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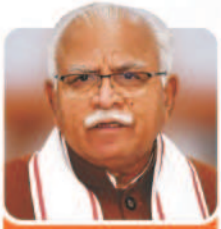
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Proof Reading : Suraj
Type Setting : Pradeep Kumar, Harun Khan

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Sales Executive **9258332426**
Khalid Anjum 9258076307
(Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh)

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subscribe@arihantbooks.com Enquiry **0121-4030840**

© ***Publisher***

Printed and Published by Payal Jain for Arihant Media Promoters
Printed at Arihant Publications (India) Limited, TP Nagar, Meerut (UP)

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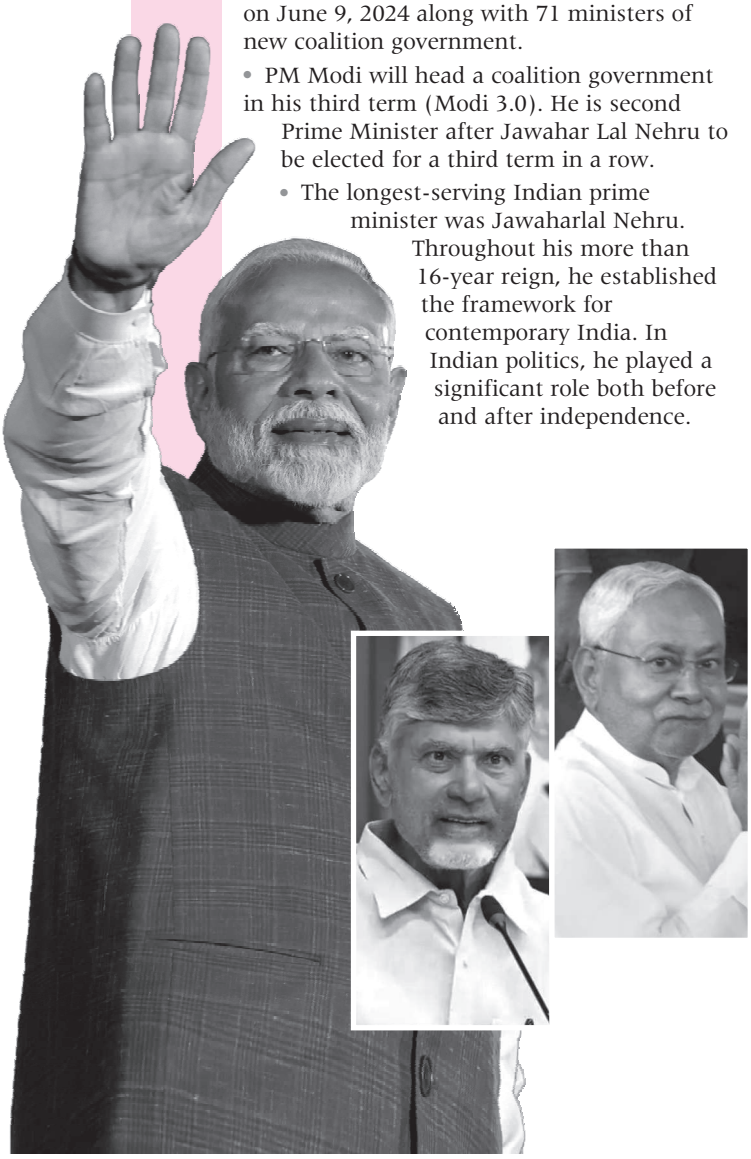
LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 2024

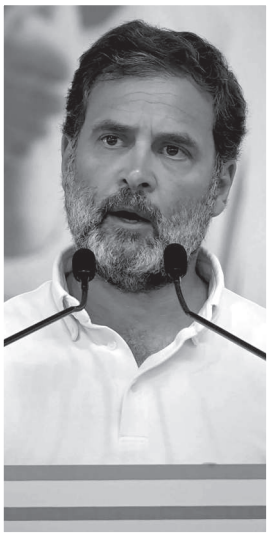
Narendra Modi's Third Term as the Prime Minister

- With the BJP securing 240 seats and the Congress securing 99, the Election Commission of India has released results for 542 of the 543 Lok Sabha constituencies.
- The BJP's victory total was much less than the 282 seats it had won in 2014 and the 303 seats in 2019.
- In contrast, the Congress saw a significant increase, gaining 99 seats as opposed to 52 in 2019 and 44 in 2014.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi took oath on June 9, 2024 along with 71 ministers of new coalition government.
- PM Modi will head a coalition government in his third term (Modi 3.0). He is second Prime Minister after Jawahar Lal Nehru to be elected for a third term in a row.
- The longest-serving Indian prime minister was Jawaharlal Nehru. Throughout his more than 16-year reign, he established the framework for contemporary India. In Indian politics, he played a significant role both before and after independence.

Major Highlights

- The resurgent opposition alliance dealt PM Narendra Modi an unexpected blow by posting record-breaking performances in three of India's most populous states, capitalizing on local unrest and worries about the future of the Constitution.
- As a result, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) narrowly won a majority in the Lok Sabha elections.
- The surprising comeback of the Congress in northern India, as well as the stunning performances of partners Samajwadi Party and Trinamool Congress, which helped hold back the BJP, helped the **Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA)**, which was written off in the exit polls, win 233 seats in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, respectively, with regional titans Sharad Pawar and Udhhav Thackeray destroying their rivals within their own parties in Maharashtra.
- Together, INDIA reduced the NDA's 2019 total by around 60 seats.
- In contrast to the BJP government's stunning and unexpected victory down south in **Andhra Pradesh**, **Karnataka**, and **Madhya Pradesh**, the Hindi Heartlands underperformed in comparison to Narendra Modi's expectations and lost seats.
- Additionally, the BJP won a majority in Assam, Chhattisgarh, and Arunachal Pradesh. The BJP won the Surat seat without opposition.





Guests at SWEARING-IN Ceremony

Foreign dignitaries of seven countries attended the swearing-in ceremony of PM Narendra Modi, who are as follows

- Ranil Wickremeshingh (President, Sri Lanka)
- Dr Mohamed Muizzu (President, Maldives)
- Ahmed Afif (Vice President, Seychelles)
- Sheikh Hasina (Prime Minister, Bangladesh)
- Pravind Kumar Jugnauth (Prime Minister, Mauritius)
- Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' (Prime Minister, Nepal)
- Tshering Tobgay (Prime Minister, Bhutan)

Biggest Winners

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi defeated Congressman Ajay Rai to win the **Varanasi** seat for a **record third time**. With 612970 votes (54.24%), Modi defeated Ajay Rai [460457 votes (40.74%)].

But this achievement was accompanied by some resentment because Modi's share fell by almost 9% in comparison to 2019. Given that Prime Minister Narendra Modi represents Varanasi among India's 543 Lok Sabha seats, it is one of the most well-known constituencies. Since 1991, the constituency has been a bastion for the saffron party, and since 2014, PM Modi has held the seat.

Akhilesh Yadav

It appeared as though the BJP would win two straight elections in Uttar Pradesh. The consensus was that, because of the Ram Mandir opening, the BJP would equal or surpass their 2019 vote total. The final results indicate that the BJP and SP are tied for first place.

The slogan of Indian politics has always been that the route to Delhi passes through Uttar Pradesh, and Akhilesh Yadav and the SP undoubtedly made the voyage of NDA-3 more turbulent.

Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah defeated his closest Congress opponent, Sonal Ramanbhai Patel, by a commanding lead of more than seven lakh votes, securing a landslide victory in the Gujarat Lok Sabha constituency of **Gandhinagar**.

According to the most recent figures from the Election Commission, Shah received 1010972 total votes, whereas Patel received 266256.

With almost 5.57 lakh votes, Amit Shah defeated Chatursinh Javanji Chavda of the Congress party to win this seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh defeated Samajwadi Party candidate Ravidas Mehrotra in the **Lucknow** constituency of Uttar Pradesh by more than 1.35 lakh votes. Mehrotra received 477550 votes, while Rajnath Singh received 612709 votes. There were 135159 votes in the margin. By over 3.5 lakh votes, Rajnath Singh defeated Shatrughan Sinha's wife Poonam Sinha, an SP candidate, in the 2019 elections.

Rahul Gandhi

Rahul Gandhi, the de facto leader of the Indian National Congress, has faced criticism and contempt for a very long time. In Election 2024, Rahul Gandhi retained the **Wayanad** constituency with a victory margin of 3.64 lakh votes, He also won the **Raebareli** seat with 687649 votes.

BIG WINNERS

Candidate	Party	Constituency	Won By	Total
Supriya Sule	NCP-SCP	Baramati, Maharashtra	151465	714290
Nitin Gadkari	BJP	Nagpur, Maharastra	137603	655027
Jyotiraditya Scindia	BJP	Guna, Madhya Pradesh	540929	923302
Rodmal Nagar	BJP	Rajgarh, Madhya Pradesh	146089	758743
Shivraj Singh Chouhan	BJP	Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh	821408	1116460
Mitesh Patel	BJP	Anand Gujarat	89939	612484
Dimple Yadav	SP	Mainpuri, UP	221639	598526
Abhishek Banerjee	TMC	Diamond Harbour, West Bengal	710930	1048230
Amrit Pal Singh	Indep.	Khadoor Sahib	197120	404430

Biggest Losers

Smriti Irani

BJP's Smriti Irani, who was elected to the Lok Sabha in 2019 after she soundly defeated Rahul Gandhi, suffered a shock poll loss, Smriti Irani lost to Congress's Kishori Lal Sharma by 1.6 lakh votes.

Mehbooba Mufti

mehbooba Mufti is another former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister who showed poor poll performance.

Sufti lost to Namu and Kashmir National Conference leader Mian Altaf Ahmad by a margin of over 2.8 lakh votes.

Vikramaditya Singh

Congress leader Vikramaditya Singh lost to Kangana Ranaut, who also made her debut on the BJP ticket this poll season. The vote argin was over 74000 in this Himachal seat Vikramaditya Singh is the son of six-time Himachal Chief minister late Virbhadra Singh and sitting MP Pratibha Singh.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar

In Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram, the Union Minister of state for Electronics and information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, was defeated by congress veteran Shashi Tharoor by a margin of over 16077 votes.

Arjun Munda

In Jharkhand's Khunti Lok Sabha constituency, Union Tribal Affairs Minister and incumbent MP Arjun Munda suffered a significant defeat to Congress' Kali Charan Munda by a margin of 1.4 lakh voters.

Big Losers

Candidate	Party	Constituency	Lost By	Total
Smriti Irani	BJP	Amethi, Uttar Pradesh	167196	372032
Arup Patnaik	BJD	Puri, Odisha	104709	524621
Mehbooba Mufti	PDP	Anantnag-Rajouri (J and K)	281794	240042
Nakul Kamalnath	INC	Chindwara, Madhya Pradesh	113618	531120
Bhupesh Baghel	INC	Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh	44411	667646

Lok Sabha Elections 2024 Result

Political Party	Seats	Vote Share
Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP)	240	36.56%
Indian National Congress (INC)	99	21.19%
Samajwadi Party (SP)	37	4.58%
All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)	29	4.37%
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)	22	1.82%
Telugu Desam (TDP)	16	1.98%
Janata Dal (United) (JD-U)	12	1.25%
Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackrey) (SHSUBT)	9	1.48%
Nationalist Congress Party - Sharadchandra Pawar (NCPSP)	8	0.92%
Shiv Sena (SHS)	7	1.15%
Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP)	4	2.06%
Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)	4	1.57%
Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M))	4	1.76%
Indian Union Muslim League (IUML)	3	0.27%
Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)	3	1.11%
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)	3	0.41%
Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation) - (CPI(ML)(L))	2	0.27%
Janata Dal (Secular) (JD(S))	2	0.34%
Communist Party of India (CPI)	2	0.49%
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKN)	2	0.18%
United People's Party, Liberal (UPPL)	1	0.08%
Asom Gana Parishad (AGP)	1	0.20%
Kerala Congress (KEC)	1	0.04%
Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)	1	0.32%
Voice of the People Party (VOTPP)	1	0.09%
Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)	1	0.28%
Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLTP)	1	0.09%
Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM)	1	0.03%
Apna Dal (Soneylal) (ADAL)	1	0.13%

Celebrity Wave

1. Hema Malini (BJP) won the constituency of Matura, Uttar Pradesh.
2. Shatrughan Sinha (TMC) won the Asansol constituency of West Bengal
3. Yusuf Pathan (TMC) won the Baharampur constituency of West Bengal
4. Suresh Gopi (BJP) won the Thrissur constituency of Kerala
5. Manoj Tiwari (BJP) won the North East Delhi constituency.

First Time Young Members

1. Pushpendra Saroj (Samajwadi) Party won the Kaushambhi constituency of Uttar Pradesh.
2. Priya Saroj (Samajwadi party) won the Machlishehar Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.
3. Sanjana Jatav (BJP) won the Bharatpur constituency of Rajasthan.
4. Shambhavi Choudhary (INC) won the Samstipur constituency of Bihar.

Women Candidates

- There will be **74 female MPs** in the 18th Lok Sabha, which is a little decrease from the 78 female MPs elected in 2019.
- Election Commission of India (ECI) data indicates that women will make up **13.6% of the new Lok Sabha** in 2024, compared to 14.3% of all members of the 17th Lok Sabha elected in 2019.
- In all, **797 women** ran in the seven stages of the 2024 general elections, which took place between April 19 and June 1, 2024.
- Since the Women's Reservation Bill, 2023 was introduced in the Lok Sabha, there hasn't been a general election until now.
- The legislation, which has not yet taken effect, intends to set aside one-third of the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for women.
- In the Lok Sabha elections, **Hema Malini** of the BJP, **Mahua Moitra** of the TMC, **Supriya Sule** of the NCP, and **Dimple Yadav** of the SP held onto their seats, but the triumphs of candidates like **Kangna Ranaut** and **Misha Bharati** stole the show.
- The youngest nominees to win were **Priya Saroj**, 25, of the Samajwadi Party, who contested for Machhlishahr, and **Iqra Choudhary**, 29, of the Kairana seat.
- Notably, with 50% of their candidates being women, parties like Naam Tamilar Katchi have attained equal gender

representation. The Nationalist Congress Party and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), both of which had 40% female candidates, were two more parties with notable female presence.

- While the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) had 29% female participation, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) both had 33%.
- 20% went to the Samajwadi Party and 25% to the Trinamool Congress (TMC). In all, 8360 candidates ran in the legislative elections. Independent candidates running in the elections were three transgender people. However, they were all defeated in the polls. The first and second Lok Sabhas each had 24 female MPs.

Controversial Moments

An election that is devoid of controversy is sure to be dull. There were similar incidents during the 18th Lok Sabha Election in 2024, when everything from religious conflict to farmer protests affected the outcome of the election.

Religious Controversy

Prior to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Narendra Modi made a contentious statement that a lot of people took to mean that he was going after the Muslim population.

In his electoral speeches in Rajasthan's Tonk-Sawai Madhopur, Bihar's Munger, West Bengal's Malda, and Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh, he restated the assertion regarding the distribution of wealth among Muslims. Fact-checks and a backlash against "hate speech" were sparked by this speech; some foreign media outlets even referred to it as "anti-Muslim dog whistles for the country's far-right."

Farmer's Protest

The BJP's poor performance in the farming areas of Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh is being blamed on growing dissatisfaction among them. This is particularly true in Punjab, Haryana, and the western region of Uttar Pradesh, which are the three main agricultural states.

Due to significant setbacks in the area, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been unable to secure a majority in the Lok Sabha.

People's perception of these election outcomes stems from their anger following the historic farmer demonstrations that took place on the outskirts of the nation's capital from August 9, 2020, to Dec. 20, 2021.

Model Code of Conduct

With the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections on March 16, the Model Code of Conduct went into effect. A collection of customs accepted by all parties and enforced during elections is known as the model code of conduct.

Its goal is to prevent the ruling party from abusing state resources or funding while also maintaining the cleanliness, order, and tranquility of the election, polling, and counting processes. Despite lacking any legal support, the Supreme Court has repeatedly maintained its inviolability. The Election Commission has complete authority to look into any code violations and impose penalties.

Interesting Facts

- **Congress** regained control of the **Allahabad Lok Sabha seat after 20 years**.
- With 37 seats in the Lok Sabha, the **Samajwadi Party** is now the **third-largest party in Parliament** and enjoyed its best-ever election.
- Only **33 seats** were won by the BJP in Uttar Pradesh in 2024. Since they were only able to secure 10 seats in 2009, it was their poorest.
- **Lallu Singh** of the BJP lost by more than 50000 votes to Awadhesh Prasad of the SP in the Faizabad Lok Sabha constituency, which encompasses Ayodhya, the site of the January 6, 2024, Ram Mandir ceremony.
- In Gujarat, the **Congress** secured its **first Lok Sabha seat since 2009**. In 2014 and 2019, it came up empty.
- In the Lok Sabha Election of 2024, 13 Union Ministers were defeated. With the largest margin in this Lok Sabha election, **Shankar Lakhwani** with a margin of 11.72 lakh votes.
- The INC candidate left the race and merged with the BJP. More than two lakh votes were cast for NOTA in Indore.
- In the 2024 Lok Sabha Election, the BJP secured a minimum of one Lok Sabha seat in every state of India, with the exception of Tamil Nadu.
- For the third consecutive Lok Sabha election, the BJP won all **seven seats in Delhi**.
- The INC won all seven seats in Delhi in 2009, making it a special bellwether state.
- Despite winning two straight assembly elections, the AAP was never able to prevail here. At age 25, **Pushpendra Saroj** of the SP is the **youngest member** of the Lok Sabha.
- In the meantime, Samastipur native **Shambhavi Chowdhury** would be the **youngest member** of the Lok Sabha.
- Compared to the 17th Lok Sabha, which had an average age of 59, the **18th Lok Sabha has a lower average age** of 56.
- 2 people who are incarcerated on terror-related offenses have been elected. **Amritpal Singh** defeated Khadoor Shahib in Punjab.
- In Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla, **Sheikh Abdul "Engineer" Rashid** defeated his nearest opponent as well.
- In the 2024 Lok Sabha Election, seven independent candidates prevailed. Even though AAP won a landslide of seats in Punjab's assembly elections, it only took home three seats.
- In Tamil Nadu, the NDA received 18.27% of the vote, however it was unable to get a single seat.
- In Kerala, the BJP was able to secure its first seat. The BJP was able to secure 12 of the 19 Union Territory seats.
- The INC achieved their highest rating of 99 since winning 206 seats in 2009. Kerala was the state where the Congress performed the best, winning 14 seats.

- The top scores for the INDIA Bloc were 43 for Uttar Pradesh, 30 for Maharashtra, 39 for West Bengal, 39 for Tamil Nadu, 19 for Kerala, and 10 for Punjab.
- Trinamool Congress (37.9%) is the party that will send the most women to the Lok Sabha.
- Kangana Ranaut, Arun Govil, Hema Malini, Shatrughan Sinha, Manoj Tiwari, Ravi Kishan, Suresh Gopi, Deepak ''Dev'' Adhikari, Rachana Banerjee, and June Mala are among the actors who will be seen at the 18th Lok Sabha.
- In the 2024 election, 1.05 million voting places had **1.8 million VVPAT systems** and **1.7 million control units** installed. 312 million women out of the total 642 million voters cast ballots in the election.

18th Lok Sabha : Facts to Know

- The 18th Lok Sabha will see **about 280 MPs** who have been **elected for the first time**. In the 17th Lok Sabha (2019), 267 members were first-time MPs.
- A total of **263 newly elected MPs** have previously served as members of Lok Sabha.
- Of the re-elected MPs, 8 changed their constituency, and one was re-elected from 2 constituencies.
- 9 re-elected MPs represented a different party in the 17th Lok Sabha, while eight others represented a party that split from their earlier party.
- Out of the 53 ministers who contested, 35 have won.
- 4 'old' warhorses (**Piyush Goyal**, **Anil Desai**, **Shahu Chhatrapati** and **Kirsan Namdeo**) won their first Lok Sabha elections this year. While 3 are senior citizens.
- **Kodikunnil Suresh** (Congress MP from Mavelikkara in Kerala) has been elected to a seventh term in Lok Sabha.
- **Average age** of MPs in 18th Lok Sabha is **56 years**. Only 11% of MPs are 40 or younger.
- **5% of MPs** in the 18th Lok Sabha have **Doctoral degrees**. Among them are 3 women MPs.
- **7% of MPs** in the 18th Lok Sabha are **Lawyers**. 4% are **Medical practioners**.
- 78% of newly elected MPs have completed undergraduate education.
- **14% of MPs are women**, no significant change from 2019.
- Candidates from 41 parties have been elected. In 2019, 36 parties were represented in Lok Sabha.
- **National parties** have won **346 seats (64%)**. Parties recognised as **state parties** in at least one state have won **179 seats (33%)**.
- **Agriculture** and **social work** are the most common professions among MPs elected to the 18th Lok Sabha.
- Uttar Pradesh elected **45 first-term members** including actor Arun Govil (Meerut), Congress leader Kishori Lal Sharma (Amethi) and Chandrashekhar Azad (Nagina).

MODI 3.0
Ministers & Portfolios

Shri Narendra Modi	**Prime Minister** and also in-charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; All important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.

CABINET MINISTERS

Raj Nath Singh	Defence
Amit Shah	Home Affairs; Cooperation
Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Road Transport and Highways
Jagat Prakash Nadda	Health and Family Welfare; Chemicals and Fertilizers
Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Rural Development
Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Finance; Corporate Affairs
Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	External Affairs
Manohar Lal	Housing and Urban Affairs; Power
HD Kumaraswamy	Heavy Industries; Steel
Piyush Goyal	Commerce and Industry
Dharmendra Pradhan	Education
Jitan Ram Manjhi	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh	Panchayati Raj; Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Sarbananda Sonowal	Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Dr. Virendra Kumar	Social Justice and Empowerment
Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu	Civil Aviation

Pralhad Joshi	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; New and Renewable Energy
Jual Oram	Tribal Affairs
Giriraj Singh	Textiles
Ashwini Vaishnaw	Railways; Information and Broadcasting; Electronics and Information Technology
Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Communications; Development of North-Eastern Region
Bhupender Yadav	Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Culture; Tourism
Annapurna Devi	Women and Child Development
Kiren Rijiju	Parliamentary Affairs; Minority Affairs
Hardeep Singh Puri	Petroleum and Natural Gas
Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya	Labour and Employment; Youth Affairs and Sports
G. Kishan Reddy	Coal; Mines
Chirag Paswan	Food Processing Industries
CR Patil	Jal Shakti

MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

Rao Inderjit Singh	Statistics and Programme Implementation (Independent Charge); Planning (Independent Charge); Culture
Dr. Jitendra Singh	Science and Technology (Independent Charge); Earth Sciences (Independent Charge); Prime Minister's Office; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space
Arjun Ram Meghwal	Law and Justice (Independent Charge); Parliamentary Affairs
Jadhav Prataprao Ganpatrao	Ayush (Independent Charge); Health and Family Welfare
Jayant Chaudhary	Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge); Education

MINISTERS OF STATE

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Shripad Yesso Naik	Power; New and Renewable Energy
Pankaj Chaudhary	Finance
Krishan Pal	Cooperation
Ramdas Athawale	Social Justice and Empowerment
Ram Nath Thakur	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Nityanand Rai	Home Affairs
Anupriya Patel	Health and Family Welfare; Chemicals and Fertilizers
V. Somanna	Jal Shakti; Railways
Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani	Rural Development; Communications
SP Singh Baghel	Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Panchayati Raj
Sushri Shobha Karandlaje	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Labour and Employment
Kirtivardhan Singh	Environment, Forest and Climate Change; External Affairs
BL Verma	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Social Justice and Empowerment
Shantanu Thakur	Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Suresh Gopi	Petroleum and Natural Gas; Tourism
Dr. L. Murugan	Information and Broadcasting; Parliamentary Affairs
Ajay Tamta	Road Transport and Highways
Bandi Sanjay Kumar	Home Affairs
Kamlesh Paswan	Rural Development
Bhagirath Choudhary	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Satish Chandra Dubey	Coal; Mines
Sanjay Seth	Defence
Ravneet Singh	Food Processing Industries; Railways
Durgadas Uikey	Tribal Affairs
Raksha Nikhil Khadse	Youth Affairs and Sports
Sukanta Majumdar	Education; Development of North-Eastern Region
Savitri Thakur	Women and Child Development
Tokhan Sahu	Housing and Urban Affairs
Raj Bhushan Choudhary	Jal Shakti
Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma	Heavy Industries; Steel
Harsh Malhotra	Corporate Affairs; Road Transport and Highways
Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Murlidhar Mohol	Cooperation; Civil Aviation
George Kurian	Minority Affairs; Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Pabitra Margherita	External Affairs; Textiles

National Affairs

National Level Coordination Committee

- The world's largest grain storage plan's National Level Coordination Committee (NLCC) met for the first time on June 3, 2024, in the Ministry of Cooperation in New Delhi.
- The committee examined how its pilot project, which was started in 11 States last year, was being implemented.
- The Plan envisions the creation of various agricultural infrastructure at PACS level, including warehouses, custom hiring centers, processing units, Fair Price Shops, etc.
- The members of the Committee also talked on how to advance the proposal across the country.

New Mobile Number Series Launched

- The Center launched a new numbering series, 160xxxxxxx, for service or transactional calls on June 3, 2024.
- This action intends to reduce unsolicited voice calls from telemarketers utilizing 10-digit mobile numbers and assist citizens in quickly identifying legitimate calls.
- Telemarketers are assigned the 140xxxxxxx series for transactional, service, and promotional calls.
- Consumers frequently disregard these calls, though, because they are frequently used for promotional objectives, which causes them to miss crucial service and transactional contacts.
- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) declared that Principal Entities will only make service and transactional calls on the new 160xxxxxxx series.
- TSPs, or telecom service providers, must make sure that comprehensive verification of each entity before assigning a number from the 160 series.

National Book Trust Signed an MoU with the Department of School Education

- Under the auspices of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, in New Delhi, the Department of School Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, and the National Book Trust signed a Memorandum of Understanding on June 3, 2024.
- It was signed in order to establish the Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya Digital Library Platform's institutional foundation.
- The goal of Rashtriya e-Pustakalya, a first-of-its-kind digital library, is to encourage a lifelong love of reading in Indian children, youth by providing them with over 1,000 non-academic books written by over 40 reputable publishers in more than 22 languages save English.
- Its goals will include making high-quality books more widely available in terms of geography, language, genre, and reading level as well as offering children and teenagers in the nation device-independent accessibility.

Gender Sensitisation Committee Reconstituted

- The Supreme Court of India made a significant alteration to its Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC) structure on June 1, 2024.
- This action complies with the 2013 legislation against sexual harassment and gender sensitization.
- It emphasizes that the courts will keep tackling issues related to gender.
- The process of restructuring was spearheaded by India's Chief Justice, who appointed Justice Hima Kohli as chairwoman.
- Dr. Sukhda Pritam has been appointed member secretary, while Justice BV Nagarathna has been selected as a member.
- The organization is more effective because of its leadership's efforts to ensure that it possesses a combination of legal and intellectual expertise.
- This systematic approach ensures that the committee continues to function as a cohesive unit.

Drone Balloon Trials for 5G Emergency Connectivity of DoT

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is investigating novel approaches to employ drones and tethered balloons in order to promptly restore 5G connectivity following calamities and natural disasters as of June 1, 2024.
- This technique aims to address the issue of regular internet services being stopped in these kinds of circumstances.
- The viability of this project will be evaluated in the upcoming months, and a decision is anticipated by June of the subsequent year.
- The trials, led by DoT, will evaluate the feasibility of setting up temporary 5G networks in real-world scenarios using tethered kites and drones.
- These are intended to offer mobile service in case of emergencies, like remote accident sites and natural catastrophes.

Sanchar Saathi Initiative of Home Affairs

- The Department of Telecommunication and Ministry of Home Affairs launched The Sanchar Saathi Initiative on May 29, 2024, with the goal of combating fake SMS.

- The objective of this program is to address the spread of misleading messages that prey on gullible mobile users. Notably, eight SMS headers that fraudsters commonly use have been found and blacklisted by the government.
- DoT has intercepted almost 10,000 bogus mails in the last three months, coming from eight different sources.
- DoT has taken strong action, blocking 1522 SMS content templates and 73 SMS headers connected to these businesses in order to disrupt these illicit activities.

eMigrate Services through CSC

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on May 29, 2024, by the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and Common Services Centers eGovernance Services India Limited, outlining plans to offer eMigrate services nationwide.
- The primary target audience for the eMigrate project is blue-collar workers emigrating to countries with required immigration checks.
- According to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the project was designed to bring together foreign employers, insurance companies, and registered recruitment agents on a single platform to facilitate safe and lawful migration.

MeitY Organized National Workshop

- The National Workshop on ''Powering Transformation through UI/UX for Digital Governance'' was organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on May 28, 2024.
- The digital environment is changing quickly, and users anticipate simple, straightforward application interaction.
- Making progress in this direction is the goal of this workshop on ''Powering Transformation through UI/UX for Digital Governance.''
- In order to explore best practices and obstacles in creating an efficient UX/UI for digital services that are visible to the public, the workshop brings together stakeholders from the government, industry, designers, developers, and other relevant practitioners.

Food and Nutrition Board Dissolved

- The Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) was formally dissolved on May 27, 2024, as part of the government's effort to streamline several organizations.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD)'s Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) is a technical division tasked with supporting community nutrition programs logistically.
- The FNB, which ran a vast network of offices comprising 4 regional offices and numerous quality control laboratories around key cities like Faridabad, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai, was dissolved, according to a statement released by the WCD Ministry.

A System to Prevent Illicit Foreign Calls

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and mobile providers launched a new technique on May 27, 2024, to identify and prevent phony international calls that display Indian phone numbers.

- This action was conducted in response to many complaints from people who claimed to be FedEx employees, police officers, Department of Telecom (DoT) personnel, or even representatives of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai).
- The DoT has instructed telecom companies to stop these phony calls in order to resolve this issue.
- These fraudulent calls with altered caller line identities (CLIs) are not able to reach Indian users since systems have been designed to block them.

15th Foundation Day of the CCI

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) celebrated its 15th Foundation Day on May 20, 2024, in New Delhi.
- R Venkataramani, the Attorney General of India, emphasized that the increasing tendencies in digital marketplaces are a challenge for all competition regulators globally.
- Data and privacy have recently gained more traction in the competition debate.
- He emphasized the connection between the significance of data protection regulations and the fundamental right to privacy.
- Additionally, Venkataramani emphasized the value of behavioral economics in understanding human preferences.

Portal Nominations for National Awards to Teachers Started

- The National Awards to Teachers (Higher Education) 2024 nomination portal was opened, May 21, 2024, by Secretary of Higher Education Sanjay Murthy.
- Teachers from polytechnic institutes and technical and non-technical higher education institutions will receive the honors.
- The chosen recipients will be honored on September 5, Teachers' Day, in honor of former President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnans birth anniversary, according to the Ministry of Education.
- All faculty members in colleges, universities, polytechnics, and other higher education institutions are eligible to receive this honor.
- The nominee must have at least five years of full-time undergraduate and graduate teaching experience, according to the Ministry June 20th is the deadline for submitting nominations.

International Women in Maritime Day Celebrated

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) held a celebration of the International Day for Women in Maritime in New Delhi on May 18, 2024.
- The subject for 2024 was ''Safe Horizons: Women in Shaping the Future of Maritime Safety,'' which emphasizes how crucial it is for women to feel safe and secure working in the maritime industry.
- A group of 27 female seafarers, pursuing several degrees in the maritime business, were honored for their commitment and noteworthy achievements in the maritime sector.
- These ladies are setting an example for future generations of women in the marine industry by demonstrating the strength and resiliency needed to succeed.

'Bridging the Standardization Gap' Workshop

- A 2-days workshop on ''Bridging the Standardization Gap was held at NTIPRIT, Ghaziabad on May 15-16, 2024.
- It emphasized the value of cooperative standard-setting procedures and the proactive measures India is taking to support international ICT standardization efforts.
- The goal of the workshop was to improve telecom standards authoring abilities, which are critical for the development of any nation since they allow that nation to influence emerging technologies.
- It also promotes economic expansion, closes the digital divide, guarantees global interoperability, improves security, and encourages cooperation.

India Skills Competition 2024 Held

- The largest skill competition in the nation, The IndiaSkills Competition 2024, which aims to showcase the greatest levels of skilling, started on May 15, 2024.
- At an inaugural event held at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi, the MSDE is expecting over 900 students from over 30 states & Union Territories, as well as over 400 industry experts.
- Participants will be able to display their wide range of abilities and talent on a national platform across 61 talents, from traditional crafts to cutting-edge technologies, during the 4-day IndiaSkills event.
- In consideration of the best infrastructure being available, 14 skills contests will be hosted offsite in Gujarat, Karnataka, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in addition to the 47 skills competitions that will be held onsite.

6.80 LAKH MOBILE CONNECTIONS IDENTIFIED ILLEGITIMATE

The Department of Telecommunications declared almost 6.80 lakh mobile connections to be illegitimate and fraudulent on May 23, 2024. The operators have been instructed by the agency to re-verify these identified cellphone numbers right now.

It is required of all Telecommunications Service Providers to recheck the connections that have been identified within 60 days.

Prasar Bharti to Launch Family Friendly OTT Platform

- The Indian government-run broadcaster Prasar Bharati plans to launch its own over-the-top (OTT) streaming service by August 2024.
- The service will provide family-friendly content that depicts Indian society and culture.
- This project is a direct response to issues with content that users perceive to exist on premium OTT providers such as Hotstar and Netflix.
- The OTT platform has been added to the 100-day plan by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, but only if it secures a 3rd consecutive term in office.
- In March, the Information Technology Act, 2000 was used by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to shut down 18 over-the-top (OTT) platforms for displaying 'vulgar and obscene' content.

Lawyers Exempted from Consumer Act Liability

- A historic ruling released by the Supreme Court on May 14, 2024, exempts attorneys from liability under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
- The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) had previously ruled in 2007 that legal services defective under the Act.
- The bench, which was made up of Justices Bela Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal, emphasized that although being paid, legal representation does not qualify as a ''service'' as defined by the Consumer Protection Act because of its distinct professional qualities.
- Under the CPA, the court made a clear division between professionals and other company types.
- They emphasized that there was no evidence when the CPA was first passed and subsequently amended that it was meant to encompass professional services like those offered by lawyers or doctors.

First Set of Citizenship Certificates Issued under CAA

- Following the publication of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024, the first batch of citizenship certificates was issued on May 15, 2024.

- In New Delhi, Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla granted citizenship certificates to 14 candidates.
- Several more candidates are reportedly receiving digitally signed certificates via email, according to the Home Ministry.
- In addition to congratulating the applicants, the Home Secretary outlined the key provisions of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024, which were published on March 11, 2024.
- As per the regulations, individuals from the Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi, and Christian groups in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who entered India before December 31, 2014, were eligible to apply.

5 States Interested in Aadhar Authentication for GST

- 5 Indian states, including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, expressed interest in utilizing Aadhaar-based verification for GST registration as of May 14, 2024.
- Furthermore, the Union Territory of Puducherry, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh have begun testing Aadhaar identification.
- The topic of biometric-based confirmation for GST registration was discussed at the 3rd National Coordination Meeting of Central and State GST authorities.
- The states considering this system want to know how much it will cost for staffing and infrastructure.
- Information that will assist them in crafting a strong proposal that their Cabinets will approve will be provided.
- GST officials employ OTP-based Aadhaar authentication to confirm the identity of individuals wishing to register.

Supreme Court Barred Fresh Mining Leases in Aravalli

- The Supreme Court prohibited four states from awarding new mining leases in the Aravallis as of May 10, 2024.
- The 4 states where the Aravalli people live-Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Gujarat-are covered by the court judgment.
- The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) study states that Aravallis consists of hills and a consistent buffer zone surrounding the hills that is 100 wide.
- The court stressed that its decision would not be construed as a ban on mining operations that are currently underway within the range under valid permits and licenses.
- It was done in order to maintain balance between protecting the ecosystem and maintaining the means of subsistence for those involved in mining.

'Run for Sun' Marathon Organised

- The Government of India on May 3, 2024, observed International Sun Day, an annual reminder of the major advantages of solar energy in promoting a greener and healthier planet, along with the rest of the world.
- At Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, the Indian government's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) hosted the 'Run for Sun' marathon on this day.
- The 'Run for Sun' Marathon aims to increase public awareness of the critical role that solar power plays in reducing climate change and advancing a cleaner, healthier future for everybody.

Workshop with Law-Enforcement Agencies

- In collaboration with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and the Department of Financial Services (DFS), a workshop was held in New Delhi on April 30, 2024, for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), startups, and partners in the Fintech ecosystem.
- The workshop was designed to promote strong cooperation between Fintechs and LEAs in order to support innovations, ensure that current laws and regulations are followed to the letter.
- The LEAs from the States highlighted their best practices on preventing financial fraud and cybercrime, while the Fintech Associations presented the operational procedures and major issues faced by the Fintech enterprises.

New Logo and Motto for Indian Historical Records Commission

- The Indian Historical Records Commission has adopted a New Logo and Motto on April 25, 2024.
- The IHRC, founded in 1919, is led by the Union Minister of Culture. The logo represents the theme and originality of IHRC perfectly.
- The pages in the shape of lotus petals depict the IHRC as a steadfast nodal organization for preserving historical documents.

NSDC AND ISKCON Collaborated for Tribal Skill Development

- ISKCON and NSDC will work together to offer vocational training to tribal and impoverished youth in India starting. The partnership's initial focus will be on Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh with the purpose of providing vocational training to underprivileged people.
- Short-term courses will be offered under this strategic agreement, providing industry-recognized credentials via the Skill India Digital Hub platform.
- The objective is to improve employability and give the taught individuals access to domestic and international work prospects through NSDC International.

First Time Shompen Tribe Vote in Elections

- One of India's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), the Shompen tribe, voted in the Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha seat on April 23, 2024, so exercising their democratic right for the first time.
- According to data from the 2011 Census, there are approximately 229 people living in the Shompen.
- The Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency achieved a total voter turnout of 63.99%, which was marginally lower than the 65.09% turnout observed in the 2019 elections.
- The Shompen tribe's involvement in the election process is extremely important.
- It symbolizes the assimilation of one of the most marginalized tribal communities in India into the country's democratic framework.

Committee for the LGBTQ Welfare

- The Central Government established a committee for the LGBTQ Community Welfare on April 20, 2024. 6 members of the group, including secretaries from important ministries, would be led by Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba.
- The committee's main goal is to make recommendations for policies that will eradicate discrimination against LGBTQ+ people in a variety of contexts.
- This entails eliminating forced medical procedures or treatments, improving safety precautions, guaranteeing equitable access to products and services, and resolving inequalities in social welfare benefits.

Amendment Rules under Foreign Management Act Notified

- To operationalize its decision to permit up to 100% FDI for the space sector, the government issued new guidelines under the Foreign Exchange Management Act on April 18, 2024.
- The production and operation of satellites, satellite data products, the ground segment, and the user segment are all eligible for 100% Foreign Direct Investment.
- Investments over 74% will need government permission. Up to 74% of the total investment will go through the automatic method.
- Up to 49% of funds have also been made available through automatic FDI for the development of spaceports for spacecraft landing and takeoff, as well as launch vehicles and related systems or subsystems. Any investments beyond 49% will need the approval of the government.
- The production of parts and systems, or subsystems, for the user, ground, and satellite segments will be done at 100% Automatic route.

EC LAUNCHED MYTH vs. REALITY REGISTER

In an effort to stop false information from spreading before of the general elections in 2024, the Election Commission launched the Myth vs. Reality register on April 2, 2024.

This register provides already exposed misinformation about the election, possible lies, FAQ's on important topics, and reference resources divided into categories for each party. Regular updates will be made to the register. The official website of the Election Commission provides public access to it.

TRAI Released Consultation Paper on Formulation of National Broadcasting Policy

- A consultation paper on suggestions for the creation of the National Broadcasting Policy-2024 was released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on April 2, 2024.
- The purpose of the inputs used in the policy-making process is to define the goals, plans, and strategies for the strategic expansion and advancement.
- In order to establish India as a global hub for content, the Consultation Paper identifies important concerns that are commonly present in the broadcasting industry.
- The document addresses how to improve public service broadcasting, tackle problems with different media and entertainment sectors, stop piracy, and guarantee content security.

Centre Warned about USB Charger Scam

- The Centre goverment has advised people not to use phone charging portals in public locations including bus stops, coffee shops, hotels, and airports starting of April 1, 2024.
- USB charging portal are often used maliciously by cybercriminals in public spaces such as bus stops, hotels, cafes, and airports.
- Users that charge their devices at compromised USB stations may be vulnerable to cyberattacks known as ''juice-jacking.''
- A common cyber attack tactic known as ''juice jacking'' involves cybercriminals using public USB charging stations to either steal user data or infect linked devices with malware.

Products across India Earn GI Tag

- The Geographical Indication (GI) label has been applied to more than 60 items from all around India, including the well-known Banaras Thandai as of April 1, 2024.
- This is the first instance of GI tags being distributed in this quantity all at once.
- State stepping forward for submitting applications to have some of their historical and traditional items assigned a GI tag. The Bihu dhol, Pani Meteka craft, Jaapi, Mishing Handloom items, and Asharikandi terracota carpet are all from Assam.
- Banarasi Thandhai, Banarasi Tabla, Shehnai, Banarasi Lal Bharwamirch, and Banaras Lal Peda are all from Varanasi.
- Matabari Peda and Pachra Rignai are two items from the Tripura region that have been awarded the GI tag.
- The GI tag has been obtained by Chubitchi, Meghalaya Garo Textile, and Meghalaya Lyrnai pottery from the state of Meghalaya.

'One Vehicle, One FASTag' Implemented

- The 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' standard was implemented by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on April 1, 2024.

- Its goal is to stop people from linking numerous FASTags together or using a single FASTag for many cars.
- The NHAI has already extended the deadline for compliance to the end of March in light of the problems that Paytm FASTag users were experiencing.
- The 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' campaign seeks to improve the effectiveness of the electronic toll collecting system and guarantee smooth traffic at toll plazas.
- The NHAI runs the electronic toll collection system FASTag in India.
- It takes advantage of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to enable direct toll payments from an associated savings or prepaid account.

Committee for Great Indian Bustard Preservation

- CJI DY Chandrachud named an expert committee on March 26, 2024, to address the Great Indian Bustard's urgent endangerment emphasizing the need to balance conservation.
- In Gujarat and Rajasthan, collisions with powerful power cables could face lead to the extinction of the Great Indian Bustard population.
- The Supreme Court has reconsidered its order to subterranean electricity cables in order to safeguard bird species.
- Experts on animals, environmentalists, and government representatives from pertinent departments make up the committe.

Initiatives for Accessible Voting Launched

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) started an initiative on March 25, 2024, with an emphasis on older voters and people with disabilities, to guarantee that voting is accessible to all Indians.
- ''No voter is left behind,'' the ECI's motto, emphasizes its dedication to accessible and inclusive elections.
- Voters over 85 years old and PwDs with a 40% baseline disability cast their ballots from home with the help of Saksham app.
- The goal of this project is to improve voting accessibility and convenience for voters in these categories who have trouble getting to polling places.
- Transport arrangements for PwDs and senior voters are being made by the ECI.
- The goal of this project is to eliminate obstacles to voting that can be brought about by a lack of transportation or other mobility problems.

Guidelines Issued for Betting and Gambling Platforms

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued guidelines for online gambling and betting platforms on March 21, 2024, along with a warning to social media influencers.