

Lokniti-ABP News Uttarakhand Post Poll Survey, 2017: Key findings

About the Survey

This analysis is based on a Post-Poll survey conducted in **Uttarakhand** by Lokniti, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi, for ABP News. The survey was conducted from February 17 through February 24, 2017 among 1859 voters in 100 locations spread across 20 assembly constituencies. All constituencies and the polling stations within them were the same as those where Lokniti had conducted the first two rounds of the pre-poll tracker survey in early December 2016 and mid-January 2017. The sampling design adopted was Multi-stage random sampling. The assembly constituencies where the survey was conducted were randomly selected using the probability proportional to size method. Thereafter, five polling stations within each of the sampled constituencies were selected using the systematic random sampling method. Finally, the respondents were also randomly selected from the electoral rolls of the sampled polling stations.

Before going to the field for the survey, field investigators were imparted training about the survey method and interviewing techniques at a day-long training workshop held in Srinagar, Garhwal. The field investigators conducted face-to-face interviews of the respondents in Hindi asking them a set of standardized questions. The duration of an interview was about 35-40 minutes. At some locations the non-availability of sampled respondents or difficulty in finding households necessitated replacements or substitutions. It must be noted that the post poll survey conducted by CSDS is very different from an exit poll in which voters are approached outside the polling booth on voting day. Instead voters were approached by the field investigators for an interview at their place of residence after votes had been cast in their respective constituencies, but before the results were known.

The achieved sample has been weighted by gender, locality, religion, and caste group, based on Census 2011 information. The poll has an overall margin of error of plus or minus 3.3 points.

Profile of achieved sample

	Survey Sample (%)	Census 2011 (%)
Scheduled Caste (18+ years)	17.3	17.4
Muslim	9.3	13.9*
Women (18+ years)	46.6	50.1
Urban (18+ years)	36.8	31.9

*Includes all ages

The fieldwork of the study was coordinated by Dr. Rakesh Negi, Assistant Professor (Ad hoc) at Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar. The survey was designed and analysed by a team of researchers at Lokniti. The team included Asmita Aasaavari, Arushi Gupta, Dhananjay Kumar Singh, Himanshu Bhattacharya, Jyoti Mishra, Souradeep Banerjee, Shashwat Dhar, Shreyas Sardesai and Vibha Attri. The survey was directed by Prof. Sanjay Kumar of CSDS.

Survey details in a nutshell

Conducted by	Lokniti-CSDS, for ABP News
Dates of fieldwork	Feb 17-24, 2017
No. of Assembly Constituencies covered	20
No. of Polling Stations (Locations) covered	100
No. of interviews conducted (Sample size)	1859
Overall Margin of Error	+/- 3.3
Sampling method	Multi-stage random sampling
Fieldwork method	Standardized face to face interview in Hindi

Uttarakhand: BJP comfortably ahead

In a state where wafer-thin majorities are the norm, a decisive mandate in favor of any one party seems unlikely. However, this election may have broken the jinx, with the BJP likely to emerge on top in Uttarakhand by a comfortable margin according to the Post Poll survey conducted by Lokniti, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) for ABP News. The party is expected to corner two-fifths (40 percent) of the popular vote. The Congress, fighting to retain its position as the ruling party, is trailing with an estimated vote share of 35 percent. The survey was conducted between February 17 and 24 among 1859 respondents spread across 20 randomly selected assembly constituencies.

The BJP is expected to register its biggest gains in Garhwal, a region which has time and again complained of neglect under Chief Minister Harish Rawat's tenure, who hails from Kumaon. With an estimated vote share of 52 percent, the party has virtually no competition in this region. It also seems to have capitalized on the strong anti-incumbency sentiment here, with an overwhelming majority of voters (59 percent) being opposed to giving a second chance to the Rawat government. The contest much closer in the Kumaon and Maidan regions, but even here the BJP is expected to give a tough fight to the incumbent. It is likely to secure about 35 percent of the vote in Kumaon, as against 36 percent of the Congress.

In what may give the Congress a shot in the arm, the survey found that the party's Chief Ministerial face to be the most popular choice for Uttarakhand's next Chief Minister. About two in five (37 percent) voters said they would prefer Harish Rawat as the next

CM, compared to BJP leader and ex-CM B.C. Khanduri, who was spontaneous preference of only 16 percent voters. However, given the strong current of anti-incumbency against his government, it is unlikely that Rawat's leadership will be enough to salvage the Congress from facing defeat at the hands of a resurgent BJP. Moreover the BJP seems to be benefitting from the combined strength of its other leaders, many of whom are former Congressmen.

Uttarakhand: overall estimated vote share based on post-poll survey

	%
Congress	35
BJP	40
BSP	5
Others	20

Uttarakhand: region-wise estimated vote share based on post-poll survey

	Cong	BJP	BSP	Others
Garhwal (25 seats)	23%	52%	-	25%
Kumaon (22 seats)	36%	35%	7%	22%
Maidaan (23 seats)	39%	38%	6%	17%

Voters' spontaneous preference for Chief Minister

	%
Harish Rawat	37
B C Khanduri	16
Satpal Maharaj	6
Narendra Modi	3
Kishore Upadhyay	2
Mayawati	2
Dhan Singh Rawat	2
Other leaders	7
No response	25

Note: Figures may not add up to 100 due to round

The question asked was: After this election, who would you prefer as the next Chief Minister of Uttarakhand?

The question was asked in an open-ended way and no names were offered to the respondent.

Measuring the anti-incumbency sentiment

	In favour of giving another chance to the Cong govt. %	Against giving another chance to the Cong govt. %	Not Sure/did not answer %
Uttarakhand (Overall)	39	43	18
Garhwal	30	59	11
Kumaon	42	41	17
Maidaan	37	42	21

Note: Figures may not add up to 100 due to round

The question asked was: Should the current Congress govt. in Uttarakhand get another chance?