



The Indian Elections in 30 Seconds: **BJP vs...?**

India, with its vast population and diverse culture, has over 2,500 political parties spread across the country. These parties have been founded on a varied ideology concerning religion, caste and regional interests. Geography is critical in this election; the six largest states have the authority to elect 51% of Members of Parliament. The general elections being held at present are to elect representatives to Lok Sabha, the lower house of India's parliament.

In the 2019 election the **Modi** led **BJP** held a majority position in Lok Sabha, securing 37% of votes, equating to 303 seats, the lion's share of the 354 seats held by the **BJP** led **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)**. Important allies of the **BJP** include **Janata dal (United)** in Bihar and the **Shiv Sena** in Maharashtra. Opinion polls for 2024 suggest the BJP alliance will not only secure a third consecutive term but may occupy as many as 370 (68%) seats in Lok Sabha post-election.

The primary competition is the **India National Democratic Inclusive Alliance (INDIA)**, it's comprised of a number of opposition parties including **Indian National Congress (INC)**. The INC, as the second-largest political party, has a dynastic lineage marked by a tumultuous history of betrayal and loss. It is currently under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, a member of the influential Gandhi family. They ruled for many decades but lost to Modi in 2014. Prior to the formation of **INDIA**, the opposition alliance, known as the United Progressive Alliance (**UPA**) held 126 seats. Now, even with the support of large regional parties, the **Trinamool Congress** in West Bengal and the **DMK** in Tamil Nadu, it remains uncertain whether this new alliance can serve as a viable alternative in this political contest.

