

# Countdown to 2024: Analysing Ajmer Lok Sabha

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## Introduction

Ajmer Lok Sabha Constituency is one of the 25 parliamentary constituencies in Rajasthan. Since 1989, the Ajmer seat has largely been under the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) sway. The party's stalwart, Shri Rasa Singh Rawat, held this seat for five consecutive terms. In the 2009 general elections, the Congress pulled off a remarkable upset. Shri Sachin Pilot, a young and dynamic leader, defeated the BJP's Shri Kirron Maheshwari to secure victory.

Shri Bhagirath Choudhary (OBC-Jat) of the Bharatiya Janata Party is the current representative from this seat. Ajmer is a geographically, socially, and demographically diverse constituency. These various communities also decide the political outcome in the area. No third prominent political party exists other than the BJP and the INC in Ajmer. Smt. Vasundhara Raje (OBC-Kunbi) and Shri Ashok Gehlot (OBC-Mali) have also been very prominent faces of these parties and have a

huge vote base because of their work. Hence the election is always a nail-biting race to witness with the votes swinging towards one party or the other.

### **Voting Patterns**

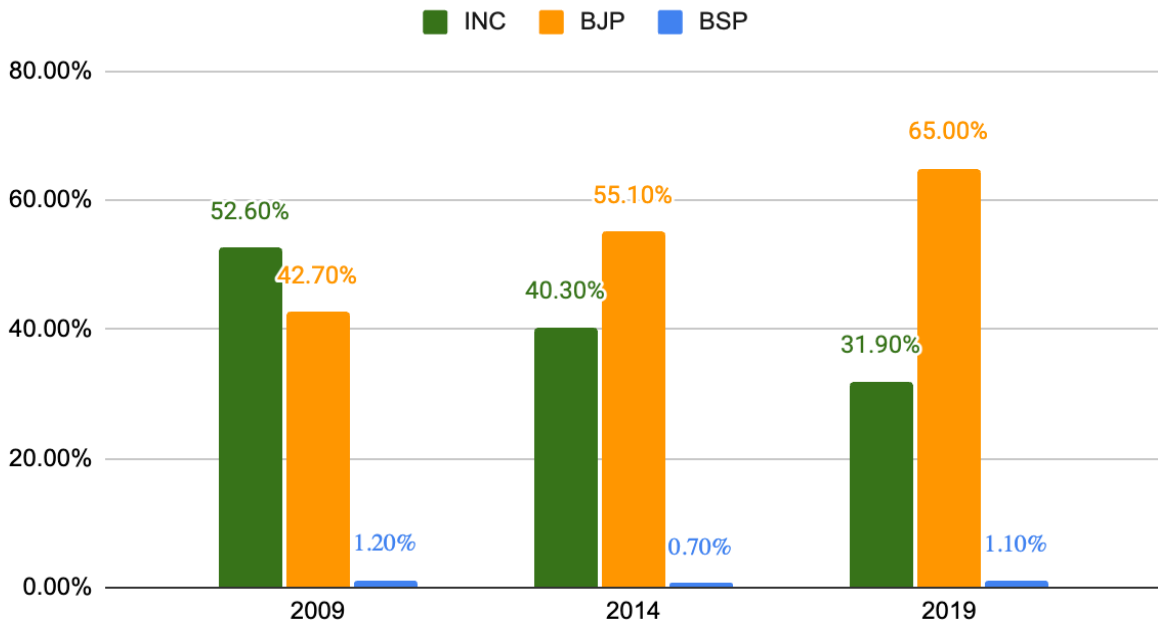
Ajmer has always witnessed a bipolar Lok Sabha contest, with the BJP and the INC securing almost 95-98% of the total votes. Caste dynamics also play a crucial role in this. As per the 2011 census, 66% of the voters belong to rural areas, and the remaining 34% are urban voters which are reflected in their voting patterns. The demographic includes 19.5% SCs, 13.2% Jats, 12.5% Gujjars, 12.7% Muslims, 9.38% Rawats, 9% Vaishyas and 3% STs. From them; Jats, Gujjars, and Rawats voters have been the voter base for the BJP.

On the other hand, the Muslims and the Dalits predominantly vote for the INC. The voters in Ajmer show a similar pattern in voting for the MP as well as the MLAs. The BJP has held 6 out of 8 assembly seats in the 2018 elections and won 7 out of 8 in the recent assembly elections in 2023. This shows the constituency-wide support for BJP's policies and decisions. Some of the most prominent issues in Ajmer that the people vote on are infrastructure development, employment generation, irrigation, and religious harmony. Agricultural reforms, water scarcity, farmer welfare, and youth employment are the concerns in the community that the voters want these candidates to solve.

### **Past Election Analysis**

Ajmer constituency was held by Shri Sachin Pilot of INC from 2009 to 2014. In the next two Lok Sabha elections, the BJP candidates emerged victorious.

## Ajmer Lok Sabha Past Election Analysis



### 2014 General Elections

Following the Modi wave in the nation, the BJP had a clean victory in the Lok Sabha elections in Ajmer. Shri Sawar Lal Jat, a Jat himself, won with 6,37,874, which is, almost 55.1% of the total votes. He was leading in all 8 assembly segments in Ajmer showing the support of the people from all castes and regions there and got the support of the Brahmin, Mahajan, Rawat, and Mali communities. He defeated the sitting MP Shri Sachin Pilot (OBC-Gurjar) who won 40.3% (4,65,891) votes which was a fair share. Muslim and SC votes proved to be his strength. Following these two, NCP, BSP, and other independent candidates managed to win a total of 4.5% votes in all, which was almost insignificant.

Almost 60-70% of the Brahmins, the Rajputs, the Jats, and the OBCs voted for the BJP and 45-50% of the Muslims and the Dalits voted for the Congress. He was a popular politician in the region, with his work as the chairman of Rajasthan Kisan Aayog and the cabinet minister in the Government of Rajasthan. His work on irrigation in the Ajmer constituency had positive feedback from the voters, which gained him support in the Lok Sabha elections.

### 2019 General Elections

Shri Bhagirath Choudhary (OBC-Jat) of the BJP won the elections, continuing the streak of the party in Ajmer. He secured 8,11,091 (65%) votes and won by a greater margin than in the previous elections. Shri Riju Jhunjunwala (GEN-Marwari) came in second with 3,97,420 (31.9%) votes. The vote share of other parties and candidates was again, insignificant. Shri Choudhary was leading

in all assembly segments by a huge margin. Like the last time, he appealed to the Jat vote bank in the constituency, alongside Shri Narendra Modi as the BJP's face. This was a result of the growing popularity of the party in Rajasthan and the work that the state leadership had done in the 2014 term. This might have been a victory work as the sitting MLA in the region too. This time, almost 80-85% of Brahmin, Jat, Rajput, and OBC voters voted for the BJP and 78% of the Muslims voted for the INC.

## **2023 Assembly Elections**

There are a total of 8 assembly seats in the Ajmer constituency region. There is a bipolar contest witnessed here, too. Some independent candidates rose to prominence, but none of them were strong enough to beat the BJP or the INC. In 2023, the BJP managed to win 7 out of 8 assembly seats and asserted their dominance in Ajmer. There are caste and community equations that impact the vote share, but it is still divided between the two parties only. Communities like the Jats, Gurjars, and Malis play an important role and sway the vote share. The people are consistent with their support in both assembly and Lok Sabha elections, on both the regional and the national levels.

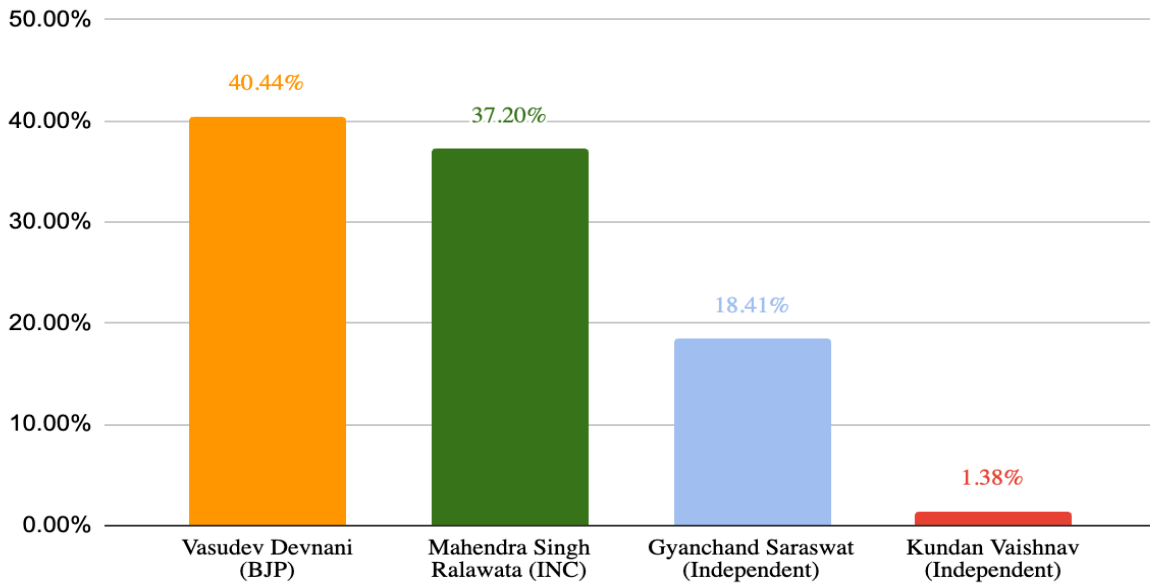
### **1. Ajmer North**

It is one of the 8 assembly seats in Ajmer. There are 28,000 (13.6%) SCs, 25,000 (12.1%) Rajputs, 23,000 (11.1%) Muslims, 19,000 (9.2%) Brahmins, 18,000 (8.7%) Sindhis, 17,000 (8.2%) Vaishyas, 12,000 (5.8%) Malis, 10,000 (4.8%) Rawats, 10,000 (4.8%) Kayasthas, 9,000 (4.3%) Gurjars, 10,000 (4.8%) STs, 6,000 (2.9%) Yadavs, and 19000 others<sup>1</sup>. It is a General category seat. In the 2023 elections, Shri Vasudev Devnani (GEN-Sindhi) of the BJP won by securing 40% of the total votes. This was the party's 5th consecutive win. Shri Mahendra Singh Ralawata (GEN-Gurjar) secured the second position with a significant 37% vote. Shri Devnani (GEN-Sindhi) consolidated the votes of the Sindhi community which proved to be an important contributor to his win, along with the support of other communities like the Gurjars, Jats, and Rawats.

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<sup>1</sup> [ETV Bharat/Ajmer North](#)

### Assembly Elections 2023- Ajmer North



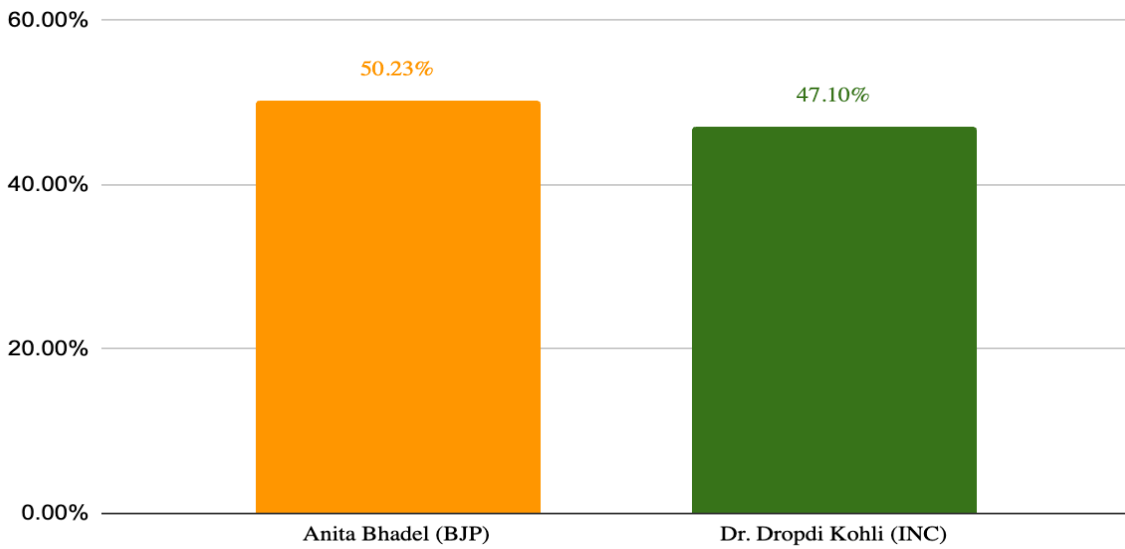
## 2. Ajmer South

This is an SC category seat. The demographic composition includes almost 4,000 (1.9%) Kolis, 30,000 (14.8%) Sindhis, 32,000 (15.8%) Regars, 20,000 (9.8%) Brahmins, 15,000 (7.4%) Malis, 12,000 (5.9%) Muslims, 10,000 (4.9%) Vaishyas, 9,000 (4.4%) Gurjars, and 5,000 (2.4%) Rajputs<sup>2</sup>. Smt. Anita Bhadel (SC-Koli) of the BJP became the MLA for the 4th time by winning 50% of the votes, while Dr. Dropdi Kohli (SC-) of the INC got 47% votes. The result of the contest between these two women candidates was decided by the party's popularity in the region for the last few decades. The BJP consolidated the votes of the general category voters (Jats, Gurjars, etc.), while the INC won the majority votes of the Muslim and SC voters.

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<sup>2</sup> [ETV Bharat/Ajmer South](#)

### Assembly Elections 2023- Ajmer South

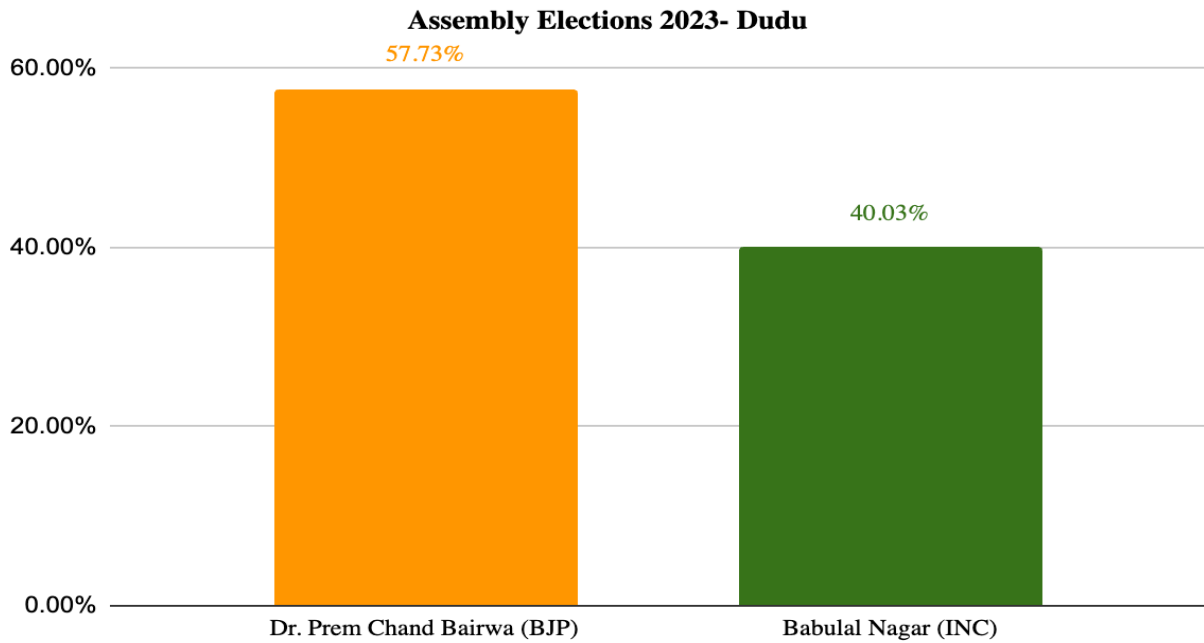


### 3. Dudu

This seat is dominated by the rural voters (100%). While it is a scheduled caste seat, there are 70,000 (28.1%) SCs, 40,000-50,000 (16-20%) Jats, 35,000 (14%) Bairwas, 30,000 (12%) Gurjars, 20,000 (8%) Rajputs, and 7,000 (2.8%) Brahmins<sup>3</sup>. Dr. Prem Chand Bairawa (SC-Bairwa) of the BJP won the 2023 elections with 57% votes, defeating Shri Babulal Nagar (SC-Dalit) of the INC who won 40% of the votes. Following the pattern, a major section of the Muslims and the STs voted for the INC. On the other hand, SCs, Brahmins, Jats, and Gurjars predominantly supported the BJP. The SC support proved to be the deciding factor. There was no strong independent candidate to threaten the win in this bipolar contest. Introducing a Bairwa candidate worked in the favor of the BJP.

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<sup>3</sup> [ETV Bharat/Dudu](#)

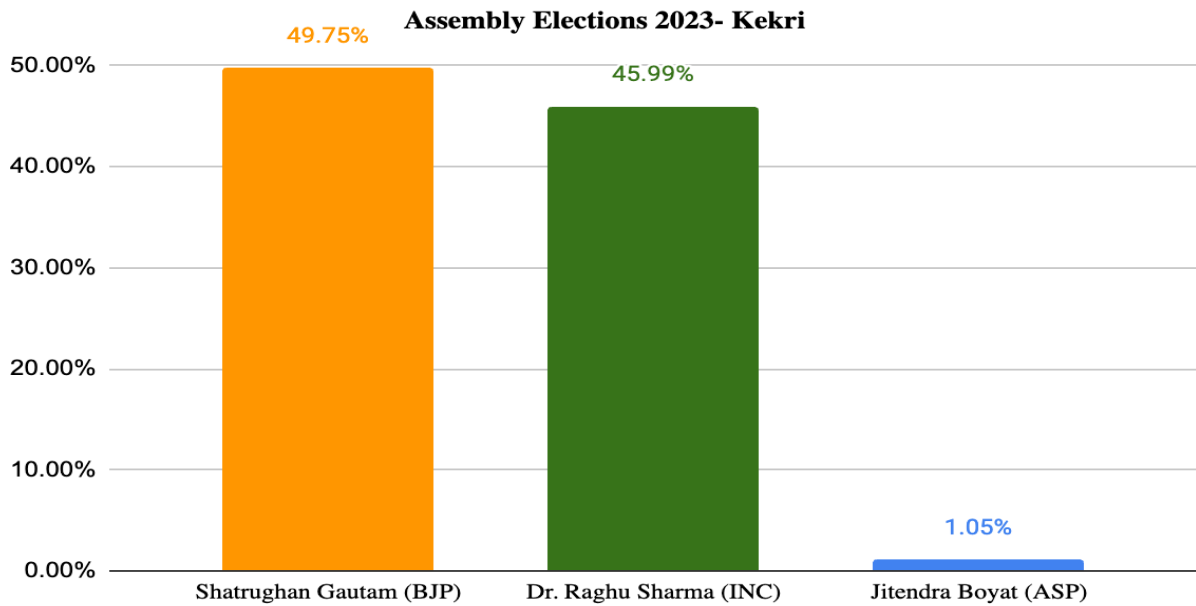


#### 4. **Kekri**

It is a general category assembly seat with 81% rural voters. There are around 60,000 (23.5%) SCs, 25,000 (9.8%) Gurjars, 22,000 (8.6%) Brahmins, 20,000 (7.8%) Muslims, 20,000 (7.8%) Vaishyas, 12,000 (4.7%) Rajputs, 10,000 (3.9%) Malis, and 10,000 (3.9%) STs in the constituency<sup>4</sup>. There has always been a close bipolar contest between the BJP and the INC here. In the 2023 elections, Shri Shatrughan Gautam (GEN-Brahmin) of the BJP won 49% of the total votes by winning the votes of the general category voters. On the other hand, Dr. Raghu Sharma (GEN-Brahmin) of the INC came in second with a significant 46% vote share. Introducing a Brahmin candidate worked in the favour of the saffron party. They also consolidated the votes of Jats and Gurjars.

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<sup>4</sup> [ETV Bharat/Kekri](#)



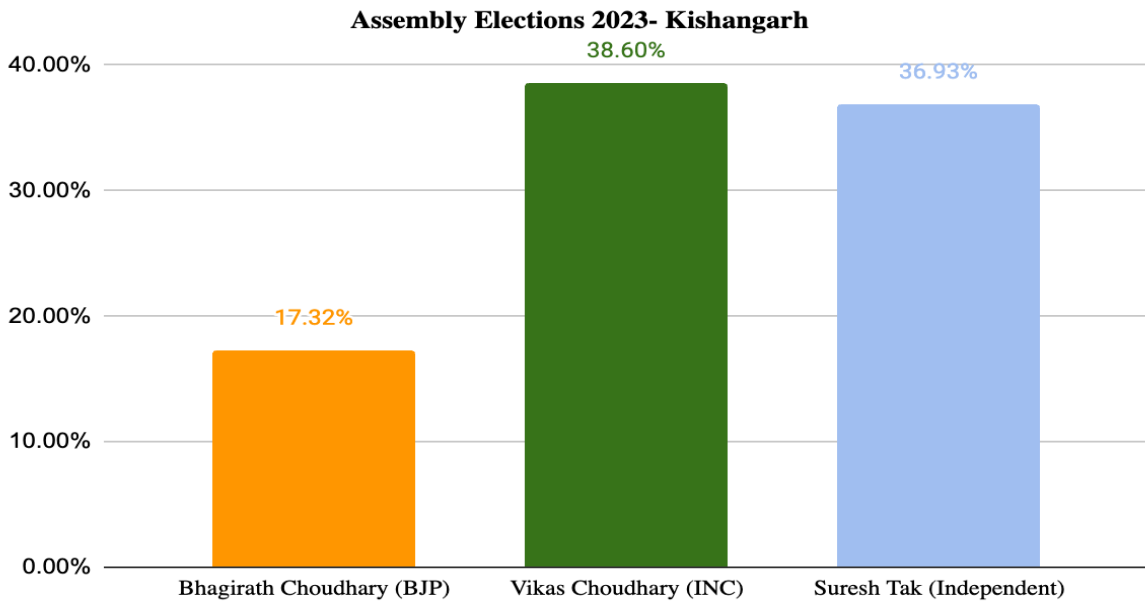
## 5. Kishangarh

This is also a general category seat, with a balanced rural (58%) - urban (42%) voter share. It has around 65,000 (24.3%) Jats, 45,000 (16.8%) SCs and STs, 22,000 (8.2%) Gurjars, 20,000 (7.4%) Brahmins, 18,000 (6.7%) Rajputs, and 17,000 (6.3%) Malis<sup>5</sup>. Of them, the Brahmins, Gurjars, and Jats who are dominant in numbers usually prefer the BJP, and a large section of the SCs and Muslims vote for the INC. This was the only assembly seat in the Ajmer constituency that was won by the INC in the 2023 elections. Shri Vikas Choudhary (GEN-Jat) became the MLA winning 39% votes, and Suresh Tak (GEN-Jat), an independent won 36% votes. Surprisingly, Shri Bhagirath Choudhary (GEN-Jat) of the BJP had to settle for third place with only 18% votes. An independent candidate proved to be a problem and ate into the vote share of the BJP because he was locally popular. In addition, Shri Vikas Chaoudhary's voter base also included the BJP voters as he had won the previous assembly election from the saffron party, and decided to leave because of not receiving the nomination in 2023.

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<sup>5</sup> [India Today/Kishangarh](#)





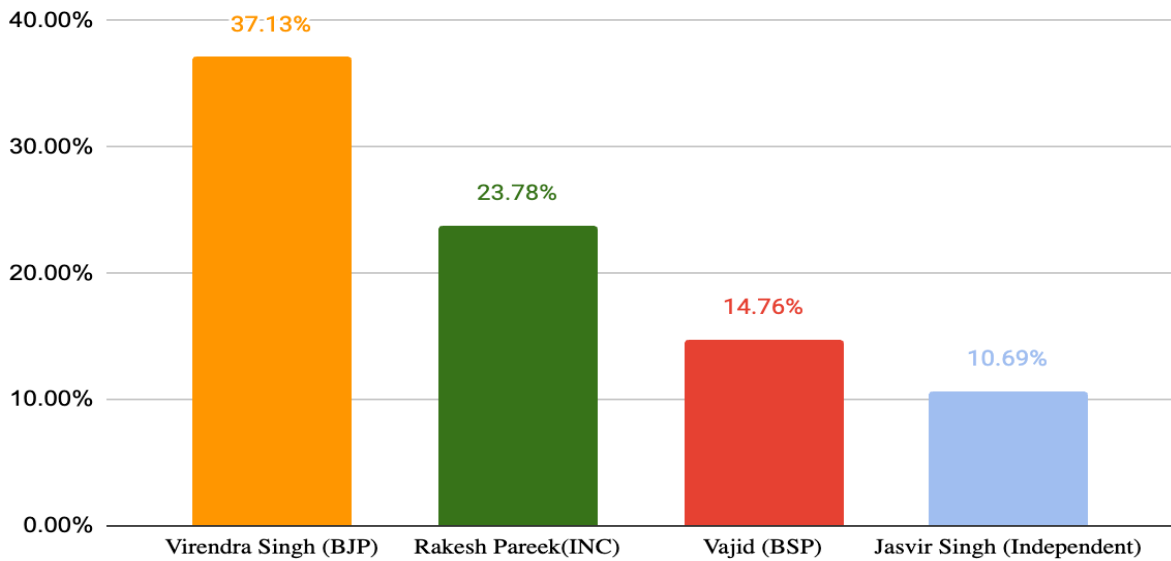
## 6. Masuda

It is a general category seat with 90% rural and 10% urban voters. There are around 90,000 (33.8%) OBCs, 29,000 (10.9%) Mehrats, 28,000 (10.5%) Gurjars, 27,000 (10.1%) Rawats, 27,000 (10.1%) SCs, 18,000 (6.7%) Jats, 12,000 (4.5%) Brahmins, 7,000 (2.6%) Muslims, and 6,000 (2.2%) STs in this General category seat<sup>6</sup>. In the 2023 assembly elections, Masuda witnessed an interesting contest of all. Shri Virendra Singh (GEN-Rajput) of the BJP won with a total of 37% votes, with support from the Jat, Rawat, Sindhi, and Gurjar communities. Shri Rakesh Pareek (GEN-Brahmin) of the INC won 24% of the votes while winning some votes from the Sindhis, SCs, and STs. Shri Vajid of the BSP consolidated the Muslim votes and split the Congress's vote share. Shri Jasvir Singh, a popular independent, also won 10% of the votes and decreased the vote share of the BJP.

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<sup>6</sup> [ETV Bharat/Masuda](#)

### Assembly Elections 2023- Masuda



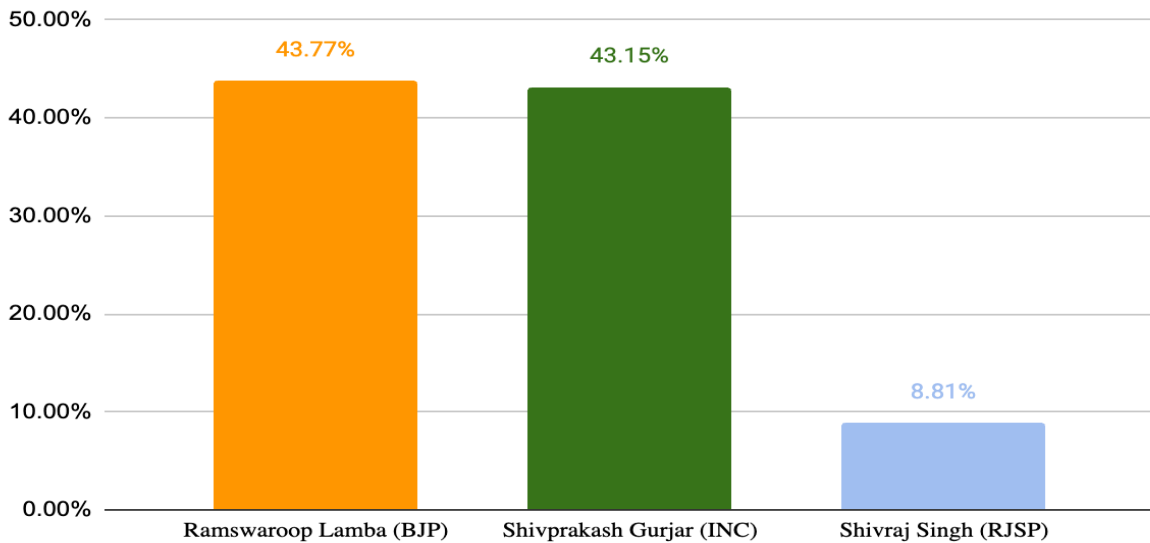
## 7. Nasirabad

This general category seat has 83% rural and 17% urban voters. There are 38,400 (16.7%) Gurjars, 35,500 (15.4%) Jats, 38,200 (16.6%) SCs, 26,100 (11.3%) Rawats, 17,000 (7.4%) Muslims, 15,000 (6.5%) Vaishyas, 8,000 (3.4%) Rajputs, 17,450 (7.6%) Mehrats, 11,867 (5.1%) Malis, 8,922 (3.8%) Kumawats, 6,890 (3%) Brahmins, and 4,862 (2.1%) Sindhis in the demographic<sup>7</sup>. Nasirabad witnessed an extremely close contest between the BJP and the INC. Shri Ramswaroop Lamba (GEN-Jat) of the BJP (43.7% votes) defeated Shri Shivprakash Gurjar (GEN-Gurjar) of the INC (43.1% votes) by a margin of only 1135 votes. The BJP consolidated the Gurjar, Rawat, and Sindhi votes which dominate in the area and the INC consolidated the Muslim and the SC votes.

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<sup>7</sup> [ETV Bharat/Nasirabad](#)

### Assembly Elections 2023- Nasirabad



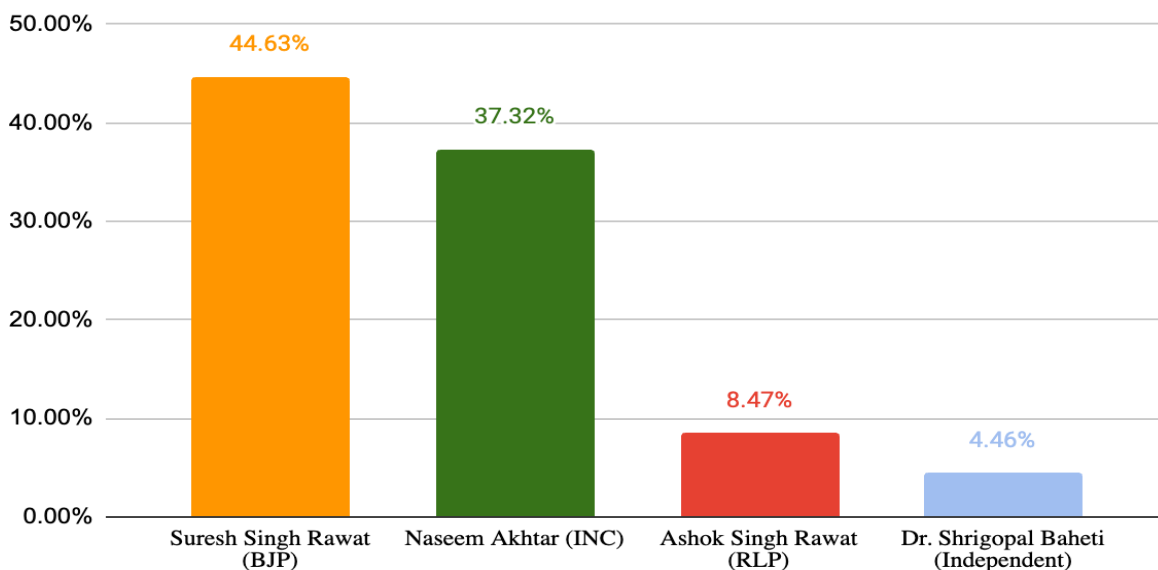
## 8. Pushkar

It is a general category seat famous for being a pilgrimage center. There are around 45,000 (18.3%) Rawats, 42,000 (17.1%) Muslims, 32,000 (13%) SCs, 24,000 (9.7%) Jats, 18,000 (7.3%) Gurjars, 17,000 (6.9%) Brahmins, 16,000 (6.5%) Rajputs, and 9,000 (3.6%) Vaishyas in Pushkar<sup>8</sup>. Shri Suresh Singh Rawat of the BJP (GEN-Rawat) became the MLA with 44% votes, defeating Shri Naseem Akhtar of the INC (37%), and Shri Ashok Singh Rawat (GEN-Rawat) of the RLP (8%), and Dr. Shrigopal Baheti, an independent (4%). Both the Rawat and Muslim communities played an important role because of their dominance in the population. Shri Akhtar and Dr. Shrigopal Baheti proved to be competitive with winning the Muslim and the SC votes, respectively. This showed how the politics of Ajmer has turned hyperlocal in the assembly segments and can become a worry for the BJP and the INC. Shri Suresh Singh Rawat consolidated a major section of the Rawat community votes along with the Brahmin, Rajputs, and Vaishya communities. The INC consolidated the Dalit and Muslim votes.

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<sup>8</sup> [ETV Bharat/Pushkar](#)

### Assembly Elections 2023- Pushkar



### Lok Sabha Analysis 2024 - Predictions

In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Ajmer constituency will be witnessing a keenly contested battle. Shri Bhagirath Choudhary (OBC-Jat) lost the Kishangarh assembly election in 2023, but the BJP has trusted this Jat leader to represent them in the upcoming elections. He is the fourth Jat candidate in a row to contest from the BJP, which shows the party's dependency on the votes from the community.

Shri Ram Chandra Choudhary (OBC-Jat), the dairy chairman, is a first-time candidate for the INC. He has contested assembly elections twice but failed to make a mark. His presence in the business sector and the rural community makes him a strong candidate. He will have to depend on the party's traditional supporters, but will also try to win the Jat votes. He has been accused of sexual exploitation and has a police case registered regarding this. The INC is in no position to take any risk in Ajmer. Hence the discussions for the ticket change have intensified. The winning MLA candidates, former ministers like Shri Raghu Sharma, and Shri Rakesh Pareek might contest the election if this happens.

A few independent candidates focusing on local issues are also in the fray. Smaller regional parties will also field candidates, hoping to capitalize on specific community sentiments. But none of them are predicted to be a considerable competition for the INC and the BJP. Without a doubt, an interesting contest is in the (vote)banks for Ajmer!