

SBI RESEARCH

Based on a comprehensive set of research data that the Election Commission has released (the first of its kind across any country in world).....we empirically establish that states have witnessed an incremental women voter turnout of 18 million in 2024 over 2019 primarily because of implementation of women centric schemes, at least one or more, that also includes income transfer schemes...Literacy, Employment like Mudra Yojana, House Ownership under PMAY, Sanitation are significant contributing factors for increased women voting... Electricity and Improved Drinking Water also emerging as contributors...

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- The Election Commission of India has released a comprehensive set of statistical reports, for the Lok Sabha elections 2024, a delight for researchers that provides fresh insights into behavioural changes in voting patterns across the last 2 general elections
- While more than 90 million more voters cast their votes in last decade, ~58% of them are female voters (~5.3 crore)
- Overall turnout ratio has increased significantly in SC/ST category (particularly in the case of females), again indicating the empowering of those at bottom of pyramid
- **We empirically establish that states have witnessed an incremental women voter turnout of 1.8 crores in 2024 over 2019 primarily because of implementation of women centric schemes, at least one or more. This is also the result of many states having launched income transfer schemes among others**
 - Out of 1.8 crore incremental female voters (2024 vs 2019 elections)
 - **45 lakh female voters rise is attributable to a rise in literacy**
 - **36 lakh can be attributable to employment /Mudra Yojana among others**
 - **20 lakh is attributable to House Ownership under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**
 - **21 lakh is attributable to Sanitation**
 - Electricity access and improved drinking water source show positive coefficients on female voter's turnout
 - Average women voter turnout in 19 beneficiary states increased by 7.8 lakh (cumulatively: 1.5 crore) in 2024 as compared to increase of only 2.5 lakh (cumulatively: 0.3 crore) in states where no-such schemes were launched after 2019
 - We also find that within states differences in voter turnout across regions are not significant and hence these variables delineate a positive impact on all classes of population in a state
- Further, in an attempt to allow every citizen to cast his/her valuable vote, we suggest the Hon'ble Election Commission to implement a robust absentee voting system – **around 30 crore as per EC estimates**.... in terms of postal voting, early voting, proxy voting or electronic voting options – that allows the person to exercise his right in the biggest festival of democracy...

Lok Sabha Election in India

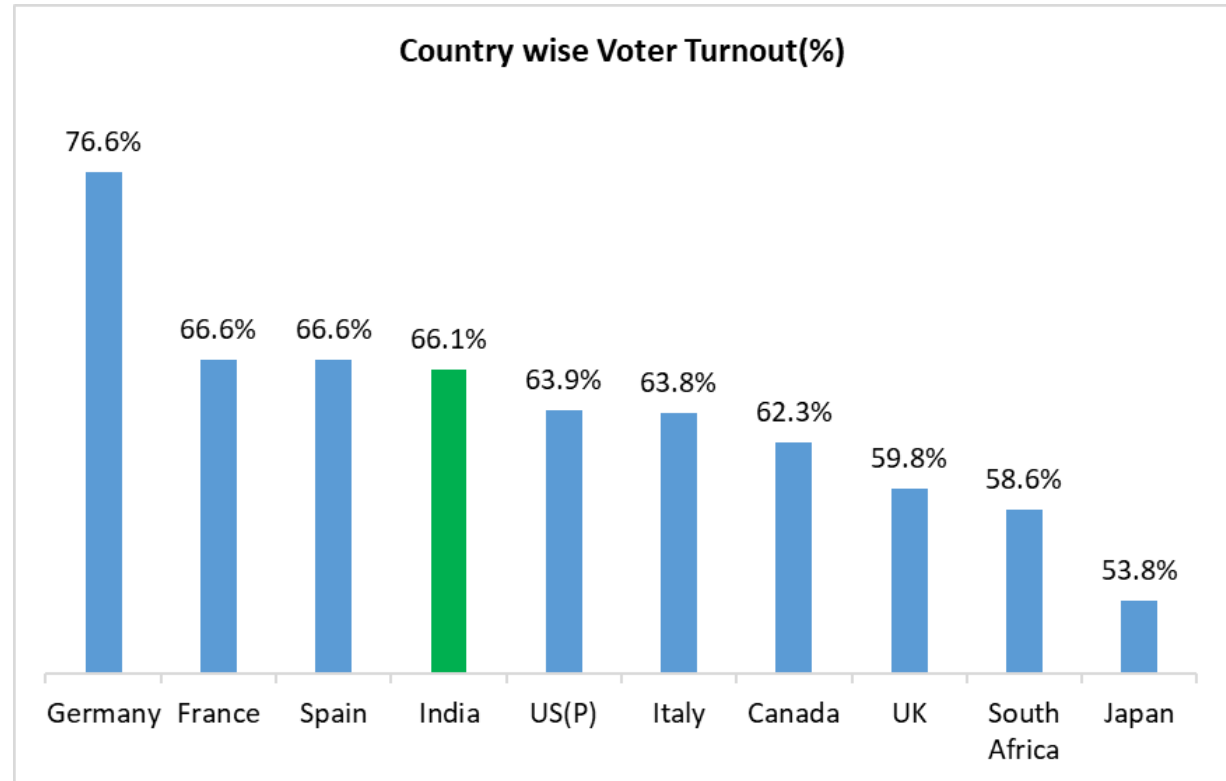
Key Trends of Last Decade

Electoral Participation in India in line with Major Economies of the world

- Among major economies, India has highest population per seat of Lower House of parliament, however it lacks in terms of representation of women in the Lower House, a trend more observed in Developing Economies
- Voter turnout in India is in line with Advanced Economies and India could soon be within the top 3 of the countries globally in terms of voting percentages....

Seats in Lower House: India vis-à-vis Other Countries			
Country	Seats in Lower House	Women %	Population per Seat (in lakh)
Germany	709	30.9	1.2
UK	650	40.5	1.1
Italy	400	32.3	1.5
France	577	36.0	1.2
Indonesia	580	21.0	4.8
Ethiopia	472	41.3	2.7
India	543	13.6	25.7
Brazil	513	17.5	4.2
Thailand	500	19.4	1.4
Mexico	500	50.2	2.6
US	435	28.7	7.3
Japan	465	15.7	2.7

Source: SBI Research



LS Elections in India: Major Highlights

- ❑ The Election Commission of India has released a comprehensive set of statistical reports for the Lok Sabha elections 2024
- ❑ Comparing 2024 data with 2019/2014 throws some interesting insights
- ❑ Total electors increased from 83.4 crore in 2014 to 97.8 crore in 2024, with female electors catching fast with male voters. Currently, for every 100 male electors there are 95 female voters
- ❑ Increasing electors lead to increase in polling stations and also the average elector per polling station
- ❑ Another encouraging fact is the increasing share of female candidates in total candidates
- ❑ While postal ballots have increased significantly, NOTA votes seem to be losing the steam

Election: Major Highlights				
Item	Unit	2014	2019	2024
Electors	crore	83.4	91.2	97.8
Male	crore	43.7	47.3	50.2
Female	crore	39.7	43.9	47.5
TG	#	28527	39075	48194
Female to male Electors (per 100)	-	91	93	95
Voter Turnout	%	66.30	67.1	65.66
Postal Ballot	lakh	11.5	28.1	42.8
NOTA Votes	lakh	60.0	65.2	63.7
Polling Station	lakh	9.3	10.4	10.5
Average Electors per Polling Station	#	899	879	930
Total Candidates	#	8251	8054	8359
Female Candidates	#	668	726	800
Female Candidates (share)	%	8.1%	9.0%	9.6%
Source: Election Commission; SBI Research				

5 states accounted for 45% of total incremental electors in last decade

- In last decade ~14.4 crore electors increased
- Only 5 states (marked in green) accounted for 45% of total incremental electors

Trends in Electors (in crore)									
State/UT	2014	2019	2024	Change (2024/2014)	State/UT	2014	2019	2024	Change (2024/2014)
Andhra Pradesh	6.49	3.94	4.14	-	Mizoram	0.07	0.08	0.09	0.02
Arunachal Pradesh	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.01	Nagaland	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.01
Assam	1.88	2.21	2.46	0.57	Odisha	2.92	3.25	3.37	0.45
Bihar	6.38	7.12	7.73	1.35	Punjab	1.96	2.09	2.16	0.20
Chhattisgarh	1.77	1.90	2.07	0.30	Rajasthan	4.30	4.90	5.35	1.05
Goa	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.01	Sikkim	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.01
Gujarat	4.06	4.52	4.80	0.74	Tamil Nadu	5.51	5.99	6.24	0.73
Haryana	1.61	1.81	2.02	0.41	Telangana	0.00	2.97	3.32	-
Himachal Pradesh	0.48	0.53	0.57	0.09	Tripura	0.24	0.26	0.29	0.05
Jharkhand	2.03	2.24	2.59	0.55	Uttar Pradesh	13.88	14.61	15.44	1.56
Karnataka	4.62	5.11	5.48	0.86	Uttarakhand	0.71	0.79	0.84	0.13
Kerala	2.43	2.62	2.78	0.35	West Bengal	6.28	7.00	7.61	1.33
Madhya Pradesh	4.81	5.19	5.67	0.85	NCT OF Delhi	1.27	1.43	1.52	0.25
Maharashtra	8.08	8.87	9.31	1.23	Jammu and Kashmir	0.72	0.79	0.88	0.16
Manipur	0.18	0.20	0.21	0.03	Remaining UTs	0.21	0.24	0.27	0.05
Meghalaya	0.16	0.19	0.22	0.07	Total	83.41	91.20	97.80	14.39

Source: Election Commission; SBI Research

Only 6 states accounted for 52% of total new votes in last decade

- ❑ In last decade ~9.2 crore new voters cast their votes
- ❑ Only 6 states (marked in green) accounted for 52% of total new votes, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh Karnataka and even Uttar Pradesh show the maximum increase
- ❑ Decline in voters in Nagaland and Punjab is a cause of worry

Trends in Voters (in crore)									
State/UT	2014	2019	2024	Change (2024/2014)	State/UT	2014	2019	2024	Change (2024/2014)
Andhra Pradesh	4.85	3.17	3.39	-	Mizoram	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.01
Arunachal Pradesh	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.01	Nagaland	0.10	0.10	0.08	-0.03
Assam	1.51	1.80	2.01	0.50	Odisha	2.15	2.38	2.52	0.37
Bihar	3.59	4.08	4.35	0.76	Punjab	1.38	1.38	1.35	-0.03
Chhattisgarh	1.23	1.36	1.51	0.28	Rajasthan	2.71	3.25	3.32	0.61
Goa	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.01	Sikkim	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.01
Gujarat	2.58	2.91	2.92	0.33	Tamil Nadu	4.06	4.34	4.38	0.31
Haryana	1.15	1.27	1.31	0.16	Telangana	0.00	1.86	2.20	-
Himachal Pradesh	0.31	0.39	0.41	0.10	Tripura	0.20	0.22	0.23	0.03
Jharkhand	1.30	1.50	1.73	0.43	Uttar Pradesh	8.11	8.65	8.80	0.69
Karnataka	3.11	3.52	3.88	0.78	Uttarakhand	0.44	0.49	0.49	0.05
Kerala	1.80	2.04	2.00	0.20	West Bengal	5.17	5.72	6.06	0.89
Madhya Pradesh	2.96	3.69	3.80	0.83	NCT OF Delhi	0.83	0.87	0.89	0.07
Maharashtra	4.87	5.41	5.72	0.85	Jammu & Kashmir	0.36	0.36	0.52	0.16
Manipur	0.14	0.16	0.16	0.02	Remaining UTs	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.02
Meghalaya	0.11	0.14	0.17	0.06	Total	55.42	61.47	64.64	9.22

Source: Election Commission; SBI Research

In the last decade...58% of new voters are female voters

- While more than 9 crore more voters cast their votes in last decade, ~58% of them are female voters (~5.3 crore)
- Only 6 states (marked in green) accounted for 54% of new female voters
- Regarding female to per 100 male voters, apart from NE states, there are also others states where it is more than 100 (HP, TN, etc.)

Trends in Female Voters (in crore)											
State/UT	2014	2019	2024	Change (2024/2014)	Female per 100 male (2024)	State/UT	2014	2019	2024	Change (2024/2014)	Female per 100 male (2024)
Andhra Pradesh	2.39	1.58	1.69	-	103	Meghalaya	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.03	108
Arunachal Pradesh	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.01	109	Mizoram	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	102
Assam	0.72	0.87	1.00	0.28	100	Nagaland	0.05	0.05	0.04	-0.01	101
Bihar	1.71	2.00	2.18	0.47	102	NCT of Delhi	0.36	0.39	0.41	0.05	84
Chhattisgarh	0.59	0.67	0.75	0.16	100	Odisha	1.04	1.17	1.26	0.21	100
Goa	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.00	108	Punjab	0.66	0.65	0.63	-0.02	89
Gujarat	1.15	1.32	1.32	0.17	84	Rajasthan	1.24	1.53	1.56	0.31	90
Haryana	0.51	0.58	0.60	0.08	85	Sikkim	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.00	100
Himachal Pradesh	0.15	0.19	0.20	0.05	103	Tamil Nadu	2.03	2.19	2.22	0.18	104
Jammu & Kashmir	0.16	0.16	0.24	0.08	89	Telangana	0.00	0.92	1.09	-	100
Jharkhand	0.61	0.73	0.87	0.26	104	Tripura	0.10	0.11	0.11	0.02	98
Karnataka	1.49	1.71	1.92	0.43	99	Uttar Pradesh	3.61	3.99	4.12	0.51	89
Kerala	0.93	1.06	1.03	0.10	109	Uttarakhand	0.21	0.24	0.24	0.02	97
Madhya Pradesh	1.29	1.71	1.77	0.48	88	West Bengal	2.47	2.78	3.00	0.53	99
Maharashtra	2.20	2.49	2.63	0.43	86	Total	26.02	29.46	31.28	5.26	95
Manipur	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.01	108				-		

Source: Election Commission; SBI Research

The voter turnout ratio remain constant around 66% in last decade

- While more than 9 crore more electors cast their votes in last decade, the voter turnout ratio remains almost constant around 66%
- Fortunately, some of the states (marked in green) exhibited excellent increase in voter turnout

Trends in Voter Turnout Ratio (%)									
State/UT	2014	2019	2024	Change (2024/2014)	State/UT	2014	2019	2024	Change (2024/2014)
Andhra Pradesh	74.6	80.4	81.8	-	Mizoram	61.9	63.1	57.1	-4.85
Arunachal Pradesh	79.1	82.1	81.1	1.95	Nagaland	87.9	83.0	57.8	-30.07
Assam	80.1	81.6	81.9	1.75	Odisha	73.8	73.3	74.8	0.99
Bihar	56.3	57.3	56.3	0.02	Punjab	70.6	65.9	62.8	-7.84
Chhattisgarh	69.4	71.6	72.9	3.55	Rajasthan	63.1	66.3	62.1	-1.04
Goa	77.1	75.1	77.0	-0.07	Sikkim	83.6	81.4	83.3	-0.38
Gujarat	63.7	64.5	60.7	-2.92	Tamil Nadu	73.7	72.4	70.1	-3.60
Haryana	71.4	70.3	64.8	-6.68	Telangana	-	62.8	66.3	-
Himachal Pradesh	64.5	72.4	71.5	7.00	Tripura	84.9	82.4	81.8	-3.10
Jharkhand	63.8	66.8	66.8	2.95	Uttar Pradesh	58.4	59.2	57.0	-1.45
Karnataka	67.2	68.8	70.9	3.70	Uttarakhand	61.7	61.9	57.7	-3.98
Kerala	73.9	77.8	72.0	-1.90	West Bengal	82.2	81.8	79.6	-2.67
Madhya Pradesh	61.6	71.2	67.0	5.40	NCT OF Delhi	65.1	60.6	58.8	-6.32
Maharashtra	60.3	61.0	61.5	1.20	Jammu and Kashmir	49.7	45.0	58.7	8.93
Manipur	79.8	82.7	78.3	-1.47	Remaining UTs	78.3	75.6	71.3	-7.07
Meghalaya	68.8	71.4	76.9	8.09	Total	66.4	67.4	66.1	-0.34

Source: Election Commission; SBI Research

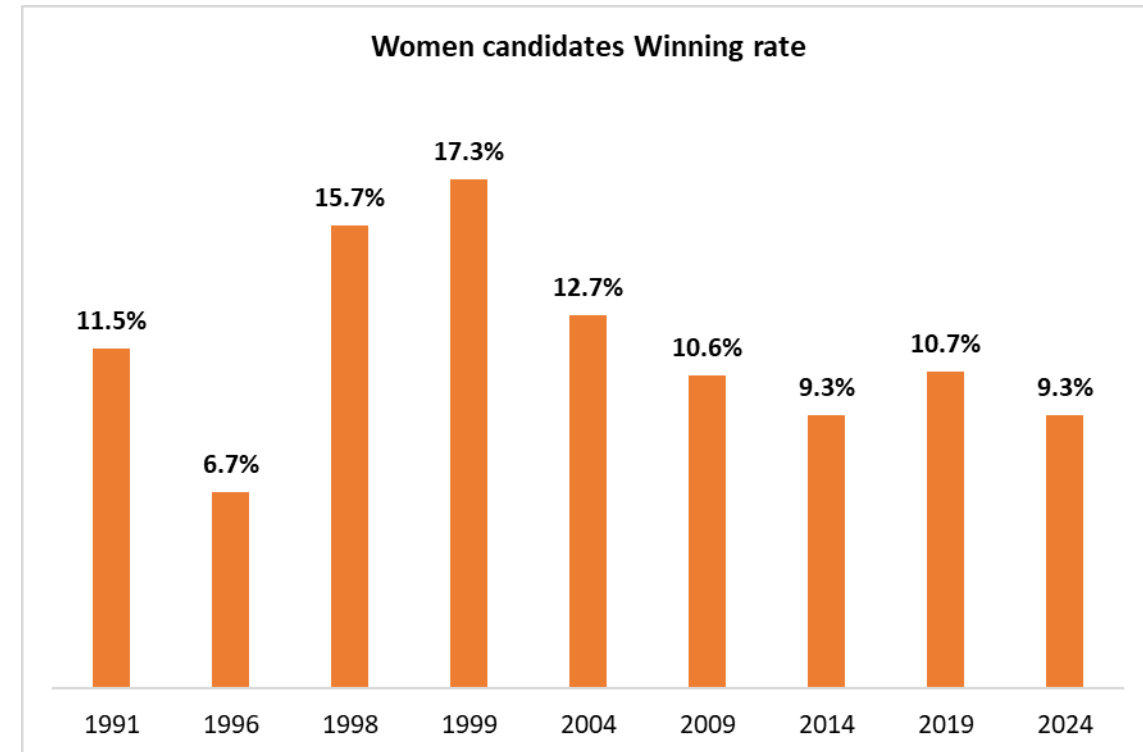
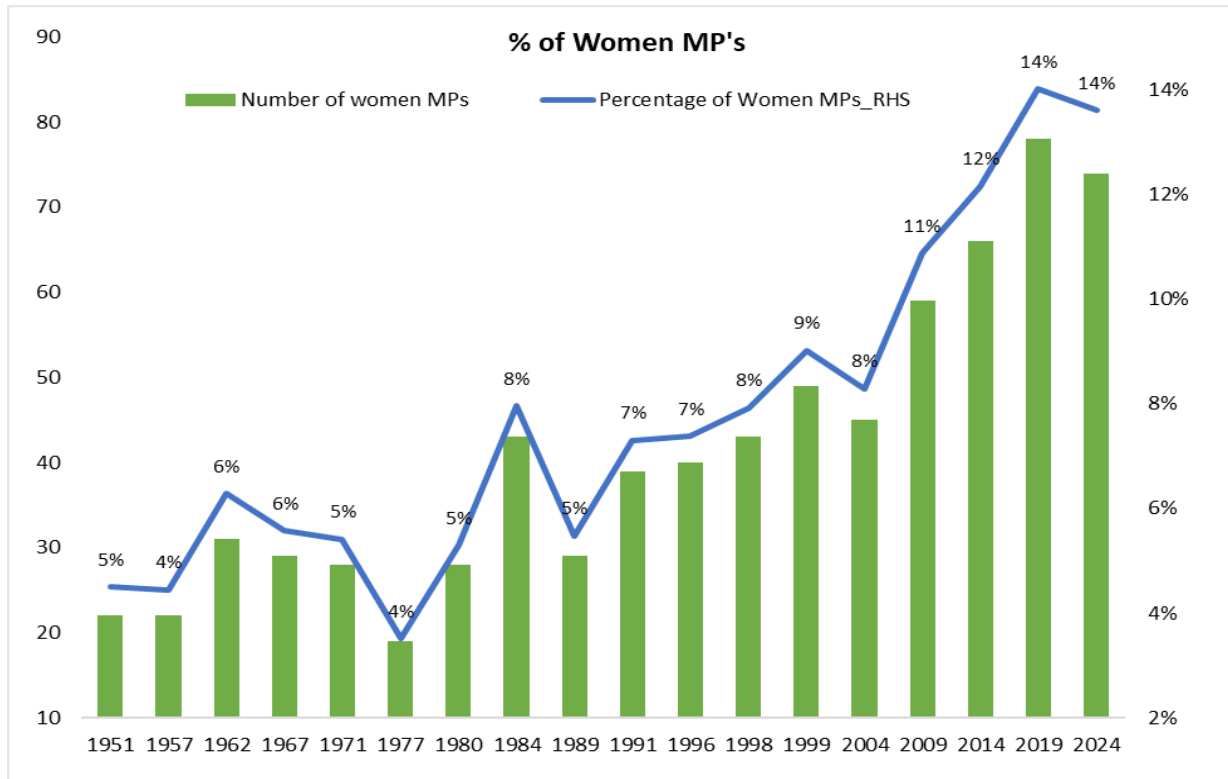
The voter turnout ratio in SC/ST category increased in last decade

- While overall turnout ratio declined marginally, it has increased significantly in SC/ST category (particularly in the case of females), again indicating the empowering of those at bottom of pyramid
- This indicate the awareness of voting among all sections of society

Trends in Voters (in crore)					Voters Turnout ratio (%)			
Social category	2014	2019	2024	Change (2024/2014)	2014	2019	2024	Change (2024/2014)
General	42.2	46.7	49.0	6.8	66.0	66.8	65.5	-0.54
SC	8.8	9.7	10.1	1.3	66.5	67.5	66.0	-0.50
ST	4.5	5.1	5.5	1.1	70.7	73.3	72.5	1.80
Total	55.4	61.5	64.6	9.2	66.4	67.4	66.1	-0.34
Male								
General	22.3	24.1	25.0	2.7	66.5	66.4	64.9	-1.7
SC	4.7	5.0	5.2	0.5	67.1	67.2	65.6	-1.5
ST	2.3	2.6	2.8	0.5	71.7	73.5	72.4	0.8
Total	29.3	31.7	32.9	3.7	67.0	67.0	65.6	-1.5
Female								
General	19.8	22.3	23.7	3.9	65.1	66.6	65.2	0.1
SC	4.1	4.6	4.9	0.8	65.6	67.2	65.6	0.0
ST	2.1	2.5	2.7	0.6	69.4	72.6	71.7	2.2
Total	26.0	29.5	31.3	5.3	65.5	67.2	65.8	0.2

Source: Election Commission; SBI Research

- ❑ Women representation in Lok Sabha has increased from 5% in the first Lok Sabha to 14% in the current Lok Sabha, marginally lower than in 2019, when 78 women were elected
- ❑ % share of women candidates elected to total women candidates is at 9%, slightly lower than 2019 election, but same as 2014 election



- % of elected women is higher than national average in states like Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, HP, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Delhi, Odisha, Uttarakhand and West Bengal

Participation of Women Candidates in Lok Sabha Election									
State /UT	2014			2019			2024		
	% Of women candidates to total candidates	% Of elected women candidates to total women candidates	% of Elected women over total seats	% Of women candidates to total candidates	% Of elected women candidates to total women candidates	% of Elected women over total seats	% Of women candidates to total candidates	% Of elected women candidates to total women candidates	% of Elected women over total seats
Andhra Pradesh	7.2	7.0	7.1	8.5	14.8	16.0	8.4	7.9	12.0
Bihar	7.7	6.4	7.5	8.9	5.4	7.5	7.8	12.8	12.5
Chhattisgarh	10.0	4.8	9.1	13.9	13.0	27.3	13.2	10.3	27.3
Gujarat	4.8	25.0	15.4	7.5	21.4	23.1	7.2	21.1	15.4
Haryana	4.8	-	-	4.9	9.1	10.0	7.2	6.3	10.0
Himachal Pradesh	13.2	-	-	2.2	-	-	8.1	33.3	25.0
Jharkhand	-	-	-	10.9	8.0	14.3	12.7	6.5	14.3
Karnataka	4.6	5.0	3.6	5.6	7.4	7.1	8.9	7.1	10.7
Kerala	10.0	3.7	5.0	10.6	4.2	5.0	12.9	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	9.8	13.5	17.2	9.1	10.0	13.8	7.0	23.1	20.7
Maharashtra	7.7	7.2	10.4	9.1	10.1	16.7	9.9	6.3	14.6
NCT OF Delhi	8.7	7.7	14.3	9.8	6.3	14.3	14.2	8.7	28.6
Odisha	7.9	11.8	9.5	14.4	28.0	33.3	15.9	12.1	19.0
Punjab	7.9	5.0	7.7	9.0	8.0	15.4	7.9	3.8	7.7
Rajasthan	7.2	3.7	4.0	9.2	13.0	12.0	7.1	15.8	12.0
Tamil Nadu	6.5	7.3	10.3	7.9	4.5	7.7	8.1	6.5	12.8
Telangana	-	-	-	5.6	4.0	5.9	9.5	4.0	11.8
Uttar Pradesh	9.8	10.3	16.3	10.8	10.4	13.8	9.4	8.8	8.8
Uttarakhand	-	14.3	20.0	9.6	20.0	20.0	7.3	25.0	20.0
West Bengal	10.8	23.5	28.6	11.6	20.4	26.2	14.2	15.3	26.2
Total	8.1	9.3	11.4	9.0	10.7	14.4	9.6	9.3	13.6

- Among the States such as AP, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha has seen increase in women turnout ratio during the last 10-years, while states like UP, Punjab, Rajasthan, WB, Gujarat, Haryana have seen decline in turnout ratio of women
- If we map the PMJDY and Mudra accounts, women electoral participation is increasing with rising number of Women PMJDY accounts and Women Mudra Loan Accounts

Women Voter Turnout due to PMJDY & Mudra					
States	LS Women Turnout % (2014)	LS Women Turnout % (2024)	Change in LS Women Turnout (2024 minus 2014)	PMJDY women accounts (in Lakhs)	Mudra women account (in Lakhs)
Andhra Pradesh	74.6	81.8	7.1	88	6
Assam	80.1	81.9	1.8	143	4
Bihar	56.3	56.3	0.0	345	69
Chhattisgarh	69.4	72.9	3.6	101	7
Delhi	65.1	58.8	-6.3	32	2
Gujarat	63.7	60.7	-2.9	97	12
Haryana	71.4	64.8	-6.7	52	7
Himachal Pradesh	64.5	71.5	7.0	10	1
Jharkhand	63.8	66.8	3.0	108	16
Karnataka	67.2	70.9	3.7	112	44
Kerala	73.9	72.0	-1.9	39	13
Madhya Pradesh	61.6	67.0	5.4	247	24
Maharashtra	60.3	61.5	1.2	201	42
Odisha	73.8	74.8	1.0	127	30
Punjab	70.6	62.8	-7.8	50	6
Rajasthan	63.1	62.1	-1.0	210	20
Tamil Nadu	73.7	70.1	-3.6	97	48
Telangana	62.6	66.3	3.7	71	5
Uttar Pradesh	58.4	57.0	-1.4	518	47
Uttarakhand	61.7	57.7	-4.0	20	3
West Bengal	82.2	79.6	-2.7	304	50

- We tested if the women centric schemes has any impact on increase in women voter turnout in general election 2024 as compared to 2019
- States with any women centric scheme launched after 2019 are grouped as 1 (for instance: Assam, Maharashtra, MP, Karnataka etc...), while others as 0 (for instance: Arunachal Pradesh, Goa etc...)
- Using Welch’s t-test methodology (accounting for unequal variances), we are able to reject the null hypothesis at 5% significance level – indicating that increase in mean women voter turnout is significantly higher in states which have focused on women welfare ... as compared to those that haven’t
- Further, we can conclude that **in states, where one or more women-centric schemes have been launched, average women voter turnout in 19 beneficiary states increased by 7.8 lakh (cumulatively: 1.5 crore) in 2024 as compared to increase of only 2.5 lakh (cumulatively: 0.3 crore) in states where no-such schemes were launched after 2019**

Welch’s t-test	
Group	Mean increase in women voter turnout
0	2,50,301
1	7,81,679
diff	5,31,378

diff = mean(0) - mean(1)		
H0: diff = 0		
Ha: diff<0	Ha: diff !=0	Ha: diff>0
Pr(t<t) = 0.0418	Pr(T > t) = 0.0835	Pr(T>t) = 0.9582

Null rejected

Note: Group 0 – states with no women centric schemes launched after 2019

Scheme Name	State	Starting year	Female voters change in last two assembly elections(In lakhs)
Ladli Behna Yojana	MP	2023	28.3
Gruha Lakshmi Scheme	Karnataka	2023	13.7
Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana	Maharashtra	2024	52.6
Subhadra Yojana kalighar	Odisha	2024	9.1
Lakshmi Bhandar scheme	West Bengal	2021	29.1
Magalir Urimai scheme	Tamil Nadu	2023	15.6
Mukhya Mantri Maiya Samman Yojana	Jharkhand	2024	17.0
Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyaan	Assam	2024	13.0

- To capture the impact of women empowerment on female voter’s turnout, we estimated a *Panel data Regression model* for all 28 states for 2019 and 2024 elections
- For quantifying women empowerment, Literacy, Employment, House ownership, Electricity access, drinking water, and Sanitation are taken as proxies
- The model is specified as

$$Y_t = \alpha + \beta_1 X_{1it} + \beta_2 X_{2it} + \beta_3 X_{3it} + \beta_4 X_{4it} + \beta_5 X_{5it} + \beta_6 X_{6it}$$

for i = 1,2,328
and t= 2019, 2024

Where Y_t represents voter’s turnout ratio

X_1 is the female literacy rate

X_2 is the female employment ratio

X_3 is house ownership by females

X_4 is electricity access ratio

X_5 is usage ratio of improved drinking water

X_6 is the usage of improved sanitation facility

- Hausman test chi- square value indicates that random effects model is consistent over fixed effects and hence **Random effects Panel data Regression model** is used for estimation
- **We find that female literacy, employment, House Ownership, Sanitation have significant impact on voter’s turnout ratio (statistically significant at 10%)**

Results of Hausman Test	
Test of H0: Difference in coefficients not systematic	
chi2(5) = (b-B)'[(V_b-V_B)^(-1)](b-B)	12.75
Prob > chi2 = 0.125	
where b= coefficient of fixed model	
B= coefficient of Random model	
V_b-V_B = difference between the variance-covariance matrices of the fixed effects and random effects models	

- ❑ We find that a 1% rise in literacy rate leads to a 25% rise in female voter’s turnout ratio implying that out of the 1.8 crores incremental female voters (2024 vs 2019 elections), **45 lakh female voters rise is attributable to a rise in literacy**
- ❑ Similarly, **36 lakhs incremental female voters** (turnout) can be attributable to **employment /Mudra Yojana among others**
- ❑ The coefficient of house ownership indicates that ~ **20 lakh incremental female voters (turnout) is attributable to House Ownership.** (This is also reflected in house ownership under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana with 74% of the sanctioned houses owned by women solely or jointly)
- ❑ **Sanitation accounts for ~ 21 lakh incremental female voters' turnout in 2024** elections implying the paramount significance of sanitation in shaping the socio-political priorities
- ❑ Electricity access and improved drinking water source show positive coefficients on female voter’s turnout, however they are not statistically significant
- ❑ Rho (interclass correlation coefficient) (0.629) indicates that 62% of the variation in voter’s turnout is caused due to inter states differences implying than within states differences are not significant and hence these variables delineate a positive impact on all classes of population in a state

Panel Estimation Results:		
	Coefficients	p value
Literacy	0.25	0.052*
Employment	0.20	0.007*
House Ownership	0.11	0.099**
Electricity Access	0.15	0.224
Drinking Water	0.01	0.963
Sanitation	0.12	0.108
R-squared: 0.275		
Prob > chi2 = 0.000		
Rho= .6295		
*: statistically significant at 5%		
**: statistically significant at 10%		

- ❑ India's democratic framework thrives on the vibrancy of its electoral process, enabling citizens to actively shape governance at every level. Since independence, over 400 elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies have showcased the Election Commission of India's commitment to fairness and transparency
- ❑ However, the fragmented and frequent nature of elections has sparked discussions on the need for a more efficient system. This has led to the resurgence of interest in the concept of "One Nation, One Election". Conducting simultaneous elections could significantly cut down the financial costs associated with multiple election cycles. The economic benefits include a more efficient allocation of resources and better fiscal management, fostering a conducive environment for economic growth and investor confidence
- ❑ If we look the state budgets, election promises in legislative elections ranges from 0.1 - 2.7% of GSDP for different states and around 5-10% of own tax revenue of the states. If we include the contingent liabilities along with freebies, then they come around 10% of the GSDP for all the states combined. We expect SC panel should fix a band say 1% GSDP or 1% of state own tax collections or 1% to state revenue expenditure for these welfare schemes of the states. With this, the desired welfare schemes can be implemented in a proper way, while simultaneously freeing up resources for productive capital formation
- ❑ **Further, in an attempt to allow every citizen to cast his/her valuable vote, we suggest the Hon'ble Election Commission to implement a robust absentee voting system – around 30 crore as per EC estimates...in terms of postal voting, early voting, proxy voting or electronic voting options – that allows the person to exercise his right in the biggest festival of democracy...**



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