

TWISTING POLITICAL TRIANGLE IN DISTRICT SITAPUR; AN ANALYSIS OF 2017-2022 STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS

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ABSTRACT

Election is the essential feature of democracy and the best source of Political participation. State assembly elections are the most popular elections in India which secures the maximum participation in rural as well as in urban areas. In Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh the Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samajwadi Party are well known and popular for the representation of OBC and SC categories voters. Since 2002 the Sitapur has been a castle of SP and BSP but the results of state assembly 2017 and 2022 trump of victory for BJP sweeping SP and BSP in Sitapur. In this paper 2017 and 2022 Election results have been analyzed to examine the victory of BJP with special reference to the agenda of Nationalism, Development or Inclusive Politics or just a Modi Magic.

Key words: Elections, Voting Behaviour, Sitapur Politics, Caste Politics.

Great Greece philosopher Aristotle says that man is a political animal and no doubt every human being no matters to what caste, creed, group, religion he belongs or he is educated or uneducated, rich or poor, black or white, wants to participate in political activity. Democracy is the best and guaranteed form of political participation for all the citizens in any country. That is why Universal adult franchisee is the thumb rule of democracy. Politics is the universal activity and it is defined as the authoritative allocation of values by David Easton. It is the only way to share the authority and to take part in decision making for a person.

Since Democracy has been adopted worldwide, a written constitution guaranteeing fix term election has been adopted by all the nations. India is one of those nations who declare themselves a democratic and republican state establishing political justice to its citizens. After the 73 Years of freedom the growing rate of literacy has increased the political participation of the people in elections. State Legislature (Vidhan Sabha) Elections are the most popular elections in any state and maximum voters whether urban or rural participate with great enthusiasm to elect their MLA.

Sitapur has always played a very effective role in National as well as in State politics. It has given so many famous leaders, central and state level ministers time to time. Ram Lal Rahi, Rajendra Gupta, Dr, Ammar Rizvi, Narendra Verma, Ram Het Bharti, Jitin Prasad are few of them who secured a different identity in state and central politics. There are total four Loksabha Constituencies (Sitapur, Mishrikh, Dhaurahra, Mohanlalganj) belong to district Sitapur and out of the 403 constituencies of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly 09 Assembly constituencies belong to district Sitapur. First election in this assembly constituency was held in 1952 after the "DPACO (1951)" (delimitation order) was passed in 1951.

Constituencies and Voters with booth no.'s in Sitapur District

Name of Constituency	Constituency No.	Total booths	Total Voters	Male Voters	Female Voters	Other Voters
Maholi	145	444	3,67,871	1,98,801	1,69,041	29
Sitapur	146	465	3,92,057	2,07,283	1,84,745	29
Hargaon	147	389	3,24,355	1,72,566	1,51,760	29
Laharpur	148	390	3,49,238	1,85,153	1,64,055	30
Biswan	149	383	3,27,749	1,74,358	1,53,378	13
Sevta	150	367	3,06,017	1,66,357	1,39,651	09
Mahmudabad	151	380	3,04,052	1,63,806	1,40,242	04
Sidhauri	152	403	3,42,885	1,83,925	1,58,958	02
Mishrikh	153	417	3,56,928	1,93,976	1,62,929	23
Total=09		3638	30,71,152	16,46,225	14,24,799	168

Table 1.0 (Source: Election office Sitapur)

According to data available at District Election Office Sitapur, Sitapur has around 30,71,152 registered voters. It has 16,46,225 male and 14,24,799 female registered voters. Also Sitapur has 168 registered voters in the others category. In 2017 election, Sitapur witnessed 68.49 per cent voting.

A dramatic change was seen in Lok sabha elections when BJP demolished all the myths about politics of up which was known as caste centred. This sweep continued in UP assembly elections 2017 and sitapur known as the castle of SP and BSP could not defend from it. Since last 20 years the identity politics of caste and community has been a salient feature of assembly elections in district Sitapur. Results show that SP and BSP have been controlling parties in UP Assembly Elections since 2002. In 2002 UP Assembly Elections out of 07 seats in district Sitapur SP won at six seats and rest one was won by BSP. Again in 2007 Assembly elections out of seven seats SP won four where as BSP got three. Same politics worked effectively in 2012 Assembly elections when out of 09 seats SP sweep with 07 seats and rest 02 were won by BSP.

Comparative Chart of Seats Won in Last Four U.P. Assembly Elections

UP Constituency	2002	2007	2012	2017	2022
Biswan	SP	BSP	SP	BJP	BJP
Hargaon	SP	BSP	BSP	BJP	BJP
Laharpur	SP	SP	BSP	BJP	SP
Mahmudabad	BSP	SP	SP	SP	BJP
Maholi	-----	-----	SP	BJP	BJP
Mishrikh	SP	SP	SP	BJP	BJP
Sevta	-----	-----	SP	BJP	BJP
Sidhauli	SP	BSP	SP	BSP	BJP
Sitapur	SP	SP	SP	BJP	BJP
TOTAL	07	07	09	09	09

Table 2.0 (Source: Election Commission of India)

A dramatic U – turn was seen in 2017 elections when Modi wave crashed the politics of backwards and dalits in all over UP and Sitapur was also swept with eight BJP seats out of nine seats. This result surprised to political leaders, experts and analysts. No doubt the 2017 election was the election of Narendra Modi not of BJP. This victory indicates a paradigm shift in voter behaviour, with a preference for good governance and development pushing out the identity politics of caste and community. After about 20 years, the people of the sitapur refused to go along with caste-based parties and preferred to vote for development and good governance. Voters may have believed that caste parties such as the SP and BSP had become irrelevant. In 2022 the results remain almost same in District Sitapur. BJP won total 08 Seats out of 09 seats. Following hypothesis have to be examined in this research paper:

- Caste politics has oriented towards the politics of Nationalism in district Sitapur?
- Politics of Inclusion is not well operated by SP and BSP as implemented effectively by BJP in district Sitapur?
- Development issues have superimposed the politics of caste and community in district Sitapur?
- Caste and Identity have no more roles to play in politics of Sitapur?

Voting behaviour always has been a very interesting topic for political analysts though the systematic study of voting behaviour is a subject of 20th century. For the very first time in in 1913 France was the first country to study the voting behaviour. The shifting paradigm of the voters turns the mood of the democracy in any country

and there are various factors to affect the voting behaviour. Caste, religion and region have been the most deciding factors for voting behaviour in India. Political Equations are made on the basis of these factors during every election in India. Since 1975 the rise of regional parties in any state is based on caste and regional issues. No doubt Congress and BJP have been the ruling parties at Central level but the caste and regionalism have been the deciding factors in state elections in India. 2014 was the game changing year for Indian Politics. Since 2014 Lok Sabha Election the Political equations in states also have been changed specially in Uttar Pradesh. Modi magic has controlled the factors of caste and religion in 2017 Vidhan Sabha Elections in U.P. Dr. A.K. Verma (2016) in his research paper “Development Government Trump Caste Identities in U.P.” published in EPW, has analyzed the changing voting behaviour of the voters in Uttar Pradesh. He concludes that developmental issues have put the caste equations aside in politics of Uttar Pradesh. Lucia Michelutti & Oliver Heath in his research paper “The Politics of Entitlement” (2013) has tried to analyse the caste politics of two major political players Yadavs and Dalits and their favoured political parties; Bahujan Samajwadi Party and Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh. Dr. A.K. Verma (2004) in his research paper “U.P. Caste and Political Mobilisation” revealed that in the changing paradigm of voting behaviour even SP and BSP who were know as the parties of a particular voter groups based on caste are also turning towards the politics of Inclusion with support of other castes with slogans as “ Sarvjan Hitay Sarvjan Sukhay.” Deepankar Gupta (2005) in his paper “Caste and Politics; Identity over System” tried to study the impact of caste factor on voting behaviour in elections in JNU. Gaurang R. Sahay (2009) in his research “Major Caste matters; Caste and Politics In Keral, Bihar” found the castes as the deciding factor in Bihar elections and politics.

Keeping in mind the factor of caste we have tried to examine and analyze the results of 2017 Vidhan Sabha Elections in Sitapur to find the reasons responsible for the victory of BJP on seven seats out of nine.

2017 Election Results and Bifurcation of Votes

<i>Constituency</i>	CANDIDATE NAME	PAR TY NAME	Difrc I-II /III	VOTE S	OTHE RS	Inde pendent	NOT A	TOT AL
SITAPUR	Rakesh Rathore	BJP	24839	98850	3398 (RLD-1059)	3916	1842	9156
	Radhey SY. Jaiswal	SP		74011				
	Ashfaq Khan	BSP		21830				
MAHOLI	Shashank Trivedi	BJP	3717	80938	16450 (LD-	4508	1665	2262 3
	Anoop K. Gupta	SP		77221				

	Mahesh C. Mishra	BSP	16304	60917	11214)			
MISHRIKH	Ram Krishna Bhargava	BJP	20672	86403	1870 (RLD-1243)	2238	2222	6330
	Manish K.Rawat	BSP		65731				
	Ram Pal Rajvanshi	SP	4500	61231				
SIDHAULI	Hargovind Bhargava	BSP	2510	78506	6240 (RKSP-2442)	870	2169	9279
	Manish Rawat	SP		75996				
	Ram Bakash Rawat	BJP	7040	68956				
MAHMUDA BAD	Narendra S. Verma	SP	1906	81469	2032 (RLD-1175)	650	1898	4580
	Asha Maurya	BJP		79563				
	Pradyumn Verma	BSP	34513	45050				
BISWAN	Mahendra Singh	BJP	10235	81907	2934 (RLD-1716)	4421	2080	9435
	Afzaal Kausar	SP		71672				
	Nirmal Verma	BSP	6632	65040				
SEVATA	Gyan Tiwari	BJP	43659	94697	7313 (LD-13130)	2760	2990	1306 3
	ER. Mohd Nasim	BSP		51038				
	Shiv Kumar Gupta	SP	7550	43488				
HARGAON	Suresh Rahi	BJP	44995	10168 0	9412 (SSP-2700)	1053	2220	1268 5
	Ramhet Bharti	BSP		56685				

	Manoj K. Rajvanshi	SP	6474	50211				
LAHARPUR	Suneel Verma	BJP	9118	79467	5333 (LGP-1682)	4393	2861	1258 7
	Mo. Ansari	BSP		70349				
	Anil Kumar Verma	INCo	3247	67102				

Table 3.0 (Source: Election Commission of India)

Analysis

As results shown in table 3.0 BJP defeated to SP candidates on three seats; Maholi, Sitapur and Biswan. The difference between Winner and runner in Maholi is very nominal i.e. 3717 votes where as the difference between second and third place candidates (SP and BSP) is 16304, which is a big difference in MLA elections. Total 22623 votes in Maholi were bifurcated towards seven other parties, five independent candidates and towards NOTA. It shows a clear cut message that in Maholi Voters do not have a clear mandate for candidates and the position of BJP is not very secure. It may be just a Modi magic not nationalism oriented voting behavior or a result of inclusive politics by BJP. Reasons may be rural voter of Maholi are still interested in caste politics which polarized General OBC and SC category voters into BJP, SP and BSP respectively. Shashank Trivedi being a Brahmin Candidate was benefited with general category voters as Maholi is dominated by Brahmins.

Sitapur seat is a urban seat and it was dominated by SP candidate since 2002 elections. In 2017 BJP won by 24839 votes where as the runner candidate of SP is leading by 21830 votes compared to BSP. At this seat Urban mindset having Modi Magic in mind shifted towards BJP and the BJP candidate Rakesh Rathaur (ex candidate of BSP) got support of backward voters and his old supporters of BSP time that is why the difference between runner candidate of SP and the third place holder candidate of BSP is also very high (21830). This result shows that at this seat the caste and category equations again works effectively as compared to national issues, development or politics of inclusion.

Third is the Seat of Biswan where BJP won by 10235 votes defeating SP candidate by 10235 votes but data makes the picture crystal clear that 9156 votes were bifurcated towards three other parties, four individual candidates and NOTA. In last three elections voters who belonged to SP, BSP have shifted towards BJP and the difference between second and third place candidate (SP-BSP) is just of 6632 votes. No doubt there is toe to toe among all three parties.

Now we have a look on three seats where BJP has defeated BSP candidates with huge votes. In Mishrikh (20672), Sevta (43659), and Hargaon (44995) BJP swept BSP very well but in all three seat a same pattern is shown between candidates of second and third place. On these seats BSP candidates have a good fight with SP

candidates. In Mishrikh (4500 votes), Sevta (7550 votes), and Hargaon (6474 votes) difference is less than the votes shifted towards other small parties and individual candidates as well as towards NOTA. It may be concluded that SP may fight well against BSP on these three seats in the next elections and caste and community equations will definitely work again here.

Laharpur seat is the most interesting one where BJP defeated to BSP with a difference of 9118 votes and the third place candidate belongs to Indian National Congress who is just 3247 votes behind. Laharpur is the Muslim dominated area and it is interesting to see SP in not first three. It seems the Muslim voters of SP in this area were shifted towards INC and others towards BJP.

Victory: Seat wise with Last Elections Results

Srl	Constituency	Winner>Runner Party	Difference	Votes To Others	Other parties + Individual Candidates	2012	2007	2002
1	Maholi	BJP > SP	3717	22623	07+5	SP
2	Sitapur	BJP > SP	24839	9156	07+5	SP	SP	SP
3	Biswan	BJP > SP	10235	9435	03+4	SP	BSP	SP
4	Misrikh	BJP > BSP	20672	6330	02+3	SP	SP	SP
5	Sevata	BJP > BSP	43659	13063	06+2	SP
6	Hargaon	BJP > BSP	44995	12685	05+1	BSP	BSP	SP
7	LHRPR	BJP > BSP	9118	12587	05+5	BSP	SP	SP
8	MMB	SP > BJP	1906	4580	02+1	BSP	SP	SP
9	Sidhauli	BSP > SP	2510	9279	04+1	SP	BSP	SP

Table-4.0 (Source: Election Commission of India)

Comparison of Vote percent Shifted from 2017 to 2022

Sitapur Constituencies	2017						2022					
	1	%	2	%	3	%	1	%	2	%	3	%
Maholi	BJP	33.72	SP	32.17	BSP	25.38	BJP	44.73	SP	39.87	BSP	10.18
Sitapur	BJP	42.54	SP	31.85	BSP	22.46	BJP	42.72	SP	42.18	BSP	7.31
Harganw	BJP	46.42	BSP	25.88	SP	22.92	BJP	52.46	SP	35.31	BSP	7.3
Laharpur	BJP	35.05	BSP	31.03	INC	29.6	SP	47.05	BJP	41.57	BSP	8.25
Biswan	BJP	36.25	SP	31.72	BSP	28.78	BJP	44.77	SP	40.35	BSP	10.17
Sevta	BJP	44.86	BSP	24.18	SP	20.60	BJP	48.43	SP	39.34	BSP	7.64
Mahmoodabad	SP	39.02	BJP	38.11	BSP	21.58	BJP	41.89	SP	39.51	BSP	16.06
Sidhauri	BSP	34.05	SP	32.96	BJP	29.91	BJP	43.58	SP	39.60	BSP	12.94
Mishrikh	BJP	39.73	BSP	30.22	SP	28.16	BJP	41.15	SBSP	35.97	BSP	15.66
TOTAL	09		09		09		09		09		09	

Table-5.0 (Source: Election Commission of India)

This is very clear from the table no 5.0 that the voting percentage for BJP in 2022 is booming up as compared to 2017. On the 08 seats party has a big jump in voting percent. In Sitapur it is marginal but results in favour of BJP. It is not because of Modi and Yogi show but somewhere the faith of the voters in the system and stability of the government with its policies. Zero Tolerance on Corruption, women security, trust of youths in party leaders are the major causes for the above growth in voting percentages of BJP.

Conclusions

- In Sitapur majority of voters is centred on three Political Parties; BJP, BSP, SP.
- In 2017 elections BJP has swept to SP and BSP but the Difference of votes on three seats is less (Maholi, and Laharpur) or almost equal (Biswan) to the votes bifurcated towards others and NOTA and it indicates that the SP and BSP are almost equally popular among the voters but in the 2022 elections the results remains more favourable for BJP.
- SP candidate have a closer fight to BJP as compared to BSP in 2017 and 2022.

- SP as third party in few seats has a close difference to runner party and it may twist the results in next coming state election.
- Caste and community are a reality of state as well as in the politics of Sitapur but the inclusive politics, national issues or personality magic can change the game of elections for a long term as seen in last two elections.
- The winner candidates have to work hard in their areas to maintain their personal image among the voters for the next elections as its is going to be very tough without Modi –Yogi magic.

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