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## HISTORY OF ELECTORAL POLITICS AND TREND OF PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN ASSAM

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### Abstract

Assam dominates India's Northeast. The State's social, economic, and political actions are significant. Assam became a British colony in 1826, and its history mirrored India's. Assam's history includes people from the east, west, and north of India, as well as Indo-Aryan, Austro-Asian, and Tibeto-Burman civilizations. Politically, it has been invaded but never a vassal or colony until the Burmese in 1821 and the British in 1826. The British took control of Assam after defeating the Burmese in the First Anglo-Burmese War and the Treaty of Yandaboo, ending the medieval period. The study analyzes the history of electoral politics and trends in assam.

**Keywords:** History, Electoral Politics, Trend, People, Participation, Assam.

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### Introduction

After the Burmese took Assam, the British attacked. Koch Hajo (lower Assam) was annexed in 1824. The next year, the British won in upper Assam, culminating to the Treaty of Yandaboo (Ahuja, 2005). The Ahoms didn't back the British in this fight against the Burmese, hence lower Assam was seized in March 1828. After King Govinda Chandra's death, the Kachari kingdom was seized under the Doctrine of Lapse.

The British influenced the Jaintia ruler when the Khasi monarch surrendered in 1832. Upper Assam became a British protectorate in 1833 under the former Ahom monarch, Purandhar Singha, but was fully taken over by the British Empire in 1838. With the conquest of Maran-Matak in 1839, Assam was annexed (Goswami, 2001).

### Research Methodology

The study is exploratory, quantitative, and combines quantitative and qualitative research. Primary and secondary sources were used. Primary data from a field survey using stratified random sampling. Field surveys used questionnaires to acquire primary data. Interviewing stakeholders is another way. SPSS analyzes data. Books, periodicals, articles, government reports (e.g., Census report, Election commission report), newspapers, TV, etc. are secondary sources.



Before 2016, Assam had 34 districts. The field survey was in Jorhat. Two of the district's five assembly seats, Mariani and Teok, were chosen. Stratified random sampling was used to sample 4 polling stations from each LAC. During the survey, 599 samples were obtained from 74 respondents at each voting site.

Field survey questionnaires gathered primary data. The poll was performed in a specified universe using stratified random sampling. The interviewer recorded replies to a predefined questionnaire. The researcher and an outreach surveyor performed the study. These surveyors were trained on how to approach respondents to elicit excellent answers to each question to accomplish the intended goals.

### **Results**

First Assam assembly election analysis presented. Since the first general election in 1952 through the 1970s, electoral politics in Assam mirrored Indian politics. In this election, participation was over 50% and Indian National Congress (INC) was the sole prominent national party. End of the 1970s, sociopolitical forces changed the political climate.

The party polled at 79.2%. First time a regional political party won 126 assembly seats. Since 1985, Assam's electoral participation, sociopolitical challenges, etc. have changed significantly.

**Table 1: Gender wise Polling Percentage in Assembly Election**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Polling Percentage</b>
1956	N/A*	N/A	45.44%
1962	15.89%	09.34%	51.05%
1967	20.38%	13.31%	51.05%
1972	22.51%	16.00%	60.85%
1978	30.97%	22.34%	66.86%
1983	13.94%	09.91%	32.74%
1985	42.35%	35.93%	79.21%
1992	48.02%	40.78%	74.67%
1996	51.19%	44.45%	78.92%



2001	58.35%	50.02%	75.05%
2006	68.81%	63.19%	75.77%
2011	74.94%	76.85%	75.92%
2016	84.33%	84.67%	84.49%

Since 1956, voting has increased gradually. The proportion fell dramatically in 1983 due to agitators' opposition. 17 districts couldn't vote that year. After the signing of the Assam Accord in 1985, the House was dissolved and elections were held.

**Table 2: Total Contestants in Assembly Elections**

Year	Men	Women	Total Candidates
1956	305	6	312
1962	405	4	409
1967	486	6	492
1972	510	12	522
1978	916	22	938
1983	472	3	475
1985	1104	29	1133
1992	1607	50	1657
1996	1012	17	1029
2001	861	55	916
2006	927	70	977
2011	896	112	981
2016	973	118	1064



The number of candidates in each election has increased, yet people have voted in record numbers. In 1983, there were few candidates owing to the reasons listed, but in 1992, there were a record number due to the President's rule and the Indian Army's anti-insurgency operations. People were ready to return to democracy.

**Table 3: Growth of Electorates in Assam Assembly Election**

Year	Total Electorates/Voters	Year	Total Electorates/ Voters
1952	4929004	1985	9883304
1957	5368131	1991	11892068
1962	4742816	1996	12585712
1967	5585056	2001	14426221
1972	6296198	2006	17434019
1978	7974395	2011	18188269
1983	8655056	2016	19990755

**Table 4: Voter’s Turnout in the Assembly Elections in Assam, 1952-2016**

Year of Election	Total votespolled	Valid VotesPolled	Polled Percentages
1952	2504179	2448890	50.00%
1957	2560704	2523970	47.7%
1962	2608483	2444161	55.0%
1967	3369249	3107184	60.3%
1972	3849821	3713700	61.8%
1978	5331402	5165252	66.8%



1983	2830203	2767939	32.7%
1985	7769233	7362797	79.21%
1991	8801776	8287489	74.0%
1996	9564434	9092800	76.0%
2001	9821305	9526145	68.0%
2006	13209887	13199969	75.77%
2011	13809440	13820576	75.92%
2016	16891142	16730279	84.49%

In the following table, the number of women who voted and their performance are shown.

**Table 5: Women Contestants in Assembly Elections**

Year	Total Women Candidates	Won	Year	Total Women Candidates	Won
1956	6	5	1992	50	5
1962	4	4	1996	17	6
1967	6	4	2001	55	10
1972	12	0	2006	70	13
1978	22	1	2011	85	14
1983	3	2	2016	91	8
1985	29	5			

In general, women's involvement rose, but no clear pattern emerged. 1983 and 1996 were exceptions to a developing trend. Since 1972, real winning numbers rose from 0 to 13. The score achieved 100 percent in 1962.



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## Conclusion

Assam dominates India's Northeast. The State's social, economic, and political actions are also significant. Assam became a British colony in 1826, and its history mirrored India's. Assam's history includes people from the east, west, and north of India, as well as Indo-Aryan, Austro-Asian, and Tibeto-Burman civilizations. The creation of a BJP administration under Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, who made pledges during the 2014 Lok Sabha election in Assam. This research examined people's perceptions of political engagement.

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