

# Nepean Capital

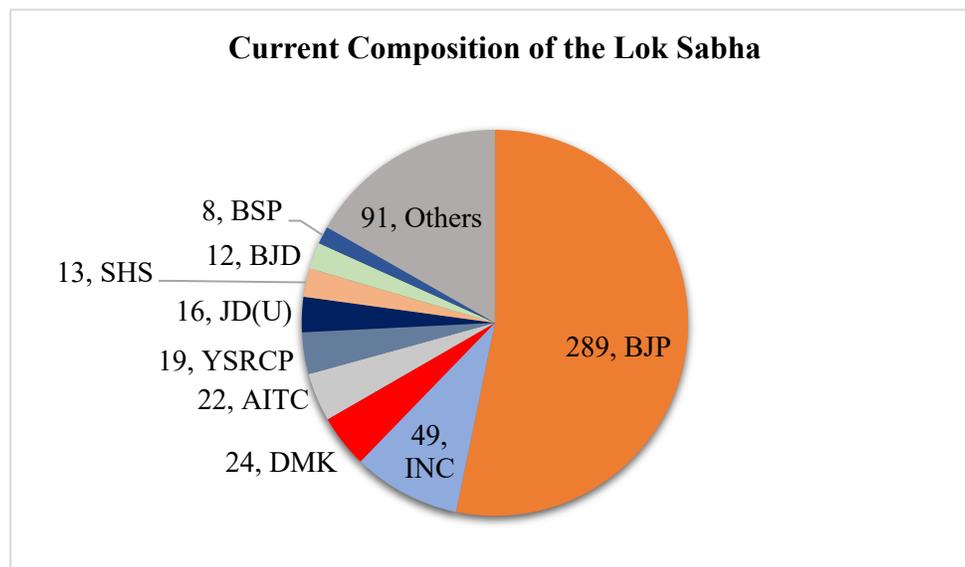
## The Battle for India

### 18<sup>th</sup> General Election (April 19 - May 1)

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The battle for India has begun with the Election Commission announcing on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> the dates for the 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha elections (the Lower House of the Parliament). The party or a collation of parties that win/s a majority in the Lok Sabha gets to form the government and elect the next Prime Minister of India. Key points:

- The General Elections to the 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, held once every five years, will be the world's biggest electoral exercise.
- It will be spread over seven phases, i.e. on April 19<sup>th</sup>, April 26<sup>th</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, May 13<sup>th</sup>, May 20<sup>th</sup>, May 25<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 969 Mn Indians are eligible to vote (vs. 168 Mn registered voters in the U.S.), and more than the population of all the countries in Europe combined.
- 18 Mn people are first time voters. 198 Mn are between the ages of 20-29.
- 5.5 Mn electronic voting machines (EVMs) will be used at 1.05 Mn polling stations.
- Around 2 Mn will vote through postal ballots.
- The counting will be held on June 4 and the results will be out the same evening.
- The Election Commission will deploy 15 Mn polling staff and security personnel to conduct the election.
- The number of seats contested are 543. 274 seats are needed to form the government.
- The total spend by the political parties/candidates is estimated at \$14.4 Bn, equal to the amount spent on the U.S. Presidential and Congressional elections held in 2020.
- The last General Election (held in 2019) was contested by over 8,000 candidates and the voter turnout was 67%.



The ruling BJP won the semi-finals in December 2023 with a clean sweep of the three heartland states (Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh).



These victories have significantly improved the odds of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP and its allies (called the NDA, the National Democratic Alliance) winning a third term. The main opposition is from the Congress party led coalition of 28 regional allies who call themselves the I.N.D.I.A., short for the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance. This coalition has been stitched together by Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi, whose father Rajiv Gandhi (1984-89) and maternal grandmother Indira Gandhi (1966-77 & 1980-84) were former Prime Ministers.

The state of Uttar Pradesh (pop.241 Mn) has the highest number of Lok Sabha seats (80), followed by Maharashtra (pop.112 Mn) that has 48 seats. The Top 10 states account for 70% of the Lok Sabha seats and currently the BJP and its allies rule 6 of them.

### Break-up of Seats Per States/Union Territories: 543

State/Union Territory	Number of Seats
Uttar Pradesh	80
Maharashtra	48
West Bengal	42
Bihar	40
Tamil Nadu	39
Madhya Pradesh	29
Karnataka	28
Gujarat	26
Andhra Pradesh	25
Rajasthan	25
Odisha	21
Kerala	20
Telangana	17
Assam	14
Jharkhand	14
Punjab	13
Chhattisgarh	11
Haryana	10
Delhi	7
Uttarakhand	5
Jammu and Kashmir	5
Himachal Pradesh	4
Arunachal Pradesh	2
Goa	2
Manipur	2
Meghalaya	2
Tripura	2
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	2
Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Chandigarh, Ladakh	1 each
Lakshadweep, Puducherry	1 each
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1



*Prime Minister Modi at a recent rally.  
If he wins a third term, he will equal the record of India's first Prime Minister,  
Jawaharlal Nehru, who won three consecutive terms.*



*In this year's election, 48.6% of the eligible voters are women.*



*5.5 Mn Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) will be deployed nationwide.*

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