

## India's General Election: Verdict 2024-A Reflection of Public Political Decisions

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### Abstract

2024 has been a year of elections around the world, including the developed nations—the USA, the UK, the European Union and the Russian Federation alongside countries like India, Mexico, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran (the Islamic Republic of), South Africa, Republic of Korea (South Korea), Algeria, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Ghana, Mozambique, Madagascar, Venezuela, (the Bolivarian Republic of), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), Taiwan, Syrian Arab Republic, Mali, Sri Lanka, Romania, Chad, Senegal, Cambodia, Rwanda, Tunisia, Belgium, Dominic Republic, Jordan, South Sudan, Czechia (Czech Republic), Azerbaijan, Portugal, Belarus, Togo, Austria, El Salvador, Slovakia, Finland, Mauritania, Panama, Croatia, Georgia, Mongolia, Uruguay, Republic of Moldova, Lithuania Botswana, Namibia, Guinea Bissau and North Macedonia. This editorial is devoted to the verdict of India's General Election 2024.

The results of the 2024 *Lok Sabha* elections have trickled in by defying most of the expectations of the exit polls. The graph of the results projected a different picture, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) grabbing 293 seats in the 543-member Parliament. At the same time, the coalition of opposition parties, collectively known as the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), accomplished 234, which is 38 less than the required majority. As a twist in the election results, the regional parties made significant gains in many states. Congress bagged a strong revival, which was hugely attributed to the *Bharat Jodo Yatra* and *Nyay Yatra* under the architect of Mr Rahul Gandhi. Nevertheless, with its allies, BJP-led NDA is on board as Modi 3.0 leads the largest democracy.

**Keywords:** Election Results; *Lok Sabha*; Government: Coalition; Democracy; India

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**Introduction: Democracy Stands Tall!**

Source: National Portal of India (<https://www.india.gov.in>)

The 18th General Elections of India were held in seven phases from 19 April to 01 June 2024. This was so far the largest-ever election to elect 543 members of the *Lok Sabha* (House of the People, the lower house of India's bicameral Parliament), where electorates of the largest Democracy could participate. The highest electorate turnout at 69.16% was recorded in the 4th Phase. In comparison, the lowest was recorded in Phase 7, which was 61.63% (Table 1). The mass participation of the electorate and their decision-making has proved once again that the 'people' are the pivot of Indian democracy. Most of the election took place in scorching temperatures (around 50<sup>0</sup> C) in most of the country's regions. Besides the active

participation of the voters, the collective efforts of political parties, the dedication of election personnel, and above all, the security forces bagged much credit and respect for the smooth functioning of the entire election process. It was a mammoth exercise completed in world history. The verdict of the election, which was declared on 04 June 2024, unfolded as the restoration of democracy in a balanced way. BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) formed the Government for the third consecutive year as Modi 3.0 with Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) (allies), bringing hope to make a better India.

**Table 1: Phases & Electorates, India, 2024**

Election 2024 Phases	Electorate turnout (in percentage)
Phase 1, 19 April	66.14
Phase 2, 26 April	66.71
Phase 3, 7 May	65.68
Phase 4, 13 May	69.16
Phase 5, 20 May	62.2
Phase 6, 25 May	63.37
Phase 7, 01 June'24	61.63

Source: National Portal of India, <https://www.india.gov.in>

**Discussion*****It is all about gaining a solid opposition***

The verdict of the Election 2024 unfolded a different landscape where the BJP fell short of an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha by more than 30 seats. This was far away from their claim during the campaign with the 2024 slogan, *Abki baar 400 paar* (this time, more than 400 seats). On the contrary, the result surprisingly marked the strong revival of Congress led-INDIA with *234 seats, which was 38 less than the majority*

*mark. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' and 'Nyay Yatra' perhaps played a magical role.*

In the major cities of North and Central India, out of 21 Constituencies, BJP-led NDA won 19 seats, including Delhi, Gurgaon, Bhopal and Lucknow. In the South Indian States, BJP won 29 seats by securing eight seats in Telangana, three constituencies in Andhra Pradesh, 17 in Karnataka and one in Kerala. In the States of North East India, the BJP could secure only 13 seats in Assam(9), Arunachal Pradesh(2) and

Tripura(2). Congress bags all seats in Manipur in the 2024 Elections; in 2019, they failed to secure a single seat in the State.

Another breakthrough was that the regional parties, namely Janata Dal (United) JD(U), Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray (UBT)) and Samajwadi Party made significant gains in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal respectively. This return of regional parties made democracy stand tall, shifting the political scenario towards a competitive, solid opposition. Above all, the final verdict ensured a humble beginning of a coalition government rather than a single-party dominance at the centre, leading towards a dynamic future for India.

### Public Political Decisions

The General Elections of 2024 produced surprising results, revoking many assumptions and speculations. This is the proud face of New India Politics, where the electorate supports a system of fair play, restoration of democracy, and balanced governance. The voters clearly indicated that jobs and economic development matter the most in this largest democracy.

While writing this editorial, an online survey on Post Poll results, 2024, was conducted, reflecting very interesting facts about the political decision-making as an electorate of the country. As per the survey analysis, 66.7% of the respondents voted in the General Election 2024. Only 16.7% of respondents believe that the BJP-led NDA government was working in the right direction to benefit the people and the country. When asked how they chose their political candidate to vote in the election, 41.7% mentioned that they did proper research about the candidate's political career, 33.3% opined that they were influenced by the social media, 16.7% decided by TV channel News coverage, and 8.3% took the help of various newspaper articles. While asking about what they want the New Government to focus on, the respondents want the government to focus on the economic development of the people, solving ethnic clashes, enhancing medical care as well as more work in science and technology rather than highlighting religious sentiments. Greater

opportunities must be created for the flourishing youth from the country's fastest-growing economy. The people opined that they are satisfied with the General Election 2024 verdict, as a single majority Government may shade the essence of democracy at times. The results of the Election, indeed, have projected the picture of a strong democratic nation.

### Conclusion

This multi-phased Lok Sabha Elections 2024 was the largest ever so far that the world witnessed. About 66% of the largest democracy took part in the electorate process. The Election Commission of India (ECI) should be appreciated for its ability to successfully conduct such an extensive exercise. The elections are never just about winning or defeating; they are more about creating stable governance and strong opposition to create a balance. The EC could justifiably claim to have lived up to its own high standards. "*Parinaam mein hi pramaan hai* (the result is the proof)", said the CEC. The verdict of the elections for a coalition government reinforces India's strength of diversity and signifies the role of states and regional political parties in democracy. Enforcement of one leader and one ideology can never be the vision of a diverse country like India, and the people have proved it loud and clear in 2024. As the BJP-led NDA and the allies created a coalition Government after the historical verdict of 4th June 2024, let's hope for more democracy and a healthy Parliament in the dynamic Modi 3.0.

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