Vital Stats
Assembly elections 2012

The Election Commission recently announced the poll schedule for Assembly elections in five States – Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa. As parties prepare for the upcoming elections, we take a look at the electoral trends in these states over the past 25 years.

The electoral mandate in UP has seen rapid transition over the past 25 years

- Uttar Pradesh (UP) has the largest state legislature in the country, with a total of 403 seats. Assembly elections in UP have larger ramifications for national politics due to its size in the Rajya Sabha. Of the 245 MPs in Rajya Sabha, 31 (13%) represent UP.
- The analysis of election results in the state shows that the legislature in UP has seen several changes over the past 25 years.
- Elections in 1985 saw the Indian National Congress (INC) emerge with a clear majority of 269 seats in a House of 425. This changed in 1989 with the Janata Dal (JD) emerging as the largest party with 208 seats.
- In 1991, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) gained a majority by securing 221 seats in the House. However, subsequent elections saw a decline in the strength of BJP and a rise in the strength of the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). In 2007, BSP won 206 seats, thus securing a clear majority in the Assembly.

In Punjab, the Akalis and the Congress have alternately formed the government

- The Punjab Assembly has a total strength of 117. MLAs in the current Assembly belong to the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), the INC and the BJP. 5 MLAs are independent.
- In the current Assembly, the SAD is the largest party with 48 seats, closely followed by INC at 44. The BJP has 19 seats and the SAD-BJP coalition forms the government.
- Over the years, the electoral mandate in Punjab elections has alternated between the INC and the SAD.
2007 general elections in Uttarakhand saw the BJP take over from the Congress

- Uttarakhand was formed in November 2000 as the 27th state of India, when it was carved out of northern Uttar Pradesh.
- While the Congress had emerged as the largest party in 2002 with 36 seats in a House of 70, BJP emerged as the largest party in 2007 with 34 seats.

INC has been the dominant player in Manipur elections in all but one election since 1984

- Except in 2000, INC emerged as the single largest party in Manipur in the last six elections. However, in these years, INC never secured more than 50% seats in the Assembly and had to rely on some coalition partner/ outside support to form the government.
- In 2000, the Manipur State Congress Party (MSCP), a splinter group of the Congress formed the government in coalition with the Federal Party of Manipur (FPM).

Except 2002, INC has been the largest party in the Goa Assembly since 1984

- The legislature in Goa has a strength of 40 MLAs. As in the case of Manipur, INC has been the dominant party in Goa.
- However, since the 1990’s, the state has been affected by political instability; on several occasions, President’s rule was imposed.
- The current government in run by INC in coalition with other parties.

Notes:
1. All data has been obtained from the Election Commission of India website [http://www.eci.nic.in/](http://www.eci.nic.in/)