

INDIA

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exrec	exconst	polcomp
0a	IND	-88	5	8	15	1947	5	12	1952	-88	-88	-88
0b	IND	5	15	5	13	1952	2	20	1967	7	6	5
0c	IND	8	8	2	21	1967	6	25	1975	8	7	8
1X	IND	6	2	6	26	1975	3	23	1977	8	5	7
1Xa	IND	8	11	3	24	1977	3	18	1998	8	7	7
1O	IND	9	21	3	19	1998	99	99	9999	8	7	9

PITF Problem Events:

- 1) 05/56-10/58 (ETH 05/56-10/58)
- 2) 05/67-12/71 (ETH 05/67-12/71)
- 2) 04/83-present (ETH 04/83-10/93; ETH 01/90-present; REV 02/01-present)

0a) August 15, 1947 (independence) – In 1942, the British government promised that the British Indian Empire would enjoy self-government of independence within a year following the end of the Second World War. On May 16, 1946, a Cabinet Mission visited India and submitted a proposal for achieving self-government for a united India on the condition that the two main players, the All-India National Congress and the All-India Muslim League, reach an agreement on a constitution. The Indian National Congress party had been established in 1885; its membership had come to be dominated by Hindu nationalists, even though its spiritual leader, Mahatma Gandhi, advocated an inclusive, non-violent ideology. Dr. Maulana Azad, a Muslim who had been Congress party president since 1940, stepped aside at the request of Gandhi, and Jawaharlal Nehru was elected party president on May 9, 1946, with the intent that he would be named prime minister upon India's independence. The All-India Muslim League was formed in 1906 and led by Mohammed Ali Jinnah; its leadership rejected the prospects on being a minority in a Hindu-dominated state and, in 1940, they issued the Pakistan Resolution calling for a separate Muslim state. An Interim Government was established on September 1, 1946, in which the Muslim League initially refused to participate; it was persuaded to join the government on October 26. Elections for a Constituent Assembly took place in July 1946; the results showed an almost perfect split between the Congress party, which won nearly all the "general" seats and the Muslim League, which won nearly all the designated "Muslim" seats. The Constituent Assembly was charged with drafting a constitution and convened on December 6, 1946; it was boycotted by the Muslim League. Communal tensions continued to increase and had become so severe in anticipation of independence that, on June 3, 1947, the British Viceroy, Lord Mountbatten, announced that the partition of Muslim-majority territories appeared to be the only solution to the political impasse and the rising communal violence. The Indian Independence Bill passed the British Parliament and received Royal Assent on July 18. India achieved independence on August 15, 1947, and Nehru was named prime minister. On August 17, the Boundary Commission, chaired by Sir Cyril Radcliffe, announced details of its decision regarding the borders demarcating the partition, setting off a massive, chaotic, and deadly migratory exchange of populations. Gandhi was assassinated on January 30, 1948, by a Hindu extremist. Integration of the many states that constituted the Indian federal system was not completed until October 15, 1949. The Constituent Assembly completed its work and the Constitution of the Republic of India was promulgated on January 26, 1950, and Dr. Rajendra Prasad, president of the Constituent Assembly, was unanimously elected President of the Republic.

0b) May 13, 1952 (elected government) – The country’s first legislative elections were held from October 25, 1951, through February 21, 1952, for the *Lok Sabha* (lower chamber) and resulted in an absolute majority for the Congress party, with only token opposition by communists and socialists. Elections for the *Rajya Sabha* (upper chamber) showed similar results. The new legislature and Congress-controlled government were sworn in on May 13, 1952; Nehru continued as prime minister and Prasad was re-elected president. Congress continued to dominate legislative elections in 1957 and 1962 and Nehru remained as prime minister until his death on May 27, 1964. Nehru was replaced by Lal Bahadur Shastri on June 9, 1964; Shastri died in office on January 11, 1966. In order to continue the moderate, populist leadership of the Congress party, Nehru’s only child, Indira Gandhi, was chosen to replace Shastri, to the great dismay of conservative leader Morarji Desai. Indira Gandhi took office on January 24, 1966.

Ethnic War: May 1956 - October 1958

The Naga separatist movement began resisting incorporation of tribal lands in the Union of India in 1949. In May 1956, separatist militants began an armed rebellion that was brutally repressed by Indian troops. The rebels' main forces were subdued in 1958.

0c) February 21, 1967 (parliamentary elections) – The Congress party’s political monopoly which had held it in power since it led the country to independence in 1947 showed signs of weakening as parliamentary elections held February 15-21, 1967, left it with only 54% of the seats in the *Lok Sabha*. Solid gains were made by the communists, socialists, and Hindu nationalists. Rivalry within the Congress party led to a split into factions in 1969: one supporting Indira Gandhi and the other supporting Morarji Desai. Indira Gandhi had to form a coalition government to remain in office. The split in the Congress party enabled her to consolidate her populist platform and her faction of the Congress party won over two-thirds of the seats in March 1971 elections.

Ethnic War: May 1967 - December 1971

The Jharkhand separatist movement, otherwise known as the Naxalite rebellion, involved mainly Santal tribes in eastern Bihar and West Bengal; issues centered on land reform. The rebellion was largely contained by intense repression and overwhelmed by events surrounding Bangladesh's independence in 1971-2. A June 1977 general amnesty further quieted the situation.

1X) Date of Change to Factional-Democratic: June 26, 1975 (state of emergency)

Brief Explanation of Change To:

Broad political mobilization of the many, diverse ethnic and caste groups that constituted Indian society encouraged greater criticism of the domination of politics by the Congress party, as evidenced by opposition gains in the 1967 legislative elections, and the leadership of Indira Gandhi, as shown by the 1969 split in the Congress party and the rapidly shifting coalitions that somehow kept Indira Gandhi in office until her supporters could regroup in the 1971 elections. Mounting economic pressures, compounded by the costs of the 1971 Bangladesh intervention, brought about an even more active and vocal opposition to government policies, alleged

corruption, and Indira Gandhi's control of the political agenda. Jaya Prakash Narayan, a leader of the Sarvodaya Movement which espoused Gandhian principles of non-violent social revolution, attempted to rally the fragmented opposition to remove Indira Gandhi. Although Narayan was unsuccessful in mounting an effective, direct challenge to the government, a writ issued by the Allahabad High Court invalidating Indira Gandhi's 1971 election to the *Lok Sabha* provided a technical means to unseat her. After all the major opposition parties except the Communist Party of India (CPI) had announced that they would launch a civil disobedience campaign to force Mrs. Gandhi to resign, President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed proclaimed an Emergency on June 26, 1975; mass arrests followed, a strict press censorship was imposed and a number of extremist organizations were banned. An emergency session of parliament, boycotted by the opposition, approved the president's proclamation and adopted an amendment to the constitution which validated Mrs. Gandhi's election retroactively. The Emergency continued until it was relaxed on January 18, 1977, in preparation for elections; it was ended on March 21, 1977.

Identify Main Factions:

Political:

- *Indian National Congress (Congress) Party* – A leader in the independence movement, Congress became a powerful political party following independence. The Congress party ruled India until 1977 and remains an important political party. Under Indira Gandhi, the party split; Indira began a separate party initially known as Congress (R) and generally known as the New Congress. The Congress break up was seen as a left/right division, with the New Congress pursuing a more liberal agenda.
- *The Janata (People's) Front* – In January 1977, opposition parties came together to campaign under the Janata Party. The Janata Party was originally made up of the Congress (O), the Jana Sangh, the Bharatiya Lok Dal (Indian People Party), the Samajwadi Party (Socialist Party), and dissidents. The party became the first serious opposition force for the Congress and was led by Jaya Prakash Narayan and Morarji Desai. On April 5, 1988, Janata merged with the Lok Dal and Rashtriya Sanjay Manch to form the Janata Dal party, which led the National Front alliance.
- *Hindu nationalists* – Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh (RSS) was a Hindu-nationalist paramilitary organization banned under the 1975 state of emergency. The Bharatiya Janata Party was formed in April 1980 and continued to increase its political influence through the 1980s and 1990s. As a result of the 1996 general elections, the BJP became the largest party in parliament for the first time, unseating the Congress party, and, in 1998, it formed its first working government.

Date of Change within Factional-Democratic Period:

1Xa) March 24, 1977 (new prime minister) – On January 18, 1977, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi announced that legislative elections would be held in March, thousands of political detainees were released, and press censorship was lifted, although the Emergency remained in effect. In preparation for the elections, the main opposition parties agreed to form a single organization to contest the elections: the Janata Party. The general elections to the *Lok Sabha* (Lower House of Parliament) were held on March 16-20 and resulted in the defeat of the Congress party and the resignation of Indira Gandhi's government. The Emergency was lifted on March 21. On March 24, 1977, Morarji Desai, was sworn in as prime minister; the main

Congress party sat in opposition for the first time since independence. The Janata alliance was riven by personal rivalries and conflicting interests from the very beginning of its rule. The Desai government lost crucial support and resigned in July 1979. A new coalition including a breakaway section of the Janata Party (*Lok Dal*), Indira Gandhi's section of the Congress party, and some socialists was cobbled together and Chaudhury Charan Singh was named prime minister. New elections were called in January 1980 and the New Congress (I) alliance of Indira Gandhi won two-thirds of the seats in the *Lok Sabha*. Mrs. Gandhi was again named prime minister but her rule was beset by a Sikh separatist rebellion and Mrs. Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984, triggering an intense anti-Sikh backlash. Rajiv Gandhi, Indira Gandhi's eldest son, was named to replace her as prime minister. The New Congress lost the November 1989 elections and, for the first time, a minority government was formed by the National Front and led by Vishwanath Pratap Singh of the Janata Dal, followed briefly by Chandra Shekhar. The Congress party regained control of the government in June 1991, led by P. V. Narasimha Rao, who instituted market reforms. The major political development during this period was the rise of Hindu-nationalism and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Ethnic War: April 1983 - October 1993

The Sikhs' central organ, the Akali Dal, presses the Indian government for greater group autonomy in the Punjab and Haryana. Sikh militants declare a "war of independence" for Khalistan in April 1983. Government forces assault the Sikh stronghold, the Golden Temple (Akal Takht), in June 1984. Violence continues through the early 1990s and is finally contained through concessions, elections, and repression.

Ethnic War: January 1990 - present

Mass protests against Indian rule erupt in violence in January 1990 as protesters clash with Indian troops. Militants of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) escalate attacks on Indian authorities in April 1990. India and Pakistan begin talks in early 2004, resulting in a reduction of fighting between the two armies across the Line of Control.

10) Date of Change from Factional-Democratic: March 19, 1998 (new government)

Brief Explanation of Change From:

In the general election held during April and May 1996, the ruling Congress (I) party suffered its worst election defeat and was relegated to third place behind the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the National Front-Left Front (NF-LF) alliance. On May 15, 1996, following custom, the leader of the BJP was asked to form a government but that attempt quickly failed due to the refusal of the Congress (I) party to accept a BJP government. In late May 1996, the NF-LF alliance formed a fragile "United Front" coalition and formed a government with Janata Dal leader Deve Gowda as Prime Minister. The new government won a vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) on June 12, 1996. The United Front government remained weak and eventually failed, forcing new elections in 1998. As a result of the new elections, BJP leader Atal Behari Vajpayee was sworn in as Prime Minister on March 19, 1998, and the BJP was able to form its first working government.

Revolutionary War: February 2001 - present

The Maoist People's War Group (PWG) rekindles an insurgency among "dalits" (Scheduled Tribes) in the forested regions in the east, mainly in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh. The PWG joined forces with a second group, the Maoist Communist Centre (MCC), to form the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army in late 2004. The earlier, more narrowly based "Naxalite" movement is listed as an ethnic war, 1967-71.