

Festival of Democracy: General Elections 2024:
India Votes: 5th Phase May 20, 2024
May 17, 2024

May 17, 2024: **Delhi, India:** In the **fifth phase**, 49 constituencies across 6 States and 2 Union Territories will participate in electing **Members of Parliament (MPs)** to the **Lok Sabha** (*the lower house of Parliament*). The two main contenders for power are Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** governing **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** and the **Indian National Developmental Inclusive (I.N.D.I.) Alliance**, a coalition of 26 parties led by the main opposition party, **Indian National Congress (INC)**, the Grand Old Party, which had ruled over India for 54 years, after independence on August 15, 1947.



*May 13, 2024: Kashi, Uttar Pradesh (UP) State, India:
Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** planting a sapling*

The decision makers in INC are a family of three persons, led by **Sonia Gandhi**, a naturalized Indian of Italian origin. Her son **Rahul Gandhi** and daughter **Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra** are the other two. Nominally Shri **Mallikarjun Kharge** is President of INC since October 19, 2022.

The cumulative turnout in the first four phases of the Lok Sabha elections has been recorded at 66.95%, the Election Commission said on Thursday, adding 451 Mn of

the nearly 969 Mn electors have voted so far in the ongoing electoral exercise. The updated voter turnout in the first four phases was **69.16%**, **68.4%**, **66.71%** and **66.14%**, respectively, which is lower than that in the 2019 elections. Overall, there are **543 parliamentary constituencies** across **36 States** and Federally-governed **Union Territories**.



May 12, 2024: **Patna, Bihar State, India:**
Prime Minister Narendra Modi
---- The KEY CONSTITUENCIES in the 5th PHASE ----

In the **fifth phase**, 49 constituencies across 6 States and 2 Union Territories will participate in electing **Members of Parliament (MPs)** to the **Lok Sabha** (*the lower house of Parliament*).

KEY CANDIDATES in LOK SABHA ELECTIONS PHASE 5:

1. Rae Bareilly, UP: **Rahul Gandhi**, representing INC, contests from Rae Bareilly, the **family stronghold**. He won from Kerala's Wayanad in 2019. BJP has fielded **Dinesh Pratap Singh** against him.
2. Amethi, UP: BJP's **Smriti Irani**, who defeated Rahul Gandhi in 2019, competes against Congress' **Kishori Lal Sharma** in Amethi.

3. Lucknow, UP: **Rajnath Singh**, BJP, faces **Ravidas Mehrotra** from Samajwadi Party in Lucknow. He won with huge margins in 2014 and 2019. **Rajnath Singh** is the Defense Minister of India.

3. Kaiserganj, UP: Son of **Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh**, **Karan Bhushan Singh**, contests from Kaiserganj. He's a UP Wrestling Association President.



L to R: Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, Karan Bhushan Singh

4. Saran, Bihar: RJD's **Rohini Acharya**, Lalu Prasad's daughter, who donated one of her kidneys to her father, competes against BJP's **Rajiv Pratap Rudy** in Saran. Rudy won in 2014 and 2019. **Rajiv Pratap Rudy** had defeated **Rabri Devi, Rohini Acharya'** mother in 2019.

5. Hajipur, Bihar: LJP's **Chirag Paswan** competes against RJD's **Chandra Ram** in Hajipur. In 2019, **Pashupati Kumar Paras** won the seat.

6. Mumbai North: BJP's **Piyush Goyal** contests from Mumbai North against Congress' **Bhushan Patil**. **Piyush Goyal** is the **Minister of Commerce and Industry** in the Union Cabinet.

5. Mumbai South, Maharashtra: **Shiv Sena UBT Party's Arvind Sawant**, a two-time MP, competes against CM Shinde's ally **Yamini Jadhav** of Shiv Sena.

6. Mumbai North-Central: BJP's **Ujjwal Nikam** faces INC's **Varsha Gaikwad**.

7. Baramulla, J&K: **National Conference's (NC's) Omar Abdullah** competes against PDP's **Fayaz Ahmad Mir** and PC's **Sajjad Gani Lone**. He is a former Chief Minister of J&K State. He belongs to the Shaikh Abdullah family.

NC president and former J&K Chief Minister **Farooq Abdullah**, his son **Omar Abdullah** and his two grandsons and first-time electors **Zahir** and **Zamir** cast their vote at the polling station at the Burn Hall School here.

For the Srinagar seat, the NC has fielded influential Shia leader and former minister **Aga Ruhullah Mehdi**, with the support of **I.N.D.I. Alliance**. It is after decades that a member of the Abdullah family is not a candidate from the Srinagar constituency.



*May 13, 2024: Srinagar, J&K: **Abdullahs***

---- The Vibrant Democracy of India ----

A Democracy runs well when the Parties **compete hard** with one another **to put forward their ideology and programs**, and, when the leaders of the parties **respect one another as patriots and as good human beings, who are working to create a better world for all**. Please see the following photograph of three candidates from 3 different parties from an important constituency of Thiruvanthpuram in Kerala State, India:



Thiruvananthapuram candidates:

Shashi Tharoor (INC), Rajeev Chandrasekhar (BJP) and Pannyan Raveendran (CPI)
Will the electorate of **Thiruvananthapuram**, through a fair process, defenestrate (means “to throw somebody out of a window”) **Shashi Tharoor** (INC) and elect the Union minister **Rajeev Chandrasekhar** (BJP)? A **Communist Party of India** (CPI) candidate is also in the fray.

Voter turnout remained robust, reflecting citizens’ commitment to democracy.

Note 1.: Please see “*A Festival of Democracy: India: General Election 2024: Geo-Political Considerations & Interference*” dated May 5, 2024 at

<https://diginews360.com/india-geo-political-considerations-elections-2024/> for
Title #1: “Voices from Pakistan: The Most Vexing Test for India-Pakistan Relations”
Title #2: China’s Attempt to influence Elections through Leftist Media; “NewsClick: Arrests, Allegations, and Press Freedom”

Note 2.: Please see “*A Festival of Democracy: Geo-Political Considerations: India: General Election 2024: Interference by Canada*” dated May 5, 2024 at

<https://diginews360.com/india-general-election-2024-interference-by-canada/> for
Title #3: Canada: Foreign Interference in the Election to the Federal Parliament – **the initial Report** by the *Honourable Marie-Josée Hogue*, the Judge of the Quebec Court of Appeal: Judge **Marie-Josée Hogue** refused to mention India, when there is no evidence whatsoever against India, in spite of the efforts by the *Khalistani Leader in Canada*.

Title #4: Canada: Killing of a terrorist, living in Canada and responsible for terrorism in India: On May 3, 2024, **the worst that Canadian Government**, in spite of the efforts by the Khalistani Leader of Canada, could say was as follows:

REGARDING INDIA: *Assistant Commissioner David Teboul*, the *RCMP Commander for the Pacific region*, said he wouldn't comment on the alleged links between these men and Indian officials.

When the Canadian Government's Title #3 and Title #4 proved to be a damp squib, Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** himself chose to **smile** at the **public shouting of the slogan of Khalistan Jindabad** in **Toronto** on the soil of Canada wants to emphasize that it is a miniscule minority from the Sikhs of Canada that supports Jagmeet Singh. He has captured the Leadership of the New Democratic Party by using a *well-organized, and, funded campaign*.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS: www.DigiNews360.com notes that the slogans were shouted through a microphone, put near the stage, so that the eloquent silence of the Sikhs and Punjabis in the audience could be hidden. www.DigiNews360.com calls on Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** to clearly separate his stance from that of Jagmeet Singh and to come forward as the Statesman, who re-established close relations with the fellow Commonwealth country of India, which is the most vibrant and the largest democracy of the world.

Title #5: **Interference by Khalistanis**: PART 1.: *Amritpal's entry to the Lok Sabha polls causes a big flutter in Punjab* at <https://diginews360.com/india-general-election-2024-interference-by-khalistanis-amritpals-entry/>

with a Brief BACKGROUNDER on Shiromani Akal Dal (Amritsar) on pages 2-3

Notes: 1. Please read about the great **success stories of India and Senegal**, two vibrant democracies at <https://diginews360.com/senegal-and-india-great-democracies-of-the-world/> dated April 2, 2024.

2. Please refer to "Canada: China Interferes in Elections; Relations with India" dated April 7, 2024 at <https://diginews360.com/canada-china-interferes-in-elections-relations-with-india/>.

3. Please read "Canada: China Interferes; Celebration of Indian Democracy" dated April 11, 2024 at <https://diginews360.com/canada-china-interferes-celebration-of-indian-democracy/>.