

# Firozabad Lok Sabha Constituency

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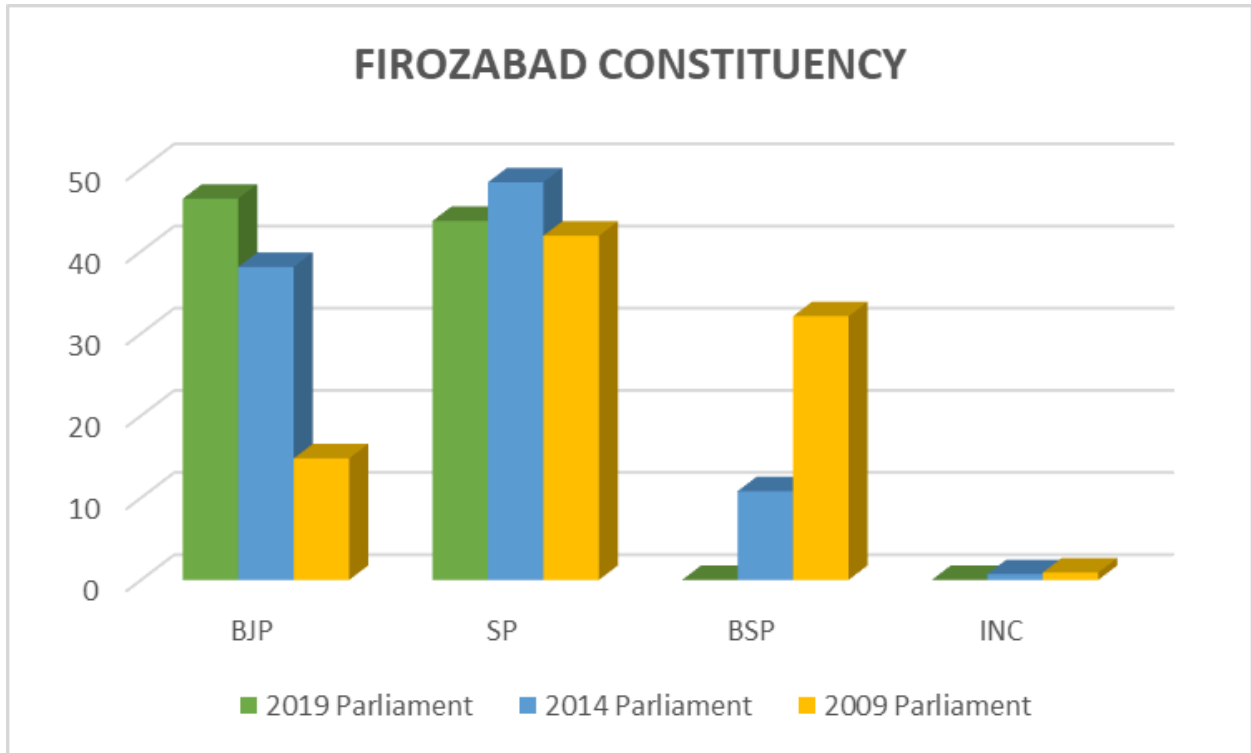
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## **Introduction**

Firozabad, known as the city of bangles is one of the 80 Lok Sabha constituencies in the Uttar Pradesh state. It comprises five legislative assembly seats, Tundla, Jasrana, Firozabad, Shikhoabad, and Sirsaganj. It is located in western Uttar Pradesh where Jats, Yadav, Jatav, Rajputs, Kayasthas, Tyagis, Ahirs, Brahmins, Kachhi, Kahar, Gadaria, Kumhar, Bania, Khatik, Lodha, Valmikis, Nai, Gurjars, Dalits, Kurmis and Rohilla Pashtuns are present and the minority castes present has the highest dominance in the state. Muslim voters account for 20% in UP, but in Western UP, it's 32%. The Jat community is 4% in UP, but 17% in Western UP, and the Dalit community is 21% in UP, but 26% in Western UP, with 80% being Jatav. The Jats in Western UP influence 120 seats. On 45-50 seats, the Jats directly decide victory and defeat. Jats play a decisive role in 11 districts and Firozabad is one of the constituencies. In 2014, BJP swept all the 16 seats in the Western U.P. but in 2019 when SP, BSP, and RLD allied, BJP suffered a setback by winning only 9 seats out of 16 seats while the alliance had the other 7 seats. This time however the odds have completely been changed with the RLD joining hands with the BJP, SP allying with the Congress and the BSP is not in alliance with anyone, and is contesting alone.

This Lok Sabha seat came into existence in 1957. This is one of the few Lok Sabha seats in UP, where the voters don't have any strong inclination towards any one political party and the MP has been changing from time to time. In this Lok Sabha constituency, from national parties like BJP and Congress to regional parties like SP and even the independent candidates in the past have won. In 1957, Independent candidate Shri Thakur Brajraj Singh (GEN-Rajput) won that election and became the first MP of Firozabad. During the 1960s, due to the absence of an election in 1962, Shri Brijraj Singh's (GEN-Rajput) tenure was consequently extended, and then in 1967, Shiv Charan Lal of the United Socialist Party won this seat. During the 1970s, Congress won the election in 1971, and in 1976, this seat was taken by an independent leader. During the 1980s, Congress returned in 1984, and then in 1989, this seat came into the hands of Janata Dal, but in the next elections just two years later, this seat went out of its hands and came into the hands of BJP. In 1991, the Bharatiya Janata Party established its dominance in the region and BJP leader Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria (Dalit-Dhanuk) became the MP of Firozabad. He won 3 consecutive Lok Sabha elections and remained MP for 7 years. Since 1999, the Samajwadi party has won this Lok Sabha seat. In 2009, SP chief Shri Akhilesh Yadav(OBC-Yadav) himself contested this Lok Sabha seat and won however he resigned after some time and Congress' Shri Raj Singh Babbar (GEN-Kshatriyas) was reelected from there. In 2014 again SP won the elections but in 2019 Lotus bloomed and BJP's experienced candidate, Dr. Chandra Sen Jadon (GEN-Kshatriya) defeated SP's Shri Akshay Yadav (OBC) by a margin of over 27000 votes and

became the MP of Firozabad. There has been a close contest between the BJP and SP over this Lok Sabha seat.



### **Caste Analysis of Firozabad Constituency**

In India, caste plays a critical role in deciding the electoral outcomes, and Firozabad is no exception to this. It is a General category parliament seat. It comprises the entire Firozabad district. As per the 2019 parliamentary elections, the total Voters account for around 20 lakh. Out of which, Yadav voters account for around 21.55%, apart from this there are 10.5% Jatav, 8.25% Thakur, 7.35% Brahmin, 7.8% Muslim, and 6.05% Lodhi voters<sup>1</sup>. Other castes including Rajput, Dalit, and Vaishya are also present here in good numbers. However, the Yadav-Muslim equation has the most influence as they are the deciding factor for the election in this constituency. The Yadavs and The Muslims were the traditional vote bank of the SP, but now the votes of the Yadav community have been divided between the BJP and the SP.

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<sup>1</sup> [News18 Hindi](#)

## **2014 Lok Sabha Election analysis**

In the 2014 elections, SP gave a ticket to a member of the “SAIFAI FAMILY<sup>2</sup>”, Akshay Yadav, while BJP gave the ticket to Prof. S.P. Singh Bhagel. The SP has a stronghold in this constituency and that’s why they decided to give the ticket to a family member. Shri Akshay Yadav (OBC-Yadav) of SP got 49.93% votes followed by BJP’s Prof. S.P. Singh Bhagel (OBC-Dhangar) who got only 35.97% votes. The Muslim-yadav factor worked for the SP as Akshay Yadav defeated (OBC-Yadav) BJP’s Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel (OBC-Dhangar) by a sizable margin of 114,059 votes or 6.97%.

## **2019 Lok Sabha Election Analysis**

In the 2019 elections, SP retained its candidate, while BJP gave a ticket to the new candidate, Dr. Chandra Sen Jadon, and BJP defeated SP by a margin of 2.7%. BJP received 494050 votes with a vote share of 46.4% while SP gained 43.7% vote share. The main reason for SP’s defeat in their stronghold seat was because of the “CHACHA-BHATIJA” conflict in the “SAIFAI FAMILY” that resulted in the formation of a new party by Shri Shivpal Singh Yadav, the PSPL (Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party). Not only did he spoil the equation of SP, but because of this, their traditional seat went to the BJP’s account, as the Yadav votes were divided among both parties, Shivpal Yadav received around 90000 votes. If Shivpal Yadav had not conflicted with his family, then SP would have got the remaining ballots and SP would have won again from this seat. But BJP’s Dr. Chandrasen won from here by defeating SP’s Akshay Yadav. For the Lok Sabha elections 2024, Shivpal Yadav has announced to correct this mistake and give full support to his nephew, and also ensure the victory of Akshay Yadav from Firozabad. There are a total of 5 assembly seats in Firozabad Lok Sabha constituency. Out of the 5 Assembly segments, BJP was leading in 3 assembly segments (Tundla (SC), Jasrana, and Firozabad ) and SP was leading in 2 assembly segments (Shikohabad and Sirsaganj).

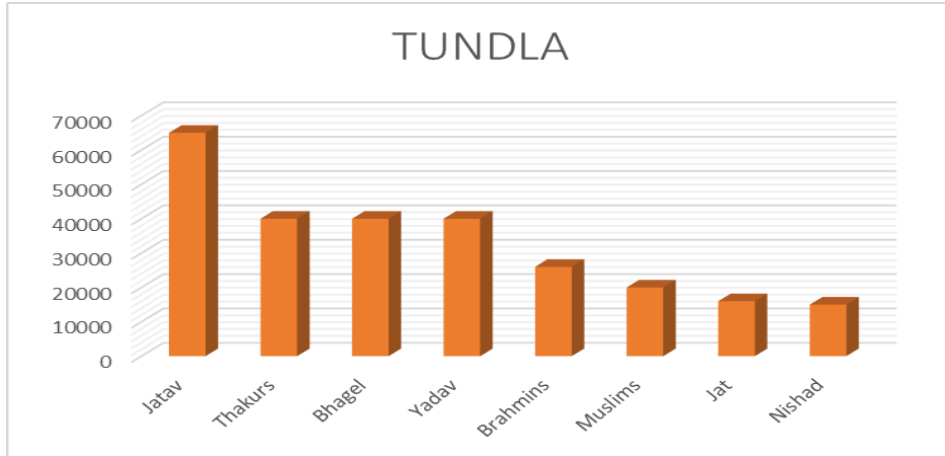
## **Vidhan Sabha Analysis**

There are a total of 5 assembly seats in the Firozabad Lok Sabha constituency. Out of the 5 Assembly segments, BJP was leading in 3 assembly segments (Tundla (SC), Jasrana, and Firozabad ) and SP was leading in 2 assembly segments (Shikohabad and Sirsaganj).

### **1. Tundla**

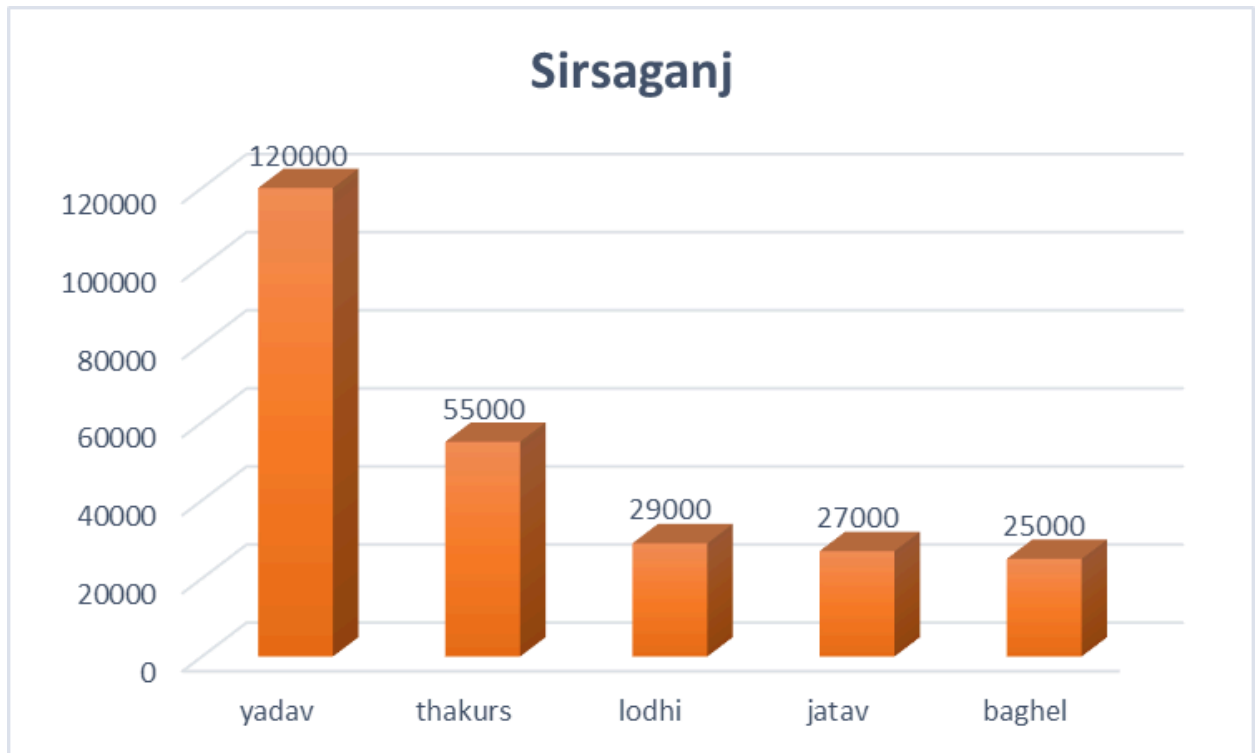
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<sup>2</sup> Saifai is the native village of Shri Mulayam Singh yadav and this term is used for their family as he had done a lot of development in his native village.



This seat is reserved for SC candidates. In this assembly constituency the majority of the population belongs to Jatav (65000) community followed by the Thakurs (40000), Bhagels (40000), Yadav (40000), brahmins (26000), Muslims (20000), Jat (16000), Nishad (15000). In the last 6 assembly elections, BJP has won 4 out of the 6, and BSP won the other 2 elections. In the 2022 Assembly elections, Shri PremPal Singh Dhargar (OBC) of BJP defeated Shri Rakesh Babu of SP by a margin of 19.19 % votes. In the tripolar contest, BJP got 49.46% votes while SP got 30.27% votes and BSP candidate Shri Amar Singh (GEN-Rajput) got 16.5% votes. The Jatavs are core voters of the BSP, Thakurs and the Bhagels are the core voters of the BJP and the Yadavs are the SP's core voters. Although the majority are of the Jatavs, it can be analyzed that the votes of the Jatav got completely divided between all the 3 parties.

## 2. Sirsaganj

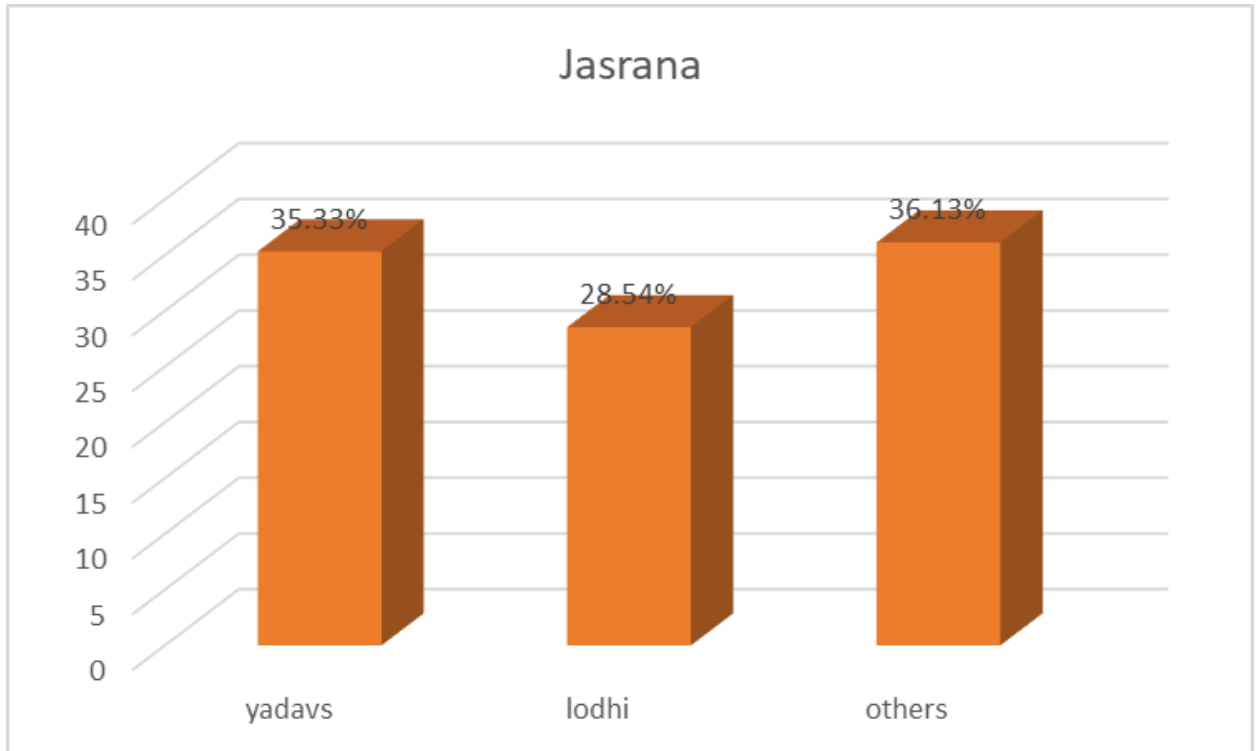


It is a General category assembly seat that has the majority of Yadav voters with 1.20 lakh Yadav voters followed by 55,000 Thakurs, 29,000 Lodhi, 27, 000 Jatav, and about 25,000 Baghel voters<sup>3</sup>. Yadav voters are considered the deciding factor in this constituency. In the 2022 assembly elections, Sarvesh Singh (GEN-Rajput) of the Samajwadi Party defeated Shri Hariom Yadav (OBC) of BJP by a margin of 8805 votes (4.23%). In the bipolar contest, SP got 46.22% votes followed by BJP which received 41.99% of the votes. In 2021, the sitting MLA of the SP, Shri Hariom Yadav (OBC) defected to the BJP as he was expelled from his party, contested the seat from the BJP, and bagged 41.99% of votes. Being the traditional bastion of the SP, it received votes from its core voters, the Yadavs but since Shri Hariom Yadav (OBC) had a great influence on the voters, and therefore the Yadavs' votes were divided between the SP and the BJP.

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<sup>3</sup> [Amarujala](#)

### 3. Jasrana

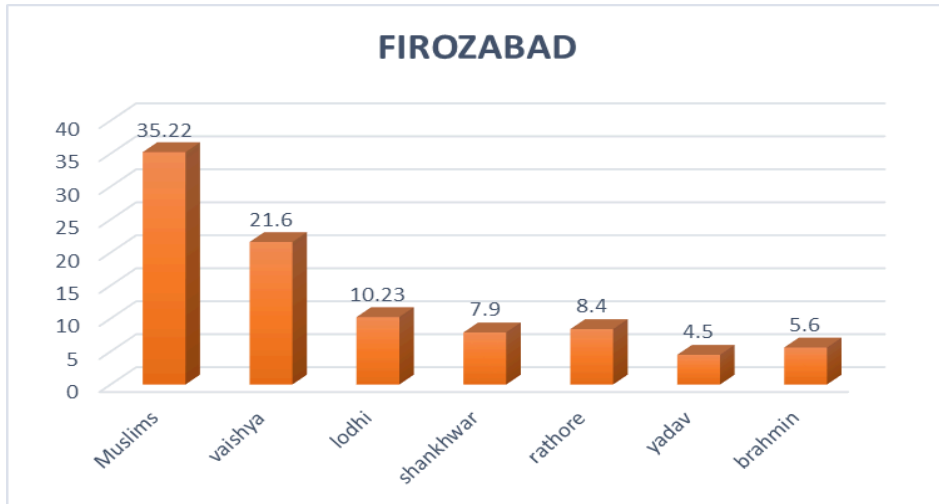


This is a General category seat in the assembly and consists of around 35.33% Yadav voters followed by 28.54% Lodhi voters<sup>4</sup>. In the 2022 assembly elections, Shri Sachin Yadav (OBC-Yadav) from SP emerged victorious by defeating Shri Manuvendra Pratap Singh Lodhi (OBC-Lodhi) of BJP by a margin of 853 votes (0.34%). In the last six major elections, BJP has won twice, while SP has won four times.

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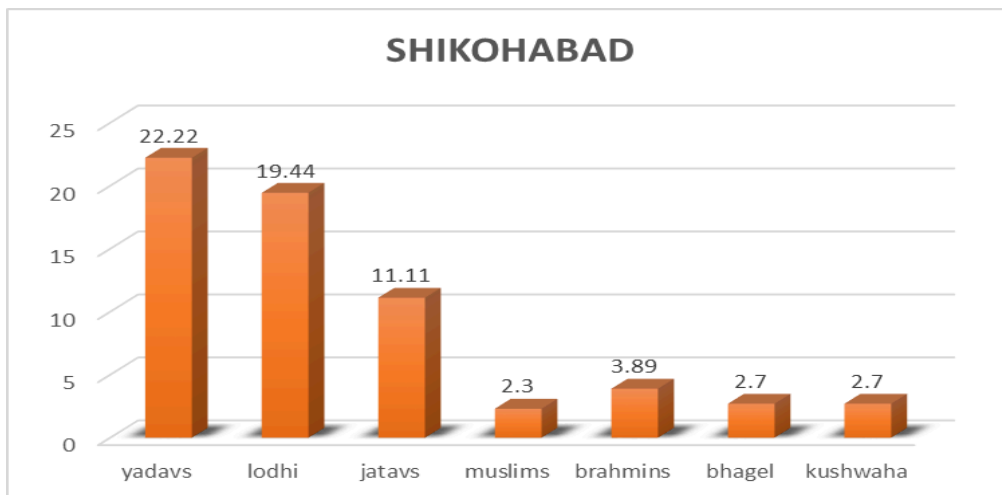
<sup>4</sup> [News18 hindi](#)

#### 4. Firozabad



It is a General category assembly seat consisting of 35.22% Muslims, followed by 21.6% Vaishya, 10.23% Jatav, 7.9% Shankhwar, 8.4% Rathore, 4.5% Yadav, and 5.6% Brahmin<sup>5</sup>. In the 2022 assembly elections, Shri Manish Asija (GEN-Kshatriya) from BJP defeated SP's Saifurrahman (Muslim) by 12.72%. Shri Manish Asija (GEN-Kshatriya) has been winning this seat since 2012. In the tripolar contest, BJP received 43.44% votes followed by SP which received 30.72% and BSP's Shazia Hasan received 14.54% votes.

#### 5. Shikohabad



It is a General category assembly seat and consists of around 22.22% Yadavs, 19.44% Lodhi, 11.11% Jatavs, 2.3% Muslims, 3.89% Brahmins, 2.7% Bhagel and Kushwaha. In the 2022 elections, Dr. Mukesh Verma (GEN-Kshatriya) of SP defeated Shri Om Prakash Verma

<sup>5</sup> [Amarujala](#)



(GEN-Kshatriya) of BJP by a margin of 3.97% votes. In the bipolar contest, SP got 45.15% votes while BJP got 41.18% votes.

## **Voting Pattern**

In Firozabad Hinduism is the majority religion at 62.36 % followed by Islam with approximately 33.80%, Christianity is followed by 0.22 %, Jainism by 1.76 %, Sikhism by 0.14,% and Buddhism by 0.2%<sup>6</sup>. Before 2019, the Samajwadi Party had been in power for around 20 years, showing their stronghold in the constituency. The Muslims have the largest community which constitutes 33.80% followed by Yadav voters accounting for around 4.31 lakh, apart from this there are 2.10 lakh Jatav, 1.65 lakh Thakur, 1.47 lakh Brahmin, 1.56 lakh Muslim, and 1.21 lakh Lodhi voters. The combination of Muslims and Yadavs is very strong in this seat, and due to this, it is one of the strongest strongholds of SP in UP.

Although the Muslim-Yadav factor worked for the SP and successfully gained most of the Muslim and Yadav votes in 2022, it did not successfully attract Dalit and other OBC voters. The fact is that, over the years, the BJP has given more importance to caste equations in Uttar Pradesh than any other party. It has assiduously courted, drawn, and consolidated the votes of non-Yadav Other Backward Classes and the non-Jatav Dalits<sup>7</sup>.

## **Prediction for 2024 elections**

After the Samajwadi Party (SP) lost the 2022 assembly elections, Akhilesh Yadav coined the formula of a PDA – Pichda, Dalit, Alpasankhyak (Backwards, Dalits, Minorities) alliance. They realized that many communities were becoming disenchanted with the BJP due to issues like agrarian problems, inflation, and joblessness. As a result, the party also created a strategy to connect with these communities at the booth level. Although the SP successfully gained most of the Muslim and Yadav votes in 2022, it did not successfully attract Dalit and other OBC voters.

The list of candidates released by the SP comprises most of the OBC candidates, one from SC, three from the upper caste, and a Muslim, in line with the party chief's PDA pitch for the 'Picchde' (backward), Dalit (scheduled castes) and 'Alpasankhayak' (minorities). The main reason for the SP and the Congress alliance is only because the Congress can help widen the party's vote base as Congress will be able to gain the Muslim vote bank while SP will focus on consolidating the vote bank of the OBC and the Dalits. At the same time, the SP can increase the probability of winning and improve the public's perception of Congress.

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<sup>6</sup> [Population census 2011](#)

<sup>7</sup> [The Caravan](#)

This time SP has given the ticket to Shri Akshay Yadav (OBC) while BJP has given the ticket to Shri Thakur Vishwadeep Singh (GEN-Rajput), an educationist, and director of several schools. He is the son of former MP, Shri Thakur Brajraj Singh (GEN-Rajput). He contested the election in 2014 from BSP but was defeated and joined BJP. The BJP did not renominate Dr. Chandrasen Jadon (GEN-Kshatriya) due to his perceived lack of public engagement, strained relationship with constituents, and internal party discord affecting his reputation.

The recent BJP-RLD Alliance has changed the voting arithmetic in Western up. It can be predicted that this time the ball is in BJP's court as the Yadav votes which is the core vote of SP are seen to be falling apart, and going in the favor of the BJP. The shift of the Yadavs towards the BJP is only because of the "MODI" factor and the "RAM MANDIR". The "MODI" factor has blurred the caste factor in the last 2 elections since 2014 and the recent inauguration of "RAM MANDIR" has also added to it.