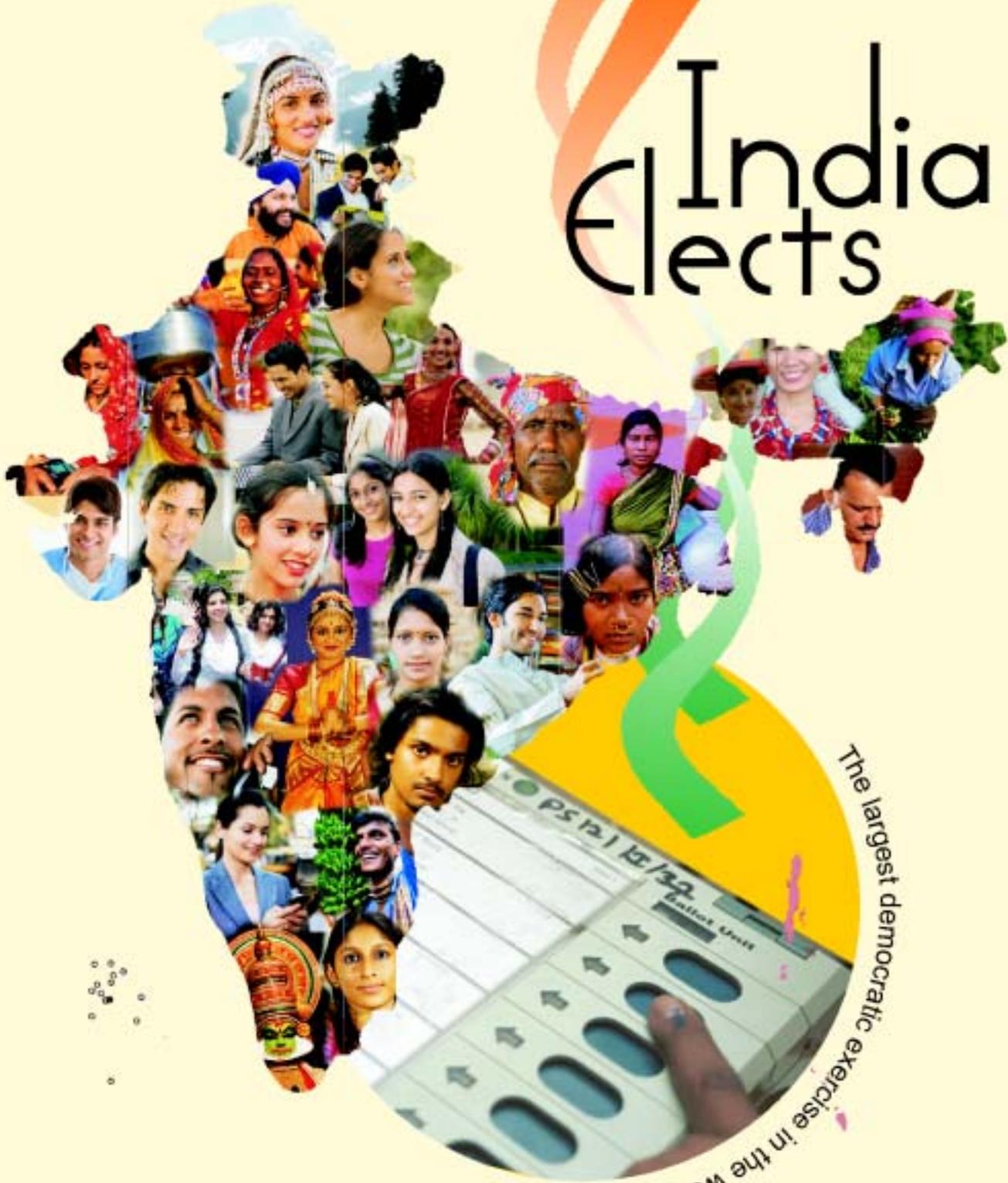


# India Elects



The largest democratic exercise in the world

General Elections 2009



WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA,  
having solemnly resolved to constitute India  
into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC

and to secure to all its citizens:  
JUSTICE, social, economic and political;  
LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and  
worship;  
EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote  
among them all  
FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual  
and the unity and integrity of the Nation;  
IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY  
this twentysixth day of November, 1949,  
do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES  
THIS CONSTITUTION.



विदेश सचिव  
FOREIGN SECRETARY

विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली 110 011  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI 110 011  
Phone: 2301 2318 Fax: 2301 6781  
E-mail: dirfs@mea.gov.in

## Foreword

In April-May 2009 the people of India will choose 543 members of the 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha (the house of the people of the Indian Parliament) in free and fair elections. General elections in India are the largest popular democratic political process in the world. In this country of 1.1 billion people, general elections involve an electorate of 714 million persons, over 828 thousand polling stations, 1.37 million electronic voting machines, and 5.5 million polling officials.

The people of India have consistently reaffirmed their faith in democracy, pluralism and tolerance on every occasion. The forthcoming General Elections will be no exception.

If the mind boggles at the scale and complexity of this electoral undertaking, it is our hope that this publication by XP Division of the Ministry of External Affairs will be useful to members of the public and the media, who are looking for information on this mammoth exercise in participatory democracy.

S. Menon  
Foreign Secretary

# General Elections 2009 - At a Glance

## The Electorate

714 million voters will elect 543 Members of Parliament (MP) for Lok Sabha (House of the People or Lower House) this time. The size of electorate has increased from 671 million during the last General Elections in 2004.

## Schedule of Elections

General Elections 2009 will be held in 5 phases. The schedule is as under:

Election Dates	No. of Seats	States
Apr 16	124	AP, Arunachal, Assam, Bihar, J&K, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, UP, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andaman, Lakshadweep
Apr 23	141	AP, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand
Apr 30	107	Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu
May 07	85	Bihar, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi
May 13	86	Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Puducherry

## Photo-Electoral Rolls

Elector Photo Identity Cards (EIPC) have already been issued to 82% of the electorate. It is for the first time that Photo-Elector rolls will be used for the elections.

## Delimitations of Parliamentary Constituencies

A fresh Delimitation exercise was conducted in 2008. Of the total of 543 constituencies, 499 have been newly delimited. The constituency with highest number of Electors at 1.897 million is 33-Unnao in Uttar Pradesh (UP). Lakshadweep with 44,424 electors is the smallest.

## Polling Station

828,804 polling stations, which is an all time high, have been established for the polls. There were 687,402 stations in the previous elections.

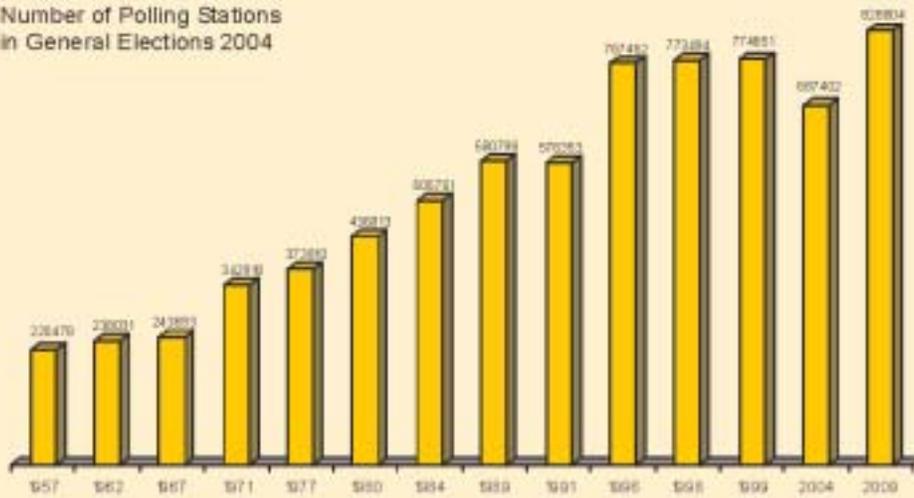
Highest number of Polling Stations in Uttar Pradesh (128,112)

Lowest number of Polling Stations in Sikkim (581).

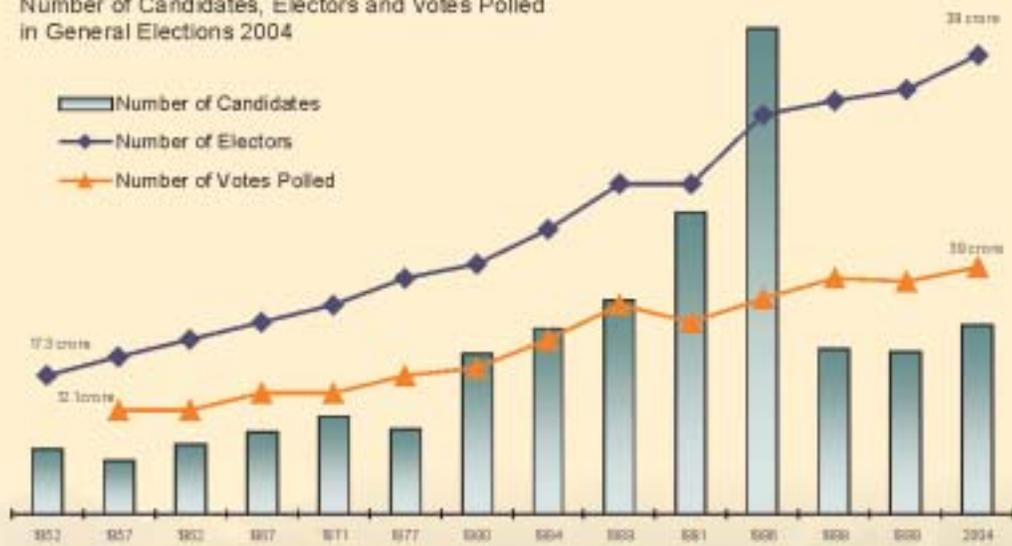
**Counting of Votes:** May 16, 2009

**Next Lok Sabha to convene before** Jun 02, 2009

Number of Polling Stations in General Elections 2004



Number of Candidates, Electors and Votes Polled in General Elections 2004



# Constitution of India

- India, also known as Bharat, is a Union of States. It is a Sovereign Socialist Democratic Republic with a parliamentary system of government. The Republic is governed in terms of the Constitution of India which was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November 1949 and came into force on 26th January 1950.
- The Constitution provides for a Parliamentary form of government which is federal in structure with certain unitary features. The constitutional head of the Executive of the Union is the President. As per Article 79 of the Constitution of India, the council of the Parliament of the Union consists of the President and two Houses known as the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and the House of the People (Lok Sabha).
- Parliament is the supreme legislative body of India. The Indian Parliament comprises of the President and the two Houses-Lok Sabha (House of the People) and Rajya Sabha (Council of States). The President has the power to summon and prorogue either House of Parliament or to dissolve Lok Sabha.

## The President

The President is elected by members of an electoral college consisting of elected members of both Houses of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies of the states in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote. President must be a citizen of India, not less than 35 years of age and qualified for election as a member of Lok Sabha.

More information on President of India <http://presidentofindia.nic.in/index.html>





## Rajya Sabha

The Rajya Sabha is to consist of not more than 250 members - 238 members representing the States and Union Territories, and 12 members nominated by the President. Rajya Sabha is a permanent body and is not subject to dissolution. However, one third of the members retire every second year, and are replaced by newly elected members. Each member is elected for a term of six years. The Vice President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

More information on Rajya Sabha <http://rajyasabha.nic.in/>

## Lok Sabha

The Lok Sabha is composed of representatives of people chosen by direct election on the basis of Universal Adult Suffrage. The Constitution provides that the maximum strength of the House be 552 members - 530 members to represent the States, 20 members to represent the Union Territories, and 2 members to be nominated by the President from the Anglo-Indian Community. At present, the strength of the House is 545 members. The term of the Lok Sabha, unless dissolved, is five years from the date appointed for its first meeting.

More information on Lok Sabha <http://loksabha.nic.in/>



## The Election Commission

The Constitution of India has vested in the Election Commission of India the superintendence, direction and control of the entire process for conduct of elections to Parliament and Legislature of every State and to the offices of President and Vice-President of India. Election Commission of India is a permanent Constitutional Body. The Election Commission was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950.

### Setup

Election Commission currently consists of Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners. The Commission has a separate Secretariat at New Delhi, consisting of about 300 officials, in a hierarchical set up.

The gigantic task force for conducting a countrywide general election consists of nearly five million polling personnel and civil police forces. This huge election machinery is deemed to be on deputation to the Election Commission and is subject to its control, superintendence and discipline during the election period, extending over a period of one and half to two months.



## Political Parties & the Commission

Political parties are registered with the Election Commission under the law. Political Parties so registered with it are granted recognition at the State and National levels by the Election Commission on the basis of their poll performance at general elections according to criteria prescribed by it. The Commission, as a part of its quasi-judicial jurisdiction, also settles disputes between the splinter groups of such recognised parties. Election Commission ensures a level playing field for the political parties in election fray, through strict observance by them of a Model Code of Conduct evolved with the consensus of political parties.

## Advisory Jurisdiction and Quasi-Judicial Functions

Under the Constitution, the Commission also has advisory jurisdiction in the matter of post election disqualification of sitting members of Parliament and State Legislatures. Further, the cases of persons found guilty of corrupt practices at elections which come before the Supreme Court and High Courts are also referred to the Commission for its opinion on the question as to whether such person shall be disqualified and, if so, for what period. The opinion of the Commission in all such matters is binding on the President or, as the case may be, the Governor to whom such opinion is tendered.

The Commission has the power to disqualify a candidate who has failed to lodge an account of his election expenses within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. The Commission has also the power for removing or reducing the period of such disqualification as also other disqualification under the law.







## Media Policy

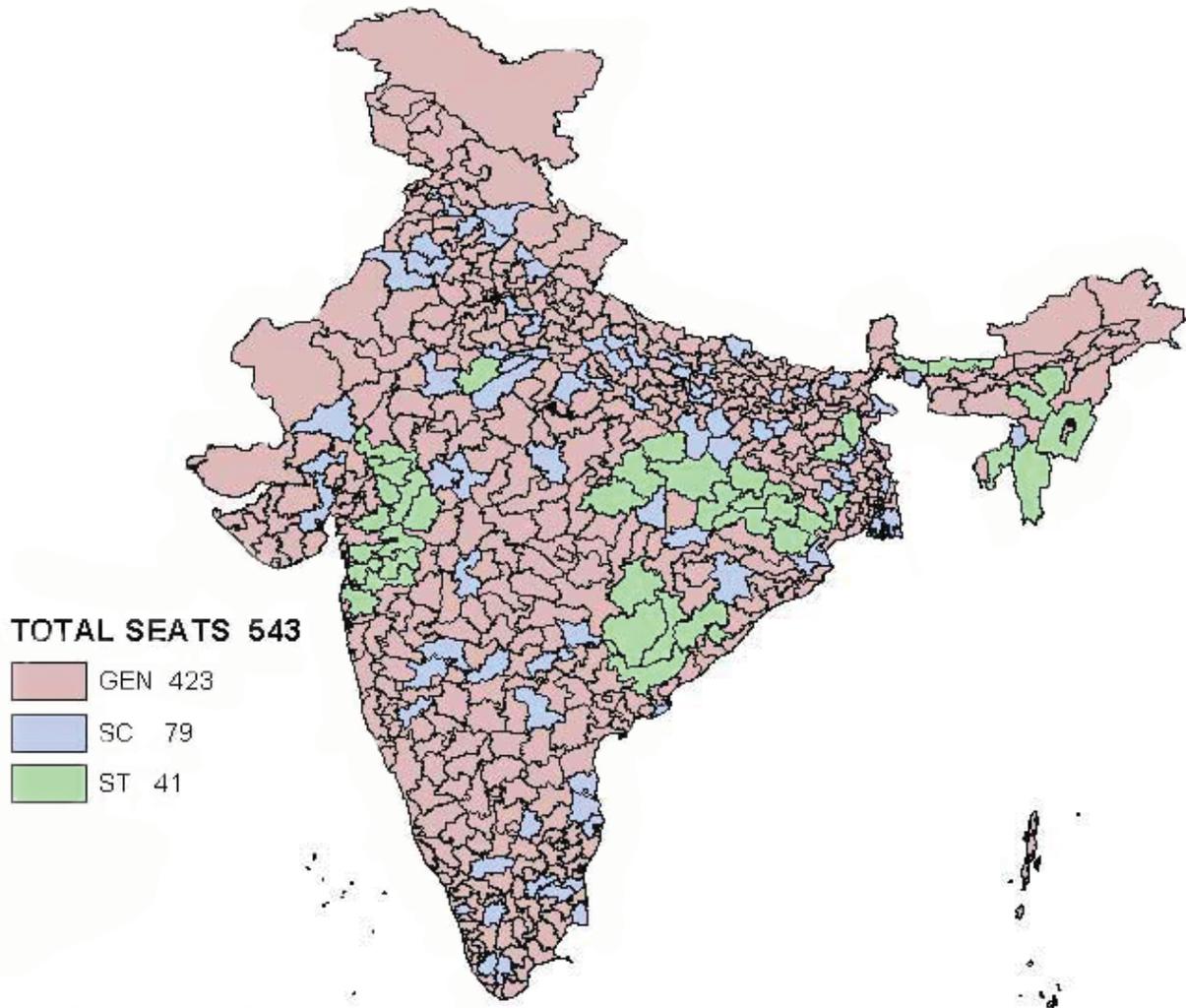
The Commission has a comprehensive policy for the media. It holds regular briefings for the mass media-print and electronic, on a regular basis, at close intervals during the election period and on specific occasions as necessary on other occasions. The representatives of the media are also provided facilities to report on actual conduct of poll and counting. They are allowed entry into polling stations and counting centres on the basis of authority letters issued by the Commission. They include members of both international and national media. The Commission also publishes statistical reports and other documents which are available in the public domain. The library of the Commission is available for research and study to members of the academic fraternity; media representatives and anybody else interested.

## International Co-operation

India is a founding member of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), Stockholm, Sweden. In the recent past, the Commission has expanded international contacts by way of sharing of experience and expertise in the areas of Electoral Management and Administration, Electoral Laws and Reforms. Election Officials from the national electoral bodies and other delegates from the several countries - Russia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Indonesia, South Africa, Bangladesh, Thailand, Nigeria, Namibia, Bhutan, Australia, the United States and Afghanistan etc. have visited the Commission for a better understanding of the Indian Electoral Process. The Commission has also provided experts and observers for elections to other countries in co-operation with the United Nations and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

More information on Election Commission <http://eci.nic.in/>

## General Elections 2009



*The Constitution of India under Articles 330-342 provides for Special Provisions relating to certain Classes including Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People. The statutory lists of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are notified in pursuance of articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution.*

*Reservation is also popularly referred to as Compensatory discrimination. It provides positive preferential treatment as a means to accelerate the integration of the SCs and STs with mainstream society.*





**State-wise break-up of seats and reserved seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes before and after the Delimitation in 2008**

S.No.	Name of the State/Union Territory	Seats in the House as constituted in 2004 on the basis of the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1976			Seats in the House as subsequently constituted as per the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008		
		Total	Reserved for SCs	Reserved for Tribes	Total	Reserved for Castes	Reserved for Tribes
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42	6	2	42	7	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	2	-	-	2	-	-
3.	Assam*	14	1	2	14	1	2
4.	Bihar	40	7	-	40	6	-
5.	Chattisgarh	11	2	4	11	1	4
6.	Goa	2	-	-	2	-	-
7.	Gujarat	26	2	4	26	2	4
8.	Haryana	0	2	-	10	2	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	1	-	4	1	-
10.	Jammu & Kashmir*	6	-	-	6	-	-
11.	Jharkhand@	14	1	5	14	1	5
12.	Karnataka	28	4	-	28	5	2
13.	Kerala	20	2	-	20	2	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	29	4	5	29	4	6
15.	Maharashtra	29	4	5	29	4	6
16.	Manipur*	2	-	1	2	-	1
17.	Maghalaya	2	-	-	2	-	-
18.	Mizoram	1	-	1	1	-	1
19.	Nagaland*	1	-	-	1	-	-
20.	Orissa	21	3	5	21	3	5
21.	Punjab	13	3	-	13	4	-
22.	Rajasthan	25	4	3	25	4	3
23.	Sikkim	1	-	-	1	-	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	39	7	-	39	7	-
25.	Tripura	2	-	1	2	-	1
26.	Uttarakhand	5	-	-	5	1	-
27.	Uttar Pradesh	80	18	-	1	-	-
28.	Wes Bengal	42	8	2	42	10	2
<b>UNION TERRITORIES</b>							
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	-	-	1	-	-
2.	Chandigarh	1	-	-	1	-	-
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	-	1	1	-	1
4.	Delhi	7	1	-	7	1	-
5.	Daman & Diu	1	-	-	1	-	-
6.	Lakshadweep	1	-	1	1	-	1
7.	Puducherry	1	-	-	1	-	-
<b>Total Seats</b>		<b>543</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>47</b>

\*States excluded from Delimitation Exercise

@Order issued by the Delimitation Commission was nullified by the Sec 10B of the Delimitation Amendment Act, 2008

## Model Code Of Conduct

The Model Code of Conduct for guidance of political parties and candidates is a set of norms which has been evolved with the consensus of political parties who have consented to abide by the principles embodied in the said code and also binds them to respect and observe it in its letter and spirit. It is a unique document, evolved with the consensus of political parties in the country.

Consequent on the announcement of the Schedule for the General Elections, the Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates comes into operation with immediate effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009 in the entire country. This is applicable to all political parties and to the Union and State and Union Territory Governments.

The salient features of the Model Code of Conduct lay down how political parties, contesting candidates and party(s) in power should conduct themselves during the process of elections i.e. on their general conduct during electioneering, holding meetings and processions, poll day activities and functioning of the party in power etc.

More information on [http://eci.nic.in/CurrentElections/recent\\_instructions.asp](http://eci.nic.in/CurrentElections/recent_instructions.asp)

## Delimitation Commission

The word "Delimitation" literally means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body. The job of delimitation is assigned to a high power body. Such a body is known as Delimitation Commission or a Boundary Commission. In India, such Delimitation Commissions have been constituted four times, in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, in 1963 under the Delimitation Commission Act 1962, in 1973 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1972 and in 2002 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 2002.

The main purpose of undertaking the delimitation exercise is to rationalize the structure and composition of the electoral constituencies, on the principle of "One vote and one value". The Delimitation Commission, set up under the Delimitation Act, 2002, was entrusted with the task of readjusting all parliamentary and assembly constituencies in the country in all the states of India, except the state of Jammu and Kashmir, on the basis of population ascertained in 2001 Census. On 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2008, the Government of India promulgated an Ordinance amending the Delimitation Act, 2002 nullifies the Final Order of the Delimitation Commission for the state of Jharkhand. Later on, the Government have passed four separate Orders under Sec 10 A of the Delimitation Act, 2002, deferring the delimitation exercise in the four North Eastern states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland.

# The Vote

## Eligibility to Vote

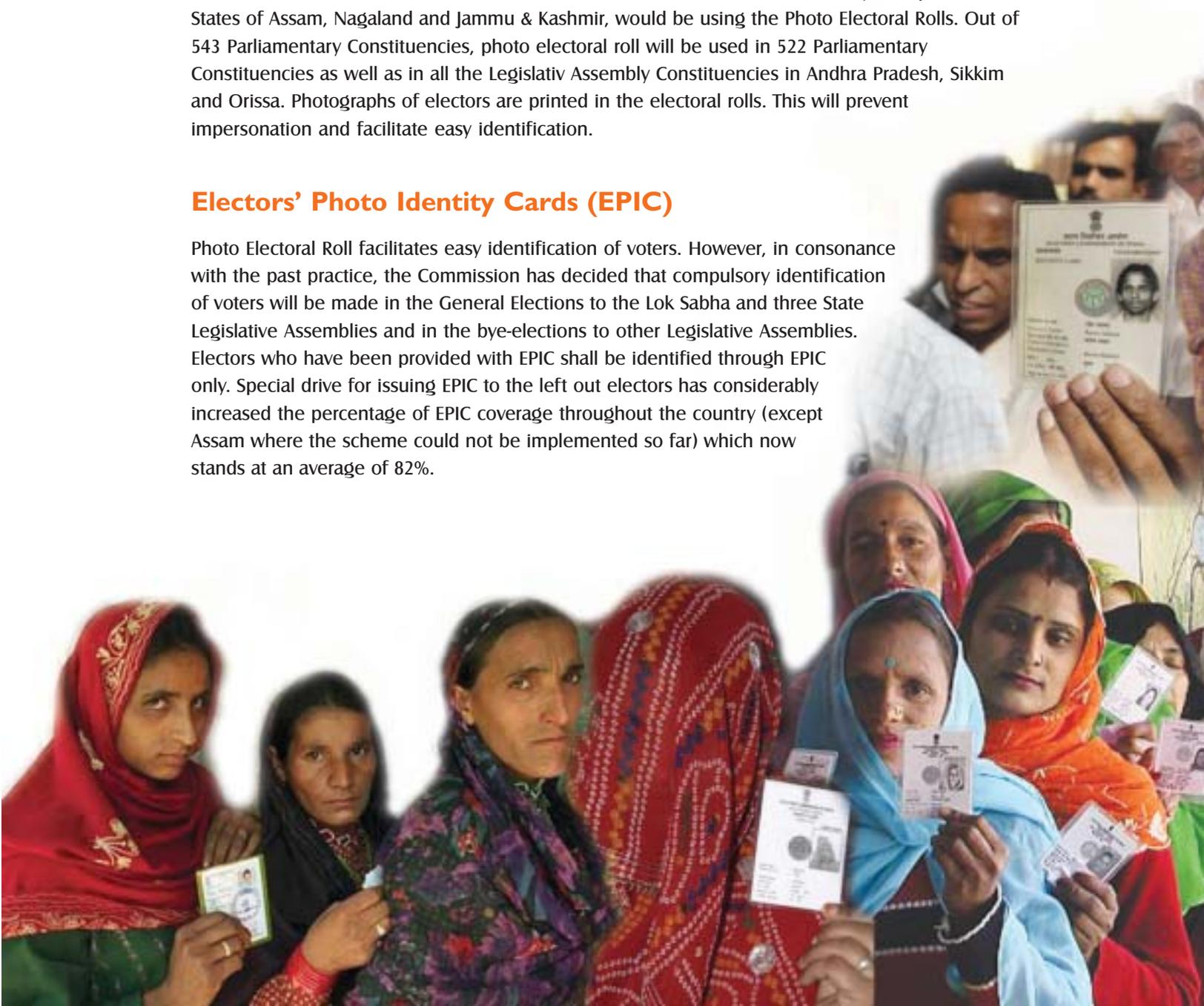
Any citizen over the age of 18 can vote in an election. Those who are deemed unsound of mind, and people convicted of certain criminal offences are not allowed to vote

## Electoral and Photo Electoral Rolls

The electoral rolls of all States and Union Territories have been updated in terms of the aforesaid delimited constituencies, with reference to 1.1.2009 as the qualifying date and have been finally published in all States and Union Territories. However, the process of continuous updating will continue till the last date for filing nominations. The total electorate in the country after this round of revision is approximately 714 million compared to 671 million in 2004. This marks an increase of 43 million in the electorate. This would be the first time when the entire country, except the three States of Assam, Nagaland and Jammu & Kashmir, would be using the Photo Electoral Rolls. Out of 543 Parliamentary Constituencies, photo electoral roll will be used in 522 Parliamentary Constituencies as well as in all the Legislative Assembly Constituencies in Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim and Orissa. Photographs of electors are printed in the electoral rolls. This will prevent impersonation and facilitate easy identification.

## Electors' Photo Identity Cards (EPIC)

Photo Electoral Roll facilitates easy identification of voters. However, in consonance with the past practice, the Commission has decided that compulsory identification of voters will be made in the General Elections to the Lok Sabha and three State Legislative Assemblies and in the bye-elections to other Legislative Assemblies. Electors who have been provided with EPIC shall be identified through EPIC only. Special drive for issuing EPIC to the left out electors has considerably increased the percentage of EPIC coverage throughout the country (except Assam where the scheme could not be implemented so far) which now stands at an average of 82%.





## Polling Day

Polling is normally held on a number of different days in different constituencies, to enable the security forces and those monitoring the election to keep law and order and ensure that voting during the elections is free and fair.

## The voting

Voting is by secret ballot. Polling stations are usually set up in public institutions, such as schools and community halls. Each polling station is open for at least eight hours on the day of election. On entering the polling station, the elector is checked against the electoral roll, and allowed to press a button on the electronic voting machine.

## Supervising Elections, Elections Observers

The Election Commission appoints a large number of observers to ensure that the campaign is conducted fairly, and that people are free to vote as they choose. Observers also keep a check on the amount that each candidate and party spends on the election.



## Counting of Votes

After the counting of votes is over, the returning officer declares the name of the candidate to whom the largest number of votes has been given as the winner, and as having been returned by the constituency to the concerned house.

## Election Petitions

Any elector or candidate can file an election petition if he or she thinks there has been malpractice during the election. An election petition is not an ordinary civil suit, but treated as a contest in which the whole constituency is involved. Election petitions are tried by the high court of the state involved, and if upheld can even lead to the restating of the election in that constituency.



## Schedule of Elections

The Election Commission has finalized the Schedule for General Elections to be held in five phases to constitute the 15th Lok Sabha. The Highlights of the Schedules are indicated below:

### Phases – General Election -2009

Phase	Number of States & Union Territories	Number of Parliamentary Constituencies	Date of Poll
1	17	124	16 <sup>th</sup> April, 2009 (Thursday)
2	13	141	23 <sup>rd</sup> April, 2009 (Thursday) (22 <sup>nd</sup> April, 2009 Wednesday for 1-Inner Manipur PC only )
3	11	107	30 <sup>th</sup> April, 2009 (Thursday)
4	8	85	7 <sup>th</sup> May, 2009 (Thursday)
5	9	86	13 <sup>th</sup> May, 2009 (Wednesday)
Number of Phase in States and Union Territories			
No. of Phase	State and Union Territories		
FIVE	Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh		
FOUR	Bihar		
THREE	Maharashtra and Bengal		
TWO	Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Orisa and Punjab		
ONE	Remaining 15 States and 7 union Territories		

Counting will take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, 2009 and is expected to be completed on the same day.

Source: EC press note no. ECI/PN/13/2009 Dated: 2<sup>nd</sup> march, 2009



## Press Council of India's Guidelines on Election Reporting

### Press Council of India's Guidelines on Election Reporting

General Election is a very important feature of our democracy and it is imperative that the media transmits to the electorate fair and objective reports of the election campaign by the contesting parties. Freedom of the Press depends to a large measure on the Press itself behaving with a sense of responsibility. It is, therefore, necessary to ensure that the media adheres to this principle of fair and objective reporting of the election campaign.

The Press Council has, therefore, formulated the following guidelines to the media for observance during elections:

1. It will be the duty of the Press to give objective reports about elections and the candidates. The newspapers are not expected to indulge in unhealthy election campaigns, exaggerated reports about any candidate/party or incident during the elections. In practice, two or three closely contesting candidates attract all the media attention. While reporting on the actual campaign, a newspaper may not leave out any important point raised by a candidate and make an attack on his or her opponent.
2. Election campaign along communal or caste lines is banned under the election rules. Hence, the Press should eschew reports which tend to promote feelings of enmity or hatred between people on the ground of religion, race, caste, community or language.
3. The Press should refrain from publishing false or critical statements in regard to the personal character and conduct of any candidate or in relation to the candidature or withdrawal of any candidate or his candidature, to prejudice the prospects of that candidate in the elections. The Press shall not publish unverified allegations against any candidate/party.
4. The Press shall not accept any kind of inducement, financial or otherwise, to project a candidate/party. It shall not accept hospitality or other facilities offered to them by or on behalf of any candidate/party.
5. The Press is not expected to indulge in canvassing of a particular candidate/party. If it does, it shall allow the right of reply to the other candidate/party.
6. The Press shall not accept/publish any advertisement at the cost of public exchequer regarding achievements of a party/ government in power.
7. The Press shall observe all the directions/orders/instructions of the Election Commission/Returning Officers or Chief Electoral Officer issued from time to time.

### Guidelines on 'Pre-poll' and 'Exit-polls' Survey

The Press Council of India having considered the question of desirability or otherwise of publication of findings of pre-poll surveys and the purpose served by them, is of the view that the newspapers should not allow their forum to be used for distortions and manipulations of the elections and should not allow themselves to be exploited by the interested parties.

1. The Press Council, therefore, advises that in view of the crucial position occupied by the electoral process in a representative democracy like ours, the newspapers should be on guard against their precious forum being used for distortions and manipulations of the elections. This has become

necessary to emphasize today since the print media is sought to be increasingly exploited by the interested individuals and groups to misguide and mislead the unwary voters by subtle and not so subtle propaganda on casteist, religious and ethnic basis as well as by the use of sophisticated means like the alleged pre-poll surveys. While the communal and seditious propaganda is not difficult to detect in many cases, the interested use of the pre-poll survey, sometimes deliberately planted, is not so easy to uncover. The Press Council, therefore, suggests that whenever the newspapers publish pre-poll surveys, they should take care to preface them conspicuously by indicating the institutions which have carried such surveys, the individuals and organisations which have commissioned the surveys, the size and nature of sample selected, the method of selection of the sample for the findings and the possible margin of error in the findings.

2. Further in the event of staggered poll dates, the media is seen to carry exit-poll surveys of the polls already held. This is likely to influence the voters where the polling is yet to commence. With a view to ensure that the electoral process is kept pure and the voters' minds are not influenced by any external factors, it is necessary that the media does not publish the exit-poll surveys till the last poll is held.
3. The Press Council, therefore, requests the Press to abide by the following guideline in respect of the exit polls:

#### Guideline:

No newspaper shall publish exit-poll surveys, however, genuine they may be, till the last of the polls is over.

### EC Guidelines for Publication and dissemination of results of opinion/exit polls

No result of any opinion poll or exit poll conducted at any time shall be published, publicized or disseminated in any manner, whatsoever, by print, electronic or any other media, at any time-

- (a) during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for closing of poll in an election held in a single phase; and
- (b) in a multi-phased election, and in the case of elections in different States announced simultaneously, at any time during the period starting from 48 hours before the hour fixed for closing of poll in the first phase of the election and till the poll is concluded in all the phases in all States.

#### Explanation: In this Order:

- (a) Electronic media' includes Radio and Television -both Government owned and Private and covers Satellite/DTH, Terrestrial and Cable Channels.
- (b) 'Dissemination' includes publication in any newspaper, magazine or periodical, or display on electronic media, or circulation by means of any pamphlet, poster, placard, handbill or any other document.



भरे देश की शान...  
All Love you

## Performance of Political Parties in 2004 Election

Party	Seats Won
<b>National Parties</b>	
Bharatiya Janata Party	138
Bahujan Samaj Party	19
Communist Party of India	10
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	43
Indian National Congress	145
Nationalist Congress Party	9
<b>National Parties Total</b>	<b>364</b>
<b>State Parties</b>	
Arunachal Congress	0
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	0
Asom Gana Parishad	2
All India Forward Bloc	3
All India Trinamool Congress	2
Biju Janata Dal	11
Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation)	0
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	16
Federal Party of Manipur	0
Indian National Lok Dal	0
Janata Dal (Secular)	3
Janata Dal (United)	8
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	2
Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party	0
Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party	1
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	5
Kerala Congress	1
Kerala Congress (M)	0
Maharashtrawadi Gomantak	0
Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	4
Mizo National Front	1
Manipur People's Party	0
Muslim League Kerala State Committee	1
Nagaland Peoples Front	1
Pattali Makkal Katchi	6
Rashtriva Janata Dal	24
Rashtriya Lok Dal	3
Revolutionary Socialist Party	3
Shiromani Akali Dal	8
Shiromani Akali Dal (Simranjit Singh Mann)	0
Sikkim Democratic Front	1
Shivsena	12
Samaiwadi Party	36
Telugu Desam	5
United Goans Democratic Party	0
Uttarakhand Kranti Dal	0
<b>State Parties Total</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>REGISTERED (Unrecognised) PARTIES</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>INDEPENDENTS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>543</b>

## Interesting Facts of General Elections 2004

- First General Elections to Lok Sabha conducted completely by using Electronic Voting Machines in all Polling Stations .
- 671,487,930 electorates registered in the electoral rolls.
- 5435 candidates contested the elections for which 6,87,402 polling **stations** set up.
- 3050 candidates represented 215 political parties and 2385 candidates were Independents.
- Polling station with least no of electors: Only ONE voter in Polling station No. - 29; (Dharampur) in Miao Assembly segment of Arunachal East parliamentary constituency .
- Parliamentary Constituency with Largest Number of Electors -3368399( Outer Delhi)
- Parliamentary Constituency with Lowest Number of Electors – 39033 ( Lakshadweep)
- Maximum contestants in a parliamentary constituency - 35 (Madras south)
- Maximum Women contestants in a state - 61 (UP)
- Minimum women contestants in a state -1 (Goa)
- Maximum women winners - 7 (UP)
- Out of 543 elected MPs, 45 were women.
- Maximum age of the candidate-94 years (Ramchandra Veerappa in Bidar, Karnataka)
- Minimum age of the candidate - 25 years (Many).
- Maximum age of the winning candidate-94 years (Ramchandra Veerappa in Bidar, Karnataka)
- Minimum age of the winning candidate-26 years Sachin Pilot in Dausa (Rajasthan)
- Maximum votes secured - Sajjan Kumar outer Delhi - 855543
- Minimum votes secured - Ashok Kumar chandni chowk- 45
- Minimum votes secured by a winner - Dr. P. Pookunhikoya - 15597 votes (Lakshadweep).
- Maximum margin, Arambagh in West Bengal with 592502 votes.  
The runner -up lost his deposit.
- Minimum margin, Lakshadweep, 71 Votes
- Average age of the elected MPs is 52.63 Years.





## Useful websites

[www.india.gov.in](http://www.india.gov.in)

**National portal of Government of India**

<http://eci.nic.in>

**Election Commission of India**

[www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in)

**Ministry of External Affairs**

[www.pib.nic.in](http://www.pib.nic.in)

**Press Information Bureau**



सत्यमेव जयते

External Publicity Division  
Ministry of External Affairs  
Government of India

[www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in)