

# Lok Sabha Mandate 2024 with Special Reference to Uttarakhand

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## Abstract

The mandate of the 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha in India in the context of Uttarakhand becomes important in the sense of how far different political parties have been able to implement their election announcements on a practical basis. Elections are an important aspect of democracy, which is the biggest challenge for the government to do it without fear and favour. In Uttarakhand, elections were held for a total of 5 Lok Sabha seats, including one SC reservation and four general seats. During the 18th Lok Sabha, there were a total of 83.21 lakh voters in Uttarakhand, out of which 43.08 lakh were men and 40.12 lakh women. There are 1.45 lakh young voters, 65,177 voters above the age of 85 years, 93,357 service voters, and 79,965 voters specially-abled voters. In Uttarakhand, political parties kept national issues as well as local burning issues in the public domain. Uttarakhand is a military-dominated state and for the families of the soldiers who protect the country's borders, the issues of national security are important to get the votes of political parties in their favour by debating the issues of national security during the elections. In the Lok Sabha elections in Uttarakhand, environmental problems, unemployment, migration, and corruption also influenced public opinion to an extent. This Research Paper is based on analysis of vote percentage of the NDA (BJP) & other political Parties in five Lok Sabha seats and their election manifesto through the data collected from secondary sources.

**Key Words:** Election, Employment, Environment, Uttarakhand

## Introduction

In a democracy, elections are indispensable and play a pivotal role. Elections assume importance in any democracy because it is through this mechanism that the political leaders, who ultimately get the mandate to govern the nation, are elected. It is the contrivance through

which people tend to share power by voting for the representatives of their choice. In this way, elections are the manifestation of people's will. Moreover, a sense of involvement and participation in public affairs is created among the masses. Participation in an election serves to gratify the voter's sense of self-esteem and self-respect. Most importantly it provides legitimacy to a political regime with their policies to govern. It also makes the leaders accountable to the people for their performance in the office. During election campaigns, elections serve as a forum for the discussion of public issues, precipitate the expression of public opinion, and permit an exchange of influence between the rulers and the ruled. Regular and periodic elections contribute to solving the problem of transfer of power and continuity of democracy. Elections ensure not only the continuance and future of democracy but also provide a polity that promotes a better and higher form of national character than any other political system.

The multifarious role of elections is described by Norman D Palmer in the following words: Elections are complex events involving individual and collective decisions which directly affect, and are affected by the total political and social process. They open up channels between the polity and the society, between the elites and the masses, and between the individual and his government. They are major agencies of political socialization and political participation. Franchise is exercised secretly by an individual voter but its multidimensional consequences make it an act of public purpose as Thomas M. Cooley has observed: Suffrage is participation in the Government: in a representative country it is taking part in the choice of officers, or the decisions of public questions. The purpose is to keep up the continuity of Government and to preserve the public order and the protection of individual rights. The purpose is, therefore, public and general, not private and individual.

### **Objectives of the study**

To Know about the mandate of the Lok Sabha Election in Uttarakhand.

To discuss the mandate of the Lok Sabha Election in Uttarakhand.

To analyze the mandate of the Lok Sabha Election in Uttarakhand.

**Method:** A descriptive-analytical method is used for the study.

**Research Methodology:** This is a qualitative study based on review of literature & secondary sources of data collection.

## **Review of Literature**

J.C. Aggarwal and N.K. Chaudhary's (1992), Elections in India wherein they have incorporated many aspects of elections such as statutory provisions, office of the Prime Minister, election manifestos, election results etc. but these aspects are discussed only very briefly and the main focus of this study is the manifestos and the performance of the political parties.

David Butler, Ashok Lahiri, and Pranoy Roy (1968), India Decides give a vivid description of - the what and not the why of the electoral records. Thus, it provides a good raw material for an academician to work further on it because Robert Dahl aptly observed: "facts and data by themselves do not go very far unless weaved into a pattern to yield generalizations.

Mohit Karla (2021), in his paper entitled "Uttarakhand Political Instability: A Bane of Small States" examines why Uttarakhand, despite being formed 20 years ago, hasn't achieved self-sufficiency. Political parties haven't had a clear plan for the state's development. Uttarakhand is a beautiful mountain state, but it needs the government's help in several areas. Many young people are leaving their villages because of a lack of jobs and opportunities. This study highlights the need for responsible tourism and construction practices in the mountains. These haven't been given enough attention. Along with unemployment and people leaving the state, lack of electricity and proper roads are major concerns for voters.

## **Lok Sabha Elections 2024- Uttarakhand**

At India's general election, nearly 65.8% of India's 97.6 crore electorate cast their votes. This was a slight decrease from the 67.1% turnout recorded in the 2019 election, excluding postal ballots. In 19 of the 36 states & Union Territories, women outpaced men in voter turnout, on a national level, men had a marginally higher participation rate at 65.8%, compared to 65.7% among women. The 18th General Elections in Uttarakhand were concluded in phase first, as all its five seats were under-pollled on Friday, April 19. Uttarakhand also followed the trend of the drop in voter turnout in 2024, as it registered only 57.22 percent in total, with Haridwar receiving the highest of 62.53 percent, while Almora received the lowest of 48.74 percent of voter turnout. Uttarakhand has traditionally witnessed a close contest between BJP and Congress. Both parties see the state as an essential

battleground for displaying and gaining supporters for their national narratives.

In the 2009 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress got all five seats in the state, but in the year 2014, the situation changed completely. The BJP won all five seats. In the 2019 elections, the BJP once again repeated its previous performance and won all five seats. In the assembly elections held earlier in 2024, the BJP won 47 out of 70 seats and came to power with a two-thirds majority.

Known as Devbhumi (the land of gods) that has prominent Hindu shrines such as Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamamori, the State is dubbed as the BJP's political laboratory where the party recently brought the controversial Uniform Civil Code (UCC) law. People have given a clear mandate to the saffron party even when the State faced environmental and man-made crises such as land subsidence in Joshi math and the tunnel collapse in Silk Yara.

In the first phase of the Lok Sabha election held on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, all five parliamentary Constituencies of Uttarakhand witnessed a voter turnout of over 54%, making a decrease of approximately five percentage points compared to the 2019 general election, where the voter turnout in the state was over 61.48%. The five Lok Sabha seats in Uttarakhand; Pauri Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal, Haridwar, Nainital-Udham Singh Nagar, and the lone reserved seat of Almora, went to poll in the first phase. According to the Election Commission of India, 54.22% of the electorate exercised their right to vote. The fate of a total of 55 candidates was in the hands of more than 83 lakh eligible voters.

The NDA (BJP) fielded its sitting MPs Ajay Bhatt, Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah, and Ajay Tamta from Nainital-Udham Singh Nagar, Tehri Garhwal, and Pauri Garhwal, and Almora respectively. However, the party made changes to its candidates in Haridwar and Pauri Garhwal, with the former chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat contesting from Haridwar in place of Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, and Anil Baluni replacing Tirath Singh Rawat in Pauri Garhwal.

On the Other hand, the Congress fielded former state chief Ganesh Godiyal from Pauri Garhwal, former chief minister Harish Rawat's Son Virendra Rawat from Haridwar, Jot Singh Gunsola from Tehri Garhwal, Prakash Joshi from Nainital-Udham Singh Nagar, and Pradeep Tamta from Almora. Although candidates from the Bahujan Samaj Party, Uttarakhand Kranti Dal, Smaller Outfits, and Independence are also contesting, the primary contest was between the BJP and the Congress in all five seats.

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The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is an Indian multi-party-political alliance, led by the BJP, the country's largest political party. It was established on 15 May 1998. It currently holds a majority in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha and controls the government of India and the governments of 20 of the 31 Indian states.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha in Uttarakhand, the overall voting percentage was 57.22%, the total five Lok Sabha seats, Tehri Garhwal recorded 53.76%, Pauri Garhwal 52.42%, Almora 48.74%, Nainital-Udham Singh Nagar 62.47%, and Haridwar 63.53%.

S.No.	Alliance/Party	Votes	Percentage	Contested	Won
1	NDA (BJP)	27,06,910	56.81	5	05
2	INDIA (INC)	15,64,258	32.83	5	00
3	BSP	86,246	1.81	5	00
4	UKD	9,270	0.19	3	00
5	OTHERS	48,602	0.85	19	00
6	IND	29,7572	6.42	18	00
7	NOTA	52,115	1.09	-	-
	Total	47,64,973	100%	55	05

**Source:** 2024 Indian general election in Uttarakhand - Wikipedia.

NDA (BJP) won all five seats on strong ground-based on election Manifesto. The BJP proposed a 'GYAN' formula consisting of four segments – Garib (poor), Yuva (youth), Annadata (farmers), and Nari (women) in its manifesto. NDA (BJP) focused on the following programmes with strong vision & mission.

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam.

Lakhpati Didi.

Free ration.

Increasing MSP.

Free electricity.

Uniform Civil Code.

## **Suggestions**

Political Parties should be focused on National Security, especially in border areas.

Awareness Programme should be conducted either by NGO by the government or through social movements or by the government to educate people regarding Participation.

National parties need to work on serious issues like employment, migration, and the environment.

To reduce unemployment, national parties need to give prime attention to tourism and local products for the people.

On sensitive issues like national security, there is a need to give priority to national interest over politics.

## **Conclusion**

From the above analysis, it is known that in Uttarakhand, the NDA (BJP) has got more mandate and vote percentage than other political parties in the national parties, one of the major reasons for this is the announcement of the name of the Prime Minister before the election and then keeping the work effectively done by party among the public. The NDA (BJP) won all five seats for the third time, the opposition parties will have to make a concrete strategy to emerge in the future so that the autocracy of any person and political party can be prevented from having a strong opposition in a democracy. On the other hand, if the NDA (BJP) has to maintain its credibility in the future, then there will be an urgent need to work on qualitative level results on environment, education, medicine, employment, migration, disaster, health, etc., in Uttarakhand.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha election in Uttarakhand, the NDA (BJP) got a clear mandate on identifying national issues and doing concrete work. In Uttarakhand, political development and consciousness level can be seen from a very small difference in the voting percentage of women and men, which we also see at the national level. Other political parties of the country should also play an important role in building a strong democracy by working on a concrete strategy keeping in mind the national public sentiment and raising the slogan of national interest i.e. India First.

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