

List of Prime Ministers of India 1947 to 2024, Current PM of India

Narendra Modi is the current prime minister of India for the 3rd consecutive term since 2014. In this article, we have provided the List of Prime Ministers of India From 1947 to 2024 along with Power and Functions of PM of India.

India's journey as a democratic republic is deeply interwoven with the vision and leadership of its Prime Ministers. The Prime Minister, as the head of the government, plays a pivotal role in shaping India's policies, steering economic growth, and representing the nation on global platforms. From Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Modi, every leader has contributed uniquely to the country's progress. Here, we present a comprehensive list of India's Prime Ministers from 1947 to 2024, their terms, contributions, and the evolution of leadership in the nation.

India's former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Dies at 92

India's former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who passed away on December 26, 2024, at the age of 92, leaves behind a remarkable legacy as the architect of India's economic reforms. Serving as Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014, Singh played a pivotal role in liberalizing India's economy, fostering growth, and enhancing global relations. His leadership transformed India into one of the world's largest economies. Known for his intellectual rigor and calm demeanor, Singh's passing marks the end of an era. His contributions to India's political and economic landscape will be remembered for generations.



Who is the Current Prime Minister Of India?

Narendra Modi, the 14th Prime Minister of India, has been in office since May 26, 2014. Known for his transformative policies, Modi has initiated key reforms such as:

- **Economic Policies:** Implementation of GST, demonetization, and promotion of a digital economy.
- **Social Initiatives:** Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Ujjwala Yojana, and Ayushman Bharat.
- **Foreign Policy:** Strengthened India's global ties, promoting "Act East" and "Neighborhood First" policies.
- **Bold Decisions:** Revocation of Article 370 and Digital India campaign.

Re-elected in 2019 and again in 2024, Modi is the first PM to serve three consecutive terms after Nehru.

Prime Minister of India

The Prime minister is typically the leader of the party or coalition that holds a majority in the Lok Sabha, the main legislative body of the Republic of India. The PM is the head of the executive branch and the presiding authority under India's parliamentary system of government.

The president of India appoints the prime minister. Still, they need the backing of most of the Lok Sabha members, elected directly every five years, to hold onto the position. The prime minister may be present in either the Rajya Sabha or the Lok Sabha, the upper house of parliament. The distribution of jobs within the government and the appointment and removal of Union Council of Ministers members are solely within the prime minister's purview.



First Prime Minister of India

The First Prime Minister of India was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. On 15 August 1947, Lord Mountbatten picked him. He was a Freedom Fighter in India's independence. He also belonged to the Indian National Congress Party. He was a Member of Parliament from Phulpur. He served in office from 15 August 1947 to 15 April 1952 during his first term.

First Women Prime Minister of India

The first woman Prime Minister of India was Indira Gandhi. She served from 1966 to 1977 and then again from 1980 until she was assassinated in 1984. She was the daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru, who was the first Prime Minister of India. Indira Gandhi had a big impact on India's politics during her time in office.

Oldest Prime Minister of India

Morarji Desai was India's oldest Prime Minister, serving at 81 from 1977 to 1979. He was born on 29 February 1896, and held various significant positions in government throughout his career, including Chief Minister of Bombay State, Home Minister, Finance Minister, and Deputy Prime Minister before assuming the role of Prime Minister. Desai's tenure is notable for his peace activism and efforts to improve relations with neighbouring countries like Pakistan and China.

List of Prime Ministers of India From 1947 to 2024

Here is the updated List of Prime Ministers of India from 1947 to 2024.

S.No.	Names	Birth-Death	Tenure	Interesting Facts
1	Jawahar Lal Nehru	(1889–1964)	15 August 1947 – 27 May 1964; 16 years, 286 days.	Prime Minister of independent India for the first and longest period. First, the in-office death of a prime minister.
2	Gulzarilal Nanda	(1898–1998)	27 May 1964 to 9 June 1964; 13 days.	After Nehru's untimely death, the nation's first acting prime minister assumed control.
3	Lal Bahadur Shastri	(1904–1966)	9 June 1964 to 11 January 1966; 1 year, 216 days.	During the Indo-Pak war in 1965, he was the originator of the phrase "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan."



4	Gulzarilal Nanda	(1898–1998)	11 January 1966, 24 January 1966; 13 days.	Only man to have twice served as acting prime minister of India.
5	Indira Gandhi	(1917–1984)	24 January 1966 to 24 March 1977; 11 years, 59 days.	The Indian prime minister's spouse, who took the oath of office
6	Morarji Desai	(1896–1995)	24 March 1977 – 28 July 1979; 2 years, 126 days.	First PM in 1977 following the emergency. At 81 years old, India's oldest prime minister took the oath of office before resigning. His birthday was celebrated once every four years because he was born on February 29.
7	Charan Singh	(1902–1987)	28 July 1979 to 14 January 1980; 170 days.	Only PM who has never addressed the legislature
8	Indira Gandhi	(1917–1984)	14 Jan.1980 to 31 Oct. 1984; 4 years, 291 days.	Following the disaster in 1977, the first PM returned to power in 1980. Like her father, she also passed away while in office.
9	Rajiv Gandhi	(1944–1991)	31 Oct 1984 to 2 Dec 1989; 5 years, 32 days.	At the age of 40, he became India's youngest prime minister.
10	V. P. Singh	(1931–2008)	2 Dec 1989 to 10 Nov 1990; 343 days.	First prime minister to leave following a no-confidence vote
11	Chandra Shekhar	(1927–2007)	10 Nov 1990 to 21 June 1991; 223 days.	He has never held a position of minister in any ministry.
12	P. V. Narasimha Rao	(1921–2004)	21 June 1991 to 16 May 1996; 4 years, 330 days.	He was from Andhra Pradesh and served as the nation's first South Indian prime minister.
13	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	(1924–2018)	16 May 1996 to 1 June 1996; 16 days.	The shortest tenure of any Indian PM is 16 days as PM.
14	H. D. Deve Gowda	(born 1933)	1 June 1996 to 21 April 1997; 324 days.	He succeeded as South India's second prime minister. He is a Karnataka

				native. But he didn't work there for more than a year.
15	Inder Kumar Gujral	(1919–2012)	21 April 1997 to 19 March 1998; 332 days.	After Indra Gandhi and Deve Gowda, the third Prime Minister to come from the Upper House.
16	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	(born 1924–2018)	19 March 1998 to 22 May 2004; 6 years, 64 days.	First non–Congress Prime Minister of independent India to serve out his full tenure
17	Manmohan Singh	(born 1932)	22 May 2004 to 26 May 2014; 10 years, 4 days.	First PM of India from the minority community.
18	Narendra Modi	(born 1950)	26 May 2014–(Incumbent)	3rd time Prime Minister other than Jawaharlal Nehru

List of Prime Ministers Tenure

Name	Political Party	Length of term
Jawaharlal Nehru	INC	16 years, 286 days
Indira Gandhi	INC/INC(I)/INC(R)	11 years, 59 days
Narendra Modi	BJP	10 years, 67 days(Incumbent)
Manmohan Singh	INC	10 years, 4 days
Atal Bihari Vajpayee	BJP	6 years, 64 days
Rajiv Gandhi	INC(I)	5 years, 32 days
P. V. Narasimha Rao	INC(I)	4 years, 330 days
Morarji Desai	JP	2 years, 126 days
Lal Bahadur Shastri	INC	1 year, 216 days
Vishwanath Pratap Singh	JD	343 days
Inder Kumar Gujral	JD	332 days
H. D. Deve Gowda	JD	324 days



Chandra Shekhar	SJP(R)	223 days
Charan Singh	JP(S)	170 days
Gulzarilal Nanda	INC	13 days

Constitutional Provisions for Prime Minister

- The Prime Minister will be chosen by the President of India, according to Article 75 of the Indian Constitution.
- The Cabinet Ministers are led by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is given primary executive authority over the government, with the President serving as the official head of State.
- The responsibilities of the Prime Minister of India are outlined in Article 78 of the Indian Constitution. While performing his duties, he serves as a liaison between the President and the Cabinet.
- The Indian Prime Minister sets the dates for its meetings and events during the session of Parliament. He also makes the call on when to dissolve or prorogue the House.
- In his capacity as chief spokesman, he announces major government initiatives.

Appointment of Prime Minister of India

- The President must appoint the leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha as Prime Minister in accordance with the rules of the parliamentary system.
- When no party has a clear majority in the Lok Sabha, the President can appoint the Prime Minister at their discretion, usually choosing the leader of the largest party or coalition
- The first use of this discretion was in 1979, when President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy appointed Charan Singh after the Janta Party government fell.
- If a sitting Prime Minister dies and there's no clear successor, the President must decide who to appoint, but if the ruling party elects a new leader quickly, that person must be appointed.
- According to the Delhi High Court (1980), a person can be appointed Prime Minister without proving their majority first, and the Supreme Court (1997) ruled that someone not in either House can serve as Prime Minister for six months, during which they must join a House.



Power and Functions of Prime Minister of India

The Prime Minister is also the chairman of the Cabinet, which is the highest decision-making body in the government. The Cabinet consists of ministers who are appointed by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is responsible for convening and presiding over Cabinet meetings, and he has the power to decide on the agenda of the Cabinet. The Prime Minister has several powers and functions, including:

Executive Powers

The Prime Minister is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the government. This includes implementing government policies, making appointments to key government positions, and representing India at international forums.

Legislative Powers

The Prime Minister is the leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Indian Parliament. As such, the Prime Minister has a significant influence on the legislative process. The Prime Minister can advise the President to summon or prorogue the Parliament, and he can also recommend the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Financial Powers

The Prime Minister is responsible for preparing the annual budget of the government. The budget must be approved by the Parliament, but the Prime Minister has a significant influence on the budget process.



Emergency Powers

In the event of a national emergency, the Prime Minister can exercise special powers under Article 352 of the Constitution of India. These powers include the power to suspend the fundamental rights of citizens and the power to impose the President's rule in the states.

Governance Mechanism of Prime Minister

Relation with the President:

- The PM communicates decisions of the Council of Ministers (CoM) to the President and provides information on administration and legislation.
- The PM advises the President on appointing key officials like the Attorney General and members of the UPSC.

Relation with the Council of Ministers (CoM):

- The PM recommends individuals for ministerial positions, allocates portfolios, and can ask ministers to resign or advise their dismissal.
- The PM leads CoM meetings and guides ministerial activities.

Relation with Parliament:

- The PM leads the Lok Sabha, advises the President on parliamentary sessions, and can recommend the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.
- The PM announces government policies in Parliament.

Relation with the Cabinet:

- The PM forms the Cabinet, allocates portfolios, and sets meeting agendas.
- The PM can consult others but may act independently when necessary.



Relation with External Affairs:

- The PM directs foreign policy and represents India internationally, which can enhance domestic respect.

Planning Role:

- The PM acts as a crisis manager during emergencies and chairs the National Disaster Management Authority.

Cabinet Committees:

- The PM establishes and heads most Cabinet Committees, including the important Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, which addresses key national issues.

Eligibility For Prime Minister of India

- He/she must be a citizen of India.
- He/she must be a member of either Rajya Sabha or Lok Sabha
- He or she must be at least 25 years old to serve in the Lok Sabha and must be at least 30 years old to serve in the Rajya Sabha.

Prime Ministers Salary, Oath and Tenure

- He takes the oaths of office and secrecy from the President.
- The prime minister takes an oath of office.
 - To have unwavering trust in and loyalty to the Indian Constitution.
 - To protect the sovereignty and integrity of India.
 - To carry out his responsibilities for his office honestly and faithfully.
 - To act honourably toward everyone in conformity with the law and the Constitution, without favoritism, fear, or malice.
- The Prime Minister pledges under his oath of secrecy not to discuss any matter brought to his attention as a Union Minister unless it is necessary for the proper performance of his duties.
- The Prime Minister's tenure is not fixed, and he serves at the President's pleasure. The PM cannot, however, be removed by the President so long as he has the support of the majority of lawmakers in the Lok Sabha.
- The Prime Minister must resign if the Lok Sabha loses confidence in him (by a majority), or the President may remove him.
- The Parliament periodically decides the Prime Minister's salary and benefits. PM receives the same salary and benefits as a member of parliament.



The relationship between the Prime Minister and the President is covered by a few sections of the Indian Constitution. The articles are: Article 74, Article 75 and Article 78

Article	Details
Article 74	Describes the relationship between the president and the council of ministers. The PM serves as the head of the council and provides advice to the president on various matters.
Article 75	Three things are mentioned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PM is chosen by the President, who also names other ministers on the PM's recommendation. • The Council of Ministers is collectively accountable to the Lok Sabha • Ministers hold office at the discretion of the President.
Article 78	PM informs the President of the decisions reached by the council of members. The president may also refer matters to the council of members for discussion.

Prime Minister of India Facts

Important Facts	
Longest-serving Prime Minister of India	Jawaharlal Nehru (1947 – 1964)
India's second-longest-serving Prime Minister	Indira Gandhi
Two times as acting Prime Minister	Gulzari Lal Nanda
The Bharat Ratna was awarded to the first Female Prime Minister	Indira Gandhi
First Prime Minister of India who was not a member of the Congress	Morarji Desai
The highest civilian honour in Pakistan was given to the Indian Prime Minister	Morarji Desai
India's youngest Prime Minister	Rajiv Gandhi
First South Indian Prime Minister	P.V. Narasimha Rao



First Prime Minister of India who was a member of the Rajya Sabha

Indira Gandhi

Significant Prime Ministers and Their Contributions

- **Jawaharlal Nehru (1947–1964):** As the first Prime Minister, Nehru played a crucial role in shaping independent India's policies and institutions, including the development of a mixed economy and the promotion of scientific and industrial advancement.
- **Indira Gandhi (1966–1977, 1980–1984):** The first and, to date, the only female Prime Minister of India, Gandhi is known for her centralizing policies and economic reforms, including the nationalization of banks and the Green Revolution.
- **Rajiv Gandhi (1984–1989):** Rajiv Gandhi focused on modernizing technology and telecommunications and addressing issues related to education and public health.
- **Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1996, 1998–2004):** Known for his economic liberalization policies and nuclear tests, Vajpayee was instrumental in India's economic and technological progress.
- **Manmohan Singh (2004–2014):** Singh is credited with leading major economic reforms and maintaining economic stability during his tenure.
- **Narendra Modi (2014–Present):** Modi's leadership is marked by significant economic reforms, such as the introduction of GST and the push for digital governance and infrastructure development.

