INDIA'S NATIONAL ELECTIONS

India's **current landscape**

The world's most populated country

Fourth-largest stock market globally, on track to becoming the third largest by 2030

On track to become the world's third-largest economy by 2027, surpassing Japan and Germany

Poised to become the factory to the world, as corporate tax cuts, investment incentives and infrastructure spending help drive capital investments in manufacturing

Four megatrends — global offshoring, digitalization, infrastructure development and energy transition - setting the scene for unprecedented economic growth in the country

As per the latest Household Consumption Expenditure Survey, Indians are allocating a larger portion of their income to consumer durables over food, a significant shift which can be majorly attributed to the rise of e-commerce

Geopolitics: *How India sees itself*

Bridge Between Developed and Developing Nations:

India sees itself as a bridge between developed and developing countries, promoting cooperation and South-South dialogue.

India's role in international organizations like the G20 and its support for developmental assistance programs in Africa demonstrate this bridge-building approach.

Champion of Multipolar World:

India advocates for a multipolar world order where power is not concentrated in the hands of a few countries.

India's active participation in BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) is seen as a way to create a counterweight to US dominance.

Rising Power:

India views itself as a rising power with a growing global influence. This is driven by its large population, economic growth, and increasing military capabilities.

Example: India's participation in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) alongside the US, Japan, and Australia is seen as a way to counter China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

Leader in the Indian Ocean:

India sees itself as a dominant power in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) with a responsibility to ensure its security and stability.

India's development of its navy and its participation in regional security initiatives like the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) reflect this focus.

Strategic Autonomy:

India prioritizes maintaining its strategic autonomy, meaning it avoids aligning itself too closely with any one major power.

India's continued purchase of military equipment & Oil from Russia despite pressure from the US to distance itself demonstrates its desire for strategic independence.

Lok Sabha
(Lower House)

i.   The Lower House of the Indian Parliament, also known as **'House of the People'**

ii. The Constitution of India allows for a maximum of **550** members in the House, with **530** members representing the States and **20** representing the Union Territories.

iii. Representatives are chosen by direct election on the basis of **Universal Adult Suffrage.**

iv. Headed by the **Speaker of the Lok Sabha** who is elected by sitting members of Lok Sabha.

v.   The party that wins the Lok Sabha elections forms the government and **elects the Prime Minister**

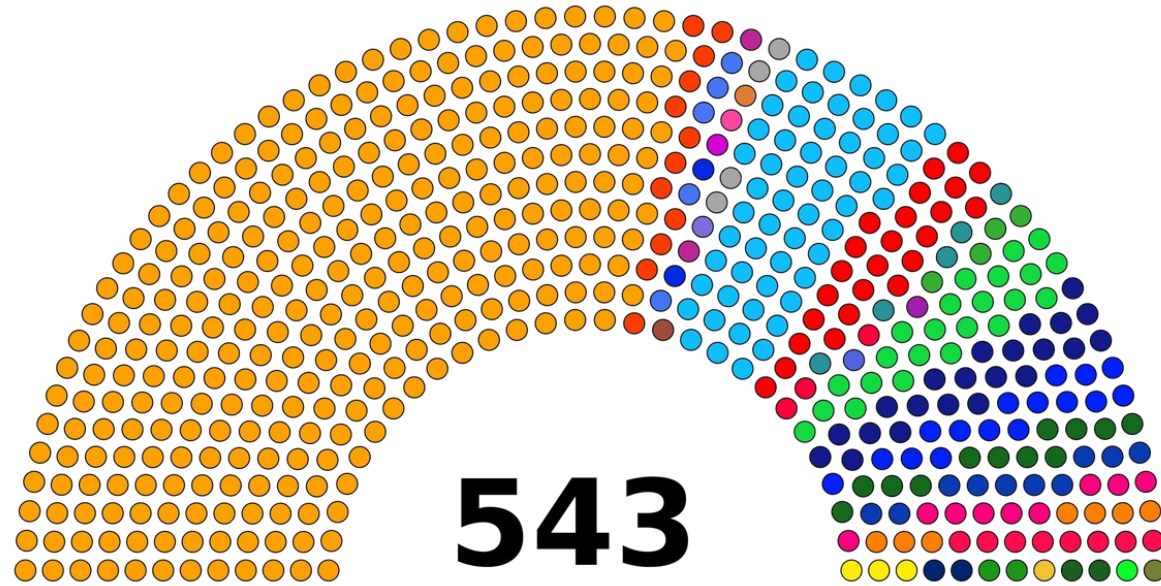vi. Once elected, the tenure of each member lasts for **5 years.**

Rajya Sabha
(Upper House)

i.   The Upper House of the Indian Parliament, also known as **'House of Elders'**

ii. Consists of the **representatives** of the States and Union Territories and persons nominated by the President of India.

iii. Rajya Sabha Members are elected by the elected members of state legislative assemblies (MLAs) using a method of **proportional representation** (the number of seats allocated to each state is determined based on its population).

iv. One-third of the members retire **every second year** and are replaced by newly elected members.

v.   Each member is elected for a term of **6 years.**

Composition of the Current Lok Sabha (2019-24)

Party Split of the Lok Sabha

Government (328)

NDA (328)

- BJP (300)
- SHS (13)
- RLJP (5)
- AD(S) (2)
- AJSU (1)[1]
- MNF (1)
- NDPP (1)
- NPF (1)
- NPP (1)
- SKM (1)
- IND (2)

Opposition (210)

UPA (108)

- INC (49)
- DMK (24)
- JD(U) (16)
- SS(UBT) (6)
- NCP (5)
- IUML (3)
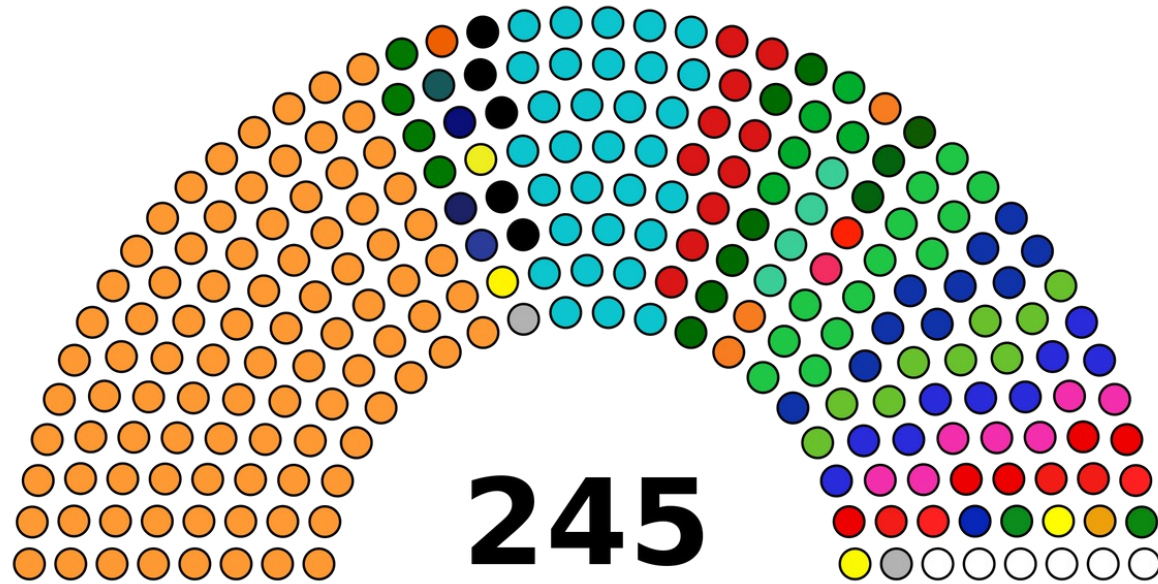- JKNC (3)
- JMM (1)
- VCK (1)

Vacant (5)

- Vacant (5)

Unallied (102)

- TMC (23)
- YSRCP (22)
- BJD (12)
- BSP (9)
- BRS (9)
- CPI(M) (3)
- SP (3)
- TDP (3)
- CPI (2)
- AIMIM (2)
- SAD (2)
- AAP (1)
- RSP (1)
- KC(M) (1)
- AIUDF (1)
- JD(S) (1)
- LJP(RV) (1)
- RLP (1)
- SAD(A) (1)
- IND (4)

Composition of the Current Rajya Sabha

Party Split of the Rajya Sabha

Government

NDA (134)

- BJP (95)
- BJD (9)
- YSRCP (9)
- AIADMK (4)
- AGP (1)
- MNF (1)
- UPPL (1)
- NPP (1)
- PMK (1)
- BSP (1)
- TDP (1)
- RPI(A) (1)
- JD(S) (1)
- TMC(M) (1)
- IND (1)
- NOM (6)

Opposition

UPA (107)

- INC (30)
- TMC (13)
- AAP (10)
- DMK (10)
- BRS (7)
- RJD (6)
- JD(U) (5)
- CPI(M) (5)
- NCP (4)
- SS(UBT) (3)
- SP (3)
- CPI (2)
- JMM (2)
- SDF (1)
- RLD (1)
- KC(M) (1)
- AGM (1)
- IUML (1)
- MDMK (1)
- IND (1)

Vacant (4)

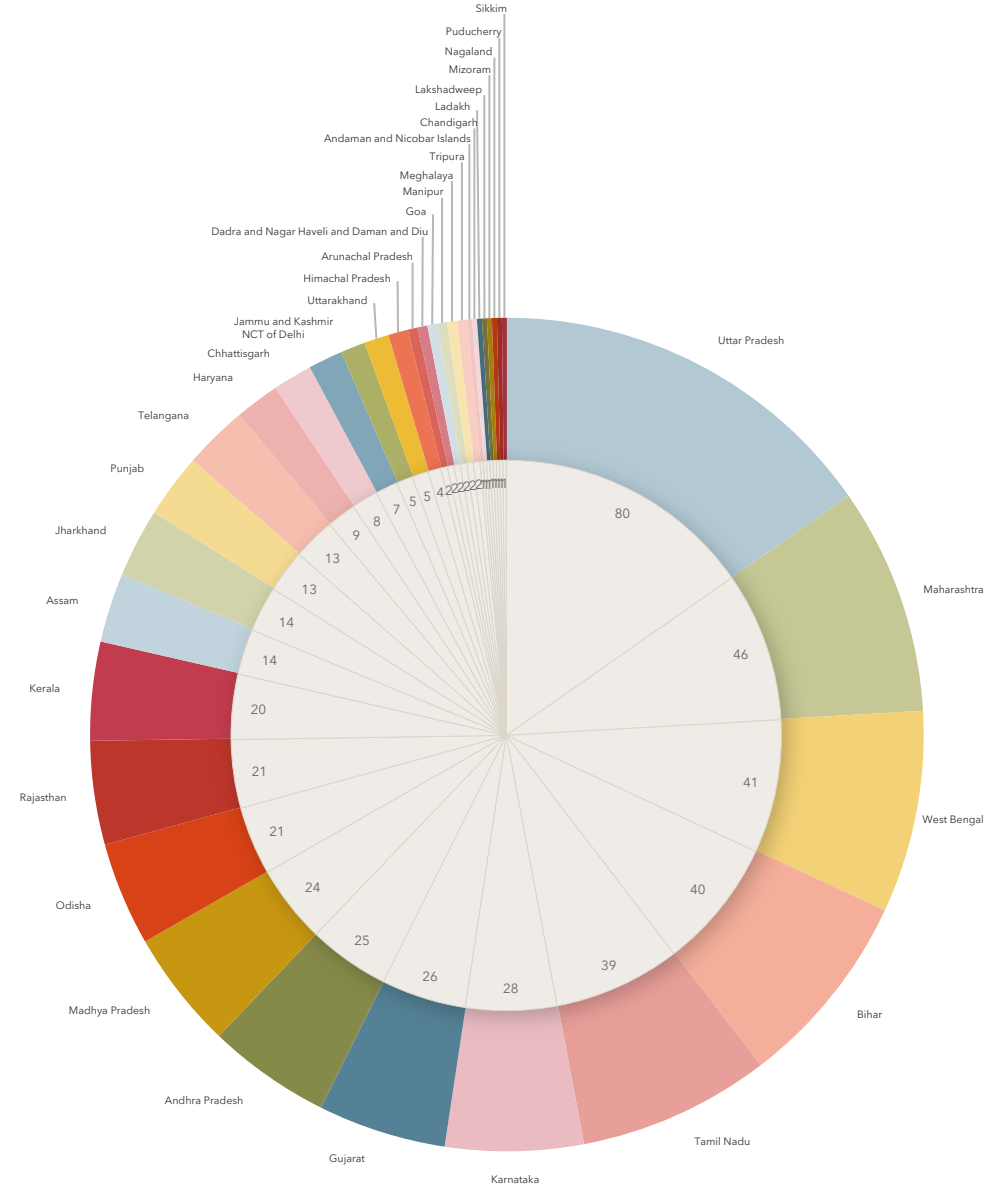- Vacant (4)

State-wise Make-up of Parliament

- Currently, 543 Seats (423 General, 70 Scheduled Caste, and 41 Scheduled Tribe) in Lok Sabha with a maximum of 545 seats

- 238 seats in Rajya Sabha with a maximum of 250 seats, 12 seats are nominated by the President

- Highest Number of Parliamentary Constituencies: Uttar Pradesh (80 in Lok Sabha, 31 in Rajya Sabha)

Constituency Formation

Every state is divided into parliamentary and assembly constituencies based on the 2001 census. The boundaries of these constituencies, as determined currently, will remain unchanged until the 2026 delimitation census. The responsibility of this division is entrusted to an authoritative organisation: the Delimitation Commission or Boundary Commission.

State wise Constituencies

India's National Elections 2024

Significance of the **2024 National Elections**

World's Largest Democracy:

Indian elections involve over 986.8 million eligible voters, making it a significant global event. The 2024 general elections will be held in seven phases between 19 April and 1 June, making it the longest general elections in India.

Democratic Expression:

Elections serve as a crucial mechanism for citizens to express their will and shape the country's future.

Policy Direction:

Election outcomes determine the direction of economic, social, and foreign policies for the next term.

Symbol of Stability:

Peaceful transitions of power through elections showcase India's democratic stability and maturity.
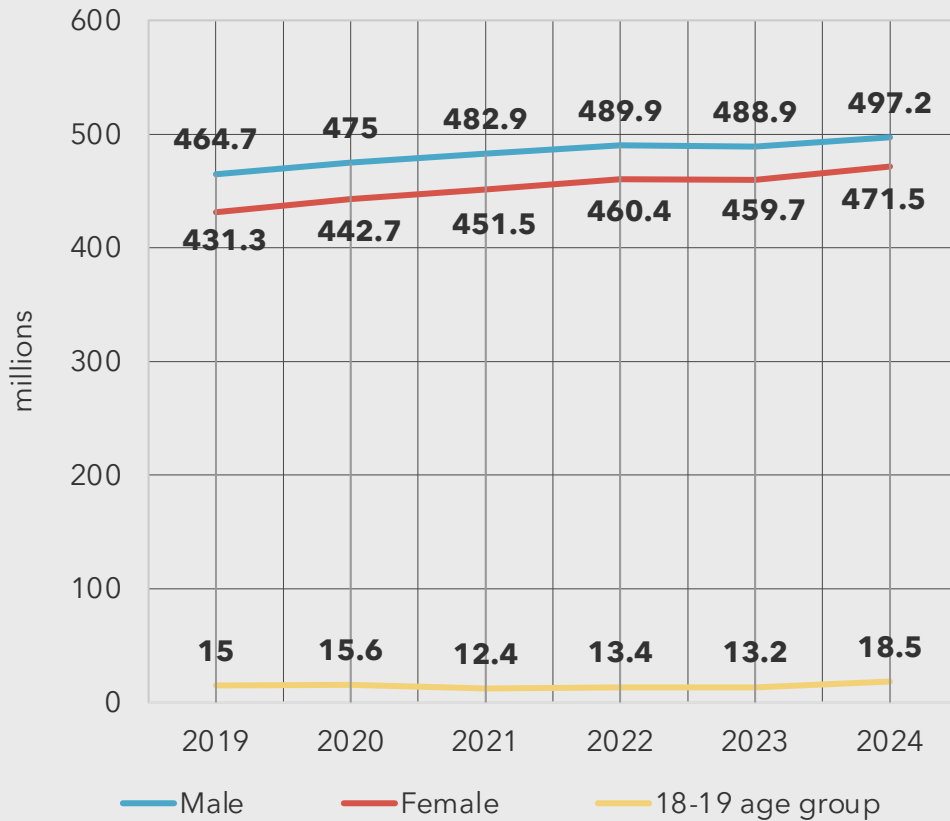
Economic Impact:

Elections often lead to short-term market fluctuations, influencing investor confidence and business sentiment.

Current Electoral Stats

Largest electorate for General Elections

Over **968.8 million** electors registered across the country
6% increase in registered voters from 2019

~**497 mil.**
male

~**471 mil.**
female

~**197.4 mil.**
Young voters (20-29)

~**18 mil.**
First time voters (18-19)

~**8.84 mil.**
PwD

~**8.2 mil.**
85+ age voters

~**1.91 mil**
Service electors

~**218,000**
Centenarians

~**48,000**
Transgender

17 General elections   **400+** State Assembly   **16** Presidential and Vice Presidential
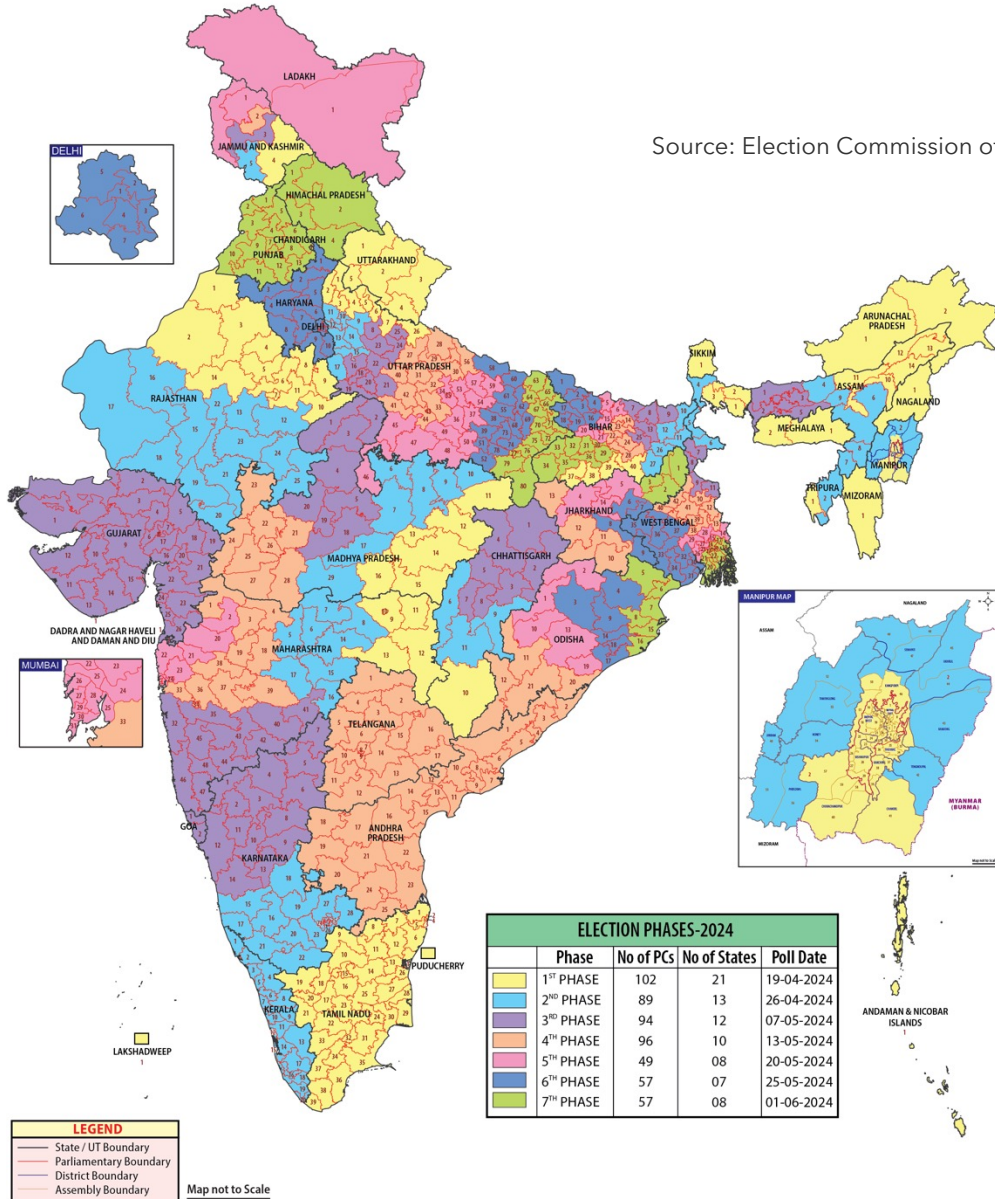
Magnitude

~**1.05 mil**
Polling stations

~**15 mil.**
Polling officials &
security staff

~**1.5 mil**
EVMs

~**400,000**
vehicles

Schedule

Source: Election Commission of India

ELECTION PHASES-2024

Phase	No of PCs	No of States	Poll Date
1ST PHASE	102	21	19-04-2024
2ND PHASE	89	13	26-04-2024
3RD PHASE	94	12	07-05-2024
4TH PHASE	96	10	13-05-2024
5TH PHASE	49	08	20-05-2024
6TH PHASE	57	07	25-05-2024
7TH PHASE	57	08	01-06-2024

LEGEND
- State / UT Boundary
- Parliamentary Boundary
- District Boundary
- Assembly Boundary

Map not to Scale

1st Phase- 19th April, 2024 — **102** constituencies across **21** states/UTs will go to polls on this day

2nd Phase- 26th April, 2024 — **89** Lok Sabha seats across **12** States/UTs will go to polls in phase 2

3rd Phase- 7th May, 2024 — **94** constituencies across **12** states/UTs will in phase 3

4th Phase- 13th May, 2024 — **96** Lok Sabha seats from **10** states/UTs will poll in phase 4

5th Phase- 20th May, 2024 — **49** seats across **8** states/UTs will go to polls in phase 5

6th Phase- 25th May, 2024 — **57** seats across **7** states/UTs will go to polls in phase 6

7th Phase- 1st June, 2024 — In the last phase, **57** seats across **8** states/UTs will go to polls

Results: 4th June 2024

The **Voting process**

Voting in India happens electronically through the use of Electronic Voting Machines **(EVM)**

Postal ballots are only allowed for officials on election duty, service voters (like those in defence, police & paramilitary), special voters and electors subject to preventive detention

Polling hours typically span from **7 am to 6 pm**, however polling may close earlier in areas affected by left wing extremism, extreme weather conditions or in North-eastern states

The Political Contest

Bharatiya Janata Party **(BJP)**-**led** *National Democratic Alliance* **(NDA)**

At present, BJP is in power in 12 states out of the 28 Indian states The NDA alliance is in power in 18 states

In the 2019 elections, BJP-led NDA won 353 seats and BJP alone bagged 303 seats

BJP is eyeing a 3rd time comeback with a target of 370+ seats and a target of 400+ seats for NDA

Prime Minister Modi is spearheading the party's nationwide campaign with focus on women, youth, farmers and poor

With BJP being called a party of the Hindi heartland, BJP is aiming to get seats from 5 states in southern India, a region where BJP hasn't had major success in the past. It is also an essential region to achieve its target of 370+ seats.

India National Development Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A)

At present, 12 states have non-BJP governments

The opposition has formed the united I.N.D.I.A bloc of alliance to counter the BJP

The bloc has rallied under "saving India's democracy and the Constitution" to preserve the principles of secularism, socialism, and social justice

The alliance includes national parties such as the Indian National Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, Communist Party of India (M) as well as state parties such as Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray faction), Samajwadi Party, among others

Strategy is focused on unemployment, farmers, youth and women

Key Political Leaders

Narendra Modi

The incumbent Prime Minister is setting his sights on securing a third consecutive term. Much of the political campaigns and strategies for BJP are centred around the Prime Minister's popularity. He will contest the elections from the Varanasi constituency in Uttar Pradesh. In the 2019 elections, PM Modi-led BJP came out as the clear victor by winning 303 seats, the highest ever tally for any political party. This time, the BJP has set a goal of winning 370+ seats. If Mr. Modi wins these elections and becomes the Prime Minister, he will be the second longest serving Indian Prime Minister after Jawaharlal Nehru.

Rahul Gandhi

Congress Member of the Parliament and former president of the party, Rahul Gandhi has been spearheading all the political strategies of the Indian National Congress. Despite encountering several setbacks and a less-than-satisfactory performance in the previous elections, he continues to stand as a pivotal figure in the opposition's stance against the BJP. The Lok Sabha elections will be a fight for survival for the Congress led by Rahul Gandhi. The Congress is hoping that the 62-day Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi, would carve the basic framework of Congress's campaign for the Lok Sabha elections.

Arvind Kejriwal

The Chief Minister of Delhi and the national convenor of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). At present, the AAP is embroiled in an intensifying clash with the BJP over the Delhi Liquor policy scam, which is one of the biggest political talking points not only in the national capital, but across India. He was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on March 21 in connection with the excise policy case. Barely 12 years old, his party is emerging as the fastest growing political party in India. These Lok Sabha elections will decide his stature among the older opposition parties in India.

Nitish Kumar

The Chief Minister of Bihar and leader of Janata Dal (United) is marking his ninth term in office. His sudden move to dump ally partner Rashtriya Janata Dal and join hands with the BJP, shook the political landscape of Bihar. He is among the few Hindi heartland leaders with mass political backing and experience. His party's performance in the Lok Sabha elections could be a defining moment for his career and his position in national politics in India.

Mamata Banerjee

As the Trinamool Congress leader and incumbent Chief Minister of West Bengal, she wields significant political influence in a state where politics have often been marred by violence. She has been one of the most vociferous political leaders taking on the BJP. With BJP getting 18 Lok Sabha seats in 2019 in West Bengal, it will be a huge challenge for Mamata Banerjee to resist BJP's expansion the state. The state is expected to witness one of the fiercest political battles between Mamata Banerjee and Narendra Modi.

Election **Manifestos**

Bharatiya Janata Party *(BJP)*

Commitment to four pillars of nation's development: **Women, Youth, Underprivileged and Farmers**

Set a target of **doubling the GDP** in the next **10 years** and make India the third largest economy

Position India as **a Global Manufacturing Hub** and make India a Global Electronics Manufacturing Hub by **2030**

Make India the global hub for High Value Services by establishing more **Global Capability/Tech/Engineering Centres**

Position India as a leading space power through the launch of **Gaganyaan mission, establishing Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS)** and setting up a Global Space Academy

Position India as a **global leader in AI** and emerging technologies and build domestic capacities to ensure tech sovereignty

Promote adoption of electric vehicles and establish **e-mobility infrastructure**

Accelerate development of **robust infrastructure** along the Indo-China, Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Myanmar **borders**

Bring in **Creating a global consensus** among all members of United Nations to combat **against terrorism**

Follow Neighbourhood First Policy to promote regional cooperation

Enactment of a law to **prevent examination paper leaks** and conduct transparent exams for government jobs

Enforce the Uniform Civil Code **(UCC),** implement Citizenship Amendment Act **(CAA)** and **One Nation, One Election**

Congress

Themed around **Work, Wealth and Welfare**

25 guarantees centered around providing justice to 5 pillars: **Women, Farmers, Youth, Workers & Equity**

Make India a Manufacturing Hub by raising the share of manufacturing from 14% to **20% of GDP** in next **5 years**

Introduce Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme for corporates to win tax credits for additional hiring against regular, quality jobs

Assurance to give legal guarantee to the Minimum Support Price **(MSP)** to farmers

Bring **23 crore** Indians out of poverty in **next 10 years**

Reserve **50%** of central government jobs for women starting **2025**

Issue a **National Security Strategy**, repair relations with the Maldives and restore the status quo ante on the **borders with China**

Ensure that, like every citizen, minorities have the freedom of choice of dress, food, language, and personal laws and encourage **reform of personal laws**

Constitute an independent **Environment Protection and Climate Change Authority** to establish, monitor and enforce environmental standards and enforce **National and State Climate Change plans**