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Title : **Assembly Elections in Uttar Pradesh
During 2002-2012: A Study of Trends,
Patterns and Processes**

ABSTRACT

The present research study focuses on the political scenario in the State of Uttar Pradesh and analysis of trends, patterns, processes during the period 2002-2012. Since independence, politics in U.P. has seen many ups and downs, experiencing three different phases including the Congress regime, the Coalition politics regime, and the Regional party regime. During the period 2002-2012, Uttar Pradesh has ruled by political parties viz. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Samajwadi Party (SP). The U.P. is greatly impacted by the regionalization of politics at the micro-level. It is thus imperative to analyze these micro factors that are playing a decisive role in U.P politics and may assume even greater importance in future. The micro-level regionalization of politics has been the result of political mobilization of people speaking different local dialects, and belonging to different castes, and the excessive role of local problems in state politics which is significantly changing the voting behavior of people across the State. Besides, spatial variation in the population, occupation, age and income also influences the situation, time, place and political system and is deeply associated with voting behavior. These changing patterns of voting behavior were observed in the assembly elections of 2002, 2007 and 2012. The present study is an attempt to arrive at an ecological analysis of the geographical nature of these varying voting responses. This analysis of voting pattern and spatial strength of political parties, also needs to be accompanied by a study of the policies, programmes and promises offered by all the political parties in the fray and issues of national and regional importance rebating at that time. The manifestoes of major political parties are designed in accordance with the major issues at stake during the concomitant period, as they put forth the party's views and proposed strategies to increment its goals and policies. The study also attempts

to identify the major issues affecting the electorate during the respective elections, which are likely to have played a crucial role in determining the voting choice of the people. On the whole, the present research work studies in detail the political situation prevailing in the State of Uttar Pradesh and the performance of various parties active in the State during the 2002, 2007 and 2012 Assembly elections. It analyses the evolution of the four main parties in the State, viz. the Congress, BJP, BSP and the SP and the strategies and policies adopted by them over the course of the last decade and a half that have significantly influenced political developments during this period not just in the State but also at the national level. The 2012 elections in U.P were won convincingly by the SP, and this study documents the reasons for and events leading up to this outcome. However, since then, there have been momentous developments instigated by the resurgence of the BJP in the State and its massive victory in the 2017 Assembly elections. This development has completely altered the political dynamics in the state by virtually eroding the support base of the other regional parties.