



Congressional Briefing on Indian Elections – Fact Sheet

NATIONAL PARTIES

BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party
 BSP: Bahujan Samaj Party
 CPI: Communist Party of India
 CPI(M): Communist Party of India (Marxist).
 INC: Indian National Congress (Congress Party)
 JD(S): Janata Dal (Secular)
 JD (U): Janata Dal (United)

Some Facts

- Total Seats in the Lower House (LOK SABHA) of the Parliament = **543** (Direct Election)
- Seats needed to form government = **272**
- Last Election = **1999**
- Total Size of Electorate in 1999 = **619.5 Million** (1 Member of Parliament per 1.14 Million citizens)
- Total Voter Turnout = **60%**
- Average Number of Candidates per Constituency = **8.56**
- % of Woman Candidates = **6%**
- Total Number of States = 29 + 6 Union Territories
- **Winner** = Coalition – “National Democratic Alliance”; largest coalition party **BJP w/ 182 seats (23.75%** of National Vote)
- **Opposition** = Largest Part in opposition was the **Indian National Congress (INC) w/ 114 seats (28.30%** of National Vote)

States	Seats	Curr. State Govts	Seat Leaders in '99
Uttar Pradesh (UP)	80	Samajwadi Party* (SP)	BJP (29), SP (26)
Maharashtra	48	NCP*+INC	SHS* (15)
Andhra Pradesh	42	TDP*	TDP (29)
West Bengal	42	CPI(M)	CPI(M) (21)
Bihar	40	RJD*	BJP (23)
Tamil Nadu	39	AIADMK*	DMK* (12)

*State Parties with no national base

Table 1 – Top 5 States (Seats-Wise):
(Source: Election Commission of India)

Party	Seats Contested	Seats Won	%
BJP	339	182	53.69
BSP	225	14	6.22
CPI	54	4	7.41
CPM	72	33	45.83
INC	453	114	25.17
JD (S)	96	1	1.04
JD (u)	60	21	35.00
<i>National Parties</i>	1299 (total # of cand)	369	28.41
<i>State Parties</i>	750 (total # of cand)	158	21.07

Table 2 – Performance of National Parties in 1999
(Source: Election Commission of India)

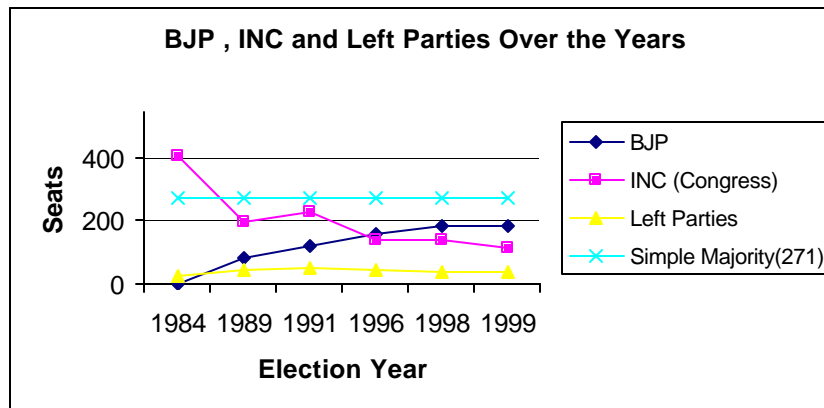


Figure 1 – Performance of Major Political Parties ('84-'99)
(Source: Election Commission of India)

Prominent Political Leaders

- Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee (BJP), Prime Minister
- Mr. L.K.Advani (BJP), Deputy Prime Minister
- Ms. Sonia Gandhi (INC/Congress Party), Leader of the Opposition
- Mr. H.S.Surjeet (CPI-Marxist)

Economic Data (Source: The Economist)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
GDP per head (\$ at PPP)	2,260	2,360	2,510	2,610
GDP (% real change pa)	7.14	3.95	5.46	4.3
Government consumption (% of GDP)	12.96	12.85	12.85	13.2
Budget balance (% of GDP)	-5.48	-5.28	-4.7	-5.9
Consumer prices (% change pa; av)	4.68	4.01	3.68	4.39
Public debt (% of GDP)	52.71	56.52	57.31	61.6
Labour costs per hour (USD)	0.56	0.59	0.62	0.66
Recorded unemployment (%)	9.2	9.17	9.2	9.3
Current-account balance/GDP	-0.73	-0.93	0	1
Foreign-exchange reserves (m\$)	32,667	37,902	45,871	67,666

Online Resources

- <http://www.yidream.org/2004> (Young India web-site)
- <http://www.bjp.org> (BJP web-site)
- <http://congresssandesh.com> (INC web-site)
- <http://www.cpim.org> (CPI-Marxist)
- <http://www.eci.gov.in> (Election Commission of India)

** For questions related to this sheet feel free to contact us at Rohit@yidream.org **