



The Indian Election Story in  
Facts & Figures (1950–2025)



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The Indian Election Story in Facts & Figures (1950–2025)

## A Note on the Structure

The volume opens with an **overview** of year-by-year accounts of the five principal elections — Presidential, Vice-Presidential, Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha — organised in chronological sequence and supported by **data summary tables**. The closing section, the Information Hub, contains the tenure-in-office, the legal framework, the history of delimitation, the top-two-parties analysis, the National Parties chart, and the apparatus — abbreviations, index and terms of use.

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# Preface

India's democratic journey is one of the most remarkable stories of the modern world. At Independence in 1947, the country chose universal adult franchise not as a gradual privilege, but as a founding principle. By the end of 1951, independent India was ready to conduct its first General Election to the Lok Sabha, with a 17.32 crore-strong electorate spread across 1,96,084 polling stations. Notifications calling upon citizens to choose their representatives were issued in November 1951 and in January 1952, the men and women of free India began exercising their right to vote.

Since then, India has never looked back. Over a span of seventy-five years, the country has witnessed 18 General Elections to the Lok Sabha, 16 elections to the office of the President, 17 elections to the office of the Vice-President, regular biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha, more than 500 General Elections to State Legislative Assemblies and periodic elections to State Legislative Councils. At the close of the 18th General Election to the Lok Sabha, India continued to stand as the world's largest democracy, with 97.98 crore electors and 10,52,664 polling stations across the country.

Published to mark the 75th anniversary of the Election Commission of India (1950–2025), this book provides a comprehensive factual chronicle of India's electoral processes and democratic development. At the centre of this long journey stands one enduring belief: democracy. This book, 75 Years of Indian Democracy: The Indian Election Story in Facts and Figures (1950-2025), is conceived as a tribute to that belief and to the institutions, citizens and processes that have sustained it.

Democracy is not merely a system of government. It is an expression of public trust. It rests on the principle that power flows from the people and must remain accountable to them. India adopted this path with conviction, even when many observers doubted whether democracy could survive in a country of such size, diversity and economic challenge. The Indian

experience has shown otherwise. It has been demonstrated that diversity can strengthen democracy and that participation can become a binding national force.

The Constitution, Parliament, the Election Commission of India, the judiciary, the media, political parties and vigilant citizens have together shaped this democratic framework. The first General Election of 1951-52 was a milestone not only for India but also for global democracy. It covered deserts, forests, islands, plains and mountains. It was conducted with limited technology, modest infrastructure and immense administrative effort. Yet it carried the promise that every eligible citizen mattered.

This promise has endured through wars, political transitions, social changes, economic reforms and technological revolutions. Elections in India have enabled peaceful transfers of power, renewed the legitimacy of governments and allowed citizens to approve, question or reject those who seek to represent them. They have influenced national priorities, shaped public policy and reflected the changing aspirations of society.

In India, elections are not isolated events. They form a continuous democratic process. Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections, elections to the offices of the President and Vice-President, Rajya Sabha elections and elections to other constitutional bodies together keep public representation alive at national, state and institutional levels. To study elections in India is, therefore, to study society, federalism, governance, leadership, public opinion and democratic change.

The Election Commission of India has been a central pillar of this process. Since 1950, it has carried the constitutional responsibility of conducting free, fair and credible elections. Over the decades, it has introduced and strengthened several systems, including the Model Code of Conduct, Electors Photo Identity Cards, Electronic Voting Machines, Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails and candidate affidavits relating to assets, criminal cases and educational qualifications. These measures have added transparency, efficiency and public confidence to the electoral process.

Managing elections at such a scale is a task of extraordinary complexity. It requires administrative coordination, legal clarity, technological adaptation, security planning, voter outreach and public trust. The Election

Commission of India, along with election machinery across the Union and the States, has addressed these challenges with professionalism, innovation and resilience. The result is a story of democratic consolidation over seven and a half decades.

Every electoral exercise produces a vast body of data. Much of this material, however, remains dispersed across sources, formats and time periods. Researchers, candidates, political parties, policymakers, media professionals, civil society organisations, students and citizens often need a structured and reliable reference that brings this information together. This book has been prepared to meet that need.

75 Years of Indian Democracy: The Indian Election Story in Facts and Figures (1950-2025) presents a year-wise record of elections from 1950 to 2025. It covers year-wise elections to the offices of the President and Vice-President, the Rajya Sabha, the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies, excluding bye-elections. Each major category is supported by data summary tables. The volume also documents the tenures of key constitutional and public offices since Independence, including Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Prime Ministers, Governors, Lok Sabha Speakers, Chief Ministers, Chief Election Commissioners and Deputy Chairmen of the Rajya Sabha.

The book is designed as a factual, comprehensive and neutral reference. It is supported by tables, timelines, charts and election results. Its purpose is not to interpret electoral outcomes in partisan terms, but to organise essential information in a manner that enables analysis, comparison and informed understanding.

This publication will be of value to elected representatives, political parties, election strategists, policymakers, governance professionals, researchers, scholars, psephologists, media houses, journalism students, civil service aspirants, academic institutions, election management bodies, administrators and non-governmental organisations. For anyone seeking to understand how Indian democracy has evolved and functioned in practice, this book offers a foundation anchored in authentic, systematically organised data.

This work is also part of the continuing legacy of Indiatat, which has

served the needs of researchers, policymakers, planners, academics and institutions for more than 26 years by providing curated socio-economic and electoral statistical data. Datanet India has been publishing data-backed reference works, analytical reports and specialised titles, including the Election Atlas of India and other election-related publications.

Building upon this foundation, Datanet India has also launched the Indian Journal of Electoral Studies (IJES), a peer-reviewed quarterly academic journal dedicated to electoral systems, democratic institutions, political behaviour, constituency-level analysis, election management and emerging challenges to democracy in India and across the world.

A work of this scale is necessarily a collective effort. I am particularly grateful to Shri S. D. Sharma, IAS (Retd.), former State Election Commissioner of Jharkhand and Shri S. K. Mendiratta, former Principal Legal Adviser, Election Commission of India (ECI), for their valuable guidance, insightful advice and continued support during the course of this work. I also acknowledge Dr Shafeeq Rahman, Head of Research and his team for their painstaking work in data collection, verification and year-wise compilation. I thank Yashpal Vats, the book's designer, for presenting the material in a clear and professional visual format. I also record my appreciation for the continued support and commitment of the entire team of Datanet India.

As India looks ahead, its democracy will continue to evolve. Technology will reshape election management. New generations will bring new expectations. Social, economic and political changes will demand new responses. Yet the experience of the past seventy-five years shows that India's democratic foundations are strong, adaptive and deeply rooted in the people.

With this belief, I present this book to scholars, researchers, institutions, public representatives and citizens. May it encourage informed dialogue, thoughtful analysis and deeper respect for India's democratic journey.

R. K. Thukral





THE INDIAN ELECTION STORY IN FACTS & FIGURES (1950–2025)

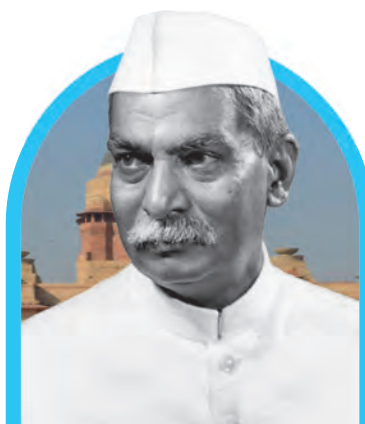
# Presidential Elections



# 1952 - Presidential Election

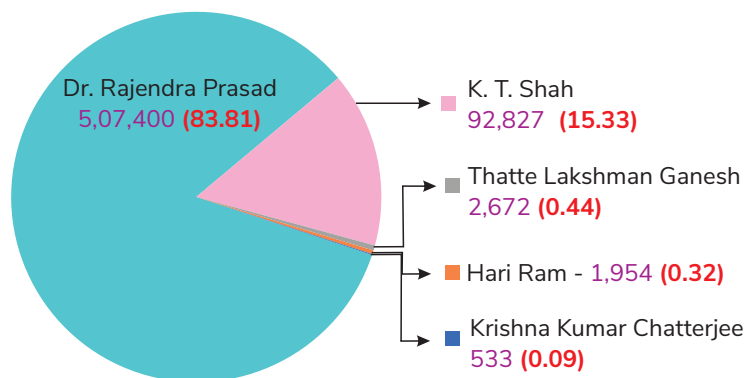
## Election Schedule

|                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Date of Issue of the Notification | 04 April 1952 |
| Last Date of the Nominations      | 12 April 1952 |
| Scrutiny of the Nominations       | 14 April 1952 |
| Last Date for the Withdrawal      | 17 April 1952 |
| Date of Poll                      | 02 May 1952   |
| Counting of Votes                 | 06 May 1952   |



**Dr. Rajendra Prasad**  
President

India's first Presidential election was conducted on 2 May 1952, following the establishment of the Republic in 1950. This historic election was held to democratically elect the first President of India through an Electoral College composed of elected members of the Lok Sabha (489), Rajya Sabha (204) and 23 State Legislative Assemblies (3,363). The total number of electors was 4,056. Each MP had 494 votes. The value of MLA votes was different in each state and was based on the 1951 Census population. The lowest MLA vote value was 7 in Coorg and the highest was 143 in Uttar Pradesh.



Total - 6,05,386 ■ Votes Polled ■ Votes Share (%)

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who had been serving as the provisional President since 1950, emerged as the clear winner. He contested as an independent candidate and won with a resounding majority, securing 5,07,400 votes, which accounted for 83.81% of the total valid votes. His nearest rival K. T. Shah, received 92,827 votes (15.33%), followed by Thatte Lakshman Ganesh (2,672 votes, 0.44%), Hari Ram (1,954 votes, 0.32%) and Krishna Kumar Chatterjee (533 votes, 0.09%).

Dr. Prasad's landslide victory not only reflected national consensus but also marked the beginning of India's constitutional democracy. He became the first elected President of India and later went on to serve two full terms – the only President in India's history to do so.



**Sukumar Sen**  
Chief Election Commissioner







THE INDIAN ELECTION STORY IN FACTS & FIGURES (1950–2025)

# Vice-Presidential Elections



## 2025 - Vice-Presidential Election

### Election Schedule

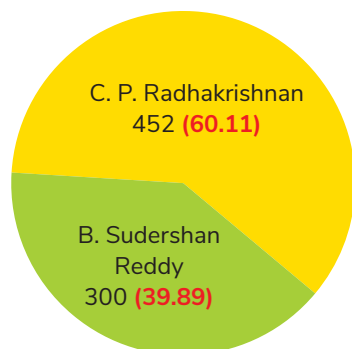
|                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Date of Issue of the Notification | 07 August 2025    |
| Last Date of the Nominations      | 21 August 2025    |
| Scrutiny of the Nominations       | 22 August 2025    |
| Last Date for the Withdrawal      | 25 August 2025    |
| Date of Poll                      | 09 September 2025 |
| Counting of Votes                 | 09 September 2025 |



**C. P. Radhakrishnan**  
Vice President

The 17th Vice-Presidential election of India was held on 9 September 2025, following the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar. The Electoral College comprised 781 electors (members of both Houses of Parliament). Two nominations were received - C. P. Radhakrishnan (the NDA candidate) and B. Sudershan Reddy (the INDIA alliance candidate). Polling took place on 9 September; turnout was 98.21% (767 votes cast) and 15 votes were invalid.

The returning officer announced C. P. Radhakrishnan elected with 452 electoral votes (60.11%) against B. Sudershan Reddy's 300 votes (39.89 %) — a margin of 152. He succeeded Jagdeep Dhankhar and took office as Vice-President of India on 12 September 2025.



Total - 752

■ Votes Polled ■ Votes Share (%)



**Gyanesh Kumar**  
Chief Election Commissioner

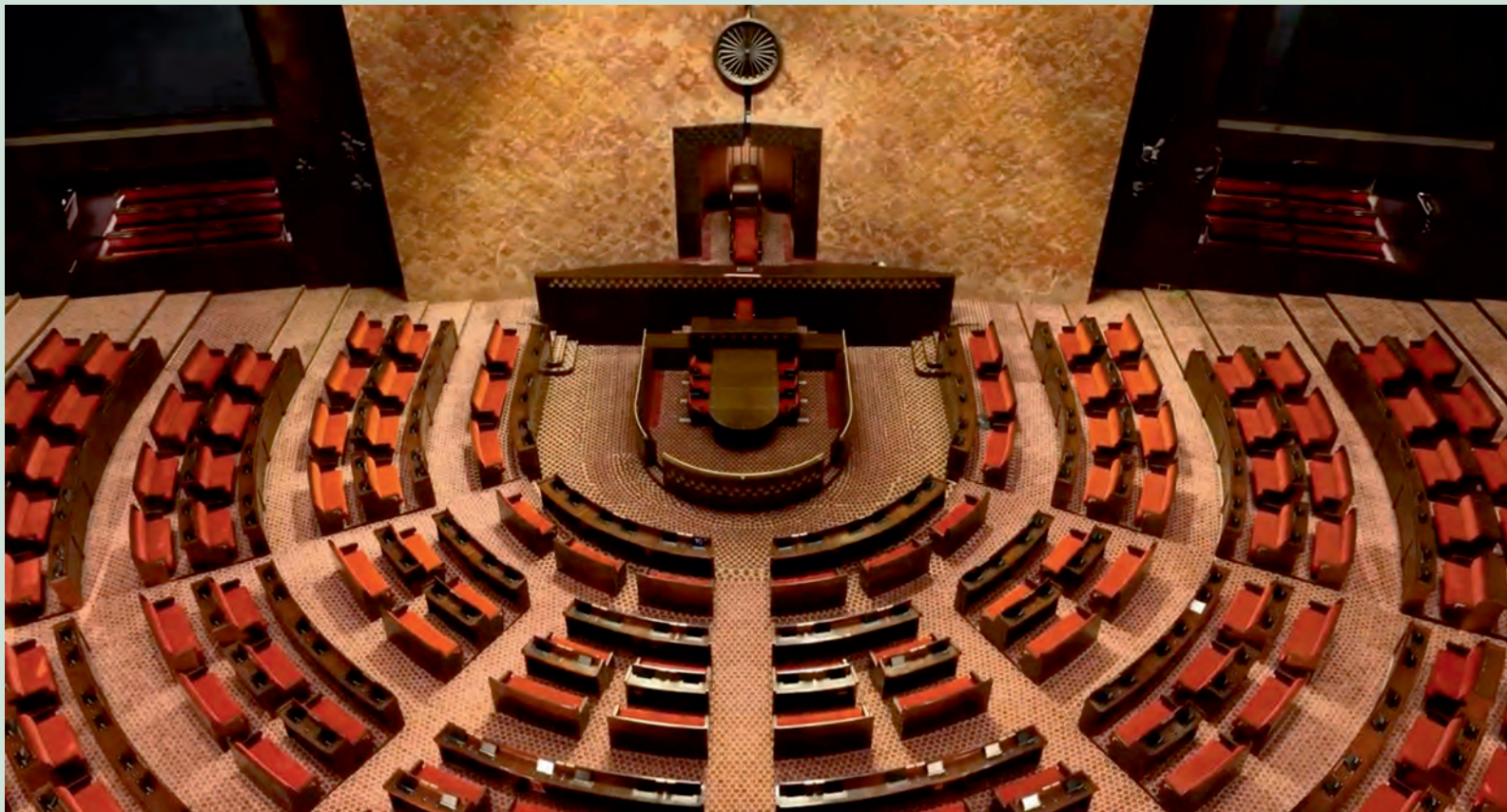




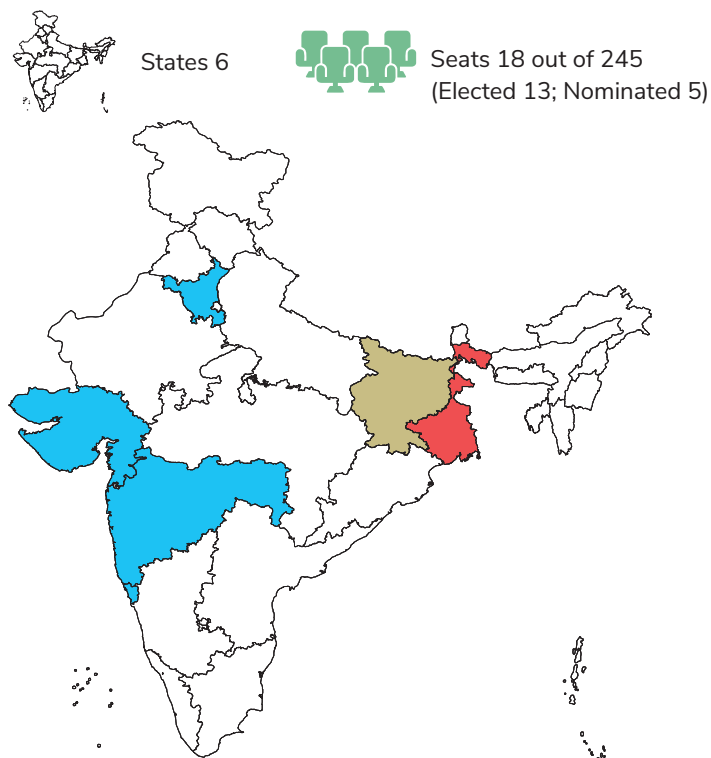


THE INDIAN ELECTION STORY IN FACTS & FIGURES (1950–2025)

# Rajya Sabha Elections



## 1993 - Rajya Sabha Election



**K. R. Narayanan**  
Vice President (Chairman)

Rajya Sabha elections 1993 were held in 4 states to elect 11 members for terms commencing in July-August, while Bye-elections were held to fill one vacant seat each in Bihar and Haryana for terms starting in June and July, respectively.

5 members were nominated to Rajya Sabha by the President in August – Vyjayantimala Bali (Artist), Dr. M. Aram (Educationist), Dr. B.B. Dutta (Educationist), Maulana Habibur Rahman Nomani (Social Worker) and Dr. Mahendra Prasad (Social Worker).

Ahmed Patel from Gujarat and Brahm Deo Anand Paswan from Bihar were elected to Rajya Sabha for their first term. Govindrao Adik was elected from Maharashtra and John F. Fernandes from Goa.

Out of the total 18 members (Including 5 Nominated), INC won the highest 6 seats, followed by CPI(M) with 4 seats.

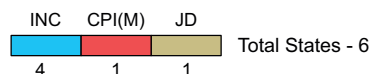


**T. N. Seshan**  
Chief Election Commissioner



**Dr. Najma A. Heptulla**  
Deputy Chairman

Parties with the highest number of seats won in states



### NOMINATED MEMBERS



**Dr. B.B. Dutta**



**Dr. M. Aram**



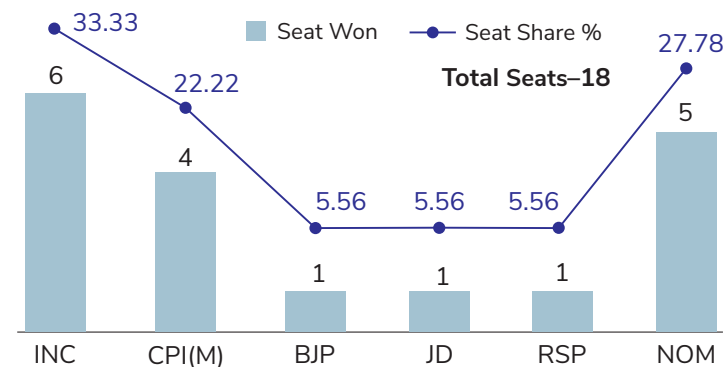
**Dr. Mahendra Prasad**



**Maulana Habibur Rahman Nomani**



**Vyjayantimala Bali**







THE INDIAN ELECTION STORY IN FACTS & FIGURES (1950–2025)

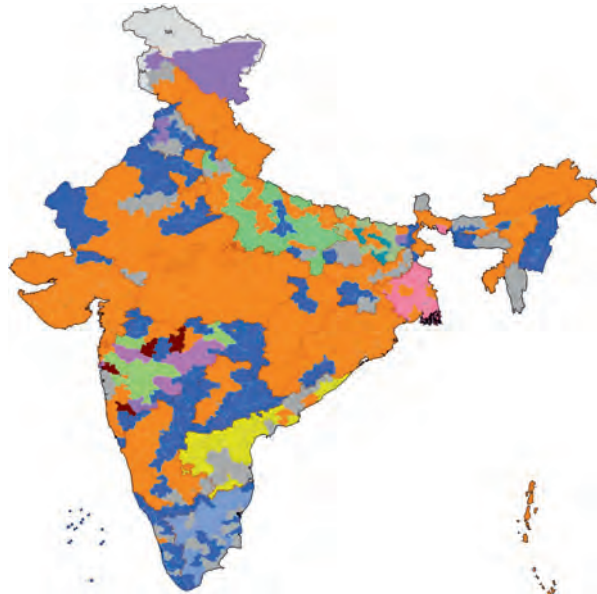
# Lok Sabha Elections



# 2024 - Lok Sabha Election

States 28, UTs 8 | Seats 543 | Electors 97.98 crore | Poll % 66.1

| Poll Events                        | Phase - 1  |                  | Phase - 2 |                | Phase - 3 | Phase - 4 | Phase - 5 | Phase - 6 | Phase - 7 |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                    | 1A         | 1B<br>Only Bihar | 2A        | 2B<br>Only J&K |           |           |           |           |           |
| Announcement & Issue of Press Note | 16.03.2024 |                  |           |                |           |           |           |           |           |
| Issue of the Notification          | 20.03.24   |                  | 28.03.24  |                | 12.04.24  | 18.04.24  | 26.04.24  | 29.04.24  | 07.05.24  |
| Last Date of the Nominations       | 27.03.24   | 28.03.24         | 04.04.24  |                | 19.04.24  | 25.04.24  | 03.05.24  | 06.05.24  | 14.05.24  |
| Scrutiny of the Nominations        | 28.03.24   | 30.03.24         | 05.04.24  | 06.04.24       | 20.04.24  | 26.04.24  | 04.05.24  | 07.05.24  | 15.05.24  |
| Last Date for the Withdrawal       | 30.03.24   | 02.04.24         | 08.04.24  |                | 22.04.24  | 29.04.24  | 06.05.24  | 09.05.24  | 17.05.24  |
| Date of Poll                       | 19.04.24   |                  | 26.04.24  |                | 07.05.24  | 13.05.24  | 20.05.24  | 25.05.24  | 01.06.24  |
| Counting of Votes                  | 04.06.2024 |                  |           |                |           |           |           |           |           |
| No. of PCs                         | 102        |                  | 89        |                | 94        | 96        | 49        | 57        | 57        |



| Winner Parties         |                       |                          |                         |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <div></div> BJP (240)  | <div></div> AITC (29) | <div></div> JD(U) (12)   | <div></div> SHS (7)     |
| <div></div> INC (99)   | <div></div> DMK (22)  | <div></div> SS (UBT) (9) | <div></div> IND (7)     |
| <div></div> SP (37)    | <div></div> TDP (16)  | <div></div> NCP (8)      | <div></div> LJP (R) (5) |
| <div></div> Other (52) | Total - 543 PCs       |                          |                         |



**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

The 18th Lok Sabha Election was announced by the Election Commission on 16 March 2024. Voting was held in 7 phases between 19 April and 1 June. Results were declared on 4 June 2024.

This was the first General Election following the implementation of four qualifying dates for voter registration. Voting was held in all 543 constituencies across 28 states and 8 union territories: 412

General (75.87%), 84 SC (15.47%) and 47 ST (8.66%). For the first time, home voting was provided to voters aged above 85 and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

Electorates increased by 7.43% to 97,97,51,847. A total of 64,64,20,869 voters participated, reflecting a 5.16% increase. Voter turnout was recorded at 66.1%, slightly down from the previous record.

India set a world record with 64.64 crore voters—the largest turnout ever. The BJP secured 240 seats with a 36.56% vote share, while the INC won 99 seats with 21.19% and the Samajwadi Party obtained 37 seats with a 4.58% vote share. Narendra Modi became the second Prime Minister after Jawaharlal Nehru to win a third consecutive term.



**Om Birla**  
Speaker



**Rajiv Kumar**  
Chief Election Commissioner

*Detailed figures are available on page no. 305*







## THE INDIAN ELECTION STORY IN FACTS & FIGURES (1950–2025)

# Vidhan Sabha Elections



# 1969 - Vidhan Sabha Election

States 5, UT 1



Seats



1,197

Electors



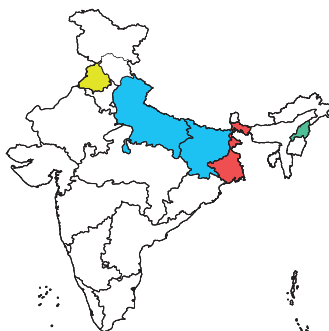
10.19 crore

Poll %

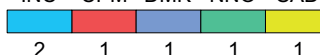


57.52

| State/UT      | Polling Date | Days of Poll |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Bihar         | 09.02.1969   | 1            |
| Nagaland      | 06.02.1969   | 1            |
| Pondicherry   | 09.03.1969   | 1            |
| Punjab        | 09.02.1969   | 1            |
| Uttar Pradesh | 05.02.1969   | 1            |
| West Bengal   | 09.02.1969   | 1            |



INC CPM DMK NNO SAD



Total States/UT - 6

Elections were held in five states and one union territory in February and March 1969 across 1,197 constituencies (seats), with 213 seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and 46 seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes.

Out of 10,18,69,588 registered electors, 5,85,99,441 voted, yielding a turnout of 57.52%. Pondicherry recorded the highest turnout at 81.59%, while Bihar had the lowest at 52.79%. A total of 6,735 candidates contested the elections.

In the 1969 Vidhan Sabha elections, the INC won 432 from 1155 seats contested with a strike rate of 37.40%. The BKD secured 104 from 493 seats contested (21.10%), while the SSP won 96 from 471 seats contested (20.38%). The BJS captured 91 from 780 seats contested (11.67%) and CPM recorded a strong performance by winning 86 from 158 seats contested, achieving a strike rate of 54.43%. In Nagaland, the Nagaland Nationalist Organisation (NNO) secured 22 seats, forming the majority.



**S. P. Sen Verma**  
Chief Election Commissioner

Detailed figures are available on page no. 323

CHIEF MINISTERS



**Harihar Singh**  
Bihar



**Hokishe Sema**  
Nagaland



**M.O.H. Farook Maricar**  
Pondicherry



**Gurnam Singh**  
Punjab



**Chandra Bhanu Gupta**  
Uttar Pradesh



**Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee**  
West Bengal



THE INDIAN ELECTION STORY IN FACTS & FIGURES (1950–2025)

# Data Analysis





# Rajya Sabha Election



## 1952 - Rajya Sabha Election

| State                                | Total Seats | 1st Position |            | 2nd Position |           | 3rd Position         |          | 4th Position                |          | 5th Position              |          | Other Seat |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------|----------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|------------|
|                                      |             | Party        | Seat       | Party        | Seat      | Party                | Seat     | Party                       | Seat     | Party                     | Seat     |            |
| Ajmer and Coorg                      | 1           | INC          | 1          |              |           |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          |            |
| Assam                                | 6           | INC          | 5          | IND          | 1         |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          |            |
| Bhopal                               | 1           | INC          | 1          |              |           |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          |            |
| Bihar                                | 21          | INC          | 16         | IND          | 2         | JAN                  | 1        | Socialist                   | 1        | JHKP                      | 1        |            |
| Bilaspur and Himachal Pradesh        | 1           | INC          | 1          |              |           |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          |            |
| Bombay                               | 22          | INC          | 18         | PDF          | 1         | SCF                  | 1        | PWP                         | 1        |                           |          | 1          |
| Delhi                                | 1           | INC          | 1          |              |           |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          |            |
| Hyderabad                            | 8           | INC          | 6          | SCF          | 1         | PDF                  | 1        |                             |          |                           |          |            |
| Jammu & Kashmir                      | 4           | JKNC         | 4          |              |           |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          |            |
| Kutch                                | 2           | INC          | 2          |              |           |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          |            |
| Madhya Bharat                        | 6           | INC          | 5          | HM           | 1         |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          |            |
| Madhya Pradesh                       | 11          | INC          | 10         |              |           |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          | 1          |
| Madras                               | 27          | INC          | 16         | CPI          | 5         | IND                  | 2        | PSP                         | 1        | RPI                       | 1        | 2          |
| Manipur and Tripura                  | 1           |              |            |              |           |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          | 1          |
| Mysore                               | 8           | INC          | 7          | Socialist    | 1         |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          |            |
| Orissa                               | 9           | INC          | 5          | CPI          | 1         | GP                   | 1        | Socialist                   | 1        |                           |          | 1          |
| Patiala and East Punjab States Union | 3           | INC          | 2          |              |           |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          | 1          |
| Punjab                               | 9           | INC          | 8          | SAD          | 1         |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          |            |
| Rajasthan                            | 9           | INC          | 6          | IND          | 3         |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          |            |
| Saurashtra                           | 4           | INC          | 4          |              |           |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          |            |
| Travancore-Cochin                    | 6           | INC          | 4          | CPI          | 1         |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          | 1          |
| Uttar Pradesh                        | 31          | INC          | 29         | IND          | 1         |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          | 1          |
| Vindhya Pradesh                      | 4           | INC          | 3          | Socialist    | 1         |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          |            |
| West Bengal                          | 14          | INC          | 9          | CPI          | 2         | PSP                  | 1        | JS                          | 1        | FB(M)                     | 1        |            |
| Nominated                            | 12          | NOM          | 12         |              |           |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          |            |
| Others                               | 2           | ML           | 1          |              |           |                      |          |                             |          |                           |          | 1          |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>223</b>  | <b>INC</b>   | <b>159</b> | <b>NOM</b>   | <b>12</b> | <b>CPI &amp; IND</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>Socialist &amp; JKNC</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>PDF, PSP &amp; SCF</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>20</b>  |

## 1989 - Lok Sabha - Electoral Features

| State/UT          | Total Parliamentary Constituencies | Number of Electors  |                     |                     | Total Number of Voters | Poll Percentage |              |              | Number of Polling Stations | Total Contestants | Month of Poll | Reserved Seats          |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
|                   |                                    | Total               | Male                | Female              |                        | Total           | Male         | Female       |                            |                   |               |                         |
| Goa               | 2                                  | 7,34,315            | 3,71,406            | 3,62,909            | 4,27,065               | 58.16           | 60.70        | 55.56        | 1,009                      | 25                | November      | -                       |
| Gujarat           | 26                                 | 2,43,34,172         | 1,25,02,176         | 1,18,31,996         | 1,32,81,560            | 54.58           | 59.85        | 49.01        | 27,760                     | 261               | November      | SC - 2, ST - 4          |
| Haryana           | 10                                 | 96,36,688           | 51,97,963           | 44,38,725           | 62,07,111              | 64.41           | 68.84        | 59.23        | 12,733                     | 324               | November      | SC - 2                  |
| Himachal Pradesh  | 4                                  | 29,83,359           | 15,03,717           | 14,79,642           | 19,07,725              | 63.95           | 66.31        | 61.53        | 4,677                      | 33                | November      | SC - 1                  |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 6                                  | 41,55,297           | 22,31,312           | 19,23,985           | 10,66,879              | 25.68           | 29.55        | 21.18        | 6,002                      | 63                | November      | -                       |
| Karnataka         | 28                                 | 2,86,11,444         | 1,46,42,987         | 1,39,68,457         | 1,93,20,008            | 67.53           | 70.79        | 64.11        | 36,361                     | 242               | November      | SC - 4                  |
| Kerala            | 20                                 | 1,89,24,136         | 93,47,897           | 95,76,239           | 1,50,07,250            | 79.3            | 78.91        | 79.68        | 18,801                     | 218               | November      | SC - 2                  |
| Lakshadweep       | 1                                  | 30,069              | 15,829              | 14,240              | 25,555                 | 84.99           | 80.99        | 89.43        | 37                         | 2                 | November      | ST - 1                  |
| Madhya Pradesh    | 40                                 | 3,68,90,694         | 1,89,61,342         | 1,79,29,352         | 2,03,68,256            | 55.21           | 63.23        | 46.73        | 43,617                     | 490               | November      | SC - 6, ST - 9          |
| Maharashtra       | 48                                 | 4,72,05,941         | 2,45,39,680         | 2,26,66,261         | 2,82,56,668            | 59.86           | 63.67        | 55.74        | 54,202                     | 593               | November      | SC - 3, ST - 4          |
| Manipur           | 2                                  | 12,19,514           | 6,09,250            | 6,10,264            | 8,75,158               | 71.76           | 73.12        | 70.41        | 1,749                      | 13                | November      | ST - 1                  |
| Meghalaya         | 2                                  | 9,37,860            | 4,78,816            | 4,59,044            | 4,86,967               | 51.92           | 54.06        | 49.70        | 1,404                      | 6                 | November      | -                       |
| Mizoram           | 1                                  | 3,91,700            | 1,98,407            | 1,93,293            | 2,28,202               | 58.26           | 60.37        | 56.09        | 661                        | 4                 | November      | ST - 1                  |
| Nagaland          | 1                                  | 8,13,011            | 4,52,553            | 3,60,458            | 6,07,429               | 74.71           | 73.93        | 75.70        | 1,308                      | 2                 | November      | -                       |
| Orissa            | 21                                 | 1,94,40,758         | 1,04,09,611         | 90,31,147           | 1,15,23,099            | 59.27           | 64.25        | 53.54        | 24,035                     | 132               | November      | SC - 3, ST - 5          |
| Pondicherry       | 1                                  | 5,74,557            | 2,96,538            | 2,78,019            | 3,83,306               | 66.71           | 67.05        | 66.36        | 690                        | 11                | November      | -                       |
| Punjab            | 13                                 | 1,29,48,035         | 69,63,068           | 59,84,967           | 81,14,095              | 62.67           | 66.40        | 58.32        | 14,634                     | 227               | November      | SC - 3                  |
| Rajasthan         | 25                                 | 2,58,14,515         | 1,36,27,777         | 1,21,86,738         | 1,45,94,160            | 56.53           | 62.53        | 49.83        | 30,701                     | 304               | November      | SC - 4, ST - 3          |
| Sikkim            | 1                                  | 1,92,619            | 1,00,950            | 91,669              | 1,38,698               | 72.01           | 75.88        | 67.74        | 261                        | 4                 | November      | -                       |
| Tamil Nadu        | 39                                 | 4,00,27,212         | 2,02,88,231         | 1,97,38,981         | 2,67,63,788            | 66.86           | 68.67        | 65.01        | 43,195                     | 506               | November      | SC - 7                  |
| Tripura           | 2                                  | 15,36,550           | 7,86,794            | 7,49,756            | 12,88,985              | 83.89           | 85.81        | 81.87        | 1,934                      | 12                | November      | ST - 1                  |
| Uttar Pradesh     | 85                                 | 7,96,15,094         | 4,38,96,802         | 3,57,18,292         | 4,08,15,295            | 51.27           | 55.14        | 46.51        | 83,691                     | 1,087             | November      | SC - 18                 |
| West Bengal       | 42                                 | 4,04,14,761         | 2,17,01,685         | 1,87,13,076         | 3,22,00,171            | 79.67           | 82.05        | 76.92        | 49,146                     | 336               | November      | SC - 8, ST - 2          |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>543*</b>                        | <b>49,89,06,129</b> | <b>26,20,45,142</b> | <b>23,68,60,987</b> | <b>30,90,50,495</b>    | <b>61.95</b>    | <b>66.13</b> | <b>57.32</b> | <b>5,80,798</b>            | <b>6,160</b>      | <b>-</b>      | <b>SC - 78, ST - 39</b> |

\*Election was not held in 14 seats of Assam

### 1971 - Vidhan Sabha - Electoral Features

| State/UT     | Total Assembly Constituencies | Number of Electors |                    |                    | Total Number of Voters | Poll Percentage |              |              | Number of Polling Stations | Total Contestants | Month of Poll | Reserved Seats                |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
|              |                               | Total              | Male               | Female             |                        | Total           | Male         | Female       |                            |                   |               |                               |
| Orissa       | 140                           | 1,08,51,525        | 56,69,904          | 51,81,621          | 47,08,374              | 43.39           | 52.01        | 33.96        | 12,847                     | 835               | March         | SC - 22 & ST - 34             |
| Tamil Nadu   | 234                           | 2,29,76,680        | 1,14,82,912        | 1,14,93,768        | 1,65,67,286            | 72.10           | 74.55        | 69.66        | 26,973                     | 748               | March         | SC - 42 & ST - 2              |
| West Bengal  | 279                           | 2,20,40,778        | 1,23,92,369        | 96,48,409          | 1,36,71,445            | 62.03           | 65.09        | 58.09        | 27,237                     | 1,406             | March         | SC - 55 & ST - 16             |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>653</b>                    | <b>5,58,68,983</b> | <b>2,95,45,185</b> | <b>2,63,23,798</b> | <b>3,49,47,105</b>     | <b>62.55</b>    | <b>66.26</b> | <b>58.39</b> | <b>67,057</b>              | <b>2,989</b>      | <b>-</b>      | <b>SC - 119 &amp; ST - 52</b> |

### 1971 - Vidhan Sabha - Election Result

| State/UT     | 1st Position |                  |                          | 2nd Position |                  |                          | 3rd Position |                  |                          | 4th Position |                 |                         | 5th Position |                 |                         | Others             |                         |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|              | Party        | Won (Contested)  | Votes (%)                | Party        | Won (Contested)  | Votes (%)                | Party        | Won (Contested)  | Votes (%)                | Party        | Won (Contested) | Votes (%)               | Party        | Won (Contested) | Votes (%)               | Won (Contested)    | Votes (%)               |
| Orissa       | INC          | 51 (129)         | 12,40,668 (28.18)        | SWA          | 36 (115)         | 7,67,815 (17.44)         | UTC          | 33 (139)         | 10,55,826 (23.99)        | PSP          | 4 (50)          | 2,67,768 (6.08)         | CPI          | 4 (29)          | 2,10,811 (4.79)         | 12 (373)           | 8,59,032 (19.52)        |
| Tamil Nadu   | DMK          | 184 (203)        | 76,54,935 (48.58)        | NCO          | 15 (201)         | 55,13,894 (34.99)        | CPI          | 8 (10)           | 3,64,803 (2.32)          | FBL          | 7 (9)           | 2,68,721 (1.71)         | SWA          | 6 (19)          | 4,65,145 (2.95)         | 14 (306)           | 14,89,303 (9.46)        |
| West Bengal  | CPM          | 113 (241)        | 42,41,557 (32.86)        | INC          | 105 (239)        | 37,67,314 (29.19)        | CPI          | 13 (110)         | 10,91,578 (8.46)         | SUC          | 7 (24)          | 2,04,711 (1.59)         | BAC          | 5 (137)         | 6,95,376 (5.39)         | 36 (655)           | 29,06,721 (22.52)       |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>DMK</b>   | <b>184 (203)</b> | <b>76,54,935 (23.15)</b> | <b>INC</b>   | <b>156 (368)</b> | <b>50,07,982 (15.15)</b> | <b>CPM</b>   | <b>115 (289)</b> | <b>45,53,640 (13.77)</b> | <b>SWA</b>   | <b>42 (134)</b> | <b>12,32,960 (3.73)</b> | <b>UTC</b>   | <b>33 (139)</b> | <b>10,55,826 (3.19)</b> | <b>123 (1,856)</b> | <b>1,35,60,635 (41)</b> |

### 1972 - Vidhan Sabha - Electoral Features

| State/UT         | Total Assembly Constituencies | Number of Electors |             |             | Total Number of Voters | Poll Percentage |       |        | Number of Polling Stations | Total Contestants | Month of Poll | Reserved Seats    |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------|--------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
|                  |                               | Total              | Male        | Female      |                        | Total           | Male  | Female |                            |                   |               |                   |
| Andhra Pradesh   | 287                           | 2,46,07,903        | 1,22,72,162 | 1,23,35,741 | 1,46,93,030            | 59.71           | 63.37 | 56.06  | 29,721                     | 1,013             | March         | SC - 40 & ST - 11 |
| Assam            | 114                           | 63,28,537          | 34,10,247   | 29,18,290   | 38,50,899              | 60.85           | 66.02 | 54.81  | 8,429                      | 478               | March         | SC - 8 & ST - 14  |
| Bihar            | 318                           | 3,31,64,286        | 1,75,21,111 | 1,56,43,175 | 1,75,08,693            | 52.79           | 63.06 | 41.30  | 47,700                     | 1,983             | March         | SC - 45 & ST - 29 |
| Delhi            | 56                            | 20,68,437          | 11,71,596   | 8,96,841    | 14,24,384              | 68.86           | 69.05 | 68.62  | 2,351                      | 270               | March         | SC - 7            |
| Goa, Daman & Diu | 30                            | 4,51,484           | 2,23,084    | 2,28,400    | 3,12,233               | 69.16           | 69.01 | 69.30  | 606                        | 138               | March         | -                 |

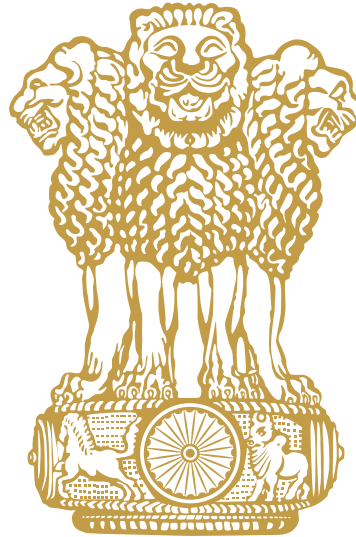
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THE INDIAN ELECTION STORY IN FACTS & FIGURES (1950–2025)

# Tenure-in-Office



सत्यमेव जयते

## Prime Ministers of India



**Jawaharlal Nehru (INC)**  
15.08.1947 - 27.05.1964  
16 Years, 9 Months, 12 Days



**Gulzari Lal Nanda (INC)**  
27.05.1964 - 09.06.1964  
13 Days



**Lal Bahadur Shastri (INC)**  
09.06.1964 - 11.01.1966  
1 Year, 7 Months, 2 Days



**Gulzari Lal Nanda (INC)**  
11.01.1966 - 24.01.1966  
13 Days



**Indira Gandhi (INC)**  
24.01.1966 - 24.03.1977  
11 Years, 2 Months



**Morarji Desai (JP)**  
24.03.1977 - 28.07.1979  
2 Years, 4 Months, 4 Days



**Chaudhary Charan Singh (JP(S))**  
28.07.1979 - 14.01.1980  
5 Months, 17 Days



**Indira Gandhi (INC(I))**  
14.01.1980 - 31.10.1984  
4 Years, 9 Months, 17 Days



**Rajiv Gandhi (INC(I))**  
31.10.1984 - 02.12.1989  
5 Years, 1 Month, 1 Day



**V. P. Singh (JD)**  
02.12.1989 - 10.11.1990  
11 Months, 8 Days



**Chandra Shekhar (SJP(R))**  
10.11.1990 - 21.06.1991  
7 Months, 11 Days



**P. V. Narasimha Rao (INC(I))**  
21.06.1991 - 16.05.1996  
4 Years, 10 Months, 25 Days



**Atal Bihari Vajpayee (BJP)**  
16.05.1996 - 01.06.1996  
16 Days



**H. D. Deve Gowda (JD)**  
01.06.1996 - 21.04.1997  
10 Months, 20 Days



**Inder Kumar Gujral (JD)**  
21.04.1997 - 19.03.1998  
10 Months, 26 Days



**Atal Bihari Vajpayee (BJP)**  
19.03.1998 - 22.05.2004  
6 Years, 2 Months, 3 Days



**Dr. Manmohan Singh (INC)**  
22.05.2004 - 26.05.2014  
10 Years, 4 days



**Narendra Modi (BJP)**  
26.05.2014 - Present  
11 Years, 7 Months, 5 Days  
As of 31st December 2025  
& Continue

## Kerala



**E. M. S. Namboodiripad (CPI)**

05.04.1957 - 31.07.1959

2 Years, 3 Months, 26 Days



**Pattom A. Thanu Pillai (PSP)**

22.02.1960 - 26.09.1962

2 Years, 7 Months, 4 Days



**R. Sankar (INC)**

26.09.1962 - 10.09.1964

1 Year, 11 Months, 15 Days



**E. M. S. Namboodiripad (CPM)**

06.03.1967 - 01.11.1969

2 Years, 7 Months, 26 Days



**C. Achutha Menon (CPI)**

01.11.1969 - 25.03.1977

7 Years, 4 Months, 24 Days



**K. Karunakaran (INC)**

25.03.1977 - 25.04.1977

1 Month



**A. K. Antony (INC)**

27.04.1977 - 27.10.1978

1 Year, 6 Months



**P. K. Vasudevan Nair (CPI)**

29.10.1978 - 07.10.1979

11 Months, 8 Days



**C. H. Mohammed Koya (IUML)**

12.10.1979 - 01.12.1979

1 Month, 19 Days



**E. K. Nayanar (CPM)**

25.01.1980 - 20.10.1981

1 Year, 8 Months, 25 Days



**K. Karunakaran (INC)**

24.05.1982 - 25.03.1987 &  
28.12.1981 - 17.03.1982

4 Years, 10 Months, 1 Day and  
2 Months, 17 Days



**E. K. Nayanar (CPM)**

26.03.1987 - 17.06.1991

4 Years, 2 Months, 22 Days



**K. Karunakaran (INC)**

24.06.1991 - 16.03.1995

3 Years, 8 Months, 20 Days



**A. K. Antony (INC)**

22.03.1995 - 09.05.1996

1 Year, 1 Month, 17 Days



**E. K. Nayanar (CPM)**

20.05.1996 - 13.05.2001

4 Years, 11 Months, 23 Days



**A. K. Antony (INC)**

17.05.2001 - 29.08.2004

3 Years, 3 Months, 12 Days



**Oommen Chandy (INC)**

31.08.2004 - 12.05.2006

1 Year, 8 Months, 11 Days



**V. S. Achuthanandan (CPM)**

18.05.2006 - 14.05.2011

4 Years, 11 Months, 26 Days



**Oommen Chandy (INC)**

18.05.2011 - 20.05.2016

5 Years, 2 Days



**Pinarayi Vijayan (CPM)**

25.05.2016 - Present

9 Years, 7 Months, 6 Days  
As of 31st December 2025  
& Continue

## Madhya Pradesh



**Pandit Ravishankar Shukla (INC)**

26.01.1950 - 31.12.1956

6 Years, 11 Months, 5 Days



**Bhagwantrao Mandloi (INC)**

09.01.1957 - 30.01.1957

21 Days



**Dr. Kailash Nath Katju (INC)**

31.01.1957 - 11.03.1962

5 Years, 1 Month, 8 Days



**Bhagwantrao Mandloi (INC)**

12.03.1962 - 29.09.1963

1 Year, 6 Months, 17 Days

# State-wise List of Speakers



| SI No.                   | Speaker's Name              | From - To               | Tenure                      |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Andhra Pradesh</b>    |                             |                         |                             |
| 1                        | Ayyadevara Kaleswara Rao    | 04.12.1956 - 26.02.1962 | 5 Years, 2 Months, 22 Days  |
| 2                        | B. V. Subba Reddy           | 20.03.1962 - 29.09.1971 | 9 Years, 6 Months, 9 Days   |
| 3                        | K. V. Vema Reddy            | 25.11.1971 - 19.03.1972 | 3 Months, 23 Days           |
| 4                        | Pidatala Ranga Reddy        | 21.03.1972 - 25.09.1974 | 2 Years, 6 Months, 4 Days   |
| 5                        | R. Dasaratha Rami Reddy     | 28.01.1975 - 14.03.1978 | 3 Years, 1 Month, 14 Days   |
| 6                        | Divi Kondaiah Chowdary      | 16.03.1978 - 16.10.1980 | 2 Years, 7 Months           |
| 7                        | Kona Prabhakara Rao         | 24.02.1981 - 22.09.1981 | 6 Months, 29 Days           |
| 8                        | Agarala Eswara Reddi        | 07.09.1982 - 16.01.1983 | 4 Months, 9 Days            |
| 9                        | Thangi Satyanarayana        | 18.01.1983 - 28.08.1984 | 1 Year, 7 Months, 10 Days   |
| 10                       | Nissanakararao Venkatratnam | 20.09.1984 - 10.01.1985 | 3 Months, 21 Days           |
| 11                       | G. Narayana Rao             | 12.03.1985 - 27.10.1989 | 4 Years, 7 Months, 15 Days  |
| 12                       | P. Ramachandra Reddy        | 04.01.1990 - 22.12.1990 | 11 Months, 18 Days          |
| 13                       | D. Sripada Rao              | 19.08.1991 - 11.01.1995 | 3 Years, 4 Months, 23 Days  |
| 14                       | Yanamala Ramakrishnudu      | 12.01.1995 - 10.10.1999 | 4 Years, 8 Months, 28 Days  |
| 15                       | Kavali Prathibha Bharathi   | 11.11.1999 - 30.05.2004 | 4 Years, 6 Months, 19 Days  |
| 16                       | Kethireddy Suresh Reddy     | 01.06.2004 - 03.06.2009 | 5 Years, 2 Days             |
| 17                       | Nallari Kiran Kumar Reddy   | 04.06.2009 - 24.11.2010 | 1 Year, 5 Months, 20 Days   |
| 18                       | Nadendla Manohar            | 04.06.2011 - 18.06.2014 | 3 Years, 14 Days            |
| 19                       | Dr. Kodela Siva Prasada Rao | 20.06.2014 - 12.06.2019 | 4 Years, 11 Months, 23 Days |
| 20                       | Thammineni Seetharam        | 13.06.2019 - 21.06.2024 | 5 Years, 8 Days             |
| 21                       | Chintakayala Ayyannapatru   | 22.06.2024 - Present    |                             |
| <b>Arunachal Pradesh</b> |                             |                         |                             |
| 1                        | Nokmey Namati               | 18.08.1975 - 13.03.1978 | 2 Years, 6 Months, 23 Days  |
| 2                        | Padi Yubbe                  | 22.03.1978 - 17.09.1979 | 1 Year, 5 Months, 26 Days   |
| 3                        | Nokmey Namati               | 30.10.1979 - 28.01.1980 | 2 Months, 29 Days           |
| 4                        | T. L. Rajkumar              | 29.01.1980 - 06.03.1990 | 10 Years, 1 Month 5 Days    |
| 5                        | Lijum Ronya                 | 27.03.1990 - 21.03.1995 | 4 Years, 11 Months, 22 Days |
| 6                        | Tako Dabi                   | 25.03.1995 - 21.05.1998 | 3 Years, 1 Month, 26 Days   |
| 7                        | Chowna Mein                 | 25.05.1998 - 10.10.1999 | 1 Year, 4 Months, 15 Days   |
| 8                        | Tamiyo Taga                 | 14.10.1999 - 04.08.2003 | 3 Years, 9 Months, 21 Days  |
| 9                        | Setong Sena                 | 18.08.2003 - 2009       |                             |
| 10                       | Wanglin Lowangdong          | 2009 - 2014             |                             |
| 11                       | Nabam Rebia                 | 27.05.2014 - 17.12.2015 | 1 Year, 6 Months, 20 Days   |
| 12                       | Tenzing Norbu Thongdok      | 17.12.2015 - 24.02.2016 | 2 Months, 7 Days            |
| 13                       | Wangki Lowang               | 25.02.2016 - 13.06.2024 | 8 Years, 3 Months, 19 Days  |
| 14                       | Pasang Dorjee Sona          | 04.06.2019 - 13.06.2024 | 5 Years, 9 Days             |
| 15                       | Tesam Pongte                | 14.06.2024 - Present    |                             |

| SI No.       | Speaker's Name             | From - To                                         | Tenure                                                      |
|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Assam</b> |                            |                                                   |                                                             |
| 1            | Kuladhar Chaliha           | 05.03.1952 - 07.06.1957                           | 5 Years, 3 Months, 2 Days                                   |
| 2            | Devakanta Barua            | 08.06.1957 - 15.09.1959                           | 2 Years, 3 Months, 7 Days                                   |
| 3            | Mahendra Mohan Choudhury   | 09.12.1959 - 19.03.1967                           | 7 Years, 3 Months, 10 Days                                  |
| 4            | Hareswar Goswami           | 20.03.1967 - 10.05.1968                           | 1 Year, 1 Month, 20 Days                                    |
| 5            | Mahi Kanta Das             | 27.08.1968 - 21.03.1972                           | 3 Years, 6 Months, 23 Days                                  |
| 6            | Ramesh Chandra Barooah     | 22.03.1972 - 20.03.1978                           | 5 Years, 11 Months, 26 Days                                 |
| 7            | Jogendra Nath Hazarika     | 21.03.1978 - 04.09.1979                           | 1 Year, 5 Months, 14 Days                                   |
| 8            | Sheikh Chand Mohammad      | 07.11.1979 - 07.01.1986                           | 6 Years, 2 Months                                           |
| 9            | Pulakesh Barua             | 09.01.1986 - 27.07.1991                           | 5 Years, 6 Months, 18 Days                                  |
| 10           | Jiba Kanta Gogoi           | 29.07.1991 - 09.12.1992                           | 1 Year, 4 Months, 10 Days                                   |
| 11           | Debesh Chandra Chakravorty | 21.12.1992 - 11.06.1996                           | 3 Years, 5 Months, 21 Days                                  |
| 12           | Ganesh Kutum               | 12.06.1996 - 24.05.2001                           | 4 Years, 11 Months, 12 Days                                 |
| 13           | Prithibi Majhi             | 30.05.2001 - 19.05.2006                           | 4 Years, 11 Months, 19 Days                                 |
| 14           | Tanka Bahadur Rai          | 29.05.2006 - 19.05.2011                           | 4 Years, 11 Months, 20 Days                                 |
| 15           | Pranab Kumar Gogoi         | 06.06.2011 - 19.05.2016                           | 4 Years, 11 Months, 13 Days                                 |
| 16           | Ranjit Kumar Das           | 01.06.2016 - 30.01.2017                           | 7 Months, 29 Days                                           |
| 17           | Hitendra Nath Goswami      | 30.01.2017 - 20.05.2021                           | 4 Years, 3 Months, 20 Days                                  |
| 18           | Biswajit Daimary           | 21.05.2021 - Present                              |                                                             |
| <b>Bihar</b> |                            |                                                   |                                                             |
| 1            | Bindeshwari Prasad Verma   | 25.04.1946 - 14.03.1962                           | 15 Years, 10 Months, 17 Days                                |
| 2            | Lakshmi Narayan Sudhanshu  | 15.03.1962 - 15.03.1967                           | 5 Years                                                     |
| 3            | Dhanik Lal Mandal          | 16.03.1967 - 10.03.1969                           | 1 Year, 11 Months, 22 Days                                  |
| 4            | Ram Narayan Mandal         | 11.03.1969 - 20.03.1972                           | 3 Years, 9 Days                                             |
| 5            | Harinath Mishra            | 21.03.1972 - 26.06.1977                           | 5 Years, 3 Months, 5 Days                                   |
| 6            | Tripurari Prasad Singh     | 28.06.1977 - 22.06.1980                           | 2 Years, 11 Months, 25 Days                                 |
| 7            | Radhanandan Jha            | 24.06.1980 - 01.04.1985                           | 4 Years, 9 Months, 8 Days                                   |
| 8            | Shivchandra Jha            | 04.04.1985 - 23.01.1989                           | 3 Years, 9 Months, 19 Days                                  |
| 9            | Md Hidayatullah Khan       | 27.03.1989 - 19.03.1990                           | 11 Months, 20 Days                                          |
| 10           | Ghulam Sarwar              | 20.03.1990 - 09.04.1995                           | 5 Years, 20 Days                                            |
| 11           | Deo Narayan Yadav          | 12.04.1995 - 06.03.2000                           | 4 Years, 10 Months, 23 Days                                 |
| 12           | Sadanand Singh             | 09.03.2000 - 28.06.2005                           | 5 Years, 3 Months, 19 Days                                  |
| 13           | Uday Narayan Choudhary     | 02.12.2010 - 28.11.2015 & 30.11.2005 - 29.11.2010 | 4 Years, 11 Months, 26 Days and 4 Years, 11 Months, 30 Days |
| 14           | Vijay Kumar Chaudhary      | 02.12.2015 - 15.11.2020                           | 4 Years, 11 Months, 13 Days                                 |
| 15           | Vijay Kumar Sinha          | 25.11.2020 - 24.08.2022                           | 1 Year, 8 Months, 30 Days                                   |
| 16           | Awadh Bihari Choudhary     | 26.08.2022 - 12.02.2024                           | 1 Year, 5 Months, 17 Days                                   |
| 17           | Nand Kishore Yadav         | 16.02.2024 - 30.11.2025                           | 1 Year, 9 Months, 14 Days                                   |
| 18           | Dr. Prem Kumar             | 02.12.2025 - Present                              |                                                             |





THE INDIAN ELECTION STORY IN FACTS & FIGURES (1950–2025)

# Information Hub



# The Constitutional and Legal Framework of Indian Elections

## Constitutional Provisions and the Amendments, Statutes and Landmark Judgments

d. The State Governments are obliged to appoint such officers as the fulltime Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of their states as recommended by the ECI.

### 9. **Dr. Subramanian Swami v. Election Commission of India** (AIR 2014 SC 18)

The Supreme Court directed the Election Commission of India that a printer should be attached to every balloting unit of an Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) at every polling station. On such printer, the election symbol of the candidate should appear for whom the voter has cast his vote and it should remain visible to the voters for sufficient time. Thereafter, the paper slip showing the symbol of the candidate should automatically get cut and drop into a box provided below the printer.

This is now known as the VOTER VERIFIABLE PAPER AUDIT TRAIL [VVPAT]. Following the above direction of the Supreme Court, the ECI is now using this VVPAT system in all elections in India to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

### 10. **Special Reference No. 1 of 2002**; (AIR 2003 SC 87); (2002) 8 SCC 237)

The Supreme Court of India's opinion in Special Reference No. 1 Of 2002, carries great significance and import to the realm of constitutional law, especially the relationship between Articles 174 (which requires that the Legislative Assembly should meet at least once in every six months) and 324 of the Constitution of India. The case emanates from the premature dissolution of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly on July 19, 2002, before expiration of its normal term of five years. The dissolution prompted the Election Commission of India (ECI) to initiate the process of fresh elections. However, the ECI, vide its Order dated August 16, 2002, indicated inability to conduct the elections within the six-month timeframe envisaged under

Article 174(1). Consequently, the President referred three critical legal questions for its Opinion to the Supreme Court under Article 143(1) of the Constitution, seeking clarity on the constitutional interplay between Articles 174 and 324.

The Opinion in the case delineates a clear demarcation between the constitutional requirements governing legislative sessions and the autonomous authority of the Election Commission in scheduling elections. The Supreme Court clarified that Article 174(1) pertains solely to existing live assembly.

After studying all the relevant provisions, the Supreme Court opined that, although there is no express provision as to the time limit for holding next the General Election, the Election should be held to constitute the new assembly within six months of the premature dissolution of the earlier Legislative Assembly. The Court reinforced the principle of maintaining independent electoral oversight. This opinion not only upholds and reiterates the fundamental democratic principles enshrined in the Constitution but also ensures that the machinery of governance remains accountable and continuously responsive to the electorate. This judgment serves as a locus classicus as a reference point for resolving similar constitutional queries.

### 11. **Union of India v. Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)** (2002) 5 SCC 294)

The Supreme Court held that the voters have the foundational right to know about the antecedents of a candidate — criminal cases, assets and liabilities, educational qualifications. This is an integral part of the right to free expression under Article 19(1)(a) and the right to know under Article 21. The Court directed the ECI to require candidates to furnish such particulars by sworn affidavit. The direction gave rise to the affidavit in Form 26. Form 26 appended to the 1961 Conduct Rules.

### 12. **People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) v. Union of India** (2003) 4 SCC 399)

Following the ADR judgment, Parliament had amended Section 33B of RPA 1951 to dilute the disclosure requirement. The Supreme Court struck down the amendment as unconstitutional and reaffirmed that the disclosures directed in the ADR case are mandatory. The Court read the right to information of the voter as a constitutional right traceable to Article 19(1)(a).

### 13. **Kuldip Nayar v. Union of India** (2006) 7 SCC 1)

The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court upheld the following two amendments to RPA 1951 made by the Parliament: (i) the deletion of the domicile requirement under Section 3 (a candidate for Rajya Sabha need not be ordinarily resident in the State from which he seeks election) and (ii) the open ballot system for Rajya Sabha elections provided by inserting new Section 59A. The Court declined to read a domicile requirement into Article 80 of the Constitution and also held that the open ballot system in the Rajya Sabha elections does not violate the principle of free elections.

### 14. **People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) v. Union of India (NOTA)** (2013) 10 SCC 1)

By this decision, the Supreme Court directed the Election Commission of India to provide an option of 'None of the Above' (NOTA) on the ballot papers and the electronic voting machines used for taking poll for the Lok Sabha and Assembly Elections. It held that the right of a voter to register a negative vote without disclosing his identity is part of his right to express under Article 19(1)(a). The NOTA option was first used in those State Assembly elections which were held in November 2013 and in the General Election to the Lok Sabha in 2014.

### No Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies on basis of 1981 and 1991 censuses – The Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act 1976

After the delimitation exercise based on 1971 Census, no delimitation exercise was undertaken on the basis of 1981 and 1991 censuses. The Constitution had originally required in Articles 82 and 170 that there shall be a fresh delimitation of all parliamentary and assembly constituencies after every decennial census. But in 1976, the Constitution was amended by the 42nd Amendment 1976. By this amendment, the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies was frozen and any readjustment in the territorial extent of all parliamentary and assembly constituencies was also frozen, as determined by the Delimitation Commission 1972 on the basis of 1971 Census. Such freeze was made on the basis of the plea of several States, particularly in the South, which claimed that they had implemented the population control measures more vigorously than the States in the North and that any readjustment on the basis of population would affect their interests adversely. The 42nd Amendment also provided that the next delimitation exercise would be conducted after the first census that may be taken after the year 2026 – that is to say, after the 2031 census.

### Delimitation after 2001 census

As mentioned above, no delimitation exercise was undertaken on the basis of 1981 and 1991 censuses.

State-wise Distribution of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in 2008 after Delimitation 2002-08

| State/UT                    | Parliamentary Constituencies |           |           |            | Assembly Constituencies |            |            |              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|
|                             | Total                        | SC        | ST        | General    | Total                   | SC         | ST         | General      |
| Andhra Pradesh              | 42                           | 7         | 3         | 32         | 294                     | 48         | 19         | 227          |
| Arunachal Pradesh           | 2                            | 0         | 0         | 2          | 60                      | 0          | 59         | 1            |
| Assam                       | 14                           | 1         | 2         | 11         | 126                     | 8          | 16         | 102          |
| Bihar                       | 40                           | 6         | 0         | 34         | 243                     | 38         | 2          | 203          |
| Chhattisgarh                | 11                           | 1         | 4         | 6          | 90                      | 10         | 29         | 51           |
| Goa                         | 2                            | 0         | 0         | 2          | 40                      | 1          | 0          | 39           |
| Gujarat                     | 26                           | 2         | 4         | 20         | 182                     | 13         | 27         | 142          |
| Haryana                     | 10                           | 2         | 0         | 8          | 90                      | 17         | 0          | 73           |
| Himachal Pradesh            | 4                            | 1         | 0         | 3          | 68                      | 17         | 3          | 48           |
| Jammu and Kashmir           | 6                            | 0         | 0         | 6          | 87                      | 7          | 0          | 80           |
| Jharkhand                   | 14                           | 1         | 5         | 8          | 81                      | 9          | 28         | 44           |
| Karnataka                   | 28                           | 5         | 2         | 21         | 224                     | 36         | 15         | 173          |
| Kerala                      | 20                           | 2         | 0         | 18         | 140                     | 14         | 2          | 124          |
| Madhya Pradesh              | 29                           | 4         | 6         | 19         | 230                     | 35         | 47         | 148          |
| Maharashtra                 | 48                           | 5         | 4         | 39         | 288                     | 29         | 25         | 234          |
| Manipur                     | 2                            | 0         | 1         | 1          | 60                      | 1          | 19         | 40           |
| Meghalaya                   | 2                            | 0         | 2         | 0          | 60                      | 0          | 55         | 5            |
| Mizoram                     | 1                            | 0         | 1         | 0          | 40                      | 0          | 39         | 1            |
| Nagaland                    | 1                            | 0         | 0         | 1          | 60                      | 0          | 59         | 1            |
| Orissa                      | 21                           | 3         | 5         | 13         | 147                     | 24         | 33         | 90           |
| Punjab                      | 13                           | 4         | 0         | 9          | 117                     | 34         | 0          | 83           |
| Rajasthan                   | 25                           | 4         | 3         | 18         | 200                     | 34         | 25         | 141          |
| Sikkim                      | 1                            | 0         | 0         | 1          | 32                      | 2          | 12         | 18           |
| Tamil Nadu                  | 39                           | 7         | 0         | 32         | 234                     | 44         | 2          | 188          |
| Tripura                     | 2                            | 0         | 1         | 1          | 60                      | 10         | 20         | 30           |
| Uttarakhand                 | 5                            | 1         | 0         | 4          | 70                      | 13         | 2          | 55           |
| Uttar Pradesh               | 80                           | 17        | 0         | 63         | 403                     | 85         | 0          | 318          |
| West Bengal                 | 42                           | 10        | 2         | 30         | 294                     | 68         | 16         | 210          |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 1                            | 0         | 0         | 1          | 0                       | 0          | 0          | 0            |
| Chandigarh                  | 1                            | 0         | 0         | 1          | 0                       | 0          | 0          | 0            |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli      | 1                            | 0         | 1         | 0          | 0                       | 0          | 0          | 0            |
| Delhi                       | 7                            | 1         | 0         | 6          | 70                      | 12         | 0          | 58           |
| Daman and Diu               | 1                            | 0         | 0         | 1          | 0                       | 0          | 0          | 0            |
| Lakshadweep                 | 1                            | 0         | 1         | 0          | 0                       | 0          | 0          | 0            |
| Puducherry                  | 1                            | 0         | 0         | 1          | 30                      | 5          | 0          | 25           |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>543</b>                   | <b>84</b> | <b>47</b> | <b>412</b> | <b>4,120</b>            | <b>614</b> | <b>554</b> | <b>2,952</b> |

However, representations were made on large scale that the above freeze on delimitation up to 2031 census had resulted in vast discrepancies in the extent of all parliamentary and assembly constituencies in the country due to demographic and geographical changes. Therefore, the Parliament amended the Constitution by 84th Amendment 2001 to provide that the territorial extent of the parliamentary and assembly constituencies may be readjusted on the basis of 1991 census, but keeping intact the total number of such parliamentary and assembly constituencies in all states as determined by the Delimitation Commission 1972 on the basis of 1971 census. For the purpose, a Delimitation Commission was setup under the chairmanship of Justice Kuldeep Singh, a retired judge of Supreme Court, on 12th July 2002 under the provisions of Delimitation Act 2002. When this Commission started its work, it was represented to it by a large number of important leaders and political parties that why it had been asked to take up its job on the basis of ten-year-old census figures of 1991 census, when the census figures of 2001 census had already been published. On the basis of the recommendation of this Commission, the Constitution was further amended by the 87th Amendment 2003 that the Delimitation exercise may be taken up on the basis of 2001 census instead of 1991 census.

The Delimitation Commission 2002 setup under the Delimitation Commission Act 2002, completed its job on 31st May 2008. However, it could not complete its delimitation exercise in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland, due to the disturbed law and order

# Abbreviations

|                  |                                                             |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| AAP              | Aam Aadmi Party                                             |
| AAPP             | Aapki Apni Party (Peoples)                                  |
| ABLC             | Akhil Bhartiya Loktantrik Congress Party                    |
| AC               | Arunachal Congress                                          |
| ACNC             | A-Chik National Congress (Democratic)                       |
| AD (1962)        | Akali Dal                                                   |
| AD (2014)        | Apna Dal                                                    |
| ADAL             | Apna Dal (Sonelal)                                          |
| ADC/ASDC         | Autonomous State Demand Committee                           |
| ADK(JL)          | All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (Jayalalita Group) |
| ADK/ADMK/AIADMK  | All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam                    |
| ADM              | Akali Dal Master Tara Singh Group                           |
| ADS/AD-SFSG      | Akali Dal - Sant Fateh Singh Group                          |
| AGP              | Asom Gana Parishad                                          |
| AHL (1967-VS)    | All Party Hill Leaders Congress                             |
| AHL(A)/AHLCA(AM) | All Party Hill Leaders Conference (Armison Marak Group)     |
| AHL/HLC/APHLC    | All Party Hill Leaders Conference                           |
| AIFB             | All India Forward Bloc                                      |
| AIIC(S)          | All India Indira Congress (Secular)                         |
| AIIC(T)          | All India Indira Congress (Tiwari)                          |
| AIMIM/MIM        | All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen                      |
| AINRC            | All India N.R. Congress                                     |
| AIRJP            | All India Rashtriya Janata Party                            |
| AISF             | All India Secular Front                                     |
| AITC             | All India Trinamool Congress                                |
| AIUDF            | All India United Democratic Front                           |
| AJBP             | Ajeya Bharat Party                                          |
| AJSUP            | All Jharkhand Students Union Party                          |
| AKAP             | Akali Party                                                 |
| AKBRPRVP         | Akhil Bhartiya Parivar Party                                |
| AMB              | Amra Bangalee                                               |
| AMN              | All Manipur National Union                                  |
| ANC              | Awami National Conference                                   |
| ANCHDMCP         | Arunachal Democratic Party                                  |
| ANDC             | Andaman Nicobar Democratic Congress                         |
| AoDRP            | Alliance of Democratic Reforms Party                        |
| APol             | Ambedkarite Party of India                                  |
| ASDC(U)          | Autonomous State Demand Committee (United)                  |
| AUDF             | Assam United Democratic Front                               |
| BAC              | Bangla Congress                                             |
| BAS              | Akhil Bhartiya Arya Sabha                                   |

|                |                                                          |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| BBM            | Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh                                |
| BHRS/BRS       | Bharat Rashtra Samithi                                   |
| BHRTADVSIP     | Bharat Adivasi Party                                     |
| BJD            | Biju Janata Dal                                          |
| BJP            | Bharatiya Janata Party                                   |
| BJS            | All India Bhartiya Jan Sangh                             |
| BJSH           | Bharatiya Jan Shakti                                     |
| BKD            | Bharatiya Kranti Dal                                     |
| BKKGP          | Bharatiya Kisan Kamgar Party                             |
| BLD            | Bharatiya Lok Dal                                        |
| BMUP           | Bahujan Mukti Party                                      |
| BNP            | Bharatiya Navshakti Party                                |
| BOPF/BPF       | Bodoland Peoples Front                                   |
| BSJM           | Bharatiya Surajya Manch                                  |
| BSP            | Bahujan Samaj Party                                      |
| BSP(A)         | Bahujan Samaj Party (Ambedkar)                           |
| BSRCP          | Badavara Shramikara Raitara Congress Party               |
| BTP            | Bhartiya Tribal Party                                    |
| BVA            | Bahujan Vikas Aaghad                                     |
| CAPS           | Citizen Action Party-Sikkim                              |
| CfD            | Congress for Democracy                                   |
| CHKAP          | Chandigarh Ki Aawaz Party                                |
| CNPSPJP/CNSPJP | Chota Nagpur & Santhal Parganas Janta Party              |
| CONG           | Congress                                                 |
| CONG (S)       | Congress (Secular)                                       |
| CONG(O)        | Congress (Organisation)                                  |
| CPI            | Communist Party of India                                 |
| CPI(ML)        | Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)              |
| CPI(ML)(L)     | Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation) |
| CPM/CPI(M)     | Communist Party of India (Marxist)                       |
| CSM            | Chhattisgarh Swabhimani Manch                            |
| CWL            | Common Weal Party                                        |
| DDP            | Doordarshi Party                                         |
| DLP            | Democratic Labour Party                                  |
| DMDK           | Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam                         |
| DMK            | Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam                                |
| DMM            | All India Dalit Muslim Minorities Suraksha Mahasangh     |
| DNC            | Democratic National Conference                           |
| DP             | Democratic Party                                         |
| DPC            | Denzong Peoples Chogpi                                   |
| DSP            | Democratic Socialist Party                               |
| EIT            | Eastern Indian Tribal Union                              |
| EU             | Ephraim Union                                            |

|                     |                                                 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| FB                  | Forward Block                                   |
| FB(M)               | Forward Block (Marxist)                         |
| FBL                 | All India Forward Block                         |
| FBL(MG)             | Forward Bloc (Marxist Group)                    |
| FBM                 | Forward Bloc (Marxist)                          |
| FPM                 | Federal Party of Manipur                        |
| GAVP                | Gujarat Adijati Vikash Paksh                    |
| GFP                 | Goa Forward Party                               |
| GGP                 | Gondvana Gantantra Party                        |
| GLP                 | Gomant Lok Party                                |
| GNASURKP            | Gana Suraksha Party                             |
| GNC                 | Garo National Council                           |
| GP                  | Ganatantra Parishad                             |
| GPC                 | Goa People's Congress                           |
| GPP                 | Gujarat Parivartan Party                        |
| GRCP                | Goa Rajiv Congress Party                        |
| GVP                 | Goa Vikas Party                                 |
| HaLP                | Haryana Lokhit Party                            |
| HJCBL               | Haryana Janhit Congress (BI)                    |
| HLD(R)              | Haryana Lok Dal (Rashtriya)                     |
| HLP                 | Himachal Lokhit Party                           |
| HLS                 | Haryana Lok Samiti                              |
| HM                  | Harijan Mandal                                  |
| HMR/HRP             | Hamar Raj Party                                 |
| HMS                 | Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha                    |
| HMSKP               | Hamro Sikkim Party                              |
| HPDP/HSPDP/HPD/HPSD | Hill State People's Democratic Party            |
| HPU                 | Hill People Union                               |
| HRJSP               | Haryana Jansena Party                           |
| HVC                 | Himachal Vikas Congress                         |
| HVP                 | Haryana Vikas Party                             |
| ICJ                 | Indian Congress (Jagjivan Ram)                  |
| ICS                 | Indian Congress (Socialist)                     |
| ICS(SCS)            | Indian Congress (Socialist-Sarat Chandra Sinha) |
| INC(I)              | Indian National Congress (I)                    |
| INC(U)              | Indian National Congress (U)                    |
| INC/CON             | Indian National Congress                        |
| IND                 | Independent                                     |
| INLD                | Indian National Lok Dal                         |
| INPT                | Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura         |
| IPFT                | Indigenous People's Front of Tripura            |
| IUML                | Indian Union Muslim League                      |



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