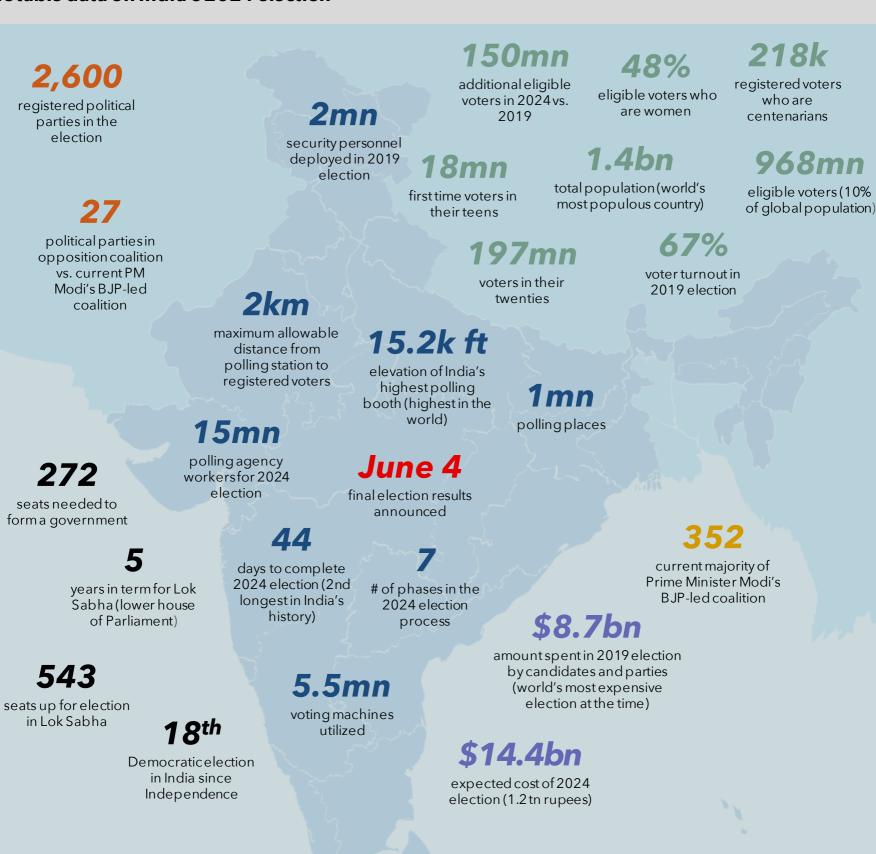


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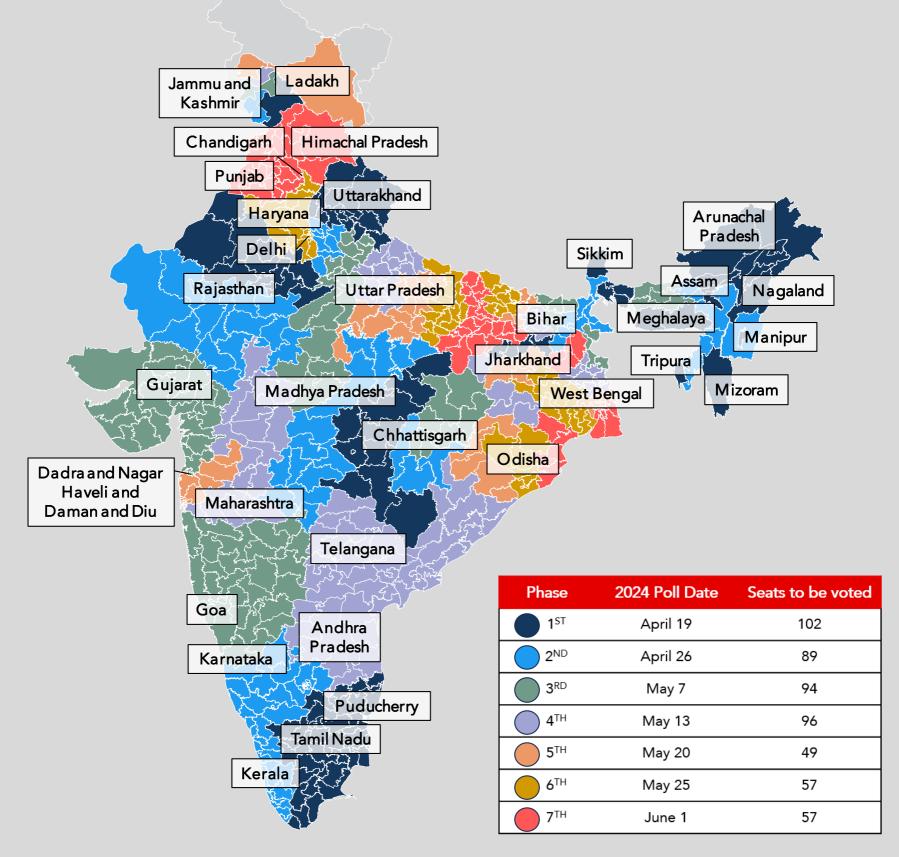
The world's largest democracy will go to the polls today in the largest (968 million eligible voters, 10% of the global population) and most expensive (\$14.4 bn) election globally. More than 2,600 political parties are registered for what will be India's 18th Lok Sabha (Parliamentary) elections since achieving independence in 1947. The party or coalition that secures at least 272 seats in the 543-seat Parliament will form the next government. Twoterm incumbent Prime Minister Narendra Modi, leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is seeking his third five-year term. The BJP previously won 303 seats in the 2019 election, and leads a 352 seat coalition that is targeting a 400 seat majority in the Lok Sabha.

Notable data on India's 2024 election



Due to its vast geography, India's election is spread over six weeks (44 days) in seven phases. The impressive scale of India's democratic process includes a 2 km maximum allowable distance from polling station to registered voters, thereby utilizing 15 million polling agency workers and 5.5 million voting machines spread over one million voting locations. Voting will continue through June 1st and results will be announced on June 4th.

India's 2024 general election voting dates and phases



Source: (1-2) Bloomberg, "The World's Largest Election Is a One-Man Show: Balance of Power" (Nishant Dahiya), "India Election By The Numbers" (Kevin Cordoba-Llanos). CNBC, "India kicks off the world's largest elections this week. Here's what you need to know". The Guardian, "Six weeks, 969 million votes, 2,600 parties: India's mammoth election explained".

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