

Psephological Study and Survey of Uttar Pradesh Assembly Elections 2022

Harikumar Pallathadka*, Laxmi Kirana Pallathadka
Manipur International University, Imphal, Manipur, India

*harikumar@miu.edu.in

Abstract

One of the biggest challenges for an electoral geographer is mapping out any region's voter turnout. It reflects the awareness level regarding the development and politics of that region. The present study has attempted to identify the voter's turnout spatial pattern in the Assembly Election of Uttar Pradesh, 2022, to bring out the electoral awareness and performance of the party in various constituencies. Excellent performance is given by the pre-poll partners of Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) in terms of vote share and seats in all regions. Young, Educated, and urban citizens were important in influencing the voting segment on assembly election, 2022. A voter favors a political party based on the governance issues related to development rather than friend or neighborhood influence, caste, or religion. Elections surveys got popularity from the socialization of politics and curiosity of gazing at crystal balls of the citizens to forecast the results of the elections. In this study, a survey was conducted for 5000 voters of Uttar Pradesh in all the phases considering, based on random sampling, and predictions of the results were made. It was found that most of the predictions were correct based on the primary survey. The statistical tool –Chi-Square was used to analyze the data.

Keywords: Assembly Elections, Uttar Pradesh, psephology. Voting patterns, opinion polls, election survey

Introduction

After Independence, the shape of Indian politics has been changed in Uttar Pradesh. Indian politics has been going through many ups and downs with the three different revolutionary phases as Congress command till the year 1990, the regime of union politics, and regime of the regional party. Approximately four decades ago, the Congress party ruled the country and was represented by economic and social sectors. In this study, the voting behavior of the electorates in Uttar Pradesh has been studied. To understand the pattern of voting, two conspicuous signs considered are electoral participation and performance of the party. For participation, the vote percentage is considered.

In contrast, the geographical distribution of party victory, number of seats won by the party, the difference in the seat, and vote share by the party are considered to evaluate the performance of the political party. Concerning the average turnout of voters, the level and geographical variation of turnout of voters are evaluated. To illustrate the geographical distribution of distinct electoral phenomena and various cartographic techniques are applied. The polling support for the political party is evaluated regarding the percentage of vote poll favoring the party with regards to total valid votes in each assembly constituency. So many waves of changes have been witnessed in the last assembly election due to a regime change. Bhartiya Janta Party gained massive seats, and significant political rivals lost due to their poor performances. The victory of the Bhartiya Janta Party in all regions shows that they have received the votes of voters based on all social issues such as health, education, employment, good governance, security rather than identity politics such as cast, religion, neighborhood, and friend effects. The voters are very much aware of their voting rights, and it can be seen in the voter's turnout and is considered a good sign of democracy (Singh, Kumar & Kumari, 2019).

The vote expectation survey is based on the opinion poll is low-cost and is easy to conduct. The survey result is easy to understand and gives a perfect and unwavering forecast, making it hard to outline the election as a horse race. Using verdicts of political insiders and the observers who are experienced to predict elections has been practiced since long before the occurrence of methodical polling and is considered to be priceless. It is assumed that media and other political experts have tremendous experience interpreting and understanding the polls, measuring their significance during campaigns, and assessing the influence of recent events on total votes. However, given their prevalence, unexpectedly, significantly less is known about the perfection of election forecasts of experts (Graefe, 2014).

The usefulness of opinion polls extends over the projections of the vote and seat shares. More precisely, it is the creation of public knowledge. The data extracted from polls help understand social science insights and has abundant academic value. In order to answer any questions regarding society and politics, social scientists use survey research. The data of time series surveys are helpful to understand the long-term trend of politics in India, political participation, voter's ideological orientation, trust, efficiency of voters, belief in democracy, and leadership choices, to grade a few in the field of psephological development (**Rai, 2021**). The technical model to foresee is an old science and social science practice, such as sociology and economics. Hence, the proof of an election survey is helpful to prepare similar forecast models for understanding social and political events such as electoral competitions. (**Kumar, Rai & Gupta, 2016**). The strike rate of those polls might not be up to the global standards, but they are not as far afield as the imagination of public perception. Thus, it is unsafe to banish opinion polls (**Roy & Sopariwala, 2019**).

Literature Review

Kamran (2021) opined that it appears that the election would be a partisan affair, with the Bhartiya Janta Party would maintain its pole position and Samajwadi Party beyond range. Reports say that clashes between the personalities and backbiting within Bhartiya Janta Party have been raised recently, but to what level views match is not clear, and even if it is real, what would be the conclusion, the time will tell. The main opposition force SP has not shown any keenness or intention to fight with Bhartiya Janta Party. Looking at the Congress, it has a long list of people who left the Congress party and joined the Bhartiya Janta Party.

Narayanan (2021) stated that a stock reservation examining the electoral data of UP state is a trend for political associations to move rather vividly from elections to elections. Thenceforth the stone of Congress crumbled in 1980. Everyone has joined someone or the other, excluding Congress with the BJP. In a survey of the recent past, in building up the assembly election 2022, the survey shows how annoyingly this occurrence has confused Uttar Pradesh's psephology. From a broader perspective, such a muddle represents one stage of generational socio-political whipping that started in 1980.

Rai (2022) found that with the Bhartiya Janata Party at the throne of affairs in Uttar Pradesh for their momentous second term, an extensive postulation over new joiners to be welcomed and old ones who would be reserved in the cabinet of Yogi Adityanath. If assumptions are to be believed, the fate of Maurya is hung in the balance after many losses. Although he was found to be rejoicing the success with the CM and many others, his position as a conspicuous face of OBC remains his only bargain counter for the berth cabinet.

Walther (2015) stated that variation is set in motion by introducing recurrent changes in support of parties in the model through a periodic module before they are realized in the poll. The prolongation of such projecting element in the active linear model assists in a considerable decrease of errors in initial predictions and is hence something that can be worthwhile in applying the model in the future. Hence, forecasting elections with a sensible precision is practical in a multiparty system.

Northcott (2015) explained that one of the significant issues faced by the pollsters is to make sure that the collected samples are in balance concerning demographic variables. If needed, they must use balancing methods to put applicable loads. Additionally, sampling errors and biases, the occurrence of herding might lead to errors of projections.

Karandikar (2014) states that the electorate is unpredictable, and the intentions of voting undergo immense swings as the day of voting is coming soon in India. It means that any prediction power of an election opinion poll

conducted weeks ahead of the poll is imperfect and weak, as it can just measure the mood of citizens at the time of the poll.

Dutta (2022) revealed that the Rashtriya Lok Dal tying up with Mr. Akhilesh Yadav contested the 2022 Uttar Pradesh assembly polls. Most of the exit polls forecasted victory of Bhartiya Janata Party in the Northern states of India, whereas the union of SP and RLD appeared as the runner-ups. Mr. Jayant Chaudhary, the president of Rashtriya Lok Dal, stated that the exit polls propound a perspective he disagrees with and developmental stress and pressure.

Rai (2014) explained that the sample survey's accuracy depends on various factors. First of all, the sample must be significant to bring out the required level of accuracy. The sample size for a survey can be determined methodically. The statistical table can be used by those who do not have any experience to provide various sample sizes based on population size. In some cases, the sample size is dependent on the breakdown level, and for that, data is needed. Another factor is that every citizen should be selected in the sample. The random sampling method is the best way to ensure that everyone gets an equal chance of being selected in the sample. The third point is that the sample questions must be standardized and must be asked to the sampled respondents. The fourth point is that there must not be any pre-decided subjectivity in questioning the sampled respondents. Compared to foreign companions, Indian media opinion polls on elections concentrate more on projecting how many seats the major political parties would win or lose instead of understanding the issues faced.

Kumar & Singh (2018) explained the voting pattern of electorates in the assembly election of UP. The voters' vote shares and turnouts might remain the same or change over time. The higher turnout reflects the maturity and democracy to be strong. In reserved communities, lack of support and appealing position of a Dalit leading party, Bahujan Samaj Party, and massive support to Bhartiya Janta Party and their supporters conclude that the voters are now anxious at the time of polling and are favoring parties and applicants who are raising and working for national issues like education, employment, development, security and infrastructure rather than just caste, religion and community, etc.

Nayak (2022) found that the Design-boxed of Zee News is considered a perfect opinion poll in India. Zee news reaches out to citizens across 117 seats of poll-bound Punjab from 10 December 2021 till 15 January 2022. Eligible adults were selected for random sampling and asked about the significant issues and problems and the factors that would help resolve them. The opinion poll questioned people regarding the favored choices for the CM, and the dynamics of caste swung the voting decisions. The opinion poll's numbers were not accurate forecasts, but it was based on the survey of the sample respondents.

Goshwami (2022) stated that the second phase of the election in the UP was held on 14 February 2022. On 12 February, the campaigning for the second phase of the election was ended with 55 assembly seats from 9 districts going to the poll. Voting began on 403 assembly seats in 58 of UP. The in-power BJP found difficulties in maintaining control in western regions of Uttar Pradesh. Here the elections started the very first. The appearance of Yogi Adityanath suddenly became most noticeable in the State. As per the research conducted by NBT Online, around 53.81% of the people feel that CM Yogi is the most identifiable face in the UP elections.

Rai, P. (2022) explained that due to the enormous scale of balloting and the crucial significance of its timing in India's five-year national election cycle, the assembly elections of Uttar Pradesh are the talk of the town. It is also termed as a mid-term survey of the Central Government or the semifinal elections of political parties in power; it is an electoral windway that directs the future of politics. The polls were unsuccessful in calculating the accurate share of votes or seats for the parties because of new unions and associates, mergers and splits of the parties, breakups of heavyweights, partisanship of intra parties, and localized dynamics. The profiles of the voters are found to be assorted and varied due to the overlapping of various identities based on caste & communities, regional, oratorical,

religious kinships making it problematic to identify the pattern and behavior of political connections and attachments. The projections also failed as they failed to consider the intentions of voting of the unsure voters.

Thakur (2022) revealed that regardless of the high claims of leaders of Bhartiya Janta Party that the party is going to win more than 300 seats in assemble elections of UP, one of the internal surveys that were conducted by the saffron camp identified that it is not easy to form the next Government in Uttar Pradesh. The repositioning of Rashtriya Lok Dal with the major rival Samajwadi Party was identified as a damaging vote bank of Bhartiya Janta Party besides the violence of Lakhimpur-Kheri against farmers involving Union Minister's son. The analysis also found that the party has significant control over SCs and other backward communities. However, the divergence of the minority community, Yadav, and upper caste farmers favoring SP-led oppositions have made the ruling party in a tight situation.

Shaikh (2021) explained that in terms of numbers, the Bhartiya Janta Party entered the battle of the poll with a strong position considering nearly 50% of the vote share, which they secured in 2019 in parliamentary elections in Uttar Pradesh. However, the cluster of economic and political factors that have arisen in the past has brought various challenges for the saffron party. Even after so many challenges, Bhartiya Janta Party still has dominance considering its unequal election machinery. BJP is considered the most leading, powerful, and influential party in Indian politics.

Yadav (2022) found that the State of Uttar Pradesh is full of psephologists. In a common survey, people talked about different issues they faced in the past few years. Most of the people talked about the issues they faced during a pandemic; around 5 to 10 lakh people died due to COVID-19 in Uttar Pradesh. According to people, no party is talking about these issues or even the opposition; no steps were taken. None of the parties is talking about the renovation of Kashi Vishwanath temple, Mathur's, or even Ayodhya. People were found to be disappointed and demotivated at the time of the election.

Prakash (2022) stated that the assembly election of 2022 Uttar Pradesh that was conducted in seven phases ended with a massive victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The BJP managed to retain their power in UP Samajwadi Party of Akhilesh Yadav remained in second place. The performance of the Bahujan Samaj Party (won one seat) and Indian National Congress (won two-seat) was disappointing.

Gupta et al. (2022) found that according to the website of the Election Commission, 255 seats are won by Bharatiya Janata Party, and SP wins 111 seats. Congress showing depressing performance won 2 seats. A four-time chief minister Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party demolished won just 1 seat even after polling 12.88% of votes. PM Narendra Modi called their victory a "festival of democracy" and thanked all the voters for the mandate in their favor in the UP and three other states and called it a "Jeet Ka Chauka."

Rai (2021) studied that surveys related to voting expectations give a perfect projection of the winners of elections and their expected vote share compared to the other four established methods to study the election, which are quantitative models, vote intention polls, and expert judgment, and prediction markets. The judgment of political experts and observers who are experienced in predicting elections has been practiced for a long time and is still considered priceless. The model of mathematical predictions based on opinion poll vote is imperfect and breakable. However, Indian polling agencies are working hard to bring improvement in the model for better projection and prediction of seats.

Deshpande (2019) explained that the studies related to elections are usually reduced to psephology and opinion polls, whereas the study of democracy attempts and preserve themselves from the everyday routines of electoral politics as much as possible. More crucially, a vigorous understanding of the links between elections being considered events, unfolding the routine political process in between the election, and apprehending democracy is found to be missing. Even today majority of Indian political students are refusing to study technical politics, which

includes severe methodical training. Instead, research in India on political science is informative, subjective, biased, and disputed. Among social science, economics stands out due to its technicality, punitive objectivity, and good association with numerical data. On the contrary, Indian sociology is considered to be more aslant towards concept-building, and theory depends mainly on non-quantitative data.

Lewis-Beck & Stegmaier (2014) explained that election projection is conducted for a long. Due to intense competition these days among polling agencies, it has produced a surplus of polls and is reported by media as a horse race of election coverage. However, trial heat polls have severe limitations as a projecting tool. When respondents were asked whom they would vote in the election in a survey, they did not provide lead answers. The trial heat poll was projecting votes on Election Day in the same was conducted on the evening of the election. Elections are predicted on a statistical model based on the approval measures, economic data, and various other factors. The benefit of the model is that it can predict the results months before the election. Looking towards the future projection of election, the methods to be envisioned for assimilating such approaches. In forecasting models, polling measures are being used already.

Ghassaem-Fachandi (2019) stated that observing a transformation in the 2014 Indian General Elections, showing "Modi Wave" has bagged citizens' imagination and boosted Narendra Modi as a figure of leader into the folk story of politics. Broadcasting Narendra Modi as a strong leader who can resolve critical issues, or at least have the capacity to tackle them, multiple calamities in India have created a personality cult, and a wave of electoral appeared as manufactured by media.

Ahmed (2014) revealed that scholars and political scientists had described national elections as wave elections, but no effective efforts were taken to define their essential measurable voters. There are three different ways in which the electoral wave can be evoked in the Indian context, as an outcome of avoiding competitive politics at the national level, as a result of high voter turnout, and lastly, as an effect of high vote share. The difference between the voter turnouts can be considered an essential facet for evaluating the electoral wave because it is indivisibly associated with voters' political enthusiasm.

Rai (2021) found that any election survey since its inception is priceless and is an important information source for electoral politics in India. However, the ill-fated shift in the concentration to election forecasting from psephology has created uncertainties and controversies. Like in another democratic country, in India, the spin-doctors of political formations manipulate and embellish survey data of internal elections for their benefit, but it does not amend much with voters' verdicts and electoral.

Palshikar (2013) explained that the offensive attacks of mass media on politics, explosions of commercial agencies conducting exit and opinion polls, and the rise of the prospective market of jobs in this arena should have contributed to increased attention towards election study among Indian politics students. Moreover, research and studies on the election are still not considered honorable within the discipline of Political Science. Citizens of India have invested a lot of time and effort in the exercises of the election and in creating a significant activity of democracy that demands severe scholarly attention and decoding. However, up till now, the association between democracy and election has not been adequately dealt with in the research program of political science in India. The argument on the association between democracy and election was not included in the political science syllabus. Indian elections indicate a delicate moment of democracy and, hence, various research possibilities.

Dhattiwala and Biggs (2012) revealed that the purpose of the study is to identify how the electoral performance of the Bharatiya Janata Party on average matches with the previous events of riots. According to the panel study, this study does not just account for the possible reverse grounds of riots between Hindus and Muslims. However, it also controls specific effects for the time and location.

Rai (2019) studied that the term Modi Wave appeared after the General Election of India in 2014 and depicted the sensation of Modi being a solid leader who manages to attain significant victory. Still in doubt if this would be a unique experience, in 2019, analysts, to their surprise, found India's latest elections of parliament developed a repeating wave. While examining India's electoral contests, the wave sensation happens mostly when a single party is dominant and highly competitive politics with disparities in both Meta narratives and electoral context. A party that received a massive mandate in wave elections was loaded with power.

Nandy (2022) revealed that the BJP, after a huge victory is ready to rule in Uttar Pradesh and retain its powers. Uttar Pradesh is known to be a politically crucial state. AAP (Aam Aadmi Party) will report in Punjab; the exit polls have projected after curtains dropped on voting for UP. It is projected that Bharatiya Janata Party, led by Yogi Adityanath, would possibly win the second term in Uttar Pradesh, as shown by five exit polls.

Tripathi (2022) explained that the exit poll results of 2022 in Uttar Pradesh, India's largest State, display a clear superiority to BJP. It is projected that CM Yogi Adityanath would return for the remarkable second term with more than 300 seats in the 403-member state assembly. In the last and 7th phase of the 2022 election in Uttar Pradesh for 54 seats, PM Modi and the other parliamentary constituency closed today to decide the destiny of 613 candidates.

Kamran (2022) stated that after a volatile and highly contradictory assembly election of Uttar Pradesh, according to the findings as publicized by CSDS-Lokniti that the ruling party Bharatiya Janata Party regardless of the general perception that Muslims would vote against BJP, prospered in gaining at least 8% of votes from the community. 20% of the Muslim votes comprised in Uttar Pradesh electorate. From this, SP secured about 79% and around 8% of the votes gained by the Bharatiya Janata Party from the Muslim community. A significant percentage of the Muslim community supporting the Bharatiya Janata Party narrates that the Muslim community is anti-BJP. Such surveys display that the community is keen to give their support to Bharatiya Janata Party, but there needs to be a mutual understanding between the two.

Arora and Kailash (2013) explained that in 1989 the system of one-party dominance broke down with the development post-congress institution. The electoral competition marked this party system between two pre-electoral alliances, namely National Democratic Alliance led by Bharatiya Janata Party and the United Progressive Alliance, which was led by Congress and is known as the two national alliances. In 2014, all of these things changed with a massive victory of the BJP in general elections.

Objectives:

- To find the voter's opinion on the results of the UP election 2022
- To compare the predicted results of the UP election 2022 with the final results

Research Methodology

In the present study, the data were collected from primary and secondary sources. The data were collected from 5000 respondents before the election results when they cast their votes. The data collection was done phase-wise with the help of stratified sampling, in which a representative distribution of respondents from all the constituencies was taken. The statistical tool applied in the study was Chi-Square Test.

Secondary Data:

The main secondary data used in this study was obtained from the official website Election Commission of India, eci.gov.in, and the official website of the New Delhi Television Ltd., ndtv.com. The data were related to the election results containing the seats obtained in the Elections of 2022 and 2017. The data has been presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Election Results of UP Assembly Elections in 2022 and 2017

Party	Contesting In	Results in 2022	In 2017	Change in 2022
BJP +	403	273	322	-49
BJP	376	255	312	-57
ADS	17	12	9	3
NSHD	10	6	1	5
BSP	403	1	19	-18
Cong	399	2	7	-5
SP+	402	125	52	73
SP	347	111	47	64
RLD	33	8	1	7
SBSP	19	6	4	2
ADK	6	0	0	0
NCP	1	0	0	0
Others	NA	2	3	-1

Data Analysis and Interpretations:

Demographic Profile of the Respondents:

Table 1 presents the demographic profile of the voters whom the researcher approached to collect the data on the Uttar Pradesh 2022 elections. There were 57.34% males and 42.66% females in the study. Among the respondents, 37.8% were salaried, followed by 24% Housewives, 16.94 students, 13.78 Businessmen / self-employed, and 7.48 Other categories of voters. Concerning the age, 16.38% of the total respondents belonged to the age of 18-29 years 36.82% were from the age category of 30-45, 36.22% were from the age bracket of 45-55, and lastly, above 55 were 10.58%.

Table1 Demographic profile of the respondents

Variables	Number of respondents	% Age
Gender		
Males	2867	57.34
Females	2133	42.66
Total	5000	100
Profession		
Salaried / Job	1890	37.8
Housewife	1200	24
Student	847	16.94
Businessman/ Self Employed	689	13.78
Others	374	7.48
Total	5000	100

Age		
18-29	819	16.38
30-45	1841	36.82
45-55	1811	36.22
Above 55	529	10.58
Total	5000	100

Survey Results Comparison and Analysis:

Table 3 presents the comparative results of the survey and actual results. It has been observed that the survey predicted 59.80% of seats for BJP. However, BJP got 63.28% of the seats. This was followed by 29.53% of the seats for the Samajwadi Party in the survey. However, the actual seats obtained by the Samajwadi Party were 27.54%. The predicted seats from survey for ADS, NSHD, BSP and Congress were 2.48%, 1.24%, 1.24%, 0.99% respectively, however actually they got 2.98%, 1.49%, 0.25% and 0.50% of the seats. Analyzing this, it is observed that BSP and Congress got lesser seats than predicted, and ADS and NSHD had higher seats than predicted. In case of RLD, SBSP and Others the predicted seat % age was 2.48%, 1.49%, 0.74% and actual was 1.99%, 1.49% and 0.50%.

Table 3 Comparative Results: Survey and Actual

Name of the Party	Predicted Results	% age Predicted Seats	Actual Results	% age of Actual Seats
BJP	241	59.80	255	63.28
ADS	10	2.48	12	2.98
NSHD	5	1.24	6	1.49
BSP	5	1.24	1	0.25
Cong	4	0.99	2	0.50
SP	119	29.53	111	27.54
RLD	10	2.48	8	1.99
SBSP	6	1.49	6	1.49
Others	3	0.74	2	0.50
Total	403	100%	403	100%

Source: eci.gov.in and ndtv.com

Table 3 shows minor variations in the predicted and actual seats obtained by the various parties. In order to investigate the significance of this difference, the Chi-Square test was applied. The results have been presented in Table 4.

Hypotheses

- H_0 There is no difference between the predicted and the actual results of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly Elections 2022
- H_a There is a significant difference between the predicted and the actual results of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly Elections 2022

Table 4 Chi-Square Test for Significance of Difference

Description of Statistics	Values
Chi-Square Value	4.7017
Degrees of Freedom	8
P-Value	0.7889
Rows * Columns	9*2

Table 4 presents the results of the Chi-Square test for Significance of Difference. The Table presents that the Chi-square value is 4.7017 at a degree of freedom of 8. There were 9 rows (number of parties) and 2 columns (representing predicted and actual results). The p-value of the test was found to be 0.7889, which is more than the critical value of p - 0.5; hence it is concluded that the null hypothesis is accepted. Finally, it was concluded that *"There is no difference between the predicted and the actual results of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly Elections 2022."*

Conclusion

In the Assembly Election, 2022 of Uttar Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party achieved a notable victory and gained strong support and votes from their supporters and citizens of the State. It shows that the hard work and people's trust for the party brought such results. It is also a testament to the People's trust in the Yogi-Modi duo, and it may be seen as effective polarization of Hindutva and Hindus in Uttar Pradesh. It also shows people's faith in the developmental works undertaken by the double engine Governments both at the State and Center and the effective administration of Yogi.

The State of Uttar Pradesh, the largest State in India by population, is the most crucial and vital State as far as Indian politics is concerned. The Results of UP have a direct effect on the Union Government and the Indian National Political scenario. Domination of Lok Sabha elections in UP means almost forming the Government at the Center. Hence it is considered as the most desirable State of Indian politics.

The union between Bhartiya Janta Party, Samajwadi Party, and Bahujan Samaj Party was the testament of politics. This union could not continue due to petty politics and the self-interest of its members and party. All such disquiets were accounted for issues related to Mandal and issues related to Babari Masjid- Ayodhya Mandir. It provided the base to regional parties in spreading their base of politics in Uttar Pradesh.

The media put the overabundance of exit polls on-air that put the saffron party miles ahead of their rival parties and was likely to succeed with seats in a range of 211 to 326. The primary causes for the regular psephological surprises and huge projecting disparities in Uttar Pradesh were due to the electoral system of First-Past-the-Post, competition between multiparty elections, and high instability of the electorates. There were minor variations in the predicted and actual seats obtained by the various parties. With the help of the statistical technique – Chi-Square Test, it was found finally concluded that “There is no difference between the predicted and the actual results of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly Elections 2022”.

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