

+918988885050 +918988886060

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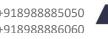


TODAY'S ANALYSIS (14 April 2024)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- INDIA'S FIRST GENERAL ELECTIONS
- MOUNT ETNA
- MURIA TRIBE







INDIA'S FIRST GENERAL ELECTIONS

India's first Lok Sabha election, conducted over four months in 1951-52, began the

democratic process by which the reins of the newly independent nation were put in the

hands of its people.

HOW MANY LOK SABHA & ASSEMBLY SEATS WERE THERE?

Votes were cast for **489 Lok Sabha** and **3,283 state Assembly** seats around the country.

HOW MANY ELECTORS WERE THERE?

Of the 176 million electors of age 21 and older (the voting age was brought to 18 only in

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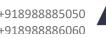
1989), about 82% were unlettered.

POLITICAL PARTIES CONTESTING

- The Indian National Congress led by Jawaharlal Nehru.
- The Socialist Party, with Jayaprakash Narayan as one of its leaders;
- Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party (KMPP) of J B Kripalani;
- Communist Party of India (CPI);
- Akhil Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS, the precursor of the BJP);

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- Hindu Maha Sabha (HMS);
- Karpatri Maharaj's Akhil Bharatiya Ram Rajya Parishad (RRP); and
- Tridib Choudhuri's Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP).

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA'S UNIQUE CHALLENGES

The office of the Election Commission of India (ECI) was set up on January 25, 1950. Sukumar Sen, an officer of the Indian Civil Service and a former Chief Secretary of West Bengal, became Chief Election Commissioner.

• For no officer of state, certainly no Indian official, ever had such a stupendous task

placed in front of him.

• Not only was the electorate spread over more than a million square miles, there

was a peculiar social problem.

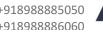
• Many women in northern India wished to register themselves as A's mother or

B's wife [and not by their own names]

• Ultimately, 17.32 crore voters from across the country (excluding J&K) were enrolled,

and 45% were women.

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WHICH WAS THE FIRST STATE TO GO INTO POLLS?

After delays, polling finally took place between December 1951 and February 1952.

However, votes in Chini and Pangi Assembly constituencies of Himachal Pradesh were

cast in October 1951, before snow could cut these areas off from the rest of India.

On December 10, 1951, voting began in the rest of the country with the Thiruvalla and

Trichur Lok Sabha constituencies of Travancore-Cochin (present-day Kerala) first to cast

their vote.

HOW MANY CANDIDATES PARTICIPATED IN THE FIRST ELECTIONS?

The first election had 1,874 Lok Sabha candidates and 15,361 state Assembly candidates.

WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THE ELECTIONS?

When the results were declared on April 2, 1952,

- The Congress won 318 seats,
- The Socialist Party won 12,
- KMPP 9,

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- CPI 8,
- HMS 4, and
- BJS, RRP, and RSP won 3 seats each
- Independents won 37 seats.

WINS AND SHOCKING DEFEATS

- The likes of Nehru and Syama Prasad Mookerjee expectedly won.
- Morarji Desai lost in Bombay, and Jai Narayan Vyas in Rajasthan.
- The biggest upset, however, was the defeat of B R Ambedkar, who lost to his former

personal assistant, Narayan Sadoba Kajrolkar, by around 15,000 votes at the Bombay

North Central seat.

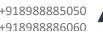
The first Lok Sabha also had multiple-member constituencies, a practice that was done

away with in the elections of 1962. Under this, some constituencies returned two members

- one from the general category, another from the SC or ST categories - and, in one

constituency, all three categories returned one member each.

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ELECTIONS AS A SUCCESS

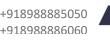
The "biggest experiment in democracy in human history", as CEC Sen described the elections, ended as a resounding success, putting to rest the doubts that many, including even Nehru on occasion, had.

After the elections, Nehru said: "My respect for the so-called illiterate voter has gone up.

Whatever doubts I might have had about adult suffrage in India have been removed completely."

The Election Commission's Report on the First General Elections 1951-52 quoted Sen as saying, "Adult suffrage was a remarkable success and proved a potent factor in itself for advancing the political education of an illiterate mass which had little or no background of political experience."







MOUNT ETNA

Since last week, Mount Etna, the largest volcano in Europe, and among the world's most

active and iconic volcanoes, has been sending up almost perfect rings of smoke into the

air.

The rings are a rare phenomenon that scientists refer to as volcanic vortex rings.



ABOUT MOUNT ETNA

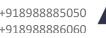
• Mount Etna, sometimes referred to simply as Etna, is an active volcano on the east

coast of Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, lying just off the toe of the

Italian "boot".

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• Etna's peak is the highest in Italy south of the Alps, and it is Europe's largest and

one of the most active volcanoes.

- Etna's summit has five craters, which are responsible for most of the volcano's eruptions.
- Etna is in almost constant activity, and has seen, since the year 1600, at least 60

flank eruptions and many more summit eruptions

• Etna has been a World Heritage Site since 2013, and according to UNESCO, the

volcano's eruptive history can be traced back 500,000 years. At least 2,700 years

of this activity has been documented.

WHAT ARE VORTEX RINGS?

Vortex rings are generated when gas, predominantly water vapour, is released rapidly

through a vent in the crater. The vent that has opened up in Etna's crater is almost

perfectly circular, so the rings that have been seen above the mountain since April 2 are

also circular.

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IS THIS PHENOMENON NEW FOR ETNA?

A scientific paper published on volcanic vortex rings in February 2023 noted that the

phenomenon was first observed at Etna and Vesuvius in Italy in 1724, and has been

documented in an engraved plate from 1755.

HAS THIS PHENOMENON OCCURED ANYWHERE ELSE ALSO?

In more recent times, volcanic vortex rings have been observed at volcanoes such as

Redoubt in Alaska, Tungurahua in Ecuador, Pacaya in Guatemala, Eyjafjallajökull and Hekla

in Iceland, Stromboli in Italy, Aso and Sakurajima in Japan, Yasur in Vanuatu, Whakaari in

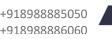
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New Zealand, and Momotombo in Nicaragua.

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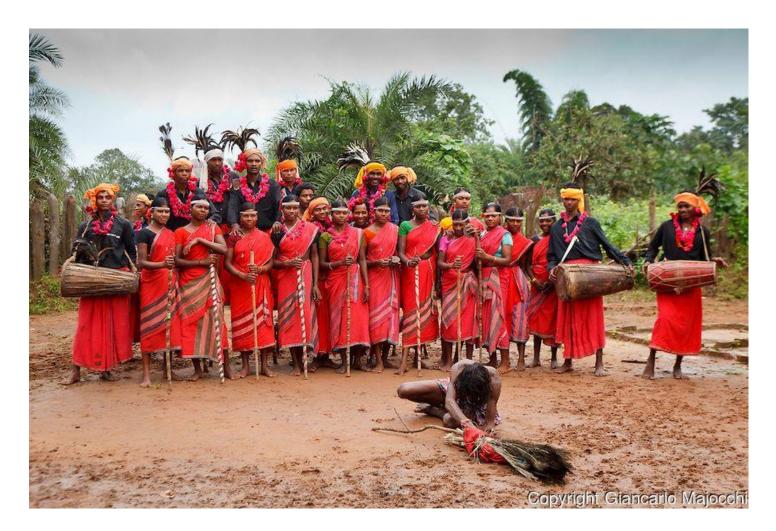




MURIA TRIBES

The Muria Tribes lack basic necessities for survival like education, safe drinking water & other

social benefits. They are at high risk of displacement as well.

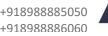


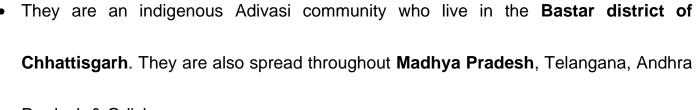
ABOUT THE TRIBAL GROUP

• The Muria are a subgroup of the Gond people, India's largest tribal group.

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Pradesh & Odisha.

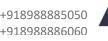
- The Muria are known for being economically homogeneous, and for working together.
- They have mixed-sex dormitories (Ghotul) where adolescents practice premarital

sex, and an omnivorous diet.

- Liquor plays an important role in social gatherings.
- They hold ST status in Chhattisgarh but not in the states they have migrated to.

TRADITION







MCQs

- 1. Who among the following was India's first Chief Election Commissioner?
 - (A) Karpatri Maharaj
 - (B) Tridib Choudhury
 - (C) Sukumar Sen
 - (D) None of the above

Ans. (C)

- 2. Consider the following statements and mark the correct one
 - 1. The first elections in India in 1951-52 were combined for the Parliament & all

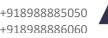
state legislative assemblies.

- 2. The first Lok Sabha had multiple-member constituencies.
- 3. Kerala was the first state to go into polls.
- (A) 1 & 2
- (B) 1 & 3
- (C) 1 only
- (D) All of the above

Ans. (A)

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- 3. Consider the following statements and mark how many of them are correct?
 - 1. Mount Etna is Italy's highest peak.
 - 2. Mount Etna is the only volcanic peak in Italy.
 - 3. It is known for its unique feature of producing concentric volcanic rings like no other volcano in the world.
 - 4. Mount Etna is a World Heritage site demarcated in 2015.
 - (A) Only one statement is correct.
 - (B) Only two statements are correct.
 - (C) Only three statements are correct.
 - (D) All four statements are correct

Ans. (A)

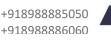
- 4. Consider the following states:
 - 1. Bihar
 - 2. Chhattisgarh
 - 3. Jharkhand
 - 4. Odisha

In which of the above states does the Muria tribes live?

- (A) All of the above
- (B) 2, 3 & 4
- (C) 1, 2 & 4
- (D) 2 & 4
- Ans. (D)

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- 5. What does the term Ghotul refer to?
 - (A) It is a barter system practiced by the Muria Tribe.
 - (B) It is an intoxicating drink consumed by tribals of Chattisgarh.
 - (C) It is a system of marriage where Matrilocality is practiced.
 - (D) None of the above

Ans. (D)

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