

# 'Healthy' turnout expected in UP

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**LUCKNOW, DHNS:** With up to 60% of young voters in the age group of 18-30 enthusiastic to exercise their franchise, a "healthy" turnout is expected in the Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, revealed a survey by Assocham.

The survey also indicated that the young voters would "seriously consider" many issues before selecting their candidates.

"Climate and environment, corruption, cost of living, crime, education, healthcare, housing, infrastructure, jobs and social welfare together with safety and security are key election issues for young voters in the state," highlighted the Associated Chambers of Com-

## Young voters

■ **60%:** Enthusiastic to exercise their franchise

■ **15%:** Undecided, but keeping track of elections through social media platforms

■ **10%:** Don't think anything would change as all political parties were the same

■ **5%:** Did not feel very strongly about elections

■ **5%:** Would rather treat voting day as a holiday

merce and Industry of India (Assocham) survey, conducted last fortnight.

"Efforts of the Election Commission together with campaigns being run across different media have significantly helped in raising awareness

about the importance of voting among youth and in building their opinion," said D S Rawat, secretary general of Assocham.

Of the remaining 40%, 15% respondents said they were undecided and have not yet made up their mind about voting, even though they are keeping track of the elections through social media platforms.

About 10% said they "did not think anything would change even if they voted as all political parties were the same" and their vote would not make a difference. About 5% said they did not feel very strongly about elections as they were not aware of the issues and they did not have much at stake. The remaining said they would rather treat voting day as a holiday.

**DH News Service**

# 'Parties ignore youths' pet issues'

*Poll campaigns silent on climate, education, health, jobs, security: Survey*

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
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Young voters in Uttar Pradesh, aged between 18 to 30, said they would seriously consider issues such as climate and environment, corruption, cost of living, crime and security, education, healthcare, housing, infrastructure and jobs while deciding who to vote for, according to a survey conducted by the Assocham Social Development Foundation.

None of the political parties are addressing these issues in their campaign.

Releasing the study on Monday, secretary general of Assocham D.S. Rawat



BATTLEGROUND

UTTAR PRADESH ELECTION 2017

said, "Efforts of the Election Commission, together with campaigns being run across different media, have significantly helped in raising awareness about the importance of voting among youth and in building their opinion."

The foundation interacted with about 2,500 people in the age group of 18-30 years during the course of the past one month across 12 districts of Uttar Pradesh — Agra, Aligarh,

Allahabad, Chitrakoot, Faizabad, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Meerut, Moradabad, Saharanpur and Varanasi.

The survey was aimed as assessing whether the youth in the state are aware of their voting rights and about the importance their votes hold in selection of the state government.

Overall, almost 60 per cent of youngsters said that they planned to use their democratic rights, and some of

them felt that if you choose not to vote, you automatically give up your right to complain.

The Assocham survey also highlighted that the youth in Uttar Pradesh are politically active apart from being cosmopolitan, liberal and hopeful. Besides, they are not bogged down by negativity and cynicism of election campaigns.

Of the remaining 40 per cent of youth, about 15 per cent respondents said they are undecided and have yet not made up their mind as to whether they would vote or not, but they are surely keeping a track of elections through social media platforms.

# Healthy voter turnout likely in UP: Survey

**HT Correspondent**

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**LUCKNOW:** Uttar Pradesh is likely to register a healthy voter turnout in the assembly elections, suggests a just-concluded survey conducted by Assocham social development foundation.

The survey suggests up to 60% of young voters in the age group of 18-30 years, both students and working professionals, are enthusiastic about exercising their franchise.

Interestingly, many of the respondents said they would 'seriously consider' many issues before selecting the candidate they would vote for.

"Crime, education, health care, housing, infrastructure, jobs, social welfare together with safety and security are certain key election issues for young voters in the state," highlighted the Assocham survey conducted during the past fortnight.

"Efforts of the Election Commission together with cam-

paigns being run across different media have significantly helped raise awareness about importance of voting among youth and in building their opinion," said DS Rawat, secretary general of Assocham, while releasing the findings of the survey.

"Young voters, together as a group, can make a serious impact on the outcome, but ensuring their turnout is a bigger factor in this regard," he said. "Considering that today's young people are much better educated and are much more aware than previous generations, even political parties are trying to woo them with much élan," said Rawat.

The Assocham Social Development Foundation interacted with about 2,500 people in the age group of 18-30 years during the past one month across 12 divisions of UP—Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Chitrakoot, Faizabad, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Meerut, Moradabad, Saharanpur and Varanasi.

## 'High turnout in UP polls likely, youths enthusiastic to vote'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh is likely to register a healthy voter turnout in the assembly elections as a majority of youths plan to exercise their franchise, according to a survey conducted by industry body ASSOCHAM.

"Up to 60 per cent of young voters in the age group of 18 to 30, be it students or working professionals, are enthusiastic about exercising their franchise in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections," it said. The survey said "climate and environment, corruption, cost of living, crime and security, education, health care, housing, infrastructure, jobs, social welfare along with safety and security" are key election issues for young voters in the state.

"The efforts of the Election Commission and campaigns being run across different media platforms have significantly helped raise awareness about the importance of voting among youths," ASSOCHAM secretary general DS Rawat said. Young voters, together as a group can make a serious impact on the outcome. But

ensuring that they turnout in good numbers is a bigger factor, he said.

ASSOCHAM Social Development Foundation interacted with about 2,500 people aged 18 to 30 in the past one month in Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Chitrakoot, Faizabad, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Meerut, Moradabad, Saharanpur and Varanasi. The survey was aimed to gauge if the youth in the state is aware of their voting rights. Almost 60 per cent of the total representatives said they plan to use their democratic rights as many of them felt that "if you choose not to vote, you automatically waive your right to complain".

Many said that elections help them connect with the news as "you follow politicians and key policy initiatives". Some of them even felt it is essential that young people take advantage of their right to vote as it helps in creating a future that aligns with their fundamental beliefs thereby setting a precedent for future generations, it said.

The ASSOCHAM survey also highlighted that the youth in UP is politically active. The

youngsters are cosmopolitan, liberal and hopeful and are not bogged down by negativity and cynicism of election campaigns. Of the remaining 40 per cent, about 15 per cent respondents said they are undecided and have yet not made up their mind as to whether they will go for voting but they are surely keeping a track of elections through social media platforms.

While about 10 per cent said they do not think anything is going to change even if they vote as "all political parties are the same and that their vote will not make a difference". About five per cent said they do not feel very strongly about elections as they are not aware about the issues and they do not have much at stake, the survey said.

While the remaining said they would rather treat the voting day as a holiday. Among other reasons that people gave for abstaining from participating in elections are lack of knowledge, not feeling represented by any of the parties or candidates, not being able to tell the parties apart and not feeling that their vote counts, it said.

