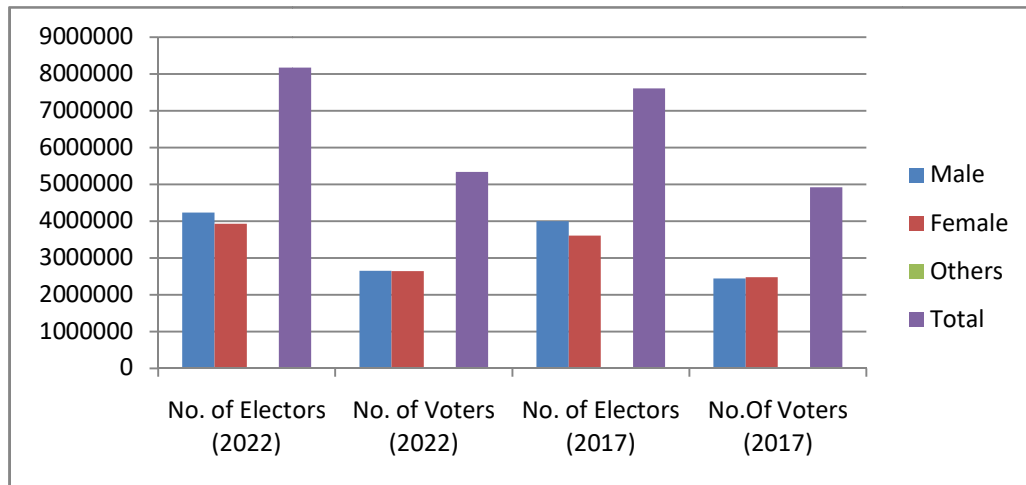


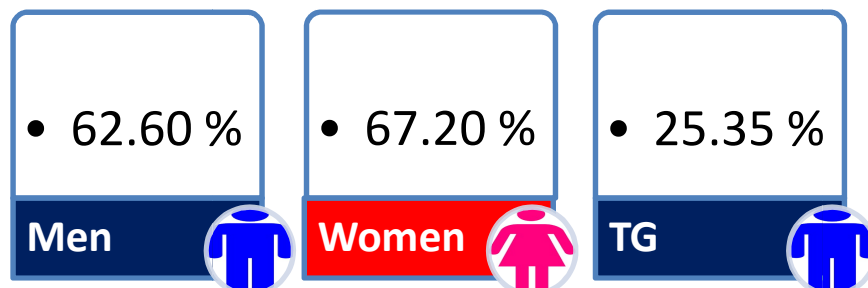
A Brief Write - up of General Election to Legislative Assembly of Uttarakhand - 2022

Fairs colloquially known as kauthig are a unique part of rich cultural heritage of Uttarakhand and are celebrated with great gusto around the state. These small melas encompasses the spiritual, aesthetic and lively characteristics of the unpretentious lives of the people living in the tough hilly terrains. The Vidhan Sabha elections 2022 were celebrated as Chunav Kauthig to ensure the active participation of every citizen in the “fair” of election, celebrated once in every five years.



(Electoral Data)

General elections to legislative assembly of Uttarakhand 2022 were conducted in single phase on 14th February 2022. Total 70 assembly constituencies with 81,72,173 registered voters went under poll to decide the future of 632 candidates (569 Male, 63 Female). 42,38,890 male electors, female electors and 288 transgender electors casted their vote. A significant rise in number of voters was seen as compared to 2017 election where in total 75,10,396 votes were casted including 39,32,053 male voters, 3,578,190 female voters and 153 transgender voters who exercised their right to vote. Total voter turnout in 2022 assembly elections was 65.37% and there was 0.19 decreases in polling percentage as compared to 2017 elections with 65.56% of voter turnout.



Voter Turnout (2022)

Special attention was given to increase the participation of transgender voters in election 2022 and the result was visible in the overwhelming increase in their turnout in the assembly elections. Notable increase in the participation of transgender electors was observed with 25.35% of transgender electors participating in 2022 election as compared to 8.65% of transgender who voted in 2017 election.

To make elections inclusive various ingenious programmes were held for 71,265 registered PwD voters including 45,344 male PwD electors, 25,919 female PwD electors and 2 transgender PwD electors. Distinctive motivational programs for PwD voters were conducted and special facilities like ramps, wheelchair, sign boards in Braille, PwD friendly sticks to press EVM button etc were provided to help PwD voters. Divyang Dolis were provided for the PwD Voters in the remote hilly polling booths.

Out of the total 11,647 polling booths in state, 100 were marked as sakhi booths, 156 polling booths were marked as model polling booths (Adarsh Booths) and 6 booths were setup as PwD polling booths. Facility of casting vote in the comfort of their homes received an overwhelming response by 1,58,742 registered elderly electors.

Model booths/Adarsh Booths were the highlights of the election. Minimum assured facilities with clean drinking water, clean toilets, help desk, separate waiting lounge for men and women, separate room for lactating women, crèche and play areas for toddlers and children were some of the main features of these booths.

Various programmes for motivating people to participate in elections were organized under SVEEP activities. A programme named "ROSHAN UTTARAKHAND" was held at every polling booth to spread the light of electoral awareness among common masses. Keeping in view the theme of Uttarakhand Kauthig 95 booth melas were organized in interior areas of the state to sensitize male, female, elderly and PwD voters about the complete electoral process. 82 Mahila chaupals were organized to increase the participation of women voters. Programs related to electoral process were specifically held in local languages to assure optimum participation of women electors. Distinguishable programs were organized specially to bring our PwD voters to mainstream. Plethora of activities like poster, mehendi, slogan competition, awareness rallies etc were organized in academic institutions under Electoral literacy club. Matdata Rath was mobilized in the low voter turnout areas. Regional dialects including Garhwali and Kumaouni were used to disseminate election related information. Nukkad Natak based on voter awareness were staged in low voter turnout areas. EVM –VVPAT demonstrations were regularly held in booth melas, mahila chaupals, ELC activities, Youth Voter festivals to familiarize our voters with EVM.

In 2022 Assembly elections various mobile applications like know your candidate, voter turnout apps, Garuda, C- vigil mobile app, voter helpline apps, the person with disabilities app, observer app helped in making elections accessible. Numerous web applications like ENCORE, C - vigil portal, EVM management system, ERONET, National Voter Services Portal, ETPBS, Service Voter Registration Portal, Observer Portal, National Grievance Services were colossally used. ERONET was used to update electoral rolls .Total 392796 new voters were added, name of 66644 voters was deleted ,51322 were modified and 70539 PwD electors were marked. C-vigil app helped in bottom enforcement of laws, timely and effective enforcement of these laws and also helped in creating a preventive rather than reactive enforcement regime. Total 25845 cases were registered, 24774 cases were found to be true, 896 complaints were dropped by ARO/RO and 174 complaints were dropped by DCC. ENCORE a single integrated application was used in nomination, permission and declaration of result. Garuda was used to capture lat/long of 11647 polling stations and to count AMF/EMF of all polling stations of the state.

COVID protocols were strictly adhered to and distribution of masks, gloves face shields, hand sanitizers, thermal scanning was ensured at every polling station. COVID protective gear was provided to every member of a polling party and strict compliance of COVID guidelines was assured. All electoral campaigns were held strictly in the compliance of the directions given by ECI.

Dressed as a simple uttrakhandi woman SARULI BUA our mascot for Vidhan Sabha elections 2022 stole the show with her witty campaigns aimed to sensitize local people about elections in colloquial languages. Short videos, banners, posters prepared in Garhwali, Kumaoni and Hindi were considerably used by her to promulgate election related facts.

Dumak is the remotest hill village of Uttarakhand situated at a height of 6000 ft above the sea level in Chamoli district. Polling party has to cover a challenging trek of 22 km amidst the dense forests, dangerous trails and snow covered passages to reach the farthest polling station. It is quite an arduous task as polling party has to cautiously cross the numerous streams locally known as Gadheras with EVM securely tucked in especially designed bags. Out of 246 voters 175 (72%) exercised their right to vote.