

General Elections to Legislative Assemblies and bye-elections 2026

Tamil Nadu (84.69%) and West Bengal (Phase-I) (91.78%) record highest-ever poll participation since Independence

Posted On: 23 APR 2026 8:38PM by PIB Delhi

1. Polling for the General Elections for the Legislative Assemblies of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal (Phase-I) and the bye-elections in 3 ACs of 2 States (Gujarat and Maharashtra) began today at 7:00 AM.
2. **Tamil Nadu with 84.69% and West Bengal (Phase-I) with 91.78% recorded the highest- ever poll-participation since Independence.** Previously, the highest poll-participation in Tamil Nadu was 78.29% (2011 GELA) and in West Bengal was 84.72% (2011 GELA) respectively. Details of previous poll participation figures are **annexed**.
3. Details of poll participation (%) are as follows:

State/UT	Poll Percentage (%)			
	Male	Female	3rd Gender	Total
General Elections to Legislative Assembly				
Tamil Nadu	83.57	85.76	60.49	84.69
West Bengal (Ph-I)	90.92	92.69	56.79	91.78
Bye-elections to AC				
Gujarat 1. Umreth-111	61.52	56.34	50.00	59.03
Maharashtra 1. Baramati-201	61.61	53.29	4.48	57.48
2. Rahuri-223	58.59	51.80	0.00	55.31

*As per data uploaded by the PROs themselves in ECINET. Data from **6,345 PS in WB** and **6,411 PS in TN** yet to be updated

+Data is provisional and it does not include Service Voters & Postal Ballots. Final figures will be shared in Index Cards through ECINET

4. Chief Election Commissioner Shri Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Dr.

S.S. Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi kept a close watch on the polling through **live webcasting** which was ensured in **100% of the Polling Stations** in both the states.

5. Details of electorate, polling stations, polling staff, candidates and polling agents in the two states are as under:

State	ACs	Electorate				
		Male (in Crores)	Female (in Crores)	3rd Gender	Total (in Crores)	
Tamil Nadu	234	2.80	2.93	7,728	5.73	
West Bengal (Ph-I)	152	1.84	1.76	465	3.60	
TOTAL	386	4.64	4.69	8,193	9.33	

6. Presiding Officers updated the **polling percentage on ECINET** at the close of poll before leaving the polling station as per ECI's latest instructions resulting in minimal delay in updation of the polling trends.

7. Several **new voter-friendly initiatives** such as easily identifiable colour photos of candidates on EVM ballot papers, Mobile Deposit Facility (MDF), newly designed Voter Information Slips (VIS) for easy readability and limit of electors upto 1,200 per polling station were ensured in these elections.

8. Polling stations were also provided with wheelchairs and volunteers **to assist PwD voters**. Transport facility was also provided to assist PwD voters in reaching their respective polling stations.

9. District-wise and AC wise approximate voter turnout figures are available on the **ECINET App**.

PK/GDH/RP

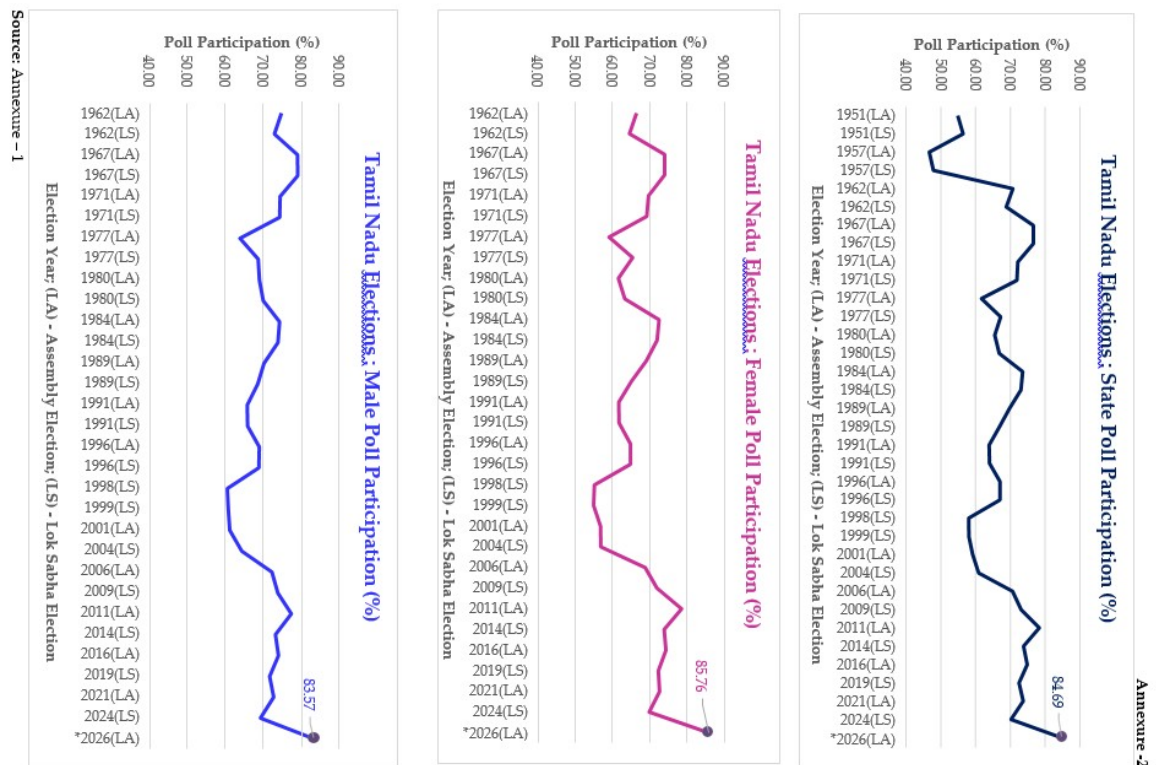
Tamil Nadu: Gender-wise Poll Participation in Elections [1951 – 2026]

Sl. No.	State	Type	Year of Election	Male VTR %	Female VTR %	
				[Excl. Postal votes]		
1	Madras	LA	1951			
2	Madras	LS	1951			
3	Madras	LA	1957			
4	Madras	LS	1957			
5	Madras	LA	1962	74.92	66.45	
6	Madras	LS	1962	73.07	64.55	
7	Madras	LA	1967	79.19	73.99	
8	Madras	LS	1967	79.23	73.94	
9	Tamil Nadu	LA	1971	74.55	69.66	
10	Tamil Nadu	LS	1971	74.48	69.17	
11	Tamil Nadu	LA	1977	64.02	59.08	
12	Tamil Nadu	LS	1977	68.81	65.43	
13	Tamil Nadu	LA	1980	69.14	61.61	
14	Tamil Nadu	LS	1980	70.15	63.34	
15	Tamil Nadu	LA	1984	74.42	72.49	

16	Tamil Nadu	LS	1984	74.00	71.94	
17	Tamil Nadu	LA	1989	70.33	69.02	
18	Tamil Nadu	LS	1989	68.67	65.01	
19	Tamil Nadu	LA	1991	65.94	61.69	
20	Tamil Nadu	LS	1991	66.02	61.76	
21	Tamil Nadu	LA	1996	69.08	64.78	
22	Tamil Nadu	LS	1996	68.99	64.85	
23	Tamil Nadu	LS	1998	60.67	55.19	
24	Tamil Nadu	LS	1999	60.96	54.96	
25	Tamil Nadu	LA	2001	61.30	56.83	
26	Tamil Nadu	LS	2004	64.49	56.89	
27	Tamil Nadu	LA	2006	72.41	68.75	
28	Tamil Nadu	LS	2009	73.95	71.91	
29	Tamil Nadu	LA	2011	77.53	78.51	
30	Tamil Nadu	LS	2014	73.35	73.83	

31	Tamil Nadu	LA	2016	74.16	74.33	
32	Tamil Nadu	LS	2019	71.81	72.29	
33	Tamil Nadu	LA	2021	72.88	72.61	
34	Tamil Nadu	LS	2024	69.43	69.86	
35	Tamil Nadu	LA	2026*	83.57	85.76	

*As per data uploaded by the PROs themselves in ECINET. Data from 6,411 PS in TN yet to be updated through ECINET



Annexure -3

West Bengal: Gender-wise Poll Participation in Elections [1951 – 2026]

Sl. No.	State	Year of Election	Election Type	Male VTR %	Female VTR %	
				[Excl. Postal votes]		

1	West Bengal	1951	LA			
2	West Bengal	1951	LS			
3	West Bengal	1957	LA			
4	West Bengal	1957	LS			
5	West Bengal	1962	LA	61.77	47.43	
6	West Bengal	1962	LS	61.98	47.62	
7	West Bengal	1967	LA	70.69	60.51	
8	West Bengal	1967	LS	70.88	60.15	
9	West Bengal	1969	LA	69.67	62.57	
10	West Bengal	1971	LA	65.09	58.09	
11	West Bengal	1971	LS	64.51	58.57	
12	West Bengal	1972	LA	63.19	57.75	
13	West Bengal	1977	LA	59.72	51.86	
14	West Bengal	1977	LS	64.86	54.75	
15	West Bengal	1980	LS	72.58	68.18	

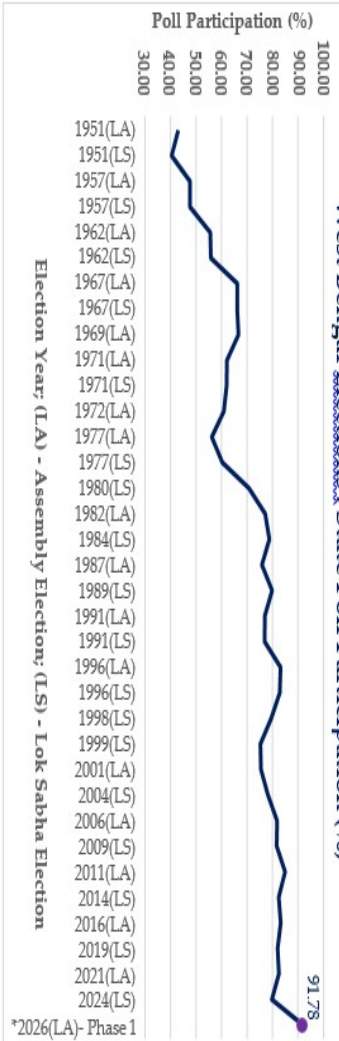
16	West Bengal	1982	LA	78.79	74.87	
17	West Bengal	1984	LS	81.74	75.04	
18	West Bengal	1987	LA	77.42	73.65	
19	West Bengal	1989	LS	82.05	76.92	
20	West Bengal	1991	LA	77.53	75.96	
21	West Bengal	1991	LS	78.33	74.88	
22	West Bengal	1996	LA	83.86	81.92	
23	West Bengal	1996	LS	84.27	80.86	
24	West Bengal	1998	LS	80.73	77.66	
25	West Bengal	1999	LS	76.70	73.25	
26	West Bengal	2001	LA	77.83	72.53	
27	West Bengal	2004	LS	79.86	75.38	
28	West Bengal	2006	LA	82.34	80.75	
29	West Bengal	2009	LS	82.29	80.25	
30	West Bengal	2011	LA	84.22	84.45	

31	West Bengal	2014	LS	82.19	81.96	
32	West Bengal	2016	LA	82.23	83.13	
33	West Bengal	2019	LS	81.35	81.79	
34	West Bengal	2021	LA	81.37	81.75	
35	West Bengal	2024	LS	78.20	80.16	
36	West Bengal	2026 [Phase -1]*	LA	90.92	92.69	

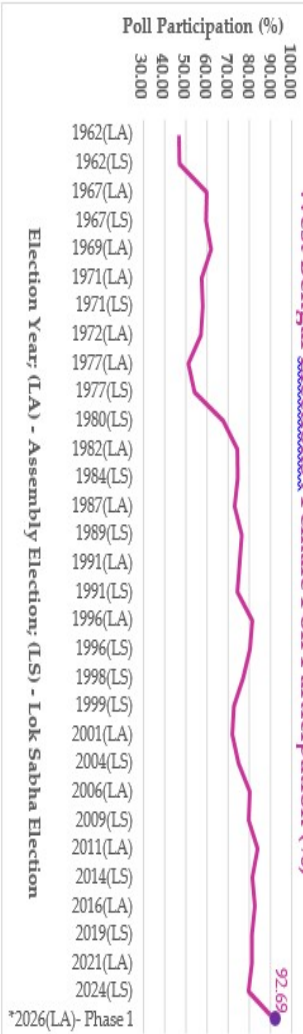
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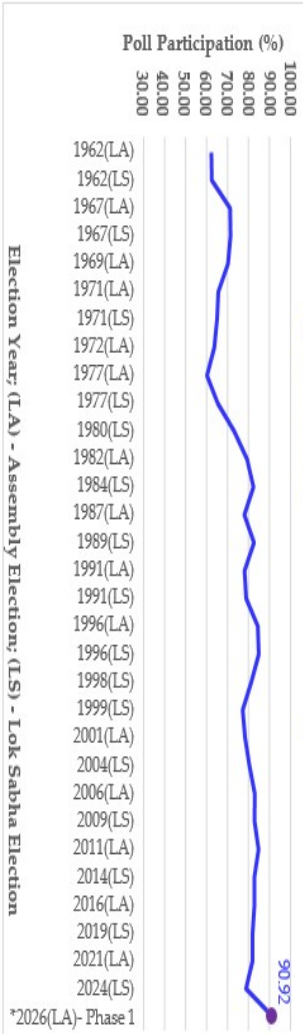
West Bengal Elections : State Poll Participation (%)



West Bengal Elections : Female Poll Participation (%)



West Bengal Elections : Male Poll Participation (%)



Source: Annexure - 3