

# AGE IS JUST A NUMBER IN THE INDIAN POLITICS: A REVIEW WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE PRIME MINISTERS AND THE CHIEF MINISTERS OF THE STATE ASSEMBLIES

## Abstract

Since from the country's independence till date, ages of the Prime Ministers of India at the time of holding charges of the office ranged from minimum of 40 years to maximum of 81 years thereby making an average of 65 years. While ages of the Chief Ministers of the current State Assemblies ranges between 44 to 79 years thereby making an average of 62 years. As against retirement age fixed between 60 to 65 years for the government servant, the ages of majority of the Prime Ministers of India and the current Chief Ministers of the State Assemblies during the period of term at the office were/are found on the higher sides. This scenario transpires that maximum age limit does not stand as a barrier for the political career in India. Alternatively, age becomes just a number for the people's representatives of India for the prime executive positions in running the governments.

**Keywords:** Age, Chief Ministers, Constitution of India, Lok Sabha, MLA, MP, Parliament of India, politics, Prime Minister, Rajya Sabha, States, State Assemblies, the Representation of the People Act-1951, Union Territories, Vidhan Sabha.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

India being a sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic republic, the Constitution of India provides for a Parliamentary form of federal government. Under such system in place, the process of election enables representation of the people in the Parliament and State Legislatures. The Constitution of India stipulates requirement of minimum age for casting vote and contesting election. However, there is neither any maximum age for entry nor any age fixed for retirement from the political carrier in India.

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This Study is an attempt to review the ages of the Prime Ministers of India who held the office since from country's independence to the period till date and also those of currently serving Chief Ministers of the State Assemblies thereby requiring formulation of main objectives as listed here-below:

- To find out and review the ages of the Prime Ministers of India who held office from 1947 to 2023.
- To find out and review the ages of the currently serving Chief Ministers of the State Assemblies.
- To summarize the findings related to the ages of the Prime Ministers of India and currently serving Chief Ministers of the State Assemblies.

## III. METHODOLOGY

For an exploratory study conducted from the secondary sources of data, the collection of information comprises of Acts, policy documents and reports etc. published or/and uploaded in their websites by the respective State Governments and Union Territories, Government of India or/and their agencies, online newspaper, journals, online encyclopedia, etc. The findings and discussions on the topic are categorized as per the objectives presented under different heading in the paragraphs that follows here-below.

## IV. COMPOSITION OF THE PARLIAMENT OF INDIA AND STATE ASSEMBLIES

According to the Article 79 of the Constitution of India, the Parliament consists of the President and the two Houses with composition as detailed in the Table-1 here-below: -

**Table 1: Composition of the Houses of the Parliament of India**

Sr	Name of the Houses of the Parliament of India	Provision for the maximum number of the members to the Houses of the Parliament	Present strength
1	Lower house of the Parliament / The House of the People (The Lok Sabha)	550 members including 2 members nominated from the Anglo-Indian community.	545 MPs

2	Upper house of the Parliament / The Council of States (The Rajya Sabha)	250 members inclusive of 12 eminent personalities nominated from the field of literature, science, art and social services.	245 MPs
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The maximum number of elected Member of Parliament (MP) to the Lok Sabha is 550 comprising not more than 530 members from States and 20 members from Union Territories as provided under Article 81 of the Constitution of India. Besides, not more than 2 members from the Anglo-Indian Community are nominated by the President of India under provision of the Article 331 of the Constitution of India, if in his/her opinion that the community is not adequately represented in the Lok Sabha. Whereas, Article 83(2) of the Constitution of India stipulates that the Lok Sabha shall have a normal term of 5 years from the date appointed for its first meeting. Presently, the country is divided into 543 Parliamentary Constituencies, the process of election enables representation of one each member from these constituencies. Accordingly, the Lok Sabha has 545 members comprising 543 directly elected members and two members nominated from Anglo Indian Community by the President of India. However, according to the political composition of the Lok Sabha, the government at the centre is formed headed by the Prime Minister (PM) and the Council of Ministers forming the Cabinet as a central decision-making body of the government, along with the members of the Rajya Sabha.

The State Legislative Assemblies and the President of India nominates the MPs to the Rajya Sabha. As per the Article 80 of the Constitution of India, the maximum number of members of the Rajya Sabha is 250 comprising not more than 12 members nominated by the President of India and 238 representatives from the States elected by members of the State Legislative Assemblies by means of the single transferable vote thereby making proportional representation. The Article 80(3) of the Constitution of India empowers the President of India to nominate not more than 12 members having special knowledge or practical experience in field of literature, science, art and social service as member to the Rajya Sabha. Presently, 233 members of the Rajya Sabha are elected by the State Legislative Assemblies and twelve members nominated by the President of India. As per the Article 83(1) of the Constitution of India, the Rajya Sabha is not subject to dissolution thereby making it a Permanent House. It is due to the fact that as nearly as one third of its members retires every second year and an equal number of members are chosen to replace them simultaneously.

**Table 2: Seat allotted in the Houses of the Parliament of India and Vidhan Sabhas**

Sr.	State and Union Territories of India	Seat allotted in the Houses of the			
		Vidhan Sabhas	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha	Total
<b>A</b>	<b>States</b>				
1	Andhra Pradesh (#)	175	25	11	211
2	Arunachal Pradesh	60	2	1	63
3	Assam	126	14	7	147
4	Bihar (#)	243	40	16	299
5	Chhattisgarh	90	11	5	106

6	Goa	40	2	1	43
7	Gujarat	182	26	11	219
8	Haryana	90	10	5	105
9	Himachal Pradesh	68	4	3	75
10	Jharkhand	81	14	6	101
11	Karnataka (#)	224	28	12	264
12	Kerala	140	20	9	169
13	Madhya Pradesh	230	29	11	270
14	Maharashtra (#)	288	48	19	355
15	Manipur	60	2	1	63
16	Meghalaya	60	2	1	63
17	Mizoram	40	1	1	42
18	Nagaland	60	1	1	62
19	Odisha	147	21	10	178
20	Punjab	117	13	7	137
21	Rajasthan	200	25	10	235
22	Sikkim (^)	32	1	1	34
23	Tamil Nadu	234	39	18	291
24	Telangana (#)	119	17	7	143
25	Tripura	60	2	1	63
26	Uttar Pradesh (#)	403	80	31	514
27	Uttarakhand	70	5	3	78
28	West Bengal	294	42	16	352
<b>B</b>	<b>Union Territories with House</b>				
29	Jammu & Kashmir (#) (&)	90	5	4	99
30	NCT of Delhi	70	7	3	80
31	Puducherry (*)	30	1	1	32
<b>C</b>	<b>Union Territories without House</b>				
32	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	1	-	1
33	Chandigarh	-	1	-	1
34	Dadra & Nagar Haveli (**), Daman and Diu (**)	-	2	-	2
35	Ladakh (&)	-	1	-	1
36	Lakshadweep	-	1	-	1
<b>D</b>	<b>Members nominated in the Houses of the Parliament</b>				
	The Lok Sabha & The Rajya Sabha		2	12	14
	Total	4123	545	245	4893

**Note:**

(#) indicates States and Union Territory with two houses in the State Assemblies.

(^ ^) includes one non territorial Sanga Seat as Assembly Constituency also.

(\*) this Union Territory has three additional MLAs nominated by the Central Government.  
(\*\*) these Union Territories elects one each MP (Lok Sabha).  
(&) the former state of Jammu & Kashmir was re-constituted into two Union Territories, namely (a) Ladakh and (b) Jammu & Kashmir with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 vide the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 passed by both houses of the Parliament of India.

**Source:** Compiled by author with data from <https://knowindia.india.gov.in/states-uts/>

In January 2020, the seats reserved in the Parliament and State Legislatures of India for Anglo-Indian community got abolished by the 104th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019.

Under the federal democratic setup of India, the country having twenty-eight States and three out of eight Union Territories has their respective State Assemblies called the Vidhan Sabhas. The thirty-one Vidhan Sabhas has a total of 4123 Constituencies thereby enabling representation of one each Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) through election against each of such constituencies. The Vidhan Sabha of Puducherry has 33 MLAs inclusive of 3 members nominated by the Central Government who enjoys equal powers as an elected MLA. Every state has their separate State Legislatures consisted of the Governor and the Vidhan Sabhas in the twenty-two States and two Union Territories, namely National Capital Territory of Delhi and Puducherry. However, in the remaining six states and one Union Territories, namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and UT of Jammu & Kashmir, the State Legislatures consists of the Governor and two Houses namely the State Legislative Council and the State Legislative Assembly. In case of State Legislature having two houses, the State Legislative Council is the upper house and the State Legislative Assembly is the lower house. The State Legislative Council is a permanent house with its members selected on the basis of each party's strength in the lower house, through nomination by the Governor for a term of six years, one third to retire after every two years.

According to the political compositions of the Vidhan Sabhas, the government at the States or Union Territories are formed headed by the Chief Minister (CM) and the Council of Ministers thereby making Cabinet as a decision-making body of the government. The Vidhan Sabha of the Uttar Pradesh with 403 elected members is the largest while the Puducherry with 30 elected members is the smallest in the country.

## **V. ELECTION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE PARLIAMENT AND STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES**

- 1. The Rajya Sabha:** The members of the Rajya Sabha are not elected by general citizen of the country but indirectly through the Vidhan Sabhas for a term of for six years. As per the Article 80(4) of the Constitution of India not more than 238 representatives from the States (here the word 'State' also includes Puducherry and National Capital Territory of Delhi) are elected by the elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies in

accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. As per the Article 80 of the Constitution of India, not more than 12 members are nominated by the President of India to the Rajya Sabha, while the Article 80(3) stipulates that such members to be nominated should have special knowledge or/and practical experience in the field of literature, science, art and social service. With respect to nomination through the Vidhan Sabhas, the nomination paper can be presented either by the candidate or/and by any of his/her proposers. Under the Sub-section 6 of the Section 33 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, read with the Sub-section (2)g of the Section 39, a maximum of four nomination papers can only be presented by or on behalf of any candidate or accepted for election in the same Constituency. In the case of candidates belonging to the recognized political parties, his/her nomination for an election to the Council of States or State Legislative Council needs to be subscribed by minimum of ten percent of the elected members of the State Legislative Assembly concerned or ten members, whichever is less, as proposers. In case of other candidates, by minimum of ten elected members of the State Legislative Assembly.

2. **The Lok Sabha:** Under the Section 14 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the President of India by a notification calls upon the constituencies to elect their members to the House of People. Through the process of general election, the members to the Lok Sabha are directly elected by the adult citizens of country against each 543 territorial Parliamentary Constituencies for a term of five years. As per the Article 326 of the Constitution of India, elections to the House of the People shall be based on adult suffrage. According to the Section 73 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, after the results of all Parliamentary constituencies are declared, the Election Commission constitutes the new Lok Sabha through notification of the names of the elected members in the official gazette. The first general election to the Lok Sabha held during 1951 to 1952 had a total of 489 members. Besides, there were both single member and multi member constituencies prior to 1962 and the multi member constituencies had elected more than one member but it was abolished thereafter.
3. **The Vidhan Sabha:** The members of the Vidhan Sabhas or the State Assemblies are directly elected by the adult citizens of the respective States or Union Territories based on adult franchise for a term of five years. However, the term of the State Legislative Assembly could be extended during an emergency for a period not more than six months at a time or it can also be dissolved earlier by the Governor at the request of the Chief Minister, if he/she loses majority support.
4. The Election Commission of India as an independent Constitutional Authority since 25th January 1950 conducts the general elections to the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabhas as per the power vested under the Article 324 of the Constitution of India and also in compliance to the Representation of the People Act, 1951 under the rules made there under.

## VI. QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTESTING ELECTION IN INDIA

Under its different sections, the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides qualifications and disqualifications for the members of the Parliament and the State Assemblies as listed below:

**Table 3: The Representation of the People Act, 1951: Part II - Qualifications and Disqualifications**

<b>Chapter No. &amp; Headings</b>	<b>Contents</b>
I- Qualifications for Membership of Parliament	1. Qualification for membership of the Council of States 2. Qualifications for membership of the House of the People.
II- Qualifications for Membership of the State Legislatures	1. Qualifications for membership of a Legislative Assembly (Section 5). 2. Qualifications for membership of the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim (Section 5A). 3. Qualifications for membership of a Legislative Council (Section 6).
III- Disqualifications for Membership of the Parliament and the State Legislatures	1. Definitions (Section 7). 2. Disqualification on conviction for certain offences (Section 8). 3. Disqualification on ground of corrupt practices (Section 8A). 4. Disqualification for dismissal for corruption or disloyalty (Section 9). 5. Disqualification for Government contracts, etc. (Section 9A). 6. Disqualification for office under Government company (Section 10). 7. Disqualification for failure to lodge account of election expenses (Section 10A). 8. Removal or reduction of period of disqualification.
IV- Disqualifications for voting	1. Disqualification arising out of conviction and corrupt practices (Section 11A). 2. Removal of disqualifications (Section 11B)

As per the relevant legislative provisions, any person willing to contest election in India should be:

1. A citizen of India, who can only be qualified to be chosen to fill up a seat in the Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies respectively as per the Article 84(a) and the Article 173(a) of the Constitution of India.

2. Registered as a voter; as a candidate contesting election for a seat in the Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies should invariably be an elector respectively of that Parliamentary Constituency and Assembly Constituencies as per the Section 4(d) and the Section 5(c) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951;
3. Should be over 25 years of age in case of the Lok Sabha [as per the Article 84(b) of the Constitution of India] and the State Legislative Assemblies [as per the Article 173(b) of the Constitution of India read with the Section 36(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951] while 30 years for the Rajya Sabha [as per the Article 84(b) of the Constitution of India];
4. Should be a resident of the same State/Union Territory for the Vidhan Sabha election and same Parliamentary Constituency for the Lok Sabha election. However, a person contesting election to the Rajya Sabha can represent any constituency of the country except that of Assam, Lakshadweep and Sikkim respectively as per the Sections 4(c), 4(cc) and 4(ccc) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951;
5. Should not be a government employee;
6. Make deposit of Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand only) for the Lok Sabha election [as per the Section 34(1) (a) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951] and Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) for the Rajya Sabha or the Vidhan Sabha elections [as per the Section 34(1)(b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951], except for candidates from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who shall pay half of these amounts. In case of contesting candidate receives more than one-sixth of the total number of valid votes polled in the constituency, such deposits shall be returned;
7. Have his/her nomination supported by at least by one registered elector of the constituency for the Lok Sabha or the Vidhan Sabha elections for candidate sponsored by a recognized party but by ten registered electors in case of independent candidates.
8. Not disqualified under any Law of the land; and
9. Possesses such other qualifications as may be prescribed under any law made by Parliament.

It is pertinent to mention here that in case of those seats in the Lok Sabha or the Vidhan Sabha reserved for SC and ST communities, the persons belonging to such categories can only contest against those reserved seats together with scope for them to contest against unreserved seats too.

As per the Article 102 of the Constitution of India, any Member of Parliament shall be disqualified on the following grounds:

- For holding any office of profit under the Union or State Government except that of a Minister or any other office exempted by the Parliament;
- On becoming a person of unsound mind and declared by a court;



- On becoming undischarged insolvent;
- On ceasing citizenship of India; and
- On having disqualified by the Parliament under any other law.

Besides, the Representation of the People Act, 1951 under its Chapter-III and Chapter-IV provides different conditions for disqualification of the member of either Houses of the Parliament. Those who cannot become members of Parliament cannot also become members of the State Legislature too.

## VII. THE PRIME MINISTERS OF INDIA

The President of India appoints the Prime Minister of India as per the powers vested under the Article 75 of the Constitution of India. The Prime Minister of India is vested with main executive powers of the government whose duties are specified under the Article 78 of the Constitution of India. As the Leader of the Union Cabinet, the Prime Minister of India is empowered to allocate, remove and reshuffle various portfolios among Ministers and presides over the meetings of the Union Council of Ministers. Whereas, as the Leader of the House, the Prime Minister of India determines the dates for conduct of meetings and programmes for the Parliament session, who can also prorogue or dissolve them. In order to remain in office, the Prime Minister of India requires the support of the majority of the Lok Sabha members.

**Table 4: List of all the Prime Ministers of India from 1947-2023**

Sr.	Name of incumbent	Year of birth -dead (if any)	Term of office	Period of Services rendered	Ages in years at entry & exit
1	Jawahar Lal Nehru (*)	1889 to 1964	15-Aug-1947 to 27-May-1964	16 years, 286 days	58 & 75
2	Gulzarilal Nanda (**)	1898 to 1998	27-May-1964 to 9-June-1964	13 days	66 & 66
3	Lal Bahadur Shastri	1904 to 1966	9-June-1964 to 11-Jan-1966	1 year, 216 days	60 & 62
4	Gulzari Lal Nanda (**)	1898 to 1998	11-Jan-1966 to 24-Jan-1966	13 days	68 & 68
5	Indira Gandhi (#)	1917 to 1984	24-Jan-1966 to 24-Mar-1977	11 years, 59 days	49 & 60
6	Morarji Desai	1896 to 1995	24-Mar-1977 to 28-Jul-1979	2 year, 126 days	81 & 83
7	Charan Singh	1902 to 1987	28 -Jul-1979 to 14-Jan-1980	170 days	77 & 78
8	Indira Gandhi	1917 to 1984	14-Jan-1980 to 31-Oct-1984	4 years, 291 days	63 & 67
9	Rajiv Gandhi	1944 to 1991	31-Oct-1984 to 02-Dec-1989	5 years, 32 days	40 & 45

10	Vishwanath Pratap Singh	1931 to 2008	02 -Dec-1989 to 10-Nov-1990	343 days	58 & 59
11	Chandra Shekhar	1927 to 2007	10-Nov-1990 to 21-Jun-1991	223 days	63 & 64
12	PV Narasimha Rao	1921 to 2004	21-Jun-1991 to 16-May-1996	4 years, 330 days	70 & 75
13	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	1924 to 2018	16-May-1996 to 01-Jun-1996	16 days	72 & 72
14	HD Deve Gowda	Born on 1933	01-Jun-1996 to 21-Apr-1997	324 days	63 & 64
15	Inder Kumar Gujral	1919 to 2012	21-Apr-1997 to 19-Mar-1998	332 days	78 & 79
16	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	1924 to 2018	19-Mar-1998 to 22-May-2004	6 years, 64 days	74 & 80
17	Manmohan Singh	Born on 1932	22-May-2004 to 26-May-2014	10 years, 4 days	72 & 82
18	Narendra Modi (&)	Born on 1950	26-May-2014 to 30-May-2019	5 years, 4 days in the first term	64 & 69

**Note:**

(\*) The first and also the longest-serving PM of India.

(\*\*) First acting PM of India who also held the office for second time as acting PM of India.

(#) First and lone female Prime Minister of India till date.

(&) Shri Narendra Modi is continuing his second term in the office with effect from 30-May-2019.

### VIII. THE CHIEF MINISTERS OF STATE ASSEMBLIES OF INDIA AS ON AUGUST 2023

According to the Constitution of India, the Governor is the nominal head of the state but the Chief Minister is the executive head of the Government in each of the 28 States and the three Union Territories with Vidhan Sabha, namely NCT of Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir (presently vacant) and Puducherry. The Governor appoints and swears in the Chief Minister of the respective State Legislative Assembly usually from the party (or coalition) with majority of MLAs for a maximum term of five years. As the head of the Council of Ministers, the Chief Minister generally allots departments to the Cabinet Ministers and determines the dates for conduct of meetings and programmes for the State Assembly session.

**Table 5: List of all the Chief Ministers of India as on August 2023**

Sr	State/UT	Term of the House	Ruling Party	Chief Minister		
				Name	Birth Year	Age
1	Andhra	12.06.2019	Yuvajana	YS Jagan	1972	51

	Pradesh	To 11.06.2024	Sramika Rythu Congress Party	Mohan Reddy		
2	Arunachal Pradesh	03.06.2019 To 02.06.2024	Bharatiya Janata Party	Pema Khandu	1979	44
3	Assam	21.05.2021 To 20.05.2026	Bharatiya Janata Party	Himanta Biswa Sarma	1969	54
4	Bihar	23.11.2020 To 22.11.2025	Janata Dal (United)	Nitish Kumar	1951	72
5	Chhattisgarh	04.01.2019 To 03.01.2024	Indian National Congress	Bhupesh Baghel	1960	63
6	Delhi (NCT)	24.02.2020 To 23.02.2025	Aam Aadmi Party	Arvind Kejriwal	1968	55
7	Goa	15.03.2022 To 14.03.2027	Bharatiya Janata Party	Pramod Sawant	1973	50
8	Gujarat	20.12.2022 To 19.12.2027	Bharatiya Janata Party	Bhupendra Patel	1962	61
9	Haryana	04.11.2019 To 03.11.2024	Bharatiya Janata Party	Manohar Lal Khattar	1954	69
10	Himachal Pradesh	04.01.2023 To 03.01.2028	Indian National Congress	Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu	1964	59
11	Jammu & Kashmir	<i>President's Rule</i>	<i>(Not applicable)</i>			
12	Jharkhand	06.01.2020 To 05.01.2025	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	Hemant Soren	1975	48
13	Karnataka	22.05.2023 To 21.05.2028	Indian National Congress	Siddaramaiah	1947	76
14	Kerala	24.05.2021 To 23.05.2026	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	Pinarayi Vijayan	1945	78
15	Madhya Pradesh	07.01.2019 To 06.01.2024	Bharatiya Janata Party	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	1959	64
16	Maharashtra	27.11.2019 To 26.11.2024	Shiv Sena	Eknath Shinde	1964	59
17	Manipur	14.03.2022 To 13.03.2027	Bharatiya Janata Party	N. Biren Singh	1961	62
18	Meghalaya	06.03.2023	National	Conrad	1978	45

		To 05.03.2028	People's Party	Kongkal Sangma		
19	Mizoram	18.12.2018 To 17.12.2023	Mizo National Front	Pu Zoramthanga	1944	79
20	Nagaland	20.03.2023 To 19.03.2028	Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party	Neiphiu Rio	1950	73
21	Odisha	25.06.2019 To 24.06.2024	Biju Janata Dal	Naveen Patnaik	1946	77
22	Puducherry	16.06.2021 To 15.06.2026	All India N.R. Congress	N. Rangaswamy	1950	73
23	Punjab	17.03.2022 To 16.03.2027	Aam Aadmi Party	Bhagwant Singh Mann	1973	50
24	Rajasthan	15.01.2019 To 14.01.2024	Indian National Congress	Ashok Gehlot	1951	72
25	Sikkim	03.06.2019 To 02.06.2024	Sikkim Krantikari Morcha	PS Golay	1968	55
26	Tamil Nadu	11.05.2021 To 10.05.2026	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	M. K. Stalin	1953	70
27	Telangana	17.01.2019 To 16.01.2024	Bharat Rashtra Samithi	K Chandrasekha r Rao	1954	69
28	Tripura	24.03.2023 To 23.03.2028	Bharatiya Janata Party	Manik Saha	1953	70
29	Uttar Pradesh	23.05.2022 To 22.05.2027	Bharatiya Janata Party	Yogi Aditya Nath	1972	51
30	Uttarakhand	29.03.2022 To 28.03.2027	Bharatiya Janata Party	Pushkar Singh Dhami	1975	48
31	West Bengal	08.05.2021 To 07.05.2026	All India Trinamool Congress	Mamata Banerjee	1955	68
<b>Note:</b> Ms. Mamata Banerjee is a lone women CM currently serving in India.						

## IX. ANALYSIS ON AGES OF THE PRIME MINISTERS OF INDIA AND THE CHIEF MINISTERS OF STATE ASSEMBLIES AS ON AUGUST 2023

The Constitution of India stipulates requirement of minimum age of the contesting candidate as one of the criteria for election to the seat of the Parliament and the State Assemblies. In order to be eligible to cast the first vote, it is necessary to complete age of

eighteen years and for getting married, it is twenty-one years for boys and nineteen years for girls. Whereas, the minimum age stipulated for contesting election to become a people's representative is fixed above the minimum ages fixed for the casting vote and getting married in India. This makes apparent that in order to be eligible to contest election in the country, the Constitution of India demands minimum of the one-time experience of casting vote for either of or both for the MP (Lok Sabha) and MLA.

**Table 6: Minimum age required for Contesting Candidates of the Parliament and State Assemblies**

Sr	For Contesting Election for the	Minimum Age
1	Member of the Parliament: The Rajya Sabha	30 years
2	Member of the Parliament: The Lok Sabha	25 years
3	Member of the State Legislative Assemblies	25 years

Considering ages at the time of taking charge of the office of the Prime Minister of India, a list of all those incumbents from the year 1947 to 2023 in an ascending order excluding their subsequent term if any, has been drawn out to find out the youngest to the oldest ones as furnished in the table here-below:-

**Table 7: List of the Prime Ministers of India from 1947-2023 in order of Youngest to Oldest**

Sr.	Name	Year of Birth	Year and age at taking charge as PM	
			Year	Age in years
1	Shri Rajiv Gandhi	1944	1984	40
2	Smt. Indira Gandhi	1917	1966	49
3	Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru	1889	1947	58
4	Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh	1931	1989	58
5	Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri	1904	1964	60
6	Shri Chandra Shekhar	1927	1990	63
7	Shri H. D. Deve Gowda	1933	1996	63
8	Shri Narendra Modi	1950	2014	64
9	Shri Gulzarilal Nanda	1898	1964	66
10	Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao	1921	1991	70
11	Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee	1924	1996	72
12	Dr. Manmohan Singh	1932	2004	72
13	Shri Charan Singh	1902	1979	77
14	Shri Inder Kumar Gujral	1919	1997	78
15	Shri Morarji Desai	1896	1977	81

From the table above, it can be observed that Shri Rajiv Gandhi who took the charge of the office of the PM at the age of 40 years was the youngest one, followed by Smt. Indira Gandhi at the age of 49 years. Till date, they were only two PMs to join office at the age of the forties. Whereas, two assumed offices at the ages of fifties, while five each at their sixties and seventies. However, Shri Morarji Desai was an oldest one to take charge of the office at age of 81 years.

Whereas, with entry age either below or above 60 years, those PMs who completed minimum of first or one term in the office comprised of the followings.

**Table 8: PMs who Completed Minimum of One Term with Age below and above 60 Years**

PM with Entry Age below 60 Years			PM with Entry Age above 60 Years		
Sr	Name	Date of entry	Sr	Name	Date of entry
1	Jawahar Lal Nehru	First term wef 15.08.1947	1	Jawahar Lal Nehru	Second term wef 15.04.1952
2	Indira Gandhi	First two terms wef 24.01.1966	2	Indira Gandhi	Third term wef 14.01.1980
3	Rajiv Gandhi	31.10.1984	3	P. V. Narasimha Rao	21.06.1991
			4	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	19.03.1998
			5	Dr. Manmohan Singh	Two terms wef 22.05.2004
			6	Narendra Modi	Two terms wef 26.05.2014

Similarly, a list of all the Chief Ministers of the current State Legislative Assemblies of India has been drawn out taking into consideration of their current age to ascertain the order from youngest to the oldest ones as furnished in the table here-below:-

**Table 9: List of the Chief Ministers of India as of August 2023 in order of Youngest to Oldest**

Sr	State/UT	Chief Minister's		
		Name	Birth Year	Age in years
1	Arunachal Pradesh	Shri Pema Khandu	1979	44
2	Meghalaya	Shri Conrad Kongkal Sangma	1978	45
3	Jharkhand	Shri Hemant Soren	1975	48
4	Uttarakhand	Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami	1975	48
5	Goa	Shri Pramod Sawant	1973	50
6	Punjab	Shri Bhagwant Singh Mann	1973	50
7	Uttar Pradesh	Shri Yogi Aditya Nath	1972	51
8	Andhra Pradesh	Shri YS Jagan Mohan Reddy	1972	51
9	Assam	Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma	1969	54
10	NCT of Delhi	Shri Arvind Kejriwal	1968	55
11	Sikkim	Shri PS Golay	1968	55
12	Himachal Pradesh	Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu	1964	59
13	Maharashtra	Shri Eknath Shinde	1964	59
14	Gujarat	Shri Bhupendra Patel	1962	61
15	Manipur	Shri N. Biren Singh	1961	62
16	Chhattisgarh	Shri Bhupesh Baghel	1960	63

17	Madhya Pradesh	Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan	1959	64
18	West Bengal	Km. Mamata Banerjee	1955	68
19	Haryana	Shri Manohar Lal Khattar	1954	69
20	Telangana	Shri K Chandrasekhar Rao	1954	69
21	Tamil Nadu	Shri M. K. Stalin	1953	70
22	Tripura	Dr. Manik Saha	1953	70
23	Bihar	Shri Nitish Kumar	1951	72
24	Rajasthan	Shri Ashok Gehlot	1951	72
25	Nagaland	Shri Neiphiu Rio	1950	73
26	Puducherry	Shri N. Rangaswamy	1950	73
27	Karnataka	Shri Siddaramaiah	1947	76
28	Odisha	Shri Naveen Patnaik	1946	77
29	Kerala	Shri Pinarayi Vijayan	1945	78
30	Mizoram	Shri Pu Zoramthanga	1944	79

From the table above, it can be observed that the CM of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Pema Khandu with 44 years of age is the youngest current Chief Minister in India, followed by CM of Meghalaya, Shri Conrad Kongkal Sangma with 45 years together with the CM of Jharkhand, Shri Hemant Soren and the CM of Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami both with 48 years, all of them in age group of forties. Whereas, there are nine CMs of fifties, seven of sixties and remaining ten of seventies. The CM of Mizoram, Shri Pu Zoramthanga with 79 years is oldest followed by the CM of Kerala, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan with 78 years.

Further, based on the ages of entry and exit of the incumbents from the office of the Prime Ministers of India from the year 1947 to 2023 and ages of the Chief Ministers of the current State Assemblies, a summary has been drawn as furnished in the table here-below: -

**Table 10: Prime Ministers of India from 1947 to 2023 and Chief Minister's s as of August 2023 categorized on age groups**

Sr.	Age group	No. of the Prime Ministers		No. of the CMs serving as on August 2023
		Age of Entry	Age of Exit	
1	40 years to 44 years	1	0	1
2	45 years to 49 years	1	1	3
3	50 years to 54 years	0	0	5
4	55 years to 59 years	2	1	4
5	60 years to 64 years	5	4	4
6	65 years to 69 years	2	3	3
7	70 years to 74 years	4	2	6
8	75 years to 79 years	2	4	4
9	80 years to 84 years	1	3	0
		18	18	30

On analysis of the data, the findings and observations drawn in connection with the Prime Ministers of India from 1947 to 2023 are as listed but not limited to the followings:

1. The majority of the incumbent who held the office of the Prime Minister of India had their ages of entry ranging between 60 years to 64 years comprising Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri at 60 years; Smt. Indira Gandhi at 63 years in her second term; Shri Chandra Shekhar at 63 years; Shri H D Deve Gowda at 63 years; and Shri Narendra Modi at 64 years. In the second highest order of majority which falls in the range of 70 years to 74 years, the PMs comprises of Shri PV Narasimha Rao at 70 years; Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee at 72 years in his first term and 74 years in second term; and Dr. Manmohan Singh at 72 years. Whereas, in the age group of 75 years to 79 years, there were only two incumbents, namely Shri Charan Singh at 77 years and Shri Inder Kumar Gujral at 78 years while the highest age group has Shri Morarji Desai with 81 years of age.
2. An average age of 65 years is observed for incumbents making entry to the office of Prime Ministers.
3. The government service rules in India stipulate retirement of the government servant from their services at an age of 60 years. Whereas, due to lack of provision on retirement age for the people's representative, they could continue till their maximum age at survival.
4. In consideration of incumbents' first term in the office of the Prime Ministers of India, those below 60 years of age who took charges of the office was only four while those above 60 years were fourteen. It shows that 78 percentage of the Prime Ministers of India were above 60 years of age at the time of taking oath of the office.
5. Whereas, in consideration of incumbents' first term in the office of the Prime Ministers of India, those below 60 years of age who made exit from the office was only two while those above 60 years were sixteen. It shows that 89 percentage of the Prime Ministers of India were above 60 years of age at the time of making exit from the office.
6. From the above analysis, it can be interpreted that roughly 10 percentage of incumbent were below age of 60 years either taking charge of or/and making exit from the office. As the fundamental behind fixing age of retirement at 60 years generally implies lack of physical fitness and ability to be in the government service. However, on contrary to this, age seems just a number for the politics especially with regards to incumbents to the office of the Prime Ministers of India. Despite of majority of PMs having served office with their ages above 60 years, the country has been tremendous developments under their able leaderships.

Similarly, in connection with the Chief Ministers of current State Assemblies of India, the findings and observation could also be listed but not limited to the followings:

- The highest frequency of six Chief Ministers of current State Assemblies of India had their ages ranging between 70 years to 74 years comprising Shri M. K. Stalin (70 years); Dr. Manik Saha (70 years); Shri Nitish Kumar (72 years); Shri Ashok Gehlot (72 years); Shri Neiphiu Rio (73 years); and Shri N. Rangaswamy (73 years). In the next higher frequency of five comes in the range of 50 years to 54 years comprising Shri Pramod Sawant (50 years); Shri Bhagwant Singh Mann (50 years); Shri Yogi



Aditya Nath (51 years); Shri YS Jagan Mohan Reddy (51 years); and Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma (54 years).

- Whereas, 62 years is calculated as an average age of current Chief Ministers in India. However, taking 60 years as a yardstick for differentiation in line with retirement age of the government servant, there are thirteen CMs with age below 60 years while seventeen above 60 years making the majority.
- From the above analysis, it can be interpreted that 43 percentage of CMs are below age of 60 years while 57 percentage comprises of the CMs with more than 60 years of age.

Taking two different analyses together with 60 years as dividing line; 90 percent of PMs and 57 percent of CMs above the age of 60 years makes it clear that an age is just a number for the politics in India, as such prime executive offices were/are occupied by people's representative with their ages more than retirement age of the government servant in the country.

## X. CONCLUSION

From the analysis, it can be concluded that majority of the politician in India contested/contests elections after age of 60 years and become people's representative to take on the key positions of the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers. As per the review from ages of the PMs of India and existing CMs of States and UTs, the posts were/are held by politicians with their average age of 65 years and 62 years respectively. The employees in the government employment at such age could have normally retired but the vital positions of the PMs and CMs of the country is held by them normally after such retirement age. Hence, it can be stated that age is not the factor for politics and political career in India.

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