one House or the other.

(2) No person shall be a member both of Parliament and of a House of the Legislature of a State specified in Part A or Part B of the First Schedule, and if a person is chosen a member both of Parliament and of a House of

the Legislature of such a State, then, at the expiration of such period as may be specified in rules by the President, that person's seat in Parliament shall become vacant, unless he has previously resigned his seat in the Legislature of the State.

- (3) If a member of either House of Parliament—
 - (a) becomes subject to any of the disqualifications mentioned in clause (1) of article 102, or
 - (b) resigns his seat by writing under his hand addressed to the Chairman or the Speaker, as the case may be,

his seat shall thereupon become vacant.

- (4) If for a period of sixty days a member of either House of Parliament is without permission of the House absent from all meetings thereof, the House may declare his seat vacant:

Provided that in computing the said period of sixty days no account shall be taken of any period during which the House is prorogued or is adjourned for more than four consecutive days.

102. (1) A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament—

Disqualifi-
cations for
member-
ship.

- (a) if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State, other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder;
- (b) if he is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court;
- (c) if he is an undischarged insolvent;
- (d) if he is not a citizen of India, or has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign State, or is under any acknowledgment of allegiance or adherence to a foreign State;
- (e) if he is so disqualified by or under any law made by Parliament.

(2) For the purposes of this article a person shall not be deemed to hold an office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State by reason only that he is a Minister either for the Union or for such State.

Decision on
questions as
to disquali-
fications of
members.

103. (1) If any question arises as to whether a member of either House of Parliament has become subject to any of the disqualifications mentioned in clause (1) of article 102, the question shall be referred for the decision of the President and his decision shall be final.

(2) Before giving any decision on any such question, the President shall obtain the opinion of the Election Commission and shall act according to such opinion.

Constitution
of Legisla-
tures in
States.

168. (1) For every State there shall be a Legislature which shall consist of the Governor, and

(a) in the States of Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Punjab, ¹Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, two Houses;

(b) in other States, one House.

(2) Where there are two Houses of the Legislature of a State, one shall be known as the Legislative Council and the other as the Legislative Assembly, and where there is only one House, it shall be known as the Legislative Assembly.

Composi-
tion of the
Legislative
Assemblies.

170. (1) Subject to the provisions of article 333, the Legislative Assembly of each State shall be composed of members chosen by direct election.

(2) The representation of each territorial constituency in the Legislative Assembly of a State shall be on the basis of the population of that constituency as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published and shall, save in the case of the autonomous districts of Assam and the constituency comprising the cantonment and municipality of Shillong, be on a scale of not more than one member for every seventy-five thousand of the population:

Provided that the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly of a State shall in no case be more than five hundred or less than sixty.

(3) The ratio between the number of members to be allotted to each territorial constituency in a State and the population of that constituency as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout the State.

¹Substituted for the words "the United Provinces" by C. O. 3, dated the 25th January 1950.

(4) Upon the completion of each census, the representation of the several territorial constituencies in the Legislative Assembly of each State shall be readjusted by such authority, in such manner and with effect from such date as Parliament may by law determine:

Provided that such readjustment shall not affect representation in the Legislative Assembly until the dissolution of the then existing Assembly.

171. (1) The total number of members in the Legislative Council of a State having such a Council shall not exceed one-fourth of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly of that State:

Composition of the Legislative Councils.

Provided that the total number of members in the Legislative Council of a State shall in no case be less than forty.

(2) Until Parliament by law otherwise provides, the composition of the Legislative Council of a State shall be as provided in clause (3).

(3) Of the total number of members of the Legislative Council of a State—

- (a) as nearly as may be, one third shall be elected by electorates consisting of members of municipalities, district boards and such other local authorities in the State as Parliament may by law specify;
- (b) as nearly as may be, one-twelfth shall be elected by electorates consisting of persons residing in the State who have been for at least 3 years graduate of any university in the territory of India or have been for at least three years in possession of qualifications prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament as equivalent to that of a graduate of any such university;
- (c) as nearly as may be, one-twelfth shall be elected by electorates consisting of persons who have been for at least three years engaged in teaching in such educational institutions within the State, not lower in standard than that of a secondary school, as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament;

(d) as nearly as may be, one-third shall be elected by the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State from amongst persons who are not members of the Assembly;

(e) the remainder shall be nominated by the Governor in accordance with the provisions of clause (5).

(4) The members to be elected under sub-clauses (a), (b) and (c) of clause (3) shall be chosen in such territorial constituencies as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament, and the elections under the said sub-clauses and under sub-clause (d) of the said clause shall be held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

(5) The members to be nominated by the Governor under sub-clause (e) of clause (3) shall consist of persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as the following, namely:—

Literature, science, art, co-operative movement and social service.

Duration of State Legislatures.

172. (1) Every Legislative Assembly of every State, unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer and the expiration of the said period of five years shall operate as a dissolution of the Assembly:

Provided that the said period may, while a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation, be extended by Parliament by law for a period not exceeding one year at a time and not extending in any case beyond a period of six months after the Proclamation has ceased to operate.

(2) The Legislative Council of a State shall not be subject to dissolution, but as nearly as possible one-third of the members thereof shall retire as soon as may be on the expiration of every second year in accordance with the provisions made in that behalf by Parliament by law.

Qualification for membership of the State Legislature.

173. A person shall not be qualified to be chosen to fill a seat in the Legislature of a State unless he—

(a) is a citizen of India;

- (b) is, in the case of a seat in the Legislative Assembly, not less than twenty-five years of age and, in the case of a seat in the Legislative Council, not less than thirty years of age; and
- (c) possesses such other qualifications as may be prescribed in that behalf by or under any law made by Parliament.

190. (1) No person shall be a member of both Houses of the Legislature of a State and provision shall be made by the Legislature of the State by law for the vacation by a person who is chosen a member of both Houses of his seat in one House or the other.

(2) No person shall be a member of the Legislatures of two or more States specified in the First Schedule and if a person is chosen a member of the Legislatures of two or more such States, then, at the expiration of such period as may be specified in rules made by the President, that person's seat in the Legislatures of all such States shall become vacant, unless he has previously resigned his seat in the Legislatures of all but one of the States.

(3) If a member of a House of the Legislature of a State—

- (a) becomes subject to any of the disqualifications mentioned in clause (1) of article 191; or
- (b) resigns his seat by writing under his hand addressed to the Speaker or the Chairman, as the case may be,

his seat shall thereupon become vacant.

(4) If for a period of sixty days a member of a House of the Legislature of a State is without permission of the House absent from all meetings thereof, the House may declare his seat vacant:

Provided that in computing the said period of sixty days no account shall be taken of any period during which the House is prorogued or is adjourned for more than four consecutive days.

191. (1) A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of a State—

Disqualifications for membership.

- (a) if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State specified in the First Schedule, other than an office declared by the Legislature of the State by law not to disqualify its holder;

- (b) if he is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court;
- (c) if he is an undischarged insolvent;
- (d) if he is not a citizen of India, or has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign State, or is under any acknowledgment of allegiance or adherence to a foreign State;
- (e) if he is so disqualified by or under any law made by Parliament.

(2) For the purposes of this article, a person shall not be deemed to hold an office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State specified in the First Schedule by reason only that he is a Minister either for the Union or for such State.

**Decision on
questions as
to disquali-
fications of
members.**

192. (1) If any question arises as to whether a member of a House of the Legislature of a State has become subject to any of the disqualifications mentioned in clause (1) of article 191, the question shall be referred for the decision of the Governor and his decision shall be final.

(2) Before giving any decision on any such question, the Governor shall obtain the opinion of the Election Commission and shall act according to such opinion.

**Application of provisions
of Part VI
to States in
Part B of
the First
Schedule.**

238. The provisions of Part VI shall apply in relation to the States specified in Part B of the First Schedule as they apply in relation to the States specified in Part A of that Schedule subject to the following modifications and omissions, namely:—

(1) For the word "Governor" wherever it occurs in the said Part VI, except where it occurs for the second time in clause (b) of article 232, the word "Rajpramukh" shall be substituted.

(2) In article 152, for the word and letter "Part A" the word and letter "Part B" shall be substituted.

* * * *

(7) In article 168, for clause (1) the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

"(1) For every State there shall be a Legislature which shall consist of the Rajpramukh and—

- (a) in the State of Mysore, two Houses;
- (b) in other States, one House."

* * * *

240. (1) Parliament may by law create or continue for any State specified in Part C of the First Schedule and administered through a Chief Commissioner or Lieutenant-Governor—

Creation or
continuance
of local
Legislatures
or Council
of Advisers
or Ministers.

- (a) a body, whether nominated, elected or partly nominated and partly elected, to function as a Legislature for the State; or
- (b) a Council of Advisers or Ministers;

or both with such constitution, powers and functions, in each case, as may be specified in the law.

* * * *

324. (1) The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice-President held under this Constitution, including the appointment of election tribunals for the decision of doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with elections to Parliament and to the Legislatures of States shall be vested in a Commission (referred to in this Constitution as the Election Commission).

Superinten-
dence, direc-
tion and
control of
elections
to be
vested in
an Election
Commission.

(2) The Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of other Election Commissioners, if any, as the President may from time to time fix and the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners shall, subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament, be made by the President.

(3) When any other Election Commissioner is so appointed the Chief Election Commissioner shall act as the Chairman of the Election Commission.

(4) Before each general election to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of each State, and before the first general election and thereafter before each biennial election to the Legislative Council of each State having such Council, the President may also appoint after consultation with the Election Commission such Regional Commissioners as he may consider necessary to assist the Election Commission in the performance of the functions conferred on the Commission by clause (1).

(5) Subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, the conditions of service and tenure of office of the Election Commissioners and the Regional Com-

missioners shall be such as the President may by rule determine:

Provided that the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court and the conditions of service of the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment:

Provided further that any other Election Commissioner or a Regional Commissioner shall not be removed from office except on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.

(6) The President, or the Governor or Rajpramukh of a State, shall, when so requested by the Election Commission, make available to the Election Commission or to a Regional Commissioner such staff as may be necessary for the discharge of the functions conferred on the Election Commission by clause (1).

No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.

Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage.

325. There shall be one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency for election to either House of Parliament or to the House or either House of the Legislature of a State and no person shall be ineligible for inclusion in any such roll or claim to be included in any special electoral roll for any such constituency on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or any of them.

326. The elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of every State shall be on the basis of adult suffrage; that is to say, every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than twenty-one years of age on such date as may be fixed in that behalf by or under any law made by the appropriate Legislature and is not otherwise disqualified under this Constitution or any law made by the appropriate Legislature on the ground of non-residence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corrupt or illegal practice, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election.

Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures.

327. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Parliament may from time to time by law make provision with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with, elections to either House of Parliament or to the House or either House of the Legislature of a State

including the preparation of electoral rolls, the delimitation of constituencies and all other matters necessary for securing the due constitution of such House or Houses.

328. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and in so far as provision in that behalf is not made by Parliament, the Legislature of a State may from time to time by law make provision with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with, the elections to the House or either House of the Legislature of the State including the preparation of electoral rolls and all other matters necessary for securing the due constitution of such House or Houses.

Power of
Legislature
of a State
to make
provision
with respect
to elections
to such
Legislature.

329. Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution—

- (a) the validity of any law relating to the delimitation of constituencies or the allotment of seats to such constituencies, made or purporting to be made under article 327 or article 328, shall not be called in question in any court;
- (b) no election to either House of Parliament or to the House or either House of the Legislature of a State shall be called in question except by an election petition presented to such authority and in such manner as may be provided for by or under any law made by the appropriate Legislature.

Bar to
interference
by courts
in electoral
matters.

330. (1) Seats shall be reserved in the House of the People for—

- (a) the Scheduled Castes;
- (b) the Scheduled Tribes except the Scheduled Tribes in the tribal areas of Assam; and
- (c) the Scheduled Tribes in the autonomous districts of Assam.

Reservation
of seats for
Scheduled
Castes and
Scheduled
Tribes in
the House of
the People.

(2) The number of seats reserved in any State for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes under clause (1) shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats allotted to that State in the House of the People as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the State or of the Scheduled Tribes in the State, or part of the State, as the case may be, in respect of which seats are so reserved, bears to the total population of the State.

**Representa-
tion of the
Anglo-In-
dian Com-
munity in
the House of
the People.**

331. Notwithstanding anything in article 81, the President may, if he is of opinion that the Anglo-Indian community is not adequately represented in the House of the People, nominate not more than two members of that community to the House of the People.

**Reservation
of seats for
Scheduled
Castes and
Scheduled
Tribes in
the Legis-
lative As-
semblies of
the States.**

332. (1) Seats shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, except the Scheduled Tribes in the tribal areas of Assam, in the Legislative Assembly of every State specified in Part A or Part B of the First Schedule.

(2) Seats shall be reserved also for the autonomous districts in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Assam.

(3) The number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of any State under clause (1) shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats in the Assembly as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the State or of the Scheduled Tribes in the State or part of the State, as the case may be, in respect of which seats are so reserved, bears to the total population of the State.

(4) The number of seats reserved for an autonomous district in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Assam shall bear to the total number of seats in that Assembly a proportion not less than the population of the district bears to the total population of the State.

(5) The constituencies for the seats reserved for any autonomous district of Assam shall not comprise any area outside that district except in the case of the constituency comprising the cantonment and municipality of Shillong.

(6) No person who is not a member of a Scheduled Tribe of any autonomous district of the State of Assam shall be eligible for election to the Legislative Assembly of the State from any constituency of that district except from the constituency comprising the cantonment and municipality of Shillong.

**Representa-
tion of the
Anglo-In-
dian Com-
munity in the
Legislative**

333. Notwithstanding anything in article 170, the Governor or Rajpramukh of a State may, if he is of opinion that the Anglo-Indian community needs representation in the Legislative Assembly of the State and is not ade-

quately represented therein, nominate such number of members of the community to the Assembly as he considers appropriate.

341. (1) The President ¹[may, with respect to any State, and where it is a State specified in Part A or Part B of the First Schedule, after consultation with the Governor or Rajpramukh thereof,] by public notification, specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to that State.

(2) Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any caste, race or tribe or part of or group within any caste, race or tribe, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification.

342. (1) The President ¹[may, with respect to any State, and where it is a State specified in Part A or Part B of the First Schedule, after consultation with the Governor or Rajpramukh thereof,] by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State.

(2) Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any tribe or tribal community or part of or group within any tribe or tribal community, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification.

387. For the purposes of elections held under any of the provisions of this Constitution during a period of three years from the commencement of this Constitution, the population of India or of any part thereof may, notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, be determined in such manner as the President may by order direct, and different provisions may be made for different States and for different purposes by such order.

¹Substituted for the words "may, after consultation with the Governor or Rajpramukh of a State" by the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951, Ss. 10 and 11.

Special provision as to determination of population for the purposes of certain elections.

FIRST SCHEDULE
(Articles 1, 4 and 391)
The States and the territories of India

PART A

<i>Names of States</i>	<i>Names of corresponding Province</i>
1. ¹ Andhra	
2. Assam	Assam.
3. Bihar	Bihar.
4. Bombay	Bombay.
5. Madhya Pradesh	The Central Provinces and Berar.
6. Madras	Madras.
7. Orissa	Orissa.
8. Punjab	East Punjab.
9. ² (Uttar Pradesh)	The United Provinces.
10. West Bengal	West Bengal.

PART B**NAMES OF STATES**

1. Hyderabad.
2. Jammu and Kashmir.
3. Madhya Bharat.
4. Mysore
5. Patiala and East Punjab States Union.
6. Rajasthan.
7. Saurashtra.
8. Travancore-Cochin.

3 * * * *

PART C**NAMES OF STATES**

1. Ajmer.
 2. Bhopal.
- 4 * * * * *
 5 * * * * *
3. Coorg.
 4. Delhi.
 5. Himachal Pradesh.
 6. Kutch.
 7. Manipur.
 8. Tripura.
 9. ⁶ [Vindhya Pradesh].

PART D**The Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**

¹The entry "1. Andhra" was inserted and entries 1 to 9 were renumbered as entries 2 to 10 respectively by the Andhra State Act, 1953 (XXX of 1953), s. 5.

²Substituted for the words, "The United Provinces" by C. O. 3, dated the 25th January, 1950.

³The entry "9. Vindhya Pradesh" was deleted by C. O. 3, dated the 25th January, 1950.

⁴The entry "3. Bilaspur" was omitted and entries 4 to 10 were renumbered as entries 3 to 9 respectively by the Himachal Pradesh and Bilaspur (New State) Act, 1954 (XXXII of 1954), s. 4.

⁵The entry "4. Cooch Behar" was omitted and entries 5 to 10 were renumbered as entries 4 to 9 respectively by C.O. 3, dated the 25th January, 1950.

⁶Inserted by *ibid.*

FOURTH SCHEDULE

[Articles 4 (1), 80(2) and 391]

Allocation of seats in the Council of States

To each State or group of States specified in the first column of the table of seats appended to this Schedule there shall be allotted the number of seats specified in the second column of the said table opposite to that State or group of States as the case may be.

TABLE OF SEATS
THE COUNCIL OF STATES

Representatives of States specified in Part A of the First Schedule

I	2
States	Total Seats
1. Andhra	12
2. Assam	6
3. Bihar	21
4. Bombay	17
5. Madhya Pradesh	12
6. Madras	18 ^b
7. Orissa	9
8. Punjab	8
9. [Uttar Pradesh]	31
10. West Bengal	14
TOTAL	6148

Representatives of States specified in Part B of the First Schedule

I	2
States	Total Seats.
1. Hyderabad	11
2. Jammu and Kashmir	4
3. Madhya Bharat	6
4. Mysore	6
5. Patiala and East Punjab States Union	3
6. Rajasthan	9
7. Saurashtra	4
8. Travancore-Cochin	6
***	2***
TOTAL	8[49]

^aSubstituted for the words "The United Provinces" by C. O. 3, dated the 25th January, 1950.

^bThe entry "9. Vindhya Pradesh" was omitted by C. O. 3, dated the 25th January, 1950.

^cSubstituted for "53" by *ibid*.

^dThe entry "1. Andhra . . . 12" was inserted and entries 1 to 9 were renumbered as entries 2 to 10 respectively by the Andhra State Act, 1953 (XXX of 1953), s.7.

^eSubstituted for "27" by *ibid*.

^fSubstituted for "145" by *ibid*.

Representatives of States specified in Part C of the First Schedule

I	2
States and Groups of States	Total Seats
1. Ajmer }	1
2. Coorg }	1
3. Bhopal .	1

4. Himachal Pradesh .	1
1***	
5. Delhi .	1
6. Kutch.	1
7. Manipur }	1
8. Tripura }	1
9. Vindhya Pradesh .	4]
TOTAL	10]
TOTAL OF ALL STATES .	5[207]

SIXTH SCHEDULE

[Articles 244 (2) and 275 (1)]

PROVISIONS AS TO ADMINISTRATION OF TRIBAL
AREAS IN ASSAM.

1 *Autonomous districts and autonomous regions.*—(1) Subject to the provisions of this paragraph, the tribal areas in each item of Part A of the table appended to paragraph 20 of this Schedule shall be an autonomous district.

* * * *

20 *Tribal areas.*—(1) The areas specified in Parts A and B of the table below shall be the tribal areas within the State of Assam.

* * * *

TABLE

PART A

1. The United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District.
2. The Garo Hills District.
3. The Lushai Hills District.
4. The Naga Hills District.
5. The North Cachar Hills.
6. The Mikir Hills.

¹The entry “6. Cooch Behar” was omitted and entries 7 to 10 were renumbered as entries 6 to 9 respectively by C. O. 3, dated the 25th January, 1950.

²Inserted by *ibid.*

³Substituted for “7” by *ibid.*

⁴The entry “4. Himachal Pradesh..1” was substituted for entries 4 and 5 relating to Bilaspur and Himachal Pradesh, and entries 6 to 10 were renumbered as entries 5 to 9 respectively by the Himachal Pradesh and Bilaspur (New State) Act, 1954 (XXXII of 1954) s. 6.

⁵ Substituted for “204” by the Andhra State Act, 1953 (XXX of 1953), s. 7.

PART B

1. North East Frontier Tract including Balipara Frontier Tract, Tirap Frontier Tract, Abor Hills District and Misimi Hills District.

2. The Naga Tribal Area.

THE CONSTITUTION (DETERMINATION OF POPULATION) ORDER 1950¹

In exercise of the powers conferred by article 387 of the Constitution of India and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, the President is pleased to make the following Order, namely:—

1. (1) This Order may be called the Constitution (Determination of Population) Order, 1950.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. (1) The General Clauses Act, 1897 (X of 1897) applies for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of a Central Act.

(2) In this Order,—

(a) "Census Commissioner" means the Census Commissioner appointed under sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Census Act, 1948 (XXXVII of 1948);

(b) "paragraph" means a paragraph of this Order.

3. For the purposes of elections held under the provisions of the Constitution during a period of three years from its commencement,—

(a) the population of each state,

(b) the population of Scheduled Castes in each Part A State, and in each Part B State other than Jammu and Kashmir,

(c) the population of Scheduled Tribes in each Part A State other than Assam and in each Part B State other than Jammu and Kashmir,

(d) the population of Scheduled Tribes in Assam excluding the tribal areas thereof,

(e) the population of Scheduled Tribes in each autonomous district of Assam, and

(f) the population of each autonomous district of Assam, shall be determined in the manner hereinafter provided.

¹C.O 13, dated 15-4-1950, Gazette of India Extraordinary, 1950 pp. 5—8.

4. (1) As soon as may be after the commencement of this Order, the Census Commissioner shall prepare estimates of the population of every State as on the first day of March, 1950, in each of the following two ways, that is to say,—

- (a) after taking into account the population of the territory of that State as ascertained at the census of 1941, and such records as are available to him regarding births and deaths in that territory since that census, and also the movement of persons displaced from their original places of residence by reason of the setting up of the Dominions of India and Pakistan, and
- (b) on the basis of the mathematical projection of the trend indicated by the population figures of that territory as ascertained at the last five decennial censuses, after taking into account the movement of persons referred to in clause (a),

and shall then determine the population of the State by taking the average of the two estimates.

(2) The Census Commissioner shall thereafter submit to the President a statement showing the population of each State as so determined, together with an explanatory note as to how the figures of population have been calculated; and the statement shall, on being approved by the President, be notified in the *Gazette of India*.

(3) Such notification shall be conclusive evidence that the statement has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph; and for the purposes of the elections referred to in paragraph 3, the population of each State shall be as set out in the statement so notified.

5. (1) After determining the population of each State under paragraph 4, the Census Commissioner shall prepare estimates of each of the other items mentioned in paragraph 3, on the basis—

- (a) that the population of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes in the territory of any State or part of a State bears to the total population of the State as determined under paragraph 4 the same proportion which the population, as ascertained at the census of 1941, of those Castes or Tribes in that territory bore to the total population, as so ascertained, of the territories now comprising that State; and

(b) that the population of each of the autonomous districts of Assam bears to the total population of that State as determined under paragraph 4 the same proportion which the population, as ascertained at the census of 1941, of the territories now comprising that district bore to the total population, as so ascertained, of the territories now comprising that State:

Provided that if in any particular case the necessary population figures have not been ascertained at the census of 1941, the population figures as ascertained at the census of 1931 shall be taken for determining the said proportion:

Provided further that if in any particular case the necessary population figures have not been ascertained either at the census of 1941 or at the census of 1931, the population in question shall be estimated in such other manner as the President may direct.

(2) The Census Commissioner shall thereafter submit to the President a statement showing the estimates of population under sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph, together with an explanatory note as to how they have been arrived at; and the statement shall, on being approved by the President, be notified in the *Gazette of India*.

(3) Such notification shall be conclusive evidence that the statement has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph; and for the purposes of the elections referred to in paragraph 3, the population of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes in any State or part of a State, and the population of an autonomous district of Assam, shall be as set out in the statement so notified.

6. For the purposes of the elections referred to in paragraph 3 and the delimitation of constituencies therefor, the population of any area within a State to be included in a constituency shall, unless in the case of any particular area or class of areas the President otherwise directs, be determined by multiplying the number of voters entered in the provisional electoral rolls of that area by the total population of that State as determined under paragraph 4, and then by dividing the product by the total number of voters entered in the provisional electoral rolls of the whole State.

Explanation.—In this paragraph, “provisional electoral rolls” means the electoral rolls which at the commencement of this Order are under preparation for the purposes of the first general elections to the House of the People under the Constitution.

STATEMENTS SHOWING POPULATION OF EACH STATE

In pursuance of sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 4 of the Constitution (Determination of Population) Order, 1950, the following statement showing the population of each State as determined by the Census Commissioner under sub-paragraph (1) of the said paragraph, having been approved by the President, is notified for public information:—

Statement

Name of State	Estimated population (in millions) as on 1st March, 1950
<i>Part A</i>	
1. Assam	8.51
2. Bihar	39.42
3. Bombay	32.68
4. Madhya Pradesh	20.92
5. Madras	54.29
6. Orissa	14.41
7. Punjab	12.61
8. Uttar Pradesh	61.00
9. West Bengal	24.32
<i>Part B</i>	
1. Hyderabad	17.69
2. Jammu and Kashmir	4.37
3. Madhya Bharat	7.87
4. Mysore	8.06
5. Patiala and East Punjab States Union	3.32
6. Rajasthan	14.69
7. Saurashtra	3.96
8. Travancore-Cochin	8.58
<i>Part C</i>	
1. Ajmer	0.73
2. Bhopal	0.85
3. Bilaspur	0.13
4. Coorg	0.17
5. Delhi	1.51
6. Himachal Pradesh	1.08
7. Kutch	0.55
8. Manipur	0.54
9. Tripura	0.58
10. Vindhya Pradesh	3.88

²In pursuance of sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 5 of the Constitution (Determination of Population) Order, 1950, the following statement showing the population of each of the autonomous

¹Ministry of Home Affairs Notification No. 2/2/50—Public, dated 17-4-1950, *Gazette of India, Extraordinary*, 1950, pp. 31-32.

²Ministry of Home Affairs Notification No. 2/36/50—Public, dated 11-4-1950, *Gazette of India* 1950, Part I, Sec. 1, p. 309.

districts of the State of Assam as determined by the Census Commissioner under sub-paragraph (1)(b) of the said paragraph, having been approved by the President, is notified for public information:—

Statement

Name of autonomous district of Assam	Estimated population (in lakhs) as on 1st March, 1950
1. United Khasi-Jaintia Hills	3.48
2. Garo Hills	2.48
3. Lushai Hills	1.69
4. Naga Hills	2.10
5. North Cachar Hills	0.42
6. Mikir Hills	1.01

¹In pursuance of sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 5 of the Constitution (Determination of Population) Order, 1950, the following statement showing the population of Scheduled Castes in each State as determined by the Census Commissioner under sub-paragraph (1)(a) of the said paragraph, having been approved by the President, is notified for public information:—

Statement

Name of State	Estimated Scheduled Caste population (in lakhs) as on 1st March, 1950
<i>Part A</i>	
1. Assam	4.18
2. Bihar	52.86
3. Bombay	27.97
4. Madhya Pradesh	29.29
5. Madras	89.14
6. Orissa	21.57
7. Punjab	20.79
8. Uttar Pradesh	119.17
9. West Bengal	41.25
<i>Part B</i>	
1. Hyderabad	31.21
2. Madhya Bharat	13.62
3. Mysore	15.45
4. Patiala & East Punjab States Union	5.59
5. Rajasthan	15.00
6. Saurashtra	2.67
7. Travancore-Cochin	8.61

¹Ministry of Home Affairs notification No. 2/37/50-Public, dated 14-5-1950. *Gazette of India, Extraordinary, 1950*, p. 555.

¹In pursuance of sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 5 of the Constitution (Determination of Population) Order, 1950, the following statement showing the population of Scheduled Tribes in (1) the State of Assam excluding Tribal Areas thereof and (2) each of the Autonomous Districts of Assam as determined by the Census Commissioner under sub-paragraph (1)(a) of the said paragraph, having been approved by the President, is notified for public information:—

Statement

Estimated population
(in lakhs) as on
the 1st March,
1950

Assam excluding Tribal Areas thereof	6.82
--	------

Autonomous Districts—

1. United Khasi-Jaintia Hills	3.25
2. Garo Hills : : : : :	2.07
3. Lushai Hills : : : : :	1.63
4. Naga Hills : : : : :	2.03
5. North Cachar Hills : : : : :	0.36
6. Mikir Hills	0.99

²In pursuance of sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 5 of the Constitution (Determination of Population) Order, 1950, the following statement showing the population of the Scheduled Tribes in each State as determined by the Census Commissioner under sub-paragraph (1)(a) of the said paragraph, having been approved by the President, is notified for public information:—

Statement

Estimated population
of Scheduled Tribes
as on the 1st March,
1950 (in lakhs)

Name of State	
---------------	--

Part A

1. Bihar	42.10
2. Bombay	30.37
3. Madhya Pradesh	24.59
4. Madras	5.96
5. Orissa	29.25
6. Punjab	0.15
7. West Bengal	11.77

¹Ministry of Home Affairs notification No. 2/39/50-Public, dated 28-9-50, *Gazette of India, Extraordinary*, 1950, p. 563.

²Ministry of Home Affairs notification No. 2/38/50-Public, dated 5-10-1950, *Gazette of India, Extraordinary*, 1950, p. 567.

Name of State	Estimated population of Scheduled Tribes as on the 1st March, 1950
<i>Part B</i>	
1. Hyderabad	2.37
2. Madhya Bharat	9.49
3. Mysore	0.10
4. Rajasthan	4.47
5. Saurashtra	0.73
6. Travancore-Cochin	0.23

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