



## 2024 Lok Sabha Election in Assam: An Overview

**Dr Gitanjali Baruah**

Associate Professor

North Bank College

### Abstract :

Election plays a vital role in every democratic system. It refers to a process of democratic participation where people can express their opinions. A democratic process refers to a system where decisions are made collectively through voting and people's participations. In 2024 Lok Sabha election, Assam recorded one of the highest voter turnouts in the country. The elections took place in a highly competitive, multi-party environment. The ruling coalition, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and supported by regional allies such as the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL), faced opposition from the Indian National Congress (INC), the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), and several smaller regional parties.

Keywords : Election, Assembly, Lok Sabha, Assam

### Introduction :

Elections are a cornerstone of any democratic system, serving as the primary mechanism through which citizens exercise their right to vote and select their representatives. A democracy cannot function effectively without a thorough understanding of its electoral processes. Consequently, analyzing elections is essential for evaluating the health and functioning of democracy. In recent years, electoral politics has attracted significant attention from researchers worldwide, as it provides valuable insights into the workings of parliamentary systems. While a substantial body of research has focused on voting behavior, comparatively few studies have examined the broader socio-economic and political contexts in which elections take place.

The 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Assam were the first held after the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA), a major flash-point in Assam. The CAA emerged as one of the dominant issues in election campaigns statewide (The Times of India). Another underlying factor:

prior to elections, boundaries of several parliamentary constituencies were redrawn (delimitation), affecting voter demography and political math in various seats. This election took place in the backdrop of major political developments such as CAA implementation, delimitation of constituencies, and shifting alliances among regional parties.

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of the study are -

- i) To discuss the political shifts in electoral dynamics
- ii) To study the response of Assamese people
- iii) To study the election result

### **Methodology :**

The method used for the present study is descriptive and analytical in nature based on primary and secondary sources. The data is collected from the Reports of the Election Commission of India, relevant books and journals. Internet resources also have been accessed extensively.

### **2024 parliamentary election:**

In the 2024 parliamentary elections, all 14 constituencies in Assam went to the polls, witnessing one of the highest voter turnouts in India at over 81.87%. (**Table -1**). Voter participation was notably high across all phases: 78.25% in Phase I, 81.17% in Phase II, and 85.45% in Phase III, out of a total electorate of 2,43,01,960.

**Table -1**  
**Constituency-wise voter turns out : 2024 Lok sabha election**

	Constituency	Turnout
1	Kokrajhar (ST)	83.55%
2	Dhubri	92.08%
3	Barpeta	85.24%
4	Darrang -Udalguri	82.01%
5	Guwahati	78.39%
6	Diphu (ST)	75.74%
7	Karimgamj	80.48%
8	Silchar (SC)	79.05%
9	Nowgaon	84.97%
10	Kaziranga	79.33%
11	Sonitpur	78.46%

Constituency		Turnout
12	Lakhimpur	76.42%
13	Dibrugarh	76.75%
14	Jorhat	79.89%

Source : : *Election Report, Election Department, Government of Assam*

The elections took place in a highly competitive, multi-party environment. The ruling coalition, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and supported by regional allies such as the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL), faced opposition from the Indian National Congress (INC), the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), and several smaller regional parties. The electoral landscape in Assam in 2024 was shaped by demographic changes, contentious national and regional issues—such as the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)—and redefined constituency boundaries, raising the stakes for all major parties. The BJP-led alliance successfully consolidated its political presence in the state, benefiting from strong organizational structures and regional partnerships. The outcome of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections reaffirmed the dominance of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which secured 11 of the 14 seats. Nevertheless, the Congress party's rise in vote share and victories in significant constituencies indicate that Assam remains a politically competitive state. Key issues such as identity, citizenship, regional aspirations, and development continue to play a central role in shaping the state's electoral dynamics.

### Vote Share Patterns:

- BJP: increased vote share from 36.41% (2019) → 37.43% (2024)
- Congress: increased from 35.79% (2019) → 37.48% (2024)

Despite vote-share gains for both BJP and Congress, the NDA's combined vote share dipped slightly, mainly due to the weakening of certain regional partners. A significant development was the decline of certain minority-focused regional parties, which previously held influence in pockets of Lower Assam. This contributed indirectly to the gains for larger parties.

### Key Political Factors

- **CAA as a Central Election Issue** : The 2024 polls were the first held after the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 in Assam. CAA dominated political debates and public mobilization.
- **Delimitation Effects**: The redrawing of constituency boundaries in 2023 significantly reshaped the electoral demography, benefiting larger, well-organized parties.
- The results showed a shift away from older regional forces toward major national + strong regional alliance combinations (BJP-AGP-UPPL).

- NDA strengthened — their seat count improved compared to previous elections.
- Return & emergence of regional parties: AGP and UPPL gained representation — showing regional parties remain relevant in Assam's politics.

### Striking Features of the 2024 Lok Sabha Election in Assam:

- i) **High Voter Turnout;** One of the most remarkable aspects of the 2024 elections was voter engagement. Over 81% of eligible voters participated, making it one of the highest turnouts in India. This demonstrates a robust democratic participation and indicates heightened public interest in shaping the state's political future.
- ii) **Competitive Multi-Party Contest:** The elections were characterized by a multi-party and highly competitive environment. While the BJP-led alliance including the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL), remained dominant, opposition parties like the Indian National Congress (INC) and the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), along with other regional actors, presented strong challenges in several constituencies.
- iii) **Impact of Regional and National Issues:** Assam's 2024 elections were influenced by polarizing national and regional issues, notably the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), immigration concerns, and identity politics. Developmental priorities and regional aspirations also played a key role, reflecting a blend of national and local issues in voter decision-making.
- iv) **Demographic Shifts and Electoral Reconfiguration:** The state witnessed significant demographic changes and modifications to constituency boundaries. These factors affected traditional vote patterns and created new dynamics, compelling political parties to recalibrate their strategies to appeal to a more diverse electorate.
- v) **Consolidation of BJP-led Alliance:** The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) demonstrated strong organizational capacity and effective alliance management, securing 11 out of 14 seats. The support of regional allies proved critical in consolidating their electoral dominance.
- vi) **Resurgence of Opposition:** Despite the NDA's dominance, the Congress party showed notable gains in vote share and captured key constituencies. This highlights that Assam remains politically competitive, with opposition parties continuing to influence electoral outcomes.
- vii) **Continuing Salience of Identity and Citizenship Issues:** Debates around identity, citizenship, and regional autonomy remained central to the electoral discourse, indicating that such issues will continue to shape Assam's political landscape in future elections.



**Election Results :**

The elections reflected a highly competitive multi-party environment, with national parties like the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Indian National Congress (INC) competing alongside regional outfits such as the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), United People's Party Liberal (UPPL), and the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF). The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) emerged as the dominant force, winning 11 of the 14 seats, including 9 for the BJP, while its regional allies, AGP and UPPL, contributed 2 seats. The opposition bloc, led by the INC, secured 3 seats, underscoring that Assam remains politically competitive despite the NDA's strong position. **Table -2** exhibits the party performance of 2024 Lok Sabha election.

**Table -2****Party performance : 2024 Lok Sabha election**

Party	Seats	Votes %
BJP	9	37.43
INC	3	37.48
AGP	1	6.6
UPPL	1	2.5

*Election Result, Government of Assam, Dispur*

The results underscore the continued significance of identity politics, regional issues, and development agendas in shaping electoral outcomes. While the NDA maintains its hold over the state, the rising opposition vote share indicates that local grievances and concerns of minority communities will continue to influence Assam's political dynamics in the coming years. The BJP-led NDA recorded a decisive victory in 2024 Lok Sabha election. The BJP managed to retain its earlier tally of nine seats, matching its 2019 performance. Its alliance partners also strengthened the coalition's presence this time: the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) won the Kokrajhar (ST) constituency in its maiden Lok Sabha victory, and the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) captured the Barpeta seat. In comparison, during the 2019 election, the BJP had also won nine seats, while its then allies—AGP and the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) failed to secure any. Congress claimed three constituencies, while AIUDF and an independent candidate won one seat each. By 2024, the alliance landscape had shifted, with the UPPL joining the NDA alongside AGP, and the INDIA bloc gaining support from the Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP). Over the three election cycles of 2014, 2019, and 2024, Assam's parliamentary politics underwent a clear transformation. The state gradually moved away from a fragmented, multi-party contest toward a more

BJP-dominated configuration, with the Congress emerging as the only significant challenger. Meanwhile, the influence of smaller, minority-based regional parties steadily declined. Altogether, the past decade marks a period of major political realignment in Assam's national electoral landscape.

Although the 2024 general election delivered an emphatic victory to the Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies in Assam, the mandate has also generated fresh discussions about shifting political undercurrents in the state. The complete electoral collapse of the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) and the notable win of Gaurav Gogoi in the Jorhat constituency indicate an evolving political landscape—one that could pose significant challenges for the ruling coalition in the future.

The results clearly reinforced the BJP's dominant position across Assam. The party's success rested on a strategic blend of factors, including what critics describe as a politically motivated delimitation process, an emphasis on welfare- and beneficiary-based outreach, and assertive Hindutva rhetoric. Together, these elements helped the BJP retain the nine seats it had won in 2019. Its partners in the region, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL), added one seat each, bringing the NDA's total to 11 of Assam's 14 seats. A striking aspect of the election was the coalition's performance across assembly segments. NDA candidates led in 92 assembly constituencies, surpassing their leads in both the 2021 assembly elections (75 seats) and the 2019 Lok Sabha polls (86 seats). This expansion of influence underscores a deeper consolidation of support for the alliance, even as emerging political shifts suggest that future contests may not be devoid of serious challenges.

In the constituency of Jorhat, the electoral contest is comparatively more intense this year due to the emergence of a promising young face, INC's Gaurav Gogoi, to contest the two time winner BJP. Here, the Indian National Congress (INC) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) vie for supremacy, each leveraging distinct strategies to woo voters. INC's candidate, Gaurav Gogoi, enjoys the backing of the Assam Tea Workers Union, capitalising on the substantial presence of the Tea tribe population. Conversely, the BJP faces scrutiny over unmet promises, particularly concerning Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for various communities. The outcome in Jorhat hinges on the delicate interplay of community allegiances, with the Ahom ethnic community emerging as a pivotal determinant. The BJP seems to have established itself among the Ahom population but the two-time runners up INC has put up a fight this time around, which will be reflected in the results.

The seats that have had a close call in 2019—Nagaon, Karimganj and Kokrajhar—are also the most interesting seats of this year, as they have seen a substantial number of surprises this year. In Kokrajhar, with BJP not even closing up as the runners up in 2019, the political climate has shifted. Due to delimitation, the sitting and most influential candidate, Naba Kumar Sarania, is pushed out of the race, while NDA-supported UPPL has taken long strides in terms of garnering support from 14 adivasi

organisations, including AASSAA, ACMA, BCF, ADF, ASSU, etc. The results this year from Kokrajhar are going to be surprising for many. While in Nagaon and Karimganj, a very close call is expected. In Barpeta, Congress, which won 2019 with the support of minorities, is under target. The delimitation exercise has rendered the minority community no longer a deciding factor in this constituency. The AIUDF and CPI coalition in this seat will be a crucial factor in dividing votes. In Silchar, Mamata Banerjee's entry into Assam politics adds a new dimension, particularly in mobilising the Bengali-speaking populace and reshaping traditional voting patterns. However, despite TMC's effort to divide votes, the BJP still holds the upper hand, as Hemanta B. Sarma has not left any stones unturned in this battle to woo the Bengali-speaking Hindus. Meanwhile, Darrang-Udalguri constituency is witnessing a triangular contest between BJP, Bodo People's Front and INC. BJP candidate Dilip Sakia is suspected to be facing an anti-incumbency wave in the constituency. This, along with the new alliance of AUIDF and BPF, will reflect in the election results. From the analysis, it is observed that the currently ruling BJP can be predicted to dominate the election with a few hiccups in some constituencies, namely, Dhubri, Karimganj and Nogaon. Along with these, the contests in Barpeta, Kokrajhar, and Darrang Udalgiri might see a dramatic change as compared to 2019.

The election wasn't just about everyday issues, it touched on identity, belonging, and future shape of Assam's society and politics.

#### Reference:

1. Lok Sabha elections 2024: How CAA issue dominated Assam's political discourse in Lok sabha elections , Kanchan Yadav / TIMESOFINDIA.COM / Updated: May 26, 2024.
2. *Election Result, Government of Assam, Dispur.*
3. [Wikipedia+2The Times of India+2](#)