

# **Analysis Of Kanpur Lok Sabha Constituency**

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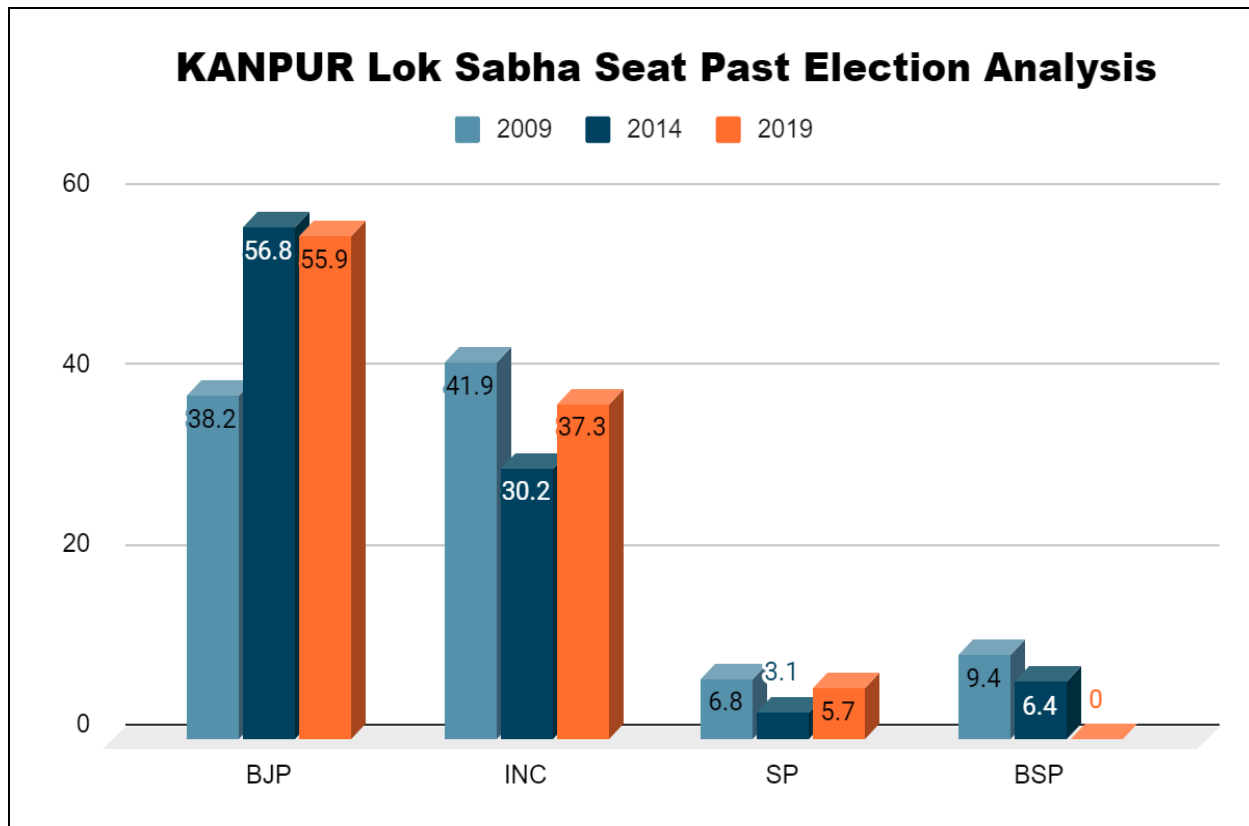
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## I. Introduction

Kanpur is a parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh, India, and is open to all categories of voters. It comprises five legislative assembly seats, namely Govind Nagar, Sishamau, Arya Nagar, Kidwai Nagar, and Kanpur Cantt. As per the 2011 Census, the SC voters in Kanpur are approximately 166,392, which is around 10.2% of the total population. Similarly, the ST voters in the constituency are approximately 6,525, which is around 0.4% of the total population. According to the 2019 election data, there were around 19,36,426 voters in the constituency, with 8,72,757 female and 10,63,506 male voters. The constituency has an urban population only. In the previous elections, many eminent leaders such as Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal (OBC-Baniya), Shri Murli Manohar Joshi (Gen-Brahmin), Shri Satyadev Pachauri (Gen-Brahmin) have contested. The first election was conducted in 1952 and won by Shri Harihar Nath Shastri (Gen-Brahmin), INC candidate. This seat has been the traditional seat of the INC whereas the BJP penetrated its roots into this constituency in the late 1990s with the 'Ram Janmabhoomi Aandolan' in Uttar Pradesh. During the 1991 elections, the BJP won the Kanpur Lok Sabha seat for the first time under the leadership of Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona (Gen-Brahmin) not only did this but also made a hat trick after the elections of 1991, under the leadership of Shri. Jagat Vir Singh Drona (Gen-Brahmin), in the Kanpur constituency.

Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal (OBC-Baniya) of the Indian Nation Congress won this seat in the 2009 Lok Sabha elections whereas this seat was won by the Bhartiya Janta Party in the two consecutive elections of 2014 and 2019 under the flagship of Shri Murli Manohar Joshi (Gen-Brahmin) and Shri Satyadev Pachauri (Gen-Brahmin) respectively.

In the Lok Sabha elections of 2014, it was led by Shri Murli Manohar Joshi (Gen-Brahmin), the BJP got 56.8% of the total voting share followed by the Indian National Congress with a voting share of 30.2% which was not enough to prove the majority in the Lok Sabha elections. The other parties like BSP and SP have a voting share of 6.4% and 3.1% respectively. There were a few other parties like AAP led by Shri Mahmood Hussain Rehmani (Muslim) who were only able to get a 1.43% vote share. It can be evident from the above data that even a coalition was not able to win in the 2014 elections against the BJP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP, led by Shri Satyadev Pachauri (Gen-Brahmin), again created a massive record by winning about 55.9% of the vote share but the voting share of the INC increased to 37.3%. The SP got the voting share of 5.7% whereas the BSP did not even field any candidate from this seat.



## II. Caste Analysis of Kanpur Constituency

The Brahmin community is the dominant community in the Kanpur Lok Sabha constituency. There are around 5 lakh Brahmin voters in the constituency which is around 29.85% of the total voting population. The second largest voting community in Kanpur is the Muslim community. There are around 4 lakh Muslim voters which is around 23.88% of the total voting population. The third largest voting community is the OBC Vaishya community. There are around 2.75 lakh voters in this constituency, around 16.42% of the total voting population whereas the OBC and Dalit voters are similar in number, around 13.43% of the total voting population and around 2.25 lakh voters. Any party that has the support of both Muslim and Dalit voters, has a higher possibility of winning the Lok Sabha seat. That is why the INC always tried to appeal to the Dalit and Muslim voters. The Brahmin voters are the prime vote bank of the BJP and it is evident from the fact that out of 5 legislative assembly seats, the BJP won 2 seats in Govind Nagar and Kidwai Nagar, which has the highest Brahmin population. The INC always supported the Muslim community and the Muslims are the vote bank of the INC. The Dalit votes were always divided between the BSP and the SP. The OBC community supported the SP.

### III. Voting Pattern in the Past Elections

The Kanpur Lok Sabha constituency is dominated by the Brahmin community followed by the Muslim community. This is the only reason why Kanpur has been a 'Brahmin Dominated' seat for the last 42 years. The BJP and the INC had always tried to appeal to the Brahmin voters. In the 2009 GE elections, the INC fielded Shri Sai Prakash Jaiswal (OBC - Baniya) who defeated the BJP's candidate Shri Satish Mahana (Gen - Hindu Khatri) by 2.78% votes. The INC candidate consolidated a major section of the OBC, Muslim, and SC communities while the BJP consolidated the Brahmin and upper caste community. The BSP fielded Smt. Sukhda Mishra (Gen-Brahmin) and the SP fielded Shri Surendra Mohan Agarwal (Gen-Vaishya) respectively. The coalition government could not be formed by the BJP and the other parties like the SP and BSP as their ideologies were far different from each other. The political scenario changed in the 2014 Lok Sabha Elections, the BJP fielded Shri Murli Manohar Joshi (Gen-Brahmin), the INC fielded Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal (OBC-Baniya), the BSP fielded Shri Saleem Ahmed (Muslim) and the SP fielded Surendra Mohan Agarwal (Gen-Vaishya) as their candidates. The BJP won this seat with a vote share of 56.8% while the INC got a vote share of just 30.2%. The BSP expects Dalits to vote for them but in 2014 GE, the BSP gave the candidature to a Muslim which led to a decrease in the vote share of the party. The Muslim votes were divided between the INC and the BSP. The BJP consolidated the OBC community and the dominant Brahmin community. The BJP fielded Shri Satyadev Pachauri (Gen-Brahmin). Under his leadership, the BJP got a voting share of 55.9% which was slightly lower than the voting share of the previous elections. The INC fielded Shri. Sriprakash Jaiswal (OBC-Baniya) and the INC won a voting share of 37.3% under his leadership. Other major parties, like the SP, fielded Shri Ram Kumar, son of Shri Manohar Lal (ex-Lok Sabha MP), as their candidate whereas BSP did not field any candidate of the alliance between the SP and the BSP. But this has created a division of the Dalit votes between INC and SP. This division helped the INC very much and they won around 7% more votes than the previous elections. There was also a shift in the Muslim voters as the step of 'abolition of Triple Talaq' in favor of Muslim women helped the BJP to get the Muslim votes.

Thus, it can be concluded that the Brahmins are the Prime vote bank of the BJP and the Kanpur Constituency has always been represented by a Brahmin Candidate for the last 43 years. The INC also tried to appeal to the Brahmin voters whereas the Muslim voters are the traditional vote bank of the INC. In recent times, because of the 'Modi wave' and strong governance in the state also helped the shift of the vote bank in favor of the BJP whereas the alliance of the SP and BSP was not successful in the constituency.

#### **IV. Analysis of the 2014 Lok Sabha Elections**

During the 2014 general elections, the BJP fielded Shri Murli Manohar Joshi (Gen-Brahmin), who was a prominent BJP leader, to appeal to the Brahmin vote bank whereas the INC fielded Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal (OBC-Baniya) to appeal to the OBC candidate. Under the leadership of Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, the BJP got a voting share of 56.8% whereas the INC got a voting share of 30.2%. SP fielded Sh. Surendra Mohan Aggarwal (OBC-Vaishya) to appeal to the OBC voters of the constituency. The SP got 3.1% of the total voting share. The BSP fielded Shri Saleem Ahmed (Muslim) as their candidate but it hurt the Dalit voters of the constituency and the Dalit voters shifted to the INC and the voting share declined to 6.4% from 9.4%. The other regional parties did not get a significant voting share.

However, the BJP had a clear advantage in the 2014 elections as they had put forward Shri Narendra Modi as a strong prime ministerial face whereas the other national parties like INC and BSP were not able to do so. The BJP got 4.74 lakh votes whereas the largest opposition party got 2.51 lakh votes. There was a bipolar contest between the BJP and the opposition was not able to challenge the BJP. The BJP was leading by 2.34 lakh votes and it won a margin of 26.7% of the voting share.

#### **V. Analysis of the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections**

During the 2019 general elections, the BJP fielded Shri Satyadev Pachauri (Gen-Brahmin), who was a prominent BJP leader, to appeal to the Brahmin vote bank whereas the INC fielded Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal (OBC-Baniya) to appeal to the OBC candidate. Under the leadership of Shri Satyadev Pachauri, the BJP got a voting share of 55.9%, the BJP lost 1.22% of the voting share in the 2019 elections whereas the INC got a voting share of 37.3%. SP fielded Shri Ram Kumar whereas there was no BSP candidate because of the ongoing SP-BSP alliance. The SP got 5.7% of the total voting share which was a sharp decline for the SP-BSP alliance as the voting share did not go up as expected. There was a tripolar contest between the BJP, the INC, and the SP in the 2019 elections where the BJP won 4.69 lakh votes whereas the runner-up INC won 3.13 lakh votes. The BJP won the elections with a margin of 18.6%, around 1.55 lakh votes more than the INC. However, the

BJP had a clear advantage in the 2019 elections as they had put forward Shri Narendra Modi as a strong prime ministerial face. Some of the most possible reasons could be the abolition of Triple Talaq which channelized the Muslim women voters towards the BJP whereas the main manifesto promise of construction of the historic Ram Mandir was also a game changer for the BJP in the 2019 elections.

## **VI. Vidhansabha Seats Election Analysis**

### **A. Govind Nagar Assembly Constituency**

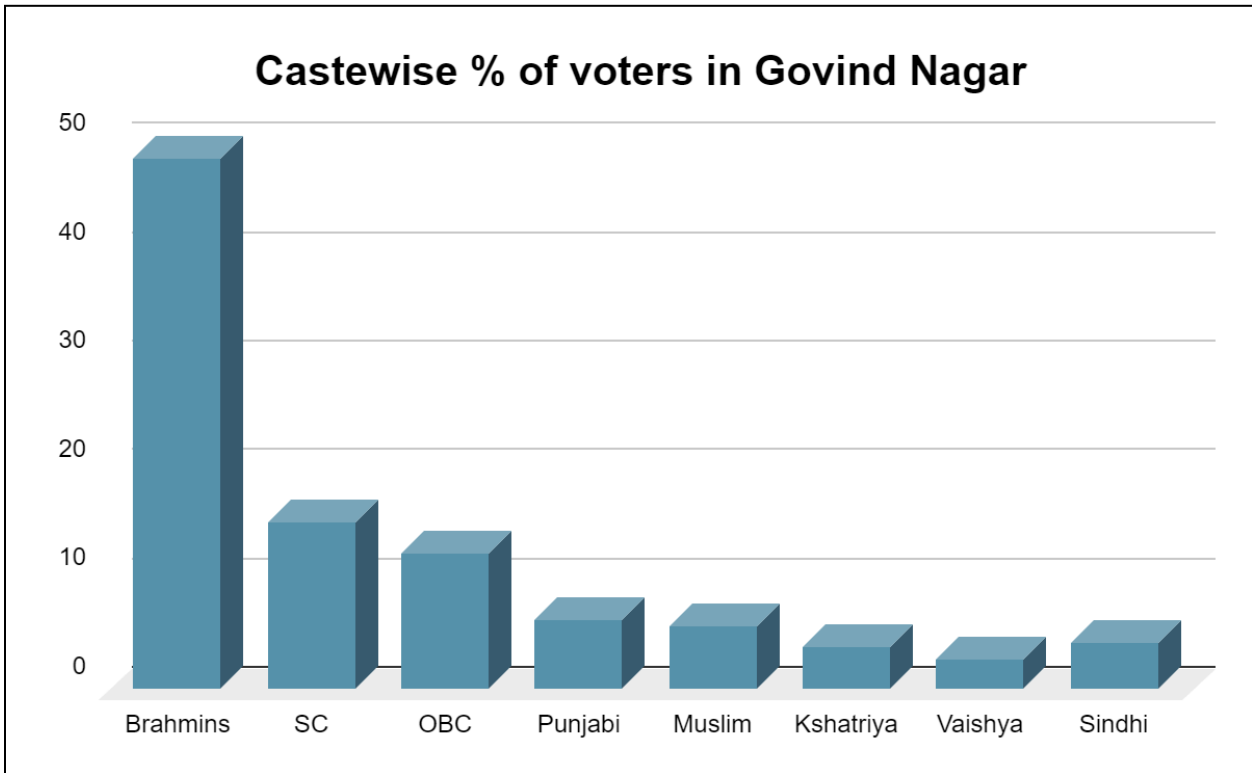
Govind Nagar Assembly constituency is one of the five assembly constituencies of the Kanpur Parliamentary Seat. According to the 2019 Parliamentary election data, there are 3,49,180 voters in the assembly constituency. This assembly seat is dominated by the Brahmin voters and it is evident from the past election data that out of 17 assembly elections, this seat has been won by a Brahmin candidate 11 times. This assembly seat is a traditional seat of the BJP. The BJP is winning this assembly seat consecutively for the last 3 assembly elections. In the 2012 assembly elections, led by Shri Satya Dev Pachauri (Gen-Brahmin), the BJP won 35.34% of the total voting share. In the 2017 assembly elections, again led by Shri Satya Dev Pachauri, the BJP won a substantial voting share of 60.48% in the 2022 assembly elections, led by Shri Surendra Maithani (Gen-Brahmin), the BJP won 61.14% of the total voting share.

<sup>1</sup>Out of the total voting population, there are around 48.93% Brahmin voters, 15.29% SC voters, 12.54% OBC voters, 6.42% Punjabi Voters, 5.81% Muslim voters, 3.98% Kshatriya voters, 2.75% Vaishya Voters and around 4.28% Sindhi voters in the assembly seat. This seat is a traditional Brahmin-dominated seat and another interesting point is that around 2 lakh voters out of the total voting population are Purvanchalli voters. Thus, this point is the decision-maker in the elections, and candidates are selected based on considering these factors. In the 2022 elections, the Congress fielded Smt. Karishma Thakur (Gen-Kshatriya), who is also State President of Mahila Congress, Uttar Pradesh whereas the other regional parties like the SP fielded Shri Vikas Yadav (OBC-Kshatriya) to attract the backward class voters of the assembly seat and the BSP fielded Shri Ashok Kumar Kaliya (Gen-Brahmin).

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.patrika.com/kanpur-news/govind-nagar-assembly-constituency-by-election-analysis-exit-poll-5216116>

Kshatriya voters had been distributed between the INC and the SP and also the INC tried to appeal to the women voters in the assembly constituency but the move of the BSP to divide the Brahmin vote bank seemed to be unsuccessful as the BJP won the significant voting share in the assembly elections and won by the margin of



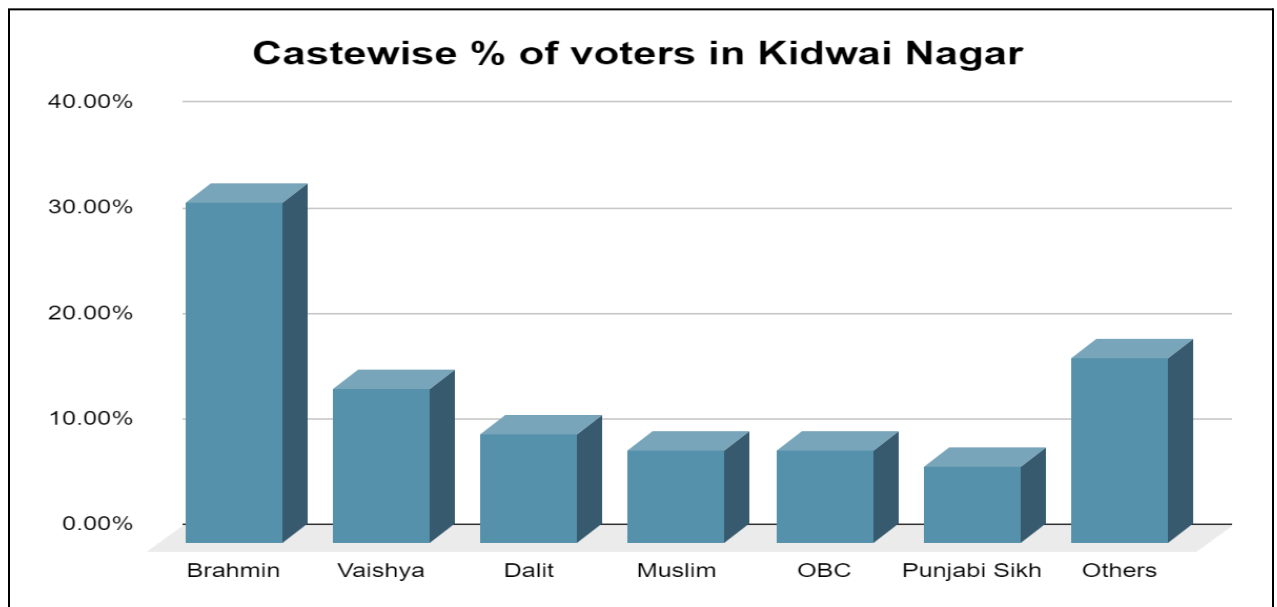
80,896 votes which is about 42.1% vote share more the the SP.

## B. Kidwai Nagar Assembly Constituency

This assembly seat is another Brahmin-dominated seat like the Govind Nagar seat. This seat came into existence in 2012 and was divided from the Govind Nagar assembly constituency. This seat has a total voting population of around 3.40 lakh where the Brahmin voters are the dominating voters. Out of the total voting population, there are 32.35% Brahmin voters, 14.70% Vaishya voters, 10.29% Dalit voters, 8.82% Muslim voters, 8.82% OBC voters, 7.35% Punjabi Sikh voters and around 17.64% other voting population.<sup>2</sup> In the 2012 assembly elections, the INC was the winning party and got the voting share of 35.82% under the leadership of

<sup>2</sup><https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/elections/assembly-elections/uttar-pradesh/news/up-assembly-election-2022-kidwai-nagar-assembly-constituency-latest-news/articleshow/87981480.cms>

Shri Ajay Kapoor (Gen- Arora Khatri) but the BJP fielded Shri. Viveksheel Shukla (Gen-Brahmin) got 34.68% of the voting share. There was a neck-to-neck competition between the INC and the BJP. One of the possible reasons for the BJP's defeat was that the other parties like the SP and the BSP had also fielded other Brahmin candidates like Shri Om Prakash Shukla and Pt. Shyam Sundar Garg Shukla due to which the Brahmin votes got divided between these three parties and the INC got an opportunity as the Muslim voters are the traditional voters of the INC. In the 2017 elections, the BJP fielded Shri Mahesh Chandra Trivedi (Gen-Brahmin) and the BJP got a significant voting share of 54.31% whereas the INC fielded Shri Ajay Kapoor again but this time it did not work. There was a bipolar contest between the INC and BJP in the 2017 assembly elections whereas the other parties like the SP lost their voting share significantly and the BSP did not even field any candidate from this particular assembly seat in the 2017 election which directly benefitted the BJP. In the 2022 assembly election, under the leadership of Shri Mahesh Chandra Trivedi (Gen-Brahmin), the BJP again won the assembly elections against the INC candidate Shri Ajay Kapoor but they lost the election by the margin of 18.3% of the voting share. The other parties were not able to create such a huge impact on the election result as their voting share was not even



equal to 5%. The major reasons behind this overwhelming victory of the BJP are the strong 'Double Engine Government' in the state and the traditional Brahmin Voters of the BJP.

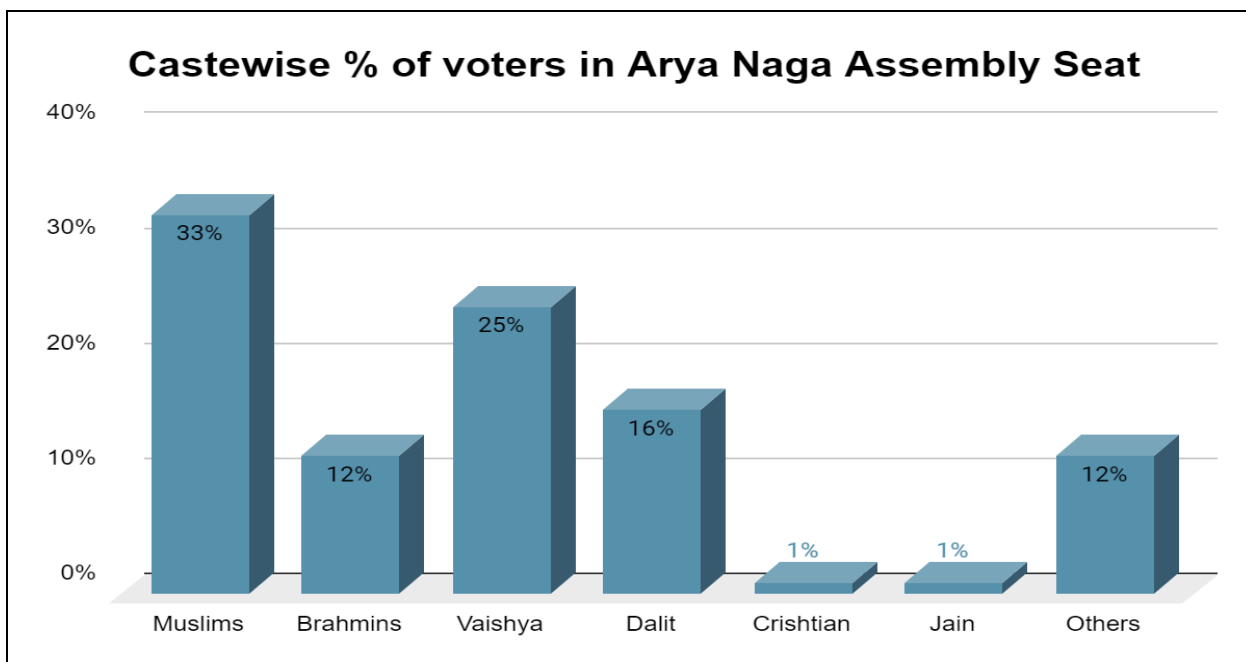


### C. Arya Nagar Assembly Constituency

Arya Nagar Assembly Constituency came into existence in the year 1977. The incumbent MLA of the Arya Nagar Assembly Constituency is Shri Amitabh Bajpai (Gen-Brahmin) representing the Samajwadi Party. The total voting population of this assembly constituency is around 2.96 lakhs. Out of these, the Muslim community is the most dominating community with a voting population of 33% of the total voting population followed by the Vaishya Community with a voting population of 25%, the Dalit community with a voting population of 16%, the Brahmin community with a voting population of 12%, Christian and Jain Communities with a voting population of 1% each, and the other communities with a voting population of around 12%.<sup>3</sup> In the assembly elections of 2012, the BJP under the leadership of Shri Salil Vishnoi (OBC-Baniya) whereas the SP was the biggest opposition party in the 2012 assembly elections. The BJP won the elections by a margin of 12.3%. The situation changed in the 2017 assembly elections, the SP fielded Shri Amitabh Bajpai (Gen-Brahmin) to appeal to the Brahmin voters in the assembly constituency as the Muslims are already their traditional voters. There was a bipolar contest between the BJP and the SP in the 2017 assembly elections. The SP got a voting share of 48.15% and the BJP won the voting share of 44.27% under the leadership of Shri Salil Vishnoi (OBC-Baniya). The other parties like the INC and BSP did not greatly impact this assembly seat as their voting percentage remained below 5% of the total voting share. The same scenario prevailed in the 2022 assembly elections, the SP gained around 50% of the total voting share under the leadership of Shri Amitabh Bajpai (Gen-Brahmin) whereas the BJP gained 45.35% of the total voting share. There was again a bipolar contest between the BJP and the SP. However, the voting share of both parties increased during the 2022 elections because the other parties like the BSP and the INC lost their voting share to the other two opposition parties. The SP again managed to maintain their winning hat trick in the 2022 assembly elections.

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.jagran.com/uttar-pradesh/kanpur-city-up-election-2022-kanpur-arya-nagar-vidhan-sabha-chu-nav-2022-seat-political-scene-news-report-22457975.html>

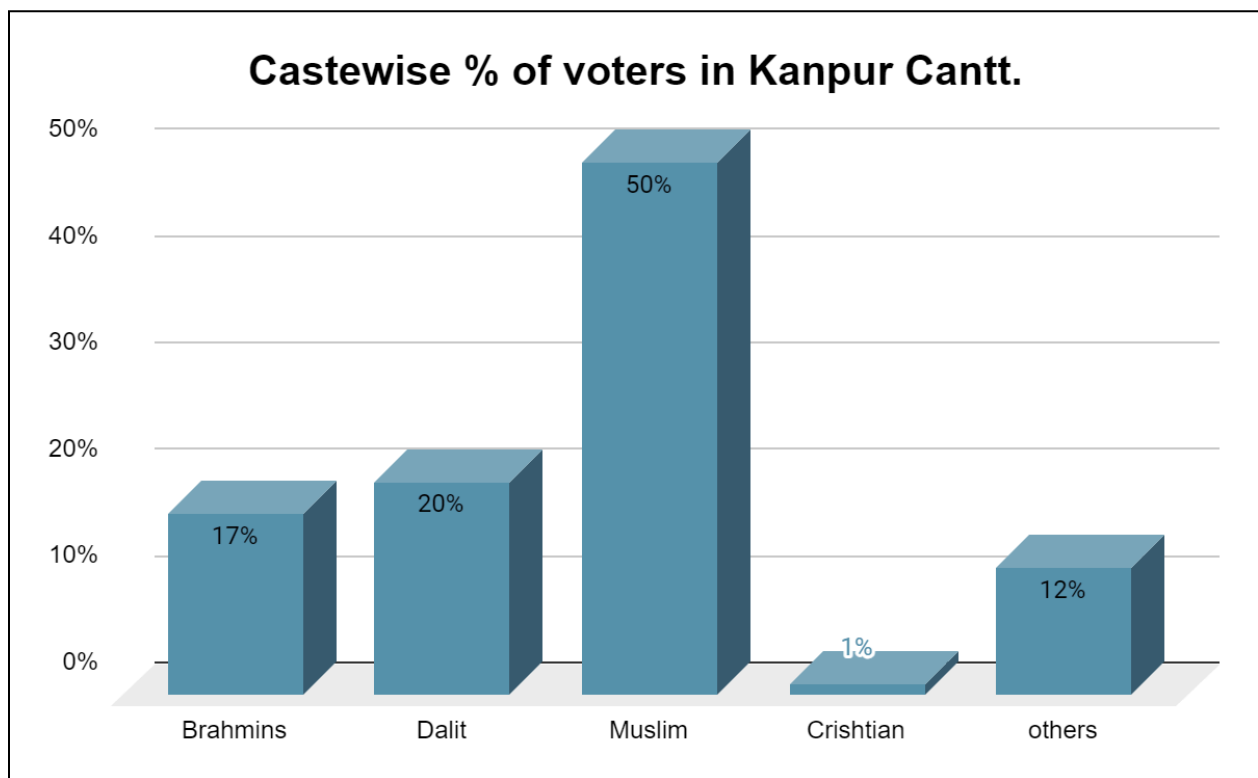


#### **D. Kanpur Cantt. Assembly Constituency**

The Kanpur Cantt. is one of the 403 assembly constituencies of Uttar Pradesh. This assembly constituency came into existence in the year 1967. There are around 3.48 lakh voting population in the assembly seat, out of which the Muslim community is the dominant one as they have the highest percentage of the voting population. The Muslim population comprises 50% of the total voting population followed by the Brahmin with 17% of the total voting population, the Dalits with 20% of the total voting population, the Christians with 1% of the total voting population, and the other communities with a voting population of around 12%. <sup>4</sup>It is the strategy of every party to appeal to the Muslim voters of the assembly constituency and it is evident from the analysis of the past elections. In the 2012 assembly elections, the BJP fielded Shri Raghunandan Singh Bhadauria (Gen-Brahmin) whereas the other parties like the SP, the INC, and the BSP fielded Muslim candidates to appeal to the largest vote bank of the assembly constituency. Surprisingly, there was a situation of multi-polarisation in the assembly constituency. The BJP won 29.48% of the voting share, the SP won 223.03% of the voting share, the INC won 21.56%, and the BSP won 18.16% of the total voting share. The Brahmins are the traditional voters of the BJP thus it helped them in the 2012 assembly elections. In the 2017 assembly

<sup>4</sup><https://www.jagran.com/uttar-pradesh/kanpur-city-up-assembly-chunav-kanpur-cantt-seat-full-profile-bjp-ruled-for-21-years-but-lost-the-seat-in-wave-and-congress-won-22346157.html>

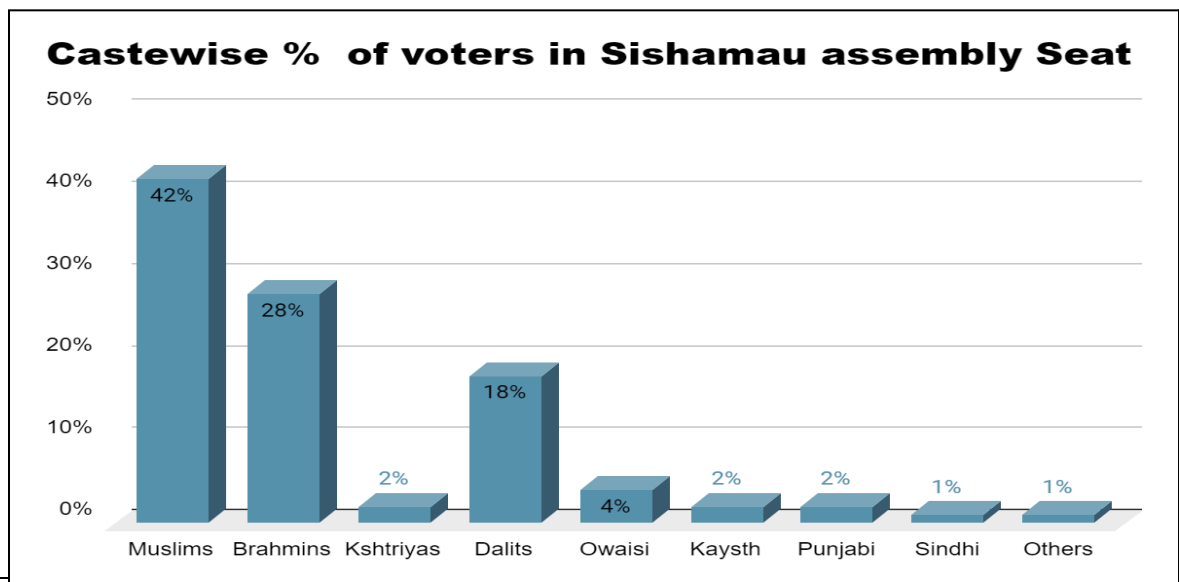
elections, the BJP again fielded Shri Raghunandan Singh Bhadauria (Gen-Brahmin). Despite the 'Modi Wave', the BJP did not manage to win the assembly seat whereas the voting share of the INC increased rapidly in the 2017 elections. The INC got 46% of the total voting share but the voting share of the BSP and SP declined significantly. The Muslim votes of the other parties like the SP and the BSP channalized to the INC. In the 2022 assembly elections, the SP-INC collision was one of the major reasons for the BJP's defeat. The INC fielded Sh. Sohail Akhtar Ansari (Muslim) and the SP fielded Sh. Md. Hasan (Muslim). The collision won 57.01% of the total votes. This collision equation helped the SP to win a significant voting share whereas the BJP fell short of attracting the Muslim voters of the assembly constituency.



### E. Sishamau Assembly Constituency

The Sishamau Assembly constituency seat came into existence in 1974. This seat is considered the strongest assembly seat of the SP. This seat had been won by the SP under the leadership of Shri Haji Irfan Solanki (Muslim) consecutively in the 2012,

2017 and 2022 assembly elections. <sup>5</sup>This seat has a total voting population of 2.73 lakhs, out of which the Muslim community is the most dominating community with 42% voters out of the total voting population followed by Brahmins with a voting population of 28%, Kshtriyas with a voting population of 2%, Dalits with the voting population of 18%, Owaisi with the voting population of 4%, Kaysth with the voting population of 2% and the Punjabi voters with the voting population of 2%, Sindhi with 1% of the total voting population and 1% other caste voters. In the 2012 elections, the BJP fielded Shri Hanuman Swaroop Mishra (Gen-Brahmin), the INC fielded Shri Sanjeev Dariyabadi (SC-Nats), and the BSP fielded Shri Mhd. Waseeq (Muslim). The SP won 42.18% of the total voting share whereas the BJP was the second leading party in the elections with a 27.5% of voting share. The Muslims voted for the SP during the elections whereas the Brahmin voters cast their votes for the BJP. In the 2017 assembly elections, the seat was again won by the SP under the leadership of Shri Haji Irfan Solanki with a voting share of 47.36%. The INC did not field any candidate during the 2017 assembly elections and it had positively impacted the voting share of the SP as the Muslim voters were channeled towards the SP. The BJP fielded Shri Suresh Awasthi (Gen-Brahmin) got a voting share of 43.58% which is a significant growth in the voting share compared to the previous elections. In the 2022 assembly elections, there was a clear-cut bipolar contest between the SP and the BJP in the Sishamau assembly seat. Even the strong ‘Modi Wave’ was not able to break the winning streak of the SP in the



<sup>5</sup><https://www.jagran.com/uttar-pradesh/kanpur-city-up-election-2022-kanpur-sisamau-vidhan-sabha-seat-candidates-equations-ground-report-for-up-chunav2022-22466124.html>

Sishamau assembly seat. The two-time winning MLA Shri Haji Irfan Solanki (Muslim-Teli) again won the elections with a voting share of 50.68% whereas the BJP fielded Shri Salil Bishnoi (OBC-Baniya). The BJP got a voting share of 42.82%. The other parties like the BSP and INC were not able to compete as their voting share was less than 5% in the 2022 elections.

## **VII. Predictions for 2024 Lok Sabha Elections**

For the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the BJP has just announced Shri Ramesh Awashi (Gen-Brahmin), who was an ex-journalist, as their candidate keeping in mind the dominant Brahmin community whereas the I.N.D.I. alliance parties have announced the INC candidate and the SP is not going to field their candidate as a part of their alliance. The I.N.D.I. alliance announced Shri Alok Mishra (Gen-Brahmin) as their candidate. The I.N.D.I. alliance is trying to appeal to the Brahmin-Muslim voters altogether as we know the Muslims are the traditional voters of the INC. This decision was made after keeping in view the past performance of the INC in the Kanpur Constituency. The BSP has fielded Shri Kuldeep Bhadauria (Gen-Rajput) to appeal to the Rajput voters of the constituency. It is also important to note that out of 5 legislative assembly seats, 3 seats were won by the SP in the 2022 assembly elections. It can be one of the favorable conditions for the I.N.D.I alliance whereas the other 2 legislative assemblies of Govind Nagar and Kidwai Nagar (most Brahmin Populated assemblies) were won by the BJP and can be helpful in the 2024 general elections as well to appeal to the Brahmin Voters. The second possible reason in favor of the BJP is the consecration of the Historic Ram Mandir in Ayodhya which can help to trigger the religious sentiments of the voters. Along with this, there are many development projects like the inauguration of the metro in Kanpur, etc. which can also be favorable for the BJP. The I.N.D.I. alliance has not yet made it clear who is going to be their prime ministerial face which can be favourable for the BJP.

## **VIII. Conclusion**

Based on a thorough analysis, it can be confidently concluded that the upcoming election in the Kanpur Constituency will be an intense and closely contested affair. The contest will be primarily between the BJP and the I.N.D.I. alliance, with a secondary contest between the Brahmins and the Muslims. Each party is trying to win over the Brahmin voters, but it is highly unlikely that the I.N.D.I. alliance will be able to compete with the BJP given the 'Modi Wave' and the impressive development work done by the double-engine government

in the constituency. From the above analysis of the Assembly constituencies, it is evident that the caste factor plays an important role in the assembly election but when it comes to the general elections, the caste factor is outweighed by other factors like the development schemes of the central government and the state government also plays a crucial role. It is noteworthy that the BJP has launched a series of schemes aimed at touching upon every section of society over the past decade, and they have been consistently successful in winning over almost 50% of the voting share every time they won the constituency. Therefore, the I.N.D.I. alliance should carefully consider the aforementioned factors before devising their strategy for the upcoming election.