TO THE
TUNE OF DEMOCRACY

ARDENT CO.

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Executive Summary

The vibrancy of democracy finds its most splendid expression in the Indian electoral process, a spectacle of participation and engagement that stands unparalleled across the globe. This report is an attempt to capture the riveting tales of the electoral season, culminating in the historic swearing-in of Shri Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister of the Republic of India for a third consecutive term. This remarkable event echoes the legacy of India's first Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, who also served three successive terms.

Since independence, India's political landscape has experienced significant transformations, navigating through periods of single-party dominance, multi-party coalitions, and a return to single-largest-party governance, before once again embracing coalition politics. These shifts have steered India through some of its most dramatic and defining moments.

While elections are not the sole measure of a democracy's vibrancy and maturity, they undeniably serve as a critical indicator of its robustness. As India ventures into its eighth decade of independence, it is essential to reflect on the key takeaways from its recent general elections. The recently concluded general elections assume greater significance, particularly as India is on track to become the world's third-largest economy, with a projected GDP of S5 trillion within the next three years and expected to touch S7 trillion by 2030.

The report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the recently concluded General Elections: mapping out the key trends and patterns, touching upon the critical impending policy measures with a potential to redefine the national political dynamics, while highlighting the prominent figures who continue to shape the political discourse. The report also underscores the key focus areas of the recently appointed Prime Minister Modi led Cabinet. It also casts a spotlight on the fresh faces emerging in the political sphere against the backdrop of the newly formed coalition government - a phenomenon that has re-emerged in Indian politics after a decade-long hiatus.

The recent swearing in ceremony held on June 9, 2024 witnessed 72 ministers, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, taking the oath of office, committed to guiding India on its continued path of growth and development, reaffirming the strength of India's democracy and setting the stage for its future trajectory.

General Elections Over the Years
(1951-2024)

Indian General Elections (1951 - 2024)								
General Election	Year	Ruling Party	Prime Minister	Seats Secured	Total Seats	Percentage of Vote (%)	Voter Turnout (%)	Mode of Voting
1st	1951-52	INC	Shri Jawaharlal Nehru	364	489	45	44.9	Ballot Paper
2nd	1957	INC	Shri Jawaharlal Nehru	371	494	47.8	45.4	Ballot Paper
3rd	1962	INC	Shri Jawaharlal Nehru	361	494	44.7	55.4	Ballot Paper
4th	1967	INC	Smt. Indira Gandhi	283	520	40.8	61	Ballot Paper
5th	1971	INC	Smt. Indira Gandhi	352	518	43.7	55.27	Ballot Paper
6th	1977	Janata Alliance	Shri Morarji Desai	298	543	41.3	60.5	Ballot Paper
7th	1980	INC	Smt. Indira Gandhi	353	529	42.7	56.9	Ballot Paper
8th	1984	INC	Shri Rajiv Gandhi	404	514	49.1	63.6	Ballot Paper
9th	1989	INC	Shri Rajiv Gandhi	197	529	39.5	61.9	Ballot Paper
10th	1991	INC	Shri Narsimha Rao	232	521	36.3	56.7	Ballot Paper
11th	1996	BJP	Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee	161	543	20.3	57.9	Ballot Paper
12th	1998	BJP	Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee	182	543	25.6	62	EVM for 16 seats; Ballot Paper for rest
13th	1999	BJP	Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee	182	543	23.8	60	EVM for 46 seats; Ballot Paper for rest
14th	2004	INC	Shri Manmohan Singh	145	543	26.5	58.1	EVM
15th	2009	INC	Shri Manmohan Singh	206	543	28.6	58.2	EVM
16th	2014	BJP	Shri Narendra Modi	282	543	31	66.4	EVM
17th	2019	BJP	Shri Narendra Modi	303	543	37.3	67	EVM
18th	2024	BJP	Shri Narendra Modi	240	543	36.6	65.7	EVM

Key Insights around Elections

LARGEST ELECTORATE OF THE WORLD

The 2024 General Elections saw India being the home to the largest electorate in the world, with over **96.88 crore registered voters - 49.7 crore male voters and 47.1 crore female voters, 48,044 third gender voters**, 88.35lakh PwD voters and 1.85 voters under the age category of 18-19 years nationwide. Till 2019, India had 89.6 crore voters.
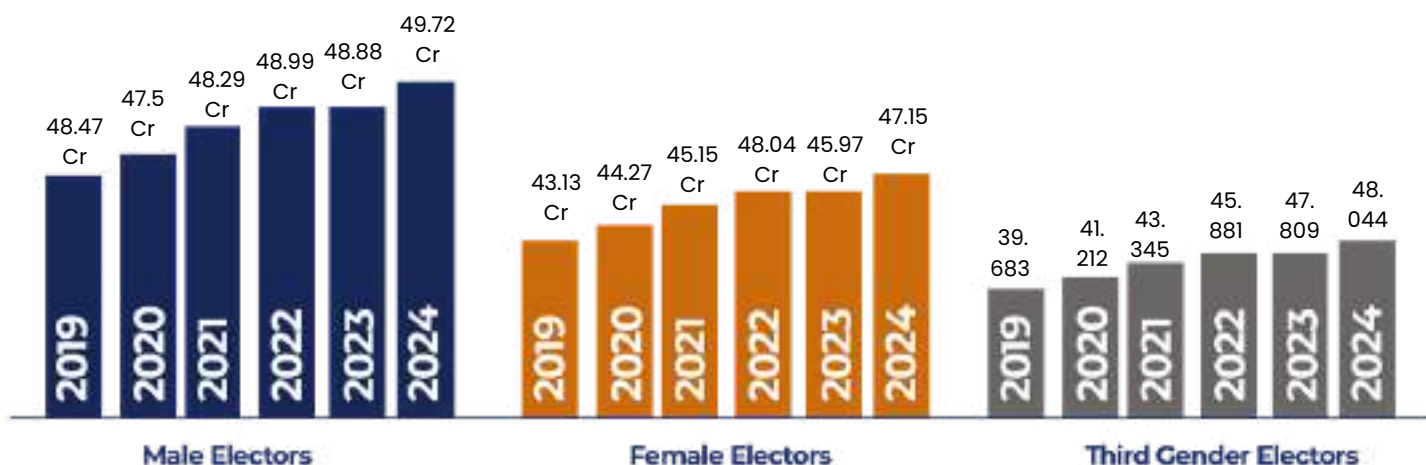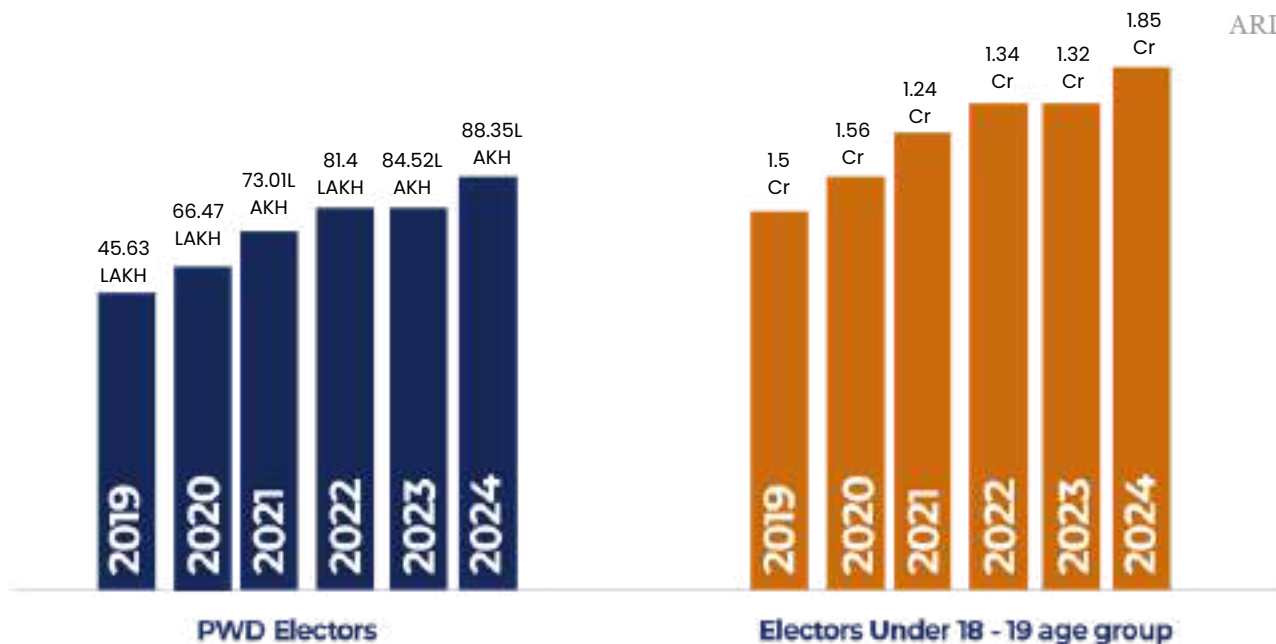
GENDER INCLUSIVITY

The gender balance in the electoral roll indicated a significant improvement, highlighting the increasing influence of women in moulding the nation's democratic fabric. With over **2.63 crore new electors added** to the electoral roll, approximately 1.41 crore of them were female, surpassing the number of **newly registered male voters (~1.22 crore) by more than 15%.**

COMPARISON ELECTORS DATA

2019 - 2024

Male Electors:
- 2019: 48.47 Cr
- 2020: 47.5 Cr
- 2021: 48.29 Cr
- 2022: 48.99 Cr
- 2023: 48.88 Cr
- 2024: 49.72 Cr

Female Electors:
- 2019: 43.13 Cr
- 2020: 44.27 Cr
- 2021: 45.15 Cr
- 2022: 48.04 Cr
- 2023: 45.97 Cr
- 2024: 47.15 Cr

Third Gender Electors:
- 2019: 39.683
- 2020: 41.212
- 2021: 43.345
- 2022: 45.881
- 2023: 47.809
- 2024: 48.044

Courtesy: Election Commission of India

PWD Electors	Electors Under 18 - 19 age group
2019: 45.63 LAKH	2019: 1.5 Cr
2020: 66.47 LAKH	2020: 1.56 Cr
2021: 73.01L AKH	2021: 1.24 Cr
2022: 81.4 LAKH	2022: 1.34 Cr
2023: 84.52L AKH	2023: 1.32 Cr
2024: 88.35L AKH	2024: 1.85 Cr

Courtesy: Election Commission of India

A 7 PHASE EXERCISE

India conducted elections from April 19 to June 1, 2024 in a seven-phase exercise to elect the 543 members of the 18th Lok Sabha.

SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS

Simultaneously, assembly elections were held in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.

THE ELECTORAL INFRASTRUCTURE

To conduct the election, 10.5 lakh polling stations were established, with 1.5 crore polling officials deployed to manage these booths. The polls utilised 55 lakh electronic voting machines.

HIGHEST NUMBER OF POLITICAL PARTIES

According to the Association of Democratic Reforms, 751 political parties participated in 2024 as compared to 677 who participated in 2019, 464 in 2014, and 368 in 2009.

NUMBER OF CANDIDATES

Out of the total 8,360 contesting candidates, the breakdown reveals a diverse landscape of political representation: 1,333 from national parties, 532 from state parties, 2,580 from registered unrecognised parties and 3,915 independent candidates.

VOTER TURNOUT

The Election Commission of India reported a total voter turnout of 65.79% for the recently concluded Lok Sabha election. This figure is slightly lower than the final voter turnout of 67.40% recorded in the 2019 election. The Election Commission noted that the final figures for 2024 may change as they do not yet include postal ballots. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar stated that a total of 64.2 crore voters had cast their votes in this election.

COMPOSITION OF THE LOK SABHA

In the 18th Lok Sabha, the BJP holds the most seats with 240, followed by the Congress with 99, and then the Samajwadi Party with 37.

NONE OF THE ABOVE (NOTA)

The percentage of NOTA votes polled across India this time was 0.99%. This was 0.07% less than the 1.06% recorded in 2019. In the northeast, however, the NOTA votes increased from an average of 0.71% in 2019 to 0.81% in 2024. NOTA scored the highest in Assam, with an average of 1.19% across the 14 seats, followed by Tripura at 1.41%, and Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya at 0.98% each. The lowest NOTA votes were recorded from Nagaland (1,646), Mizoram (1,898), and Arunachal West (2,296).

LANDSLIDE VICTORY

Sanjay Lalwani has been credited with the biggest victory margin in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. His victory margin of 11,75,092 votes came against his closest rival Sanjay Solanki, a Bahujan Samaj Party candidate who got 51,659 votes in Madhya Pradesh's Indore constituency. However, the NOTA option secured 2,18,674 votes in Indore, making it the runner up in the constituency. Taking that into account, Lalwani's victory margin is 10,08,077. Therefore, the biggest win title goes to Congress' Rakibul Hussain who won from Assam's Dhubri constituency with a margin of 10,12 476 votes.

NARROWEST OF MARGINS

Shiv Sena's Ravindra Dattaram Waikar secured the lowest victory margin of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, defeating Shiv Sena (UBT) candidate Amol Gajanan Kirtikar by a mere 48 votes from the Mumbai North West constituency in Maharashtra.

YOUNGER MPS

The average age of MPs in the 18th Lok Sabha is 56, slightly younger than the 59-year average in the 17th, according to PRS Legislative Research.

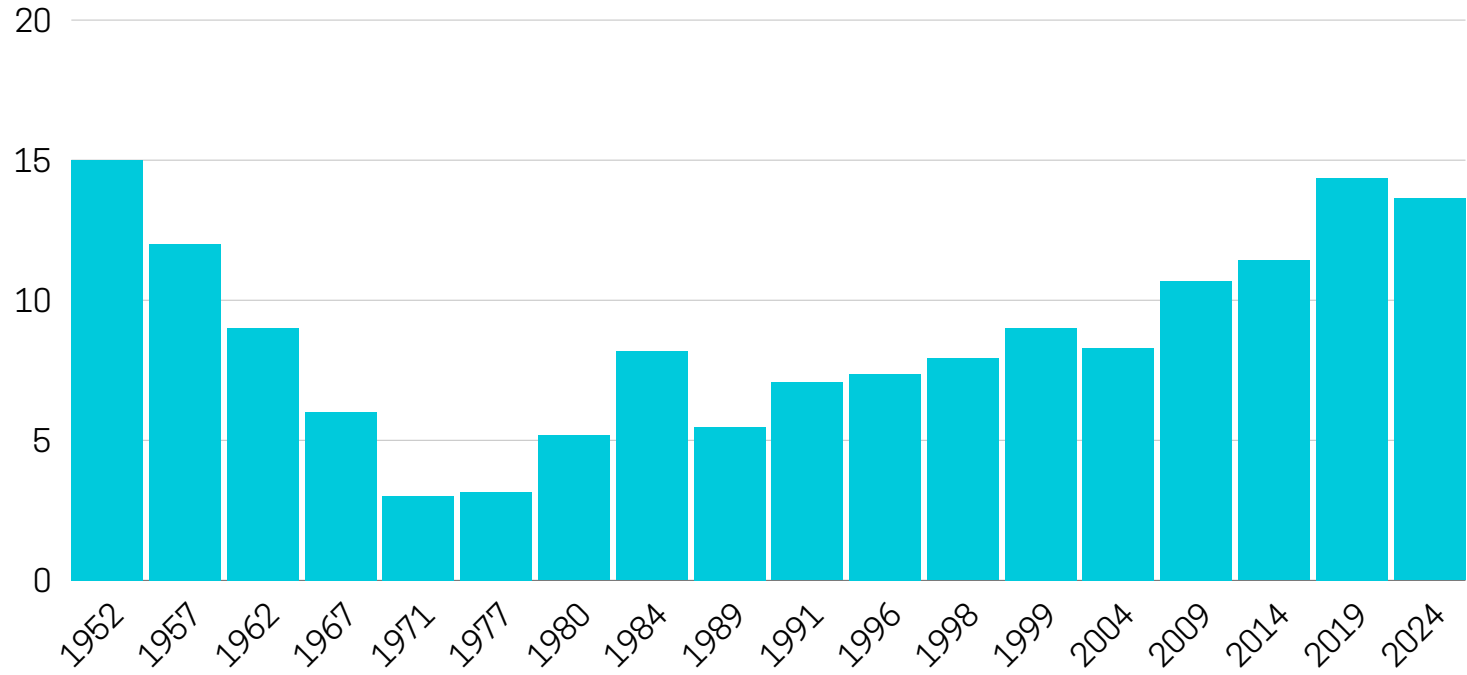## DECLINING WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN THE LOWER HOUSE

in the 18th Lok Sabha elections, 797 women contested, making up 9.6% of the total 8,337 candidates. India elected 74 women MPs, four fewer than in 2019 but 52 more than in the first elections in 1952. These 74 women represent only 13.63% of the Lower House, far below the anticipated 33% reserved for women post-delimitation.

According to an analysis of Election Commission data, 30 women candidates from the BJP won, 14 from Congress, 11 from TMC, 4 from the Samajwadi Party, 3 from DMK, and 2 each from JDU and LJP(R). With over 13.44% female MPs, the 18th Lok Sabha will have one of the highest numbers of women members since 1952. The 17th Lok Sabha had the highest number of women parliamentarians at 78, making up over 14% of the total.

CHANGES IN WOMEN'S STRENGTH IN LOK SABHA OVER THE YEARS

20

15

10

5

0

1952 1957 1962 1967 1971 1977 1980 1984 1989 1991 1996 1998 1999 2004 2009 2014 2019 2024

PARTY WISE WOMEN LS MPs

74 TOTAL WOMEN MPs

31	13	11	3	2	2	7
BJP	CONGRESS	TMC	DMK	JD(U)	LJPRV	OTHERS

REDEFINING ELECTORAL POLITICS

The following developments hold the potential to bring about significant changes in electoral politics of the country. The Women's Reservation, if implemented effectively, could enhance gender representation in legislative bodies, promoting inclusivity in decision-making processes.

Similarly, delimitation reforms may reflect demographic shifts and potentially alter political dynamics. On the other hand, the adoption of 'One Nation, One Election' has the potential to streamline electoral processes and reduce disruptions, offering a more coherent framework for governance. While these changes aim to improve democratic governance, their success will depend on effective implementation and addressing potential challenges to ensure a balanced and inclusive electoral landscape.

Women's Reservation

The (106th Amendment) Act, which seeks to provide 33% reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies garnered almost unanimous support in the Lok Sabha, with only two members dissenting, and was unanimously passed by the Rajya Sabha last year. However, its implementation will occur following the next census, and subsequent delimitation exercises will decide the specific seats reserved for women in both the Lok Sabha and Assemblies. This gender quota will remain in effect for 15 years, with the possibility for Parliament to extend it later.

Delimitation Dilemma

Delimitation for the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies will be based on the first Census after 2026, following a delay of the 2021 Census due to COVID-19. The number of Lok Sabha seats, last adjusted according to the 1971 Census to encourage population control, will be updated post-2026. Boundaries and SC/ST seat adjustments, based on the 2001 Census, will also be revisited. The next delimitation was expected after the 2031 Census, but with the 2021 Census delayed, discussions about the impending delimitation are underway as 2026 approaches.

One Nation One Election

The high-level committee on 'One Nation, One Election', led by former President Ram Nath Kovind, submitted its report to President Droupadi Murmu on March 14, 2024. The panel recommended simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state assemblies, followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days. In case of a hung House or no-confidence motion, fresh Lok Sabha elections would allow the new Lok Sabha to serve only the remaining term. New state assemblies would serve until the end of the full Lok Sabha term unless dissolved earlier.

To implement this, amendments to Articles 83, 172, and 325 are needed. The Election Commission of India would handle Lok Sabha and assembly polls, while state election commissions would manage local body polls. These changes aim to reduce the burden of frequent elections on the government and society. The panel included prominent figures such as Home Minister Amit Shah and former Opposition leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, with Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal as a special invitee.

Key Observations

Erstwhile Council of Ministers

19 of the former 71 Council of Ministers, who contested the elections were defeated in 2024 Lok Sabha Elections.

Smriti Irani and Rajeev Chandrasekhar are among the most prominent figures who lost. Both former ministers have not found a place in the new cabinet of the Modi led NDA government.

Newly Sworn-in
Council of Ministers

Council of Ministers 2024

Sr. No.	Name of the Minister	Portfolio
1	Narendra Modi	Prime Minister and also in-charge of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. Department of Atomic Energy. Department of Space. All important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister
2	Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda	Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers
3	Shri Raj Nath Singh	Minister Of Defence
4	Shri Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation
5	Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Minister Of Home Affairs; Minister of Cooperation
6	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance, and Minister of Corporate Affairs
7	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Minister of External Affairs
8	Shri Manohar Lal	Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Minister of Power
9	Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy	Minister of Heavy industries; and Minister of Steel
10	Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; and Minister of Rural Development
11	Shri Piyush Goyal	Minister of Commerce and industry
12	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	Minister of Education
13	Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi	Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
14	Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh	Minister of Panchayati Raj; and Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
15	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
16	Dr. Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
17	Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu	Minister of Civil Aviation
18	Shri Pralhad Joshi	Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy
19	Shri Jual Oram	Minister of Tribal Affairs
20	Shri Giriraj Singh	Minister of Textiles

21	Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw	Minister of Railways. Minister of information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Electronics and information Technology
22	Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Minister of Communications; and Minister of Development of Northeastern Region
23	Shri Bhupender Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
24	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Minister of Culture; and Minister of Tourism
25	Smt. Annpurna Devi	Minister of Women and Child Development
26	Shri Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of Minority Affairs
27	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas
28	Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Labour and Employment; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports
29	Shri G. Kishan Reddy	Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines
30	Shri Chirag Paswan	Minister of Food Processing industries'
31	Shri C R Patil	Minister of Jal Shakti
32	Rao Inderjit Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation; Minister of State (independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
33	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Minister of State (independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office. Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy. and Minister of State in the Department of Space
34	Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal	Minister of State (independent Charge) of the Ministry of Law and Justice; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
35	Shri Jadhav Prataprao Ganpatrao	Minister of State (independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayush; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

36	Shri Jayant Chaudhary	Minister of State (independent Charge) of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
37	Shri Jitin Prasada	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and industry; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
38	Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Power; and Minister of State in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
39	Shri Pankaj Chaudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
40	Shri Krishan Pal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation
41	Shri Ramdas Athawale	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
42	Shri Ram Nath Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
43	Shri Nityanand Rai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
44	Smt. Anupriya Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers
45	Shri V. Somanna	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
46	Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani	Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development. and Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications
47	Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
48	Sushri Shobha Karandlaje	Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment
49	Shri Kirtivardhan Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of State in the Ministry of ExternalAffairs
50	Shri B. L. Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
51	Shri Shantanu Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

52	Shri Suresh Gopi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
53	Dr. L. Murugan	Minister of State in the Ministry of information and Broadcasting; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
54	Shri Ajay Tamta	Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
55	Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
56	Shri Kamlesh Paswan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
57	Shri Bhagirath Choudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
58	Shri Satish Chandra Dubey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines
59	Shri Sanjay Seth	Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence
60	Shri Ravneet Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing industries; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
61	Shri Durgadas Uikey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
62	Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse	Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
63	Shri Sukanta Majumdar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region
64	Smt. Savitri Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development
65	Shri Tokhan Sahu	Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
66	Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti
67	Shri Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy industries'; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel
68	Shri Harsh Malhotra	Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
69	Smt. Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
70	Shri Murlidhar Mohol	Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation
71	Shri George Kurian	Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
72	Shri Pabitra Margherita	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles

A SWIFT ANALYSIS OF THE NEWLY APPOINTED COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

- 71 ministers were sworn in, including 30 cabinet ministers, 5 with independent charge, and 36 ministers of state. Among them are 33 new appointees, with 7 female MPs, including Rajya Sabha MP Nirmala Sitharaman.

- 11 Members of Parliament from the Bharatiya Janata Party's allies in the National Democratic Alliance have joined the Union Council of Ministers.

- The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) remains unchanged with Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, and S Jaishankar retaining their roles in Defence, Home, Finance, and External Affairs.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi retains charge of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy, and Space. Nitin Gadkari, Sarbananda Sonowal, Bhupendra Yadav, and Virendra Kumar retain their portfolios. Ashwini Vaishnaw continues as Minister of Railways and IT, now also overseeing Information and Broadcasting. Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan, and Hardeep Singh Puri remain in their respective roles.

- New faces include JP Nadda (Health), Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Agriculture), and Manohar Lal Khattar (Housing, Urban Affairs, Power).

- Ministerial portfolios for Mansukh Mandaviya, Pralhad Joshi, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, and Kiren Rijiju have been reassigned.

- Noteworthy exclusions include Anurag Thakur, Parshottam Rupala, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Smriti Irani, and Narayan Rane.

- Suresh Gopi, who clinched BJP's inaugural victory in Kerala, and Ravneet Singh Bittu, previously with Congress but now aligned with BJP, have both been appointed to the cabinet. Both Suresh Gopi and Ravneet Singh Bittu, who are first-time MPs, have assumed portfolios in the cabinet—Suresh Gopi overseeing Petroleum, Natural Gas, and Tourism as Minister of State, while Ravneet Singh Bittu as Minister of State has taken charge of Food Processing Industries and Railways.

- New appointees include TDP's Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu (Civil Aviation), LJP's Chirag Paswan (Food Processing Industries), Shiv Sena's Jadhav Prataprao Ganpatrao (Health, Ayush), and JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy (Heavy Industries, Steel).

- Jitan Ram Manjhi (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) and Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Panchayati Raj, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying) have also been appointed. Jayant Chaudhary will independently manage Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

- Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, aged 36, holds the distinction of being the youngest minister, while Jitan Ram Manjhi, aged 79, is the most senior member of the cabinet.

- The average age of the cabinet is 58, showing a decrease from 61 in 2019. Twelve members, including Modi, are aged over 70.

- The 2024 cabinet features Jitan Ram Manjhi as the only minister aged over 75.

- The Modi administration has achieved a balance of youth and gender, with the inclusion of seven women in ministerial roles. This group comprises Nirmala Sitharaman, Shobha Karandlaje, and Anupriya Patel, alongside Raksha Khadse, Savitri Thakur, Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhania, and Annapurna Devi.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR KEY MINISTRIES

The following section highlights some critical forward-looking areas where the newly appointed cabinet ministers may prioritise their focus:

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
RAJNATH SINGH

- A fund is being considered to assist friendly foreign nations in purchasing Indian arms and ammunition

- Upcoming significant defence deals under the Make in India initiative are expected, including the acquisition of more K9 Vajra artillery guns and fighter jet engines

- Final negotiations for acquiring Rafale M fighter jets for the Navy will also take place

- Reforms in the DRDO are also on the anvil, with key production projects to be conducted jointly with the industry

- Reviewing the Agnipath scheme will also be on the agenda

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
AMIT SHAH

- The Ministry of Home Affairs plans to implement new criminal laws starting July 1

- Another major task will be conducting assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir by the Supreme Court's deadline of September 30

- Addressing the ethnic conflict in Manipur will also be a top priority

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

- The finance minister's top priority will be to finalise the Union Budget for 2024-25, which needs to be presented in a few weeks -early next month

- It is anticipated that the policy stance of the interim Budget, with an emphasis on fiscal consolidation, will persist

- New initiatives aimed at alleviating rural distress through welfare spending and boosting manufacturing investments to create jobs will be addressed

- Micro, small, and medium enterprises, which continue to face challenges in funding and expansion, are also seeking support

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NITIN GADKARI

- Attracting private sector investment in infrastructure development

- Maintaining or increasing government spending to sustain infrastructure growth

- Significantly reducing road accidents and fatalities through targeted measures
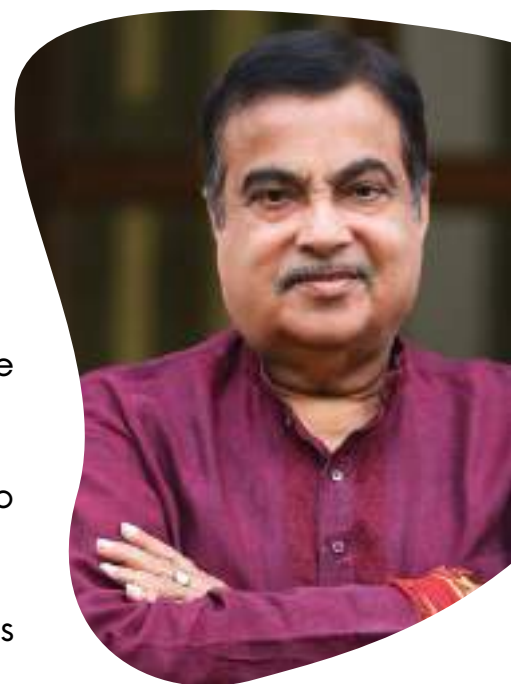
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA

- Facilitating private sector investment in infrastructure development

- Ensuring consistent or increased government spending levels

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
S. JAISHANKAR

- Managing relations with China amidst tensions heightened by incidents like the 2020 clash in the Galwan Valley

- Enhancing economic diplomacy and forging trade agreements

- Navigating geopolitical complexities in an increasingly polarised global landscape

MINISTRY OF POWER, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR

- Increasing capacity to meet the growing demand for electricity

- Expanding and strengthening transmission infrastructure

- Meeting the housing targets under the PMAY (Urban) scheme by December 31

MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES
H.D. KUMARASWAMY

- Supervising the implementation of Production Linked Incentives (PLI) for automobiles and batteries

- Addressing concerns related to the FAME scheme and attracting foreign investment under the new EV policy

- Addressing issues related to steel dumping and new import taxes imposed by Europe

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
PIYUSH GOYAL

- Working towards achieving a S2 trillion export target by 2030

- Promoting PLI schemes for lagging sectors like automotive products, ACC batteries, and specialty steel

- Negotiating complex Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with entities such as the UK and the EU

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DHARMENDRA PRADHAN

- Ensuring full implementation of the National Education Policy 2020

- Facilitating the entry of foreign universities into India

- Restructuring higher education governance with a unified and enabling regulator

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD, AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION; MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
PRALHAD JOSHI

- Managing volatile food prices while ensuring fair returns for farmers

- Working towards achieving 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and ensuring supply chain stability

- Addressing challenges related to grid stability and power distribution

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
JITAN RAM MANJHI

- Improving access to credit and promoting technology upgrades for MSMEs

- Fostering the growth of MSMEs to bring them on par with international counterparts

MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING, AND WATERWAYS
SARBANAND SONOWAL

- Encouraging private sector participation in port development and shipbuilding

- Promoting environmental sustainability in the ports and shipping sector

- Resolving tariff-related discrepancies at ports to improve efficiency

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS; MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ASHWINI VAISHNAW

- Continuing the rapid development of railway infrastructure and attracting private investment

- Implementing plans for semiconductor manufacturing

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EAST
JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA

- Overseeing the second 5G spectrum auction and ensuring a competitive market landscape

- Finalising regulations on satellite spectrum pricing and allocation

MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
ANNAPURNA DEVI

- Promoting female participation in the workforce

- Effectively utilising the Nirbhaya Fund

- Enhancing the effectiveness of the Women and Child helpline

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
HARDEEP SINGH PURI

- Increasing domestic oil production to reduce import dependence

- Reforming policies such as bringing natural gas under GST

- Ensuring an adequate supply of ethanol for fuel blending

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, YOUTH AFFAIRS, AND SPORTS
MANSUKH MANDVIYA

- Implementing all four Labour Codes across India simultaneously

- Reducing regulatory burdens to facilitate the formalisation of the workforce

- Ensuring the adoption of Labour Codes by all states, including Delhi, Bengal, and Tamil Nadu

MINISTRY OF COAL; MINISTRY OF MINES
KISHAN REDDY

- Increasing coal production to meet growing demand from various sectors

- Addressing land possession issues related to mining activities

- Formulating a long-term strategy for the coal sector, including diversification efforts

MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING
CHIRAG PASWAN

- Encouraging investments in post-harvest infrastructure by both public and private sectors

- Modernising fragmented food processing infrastructure

- Improving access to finance for food processing SMEs

ARDENT CO.

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