

# UP voters see a fight, not a wave

J.P.YADAV

Varanasi/Mau: Vijay Gupta is dismissive. “Do hazar satrah jaisa lahar nahi hai; cycle kadi takkar de raha hai (There’s no 2017-like wave for the BJP; the Samajwadi Party is putting up a tough fight),” the young man says at his small tea shop.

The tea shop stands at the entrance to a building that houses the CPM party office in Varanasi, and is bang opposite one of the gates of the Kashi Vishwanath temple.

“Khela bhi ho sakta hai (We may have a game).” Vijay adds before getting busy with the pre-Shivaratri surge of customers.

Such comments from a youth belonging to the Baniya (trader) community, considered a BJP vote bank, should alarm the ruling party.

Voices saying “no wave for the BJP” may amount to no more than a murmur in Varanasi city, the parliamentary turf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but they turn louder as one travels to Ghazipur, Mau and beyond, touching chief minister Yogi Adityanath’s pocket borough of Gorakhpur. Even Mirzapur and Chandauli, to the east and south of Varanasi, ring with similar sentiments.

“Rahul Prakash (MLA of BJP ally Apna Dal from Chhanbey in Mirzapur) was chased away by villagers,” says a policeman, posted at a rally by Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on the outskirts of Mirzapur town.

“There is simmering anger against the BJP MLA from Mirzapur town too,” another policeman says.

The BJP had hoped that Modi’s spectacular inauguration of the refurbished Kashi Vishwanath temple corridor in December and the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya would create a Hindutva

wave and blunt anti-incumbency. That doesn’t seem to be happening.

The damage the BJP is believed to have suffered in western Uttar Pradesh, primarily because of the farmers’ anger, seems likely to be repeated in eastern Uttar Pradesh where the party faces a tough fight in almost every seat. In several constituencies it had won last time, the dominant popular opinion is that the BJP is likely to lose.

Many speak of the “dikkat” (problems) the BJP is facing even in Varanasi South constituency, under which the Kashi Vishwanath temple falls. The Samajwadi Party has fielded Kishan Dikshit, popular head priest of the Mahamrityunjay temple.

The menace of stray cattle, price rise, joblessness and, above all, anger at the sitting MLAs threaten the prospects of the BJP as the party desperately seeks to create a surge in the final rounds of voting.

The voter coalition of the upper castes, non-Yadav OBCs and non-Jatav Dalits that the BJP had built since Modi’s rise in national politics appears to be unravelling too.

“Yahan ladai Sapa aur Baspa me hai (Here, the tussle is between the Samajwadis and the BSP),” says Lalbabu Basfor, a non-Jatav Dalit in Madhuban constituency of Mau district, which the BJP had won last time.

Lalbabu says he hasn’t decided which party to support. Pressed, he says: “I may vote for the BSP.”

In Raisa village, Ghosi constituency, Jagram Rajbhar says: “The BJP has humiliated our leader Om Prakash Rajbhar. Most Rajbhars here will vote for the gathbandhan (the Samajwadis’ alliance with smaller parties).”

Dara Singh Chauhan, one of the three OBC ministers who revolted against the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to supporters as he arrives at the “Booth Vijay Sammelan” in Varanasi on Sunday. (PTI)

Adityanath government, is contesting from Ghosi on a Samajwadi ticket. He belongs to the Nonia Chauhan caste.

Om Prakash Rajbhar, who heads the Suheldev Samaj Party and snapped ties with the BJP ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, is contesting from Zahurabad in Ghazipur. His son is giving the BJP a tough time at the Shivpur seat in Varanasi.

Minor OBCs like Rajbhars and Chauhans have large pockets of influence across eastern Uttar Pradesh, and the rebellion by some of their leaders against the BJP has divided the votes of these communities that had backed the ruling party in 2017.

Although the BJP still enjoys support from the majority among the minor OBCs and Dalits, owing primarily to government welfare schemes, there seems a lack of enthusiasm among them. The refrain is “vote bata hua hai (the votes are divided)” — that is, the voting preferences of the minor OBCs vary from constituency to constituency.

“The free rations scheme is good, but stray cattle devour more grains than the government is giving us,” says Ram-lal Nishad, a Ghazipur resident who has lost two bighas of mustard crop to stray cows.

“I shall vote for the BJP but Yogi Baba has to do something about the stray cattle. They are destroying everything.”

With the Adityanath government cracking down on trade and transport in cattle, farmers are letting their old

cows loose after they stop giving milk. These cattle are destroying crops.

The Samajwadi vote bank — Yadavs and Muslims — looks charged up and confident about a “badlav ka hawa (winds of change)”. Party managers believe that the generous additions of minor OBC votes, thanks to the smaller alliance partners, would give them the edge.

The BSP has put up strong Muslim candidates at many seats, raising the BJP’s hopes of a division of minority votes, but the Muslim voters themselves say they are united behind Samajwadi president Akhilesh Yadav.

“In every past election, the Muslim vote would get divided between the Samajwadis, BSP and the Congress. But this time we are all solidly behind Akhilesh,” says Obaidullah Ansari at Indara, Mau.

Even the BJP’s loyal upper caste voters seem listless. Many echo Vijay, the tea seller, in saying “there’s a fight” before adding: “But it’s Adityanath who will form the government”.

“There’s no wave like 2017 but the BJP will retain power,” says young Aryan Mishra at a Mirzapur market. He is disgusted with the price rise and lack of jobs but fears that Samajwadi rule would bring back “gundagardi (hooliganism)”.

Many staunch BJP backers fear their party might well fall just short of the majority mark of 202 in the 403-member Assembly, and hope that the BSP would bail it out.

The BJP’s concern at the lack of enthusiasm among its voters was bared last weekend in Varanasi when Modi fervently appealed to party workers to knock at each door and ensure that each vote is cast.

The unpopularity of several BJP candidates comes up intermittently as one travels across eastern Uttar Pradesh. Voters who have no complaints against Modi or Adityanath say the BJP might lose this or that seat because of anger against the sitting MLA.

“In every district the BJP will lose at least one seat it had won last time, and the state has 75 districts,” says a policeman in Mirzapur, adding his assessment is based on conversations with colleagues across the state.

“The BJP seems in danger,” the policeman adds, his colleagues nodding in agreement.

A BJP leader in Varanasi tells this newspaper that “suraksha aur shanti (security and peace)” would see his party through.

“Yes, there is discontent. However, we are confident that people may abuse us but will ultimately vote for us because they don’t want the gunda raj of the Samajwadis,” he asserts.

A paan seller outside a kachhri (lower court) in Varanasi echoes him: “There are some problems but Modiji will camp here and everything will be fine.”

Constituencies in Varanasi, Mau and Mirzapur vote on March 7.

# HC cites Centre’s file on security Threat not clear, channel ban stays

K.M.RAKESH

Bangalore: A Kerala High Court division bench on Wednesday upheld the Centre’s decision to revoke the broadcasting licence of a Malayalam news channel on the ground of national security, but observed that the “nature, impact and gravity and depth” of the issue was not clear from the records the government had placed before it.

The division bench of Chief Justice S. Manikumar and Justice Shaji P. Chaly upheld the February verdict of Justice N. Nagesh who had based his judgment on the denial of security clearance from the Union home ministry for renewing the uplinking and downlinking licences of MediaOne owned by Madhyamam Broadcasting Ltd.

In dismissing the appeals filed by Madhyamam Broadcasting, MediaOne editor Pramod Raman and other employees, and the Kerala Union of Working Journalists, the division bench stated that “the appellants have failed to establish any jurisdictional error or other legal infirmities” in the judgment of the single judge.

MediaOne, which had challenged the verdict of the single bench arguing that the ban was based on the camouflage of national security without actually explaining how the channel had erred, has decided to appeal before the Supreme Court.

The high court division bench that went through the

confidential files submitted by the home ministry noted that “certain aspects relating to the security of the State are mentioned to the effect that M/s Madhyamam Broadcasting Limited has some linkages with certain undesirable forces, which is stated to be a security threat”.

The bench further stated that there were “certain serious adverse reports by the Intelligence Bureau against M/s Madhyamam Broadcasting Limited and its managing director”.

The high court, however, added that the true nature of the impact of the security threat was “not discernible” from the files submitted before it.

“It is true that the nature, impact and gravity and depth of the issue is not discernible from the files. But, at the same time, there are clear and significant indications impacting the public order and security of the State. Since it is a confidential and sensitive file maintained by the ministry of home affairs, Union of India, we are not expressing anything further in the interest of national security, public order and other aspects concerning the administration of the nation,” it added.

Few know what exactly triggered the national security concerns. Even the channel, operating for nearly 10 years, has not been informed by the government which commission or omission led to the denial of security clearance. The judges received a report from the Centre in a sealed envelope.

The Sangh parivar has been targeting the channel on the ground that some of its promoters are associated with the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, known for its rigid religious views but not banned in India.

The division bench agreed with the lawyers for the appellants that in normal circumstances the government cannot “tinker with freedom enjoyed by the press since the principle of democracy and rule of law prevailing in the country is largely dependent upon the freedom of speech enjoyed by the press and the citizens through the visual and print media”.

But the court cited the contents of the files submitted by the home ministry to conclude that “we are of the view that there are certain aspects affecting the public order or the security of the State on the basis of the report of the Intelligence Bureau and other investigating agencies”.

Senior counsel Dushyant Dave who appeared for MediaOne and the other appellants had argued that the Union government was not entitled to suppress freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by the Constitution by using high-sounding words like national security.

Additional solicitor-general of India Aman Lekhi, who appeared for the Centre, had contended that the State was at liberty to decline renewal of broadcasting licence without disclosing the actual reasons in view of national security.

# Ominous test after Biden draws line

► FROM PAGE 1

What happens if the combination of destabilising Russia’s currency, depriving it of access to western technology and freezing the assets of its oligarchs and their families fails to force Putin into retreat? And what if, once he is finished with Ukraine, the Russian leader keeps going, determined to re-establish the sphere of influence that the Soviet Union’s last leaders gave up, disastrously in Putin’s view?

For the first time since satellites detected the massing of Russian troops on the Ukrainian border last fall, Biden openly acknowledged that he is not certain where Putin is going to stop.

So he drew the line along the borders of an expanded Nato, the map Putin insists must be rolled back. “Our forces are not going to Europe to fight in Ukraine, but to defend our Nato allies,” he said, “in the event that Putin decides to keep moving west.”

That last line was the most ominous. Biden and his aides have frequently debated in recent months whether the Russian leader’s ambitions go far beyond Ukraine.

They look at the electronic maps on the screens in the White House Situation Room, and question whether, at nearly 70, the Russian leader thinks this is his last moment to string together a conquered Ukraine, a captive Belarus, a dependent Kazakhstan and maybe even a vulnerable Moldova into an approximation of the Soviet Union’s old glory.

Eastern Europe was not the battlefield Biden had in mind when he raised the idea last year that the battle of “autocracy versus democracy” would be the defining foreign policy principle of his administration.

At the time, he was thinking more about China than Russia. Russia was regarded as a disrupter, but one that could most likely be kept in the box.

Now it is clear that containing Putin could dominate the next three years of his presidency, imperilling the



Patients of Ohmatdyt Children’s Hospital in Kyiv board a bus to Poland on Wednesday. (Reuters)

much delayed “pivot to Asia” that has been long discussed in American foreign policy circles but never fully executed.

Biden sounded on Tuesday night like a man who had decided that history gave him no other choice.

Biden is one of the few remaining architects of the post-Soviet order still in power in Washington, and to him, the borders of Nato are more than lines on a map. They are a living testament to what happens when free people can pick their own allies.

To Putin, of course, that same map looks like an invading boa constrictor, a string of nations lured by the West in a plot to squeeze Russia until it can no longer breathe. He has rallied against that design since 2007. When he began to act — invading Georgia in 2008 and annexing Crimea in 2014 — he met little western resistance. It took a long while for the US and its allies to organise sanctions, and they had little bite when imposed.

Biden was part of those decisions, especially on Crimea. But he seemed to acknowledge on Tuesday evening that the weak response had only encouraged Russia’s strongman. “Throughout our history we’ve learned this lesson: When dictators do not pay a price for their aggression, they cause more chaos,” Biden said. The cost to America and

the world “keeps rising”, he added.

But Biden’s description of the problem does not help much in figuring out how this war ends.

Biden knows that there is no guarantee that Putin — emboldened by the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, convinced of his power to withstand any sanctions thrown at him — will fail.

“No one can say definitively what kind of world will emerge from the ashes in Ukraine,” Richard Fontaine, the chief executive of the Centre for a New American Security and a Republican foreign policy strategist, wrote on Tuesday.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt did not know, either, when he addressed Congress in 1941, with Hitler just six months from bombing and laying siege to Kyiv amid his drive into the Soviet Union.

“The parallels between that moment and this one are striking,” Michael Beschloss, the presidential historian, said on Tuesday, noting that democracy at the time was being “threatened within America and outside”, referring in part to the isolationist “America First” movement that has echoes today in the pro-Trump wing of the Republican Party.

Roosevelt rose to the moment, defined America’s

“Four Freedoms” and built the Lend-Lease Act to help Britain keep Nazi Germany at bay. But America did not enter the war until it was forced to, at the end of 1941.

In 2022, Biden’s task is to keep history from repeating itself. But he acknowledged that

it would be a while before the full implications of Russia’s decision to go to war play out.

“This is the real test,” he said. “It’s going to take time. So let us continue to draw inspiration from the iron will of the Ukrainian people.”

New York Times News Service



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**“APPENDIX- IV-A” [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]**  
**Sale Notice for sale of immovable properties**  
**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002.**  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged/Encumbrance known: NIL) to the Central Bank of India, the constructive/process of physical possession is going on/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Central Bank of India, will be sold on “As is where is”. “As is what is”. And “Whatever there is basis”.

NAME OF ACCOUNT /BORROWER & GUARANTOR	DETAILS OF PROPERTIES (FLATS/SHOPS/LAND/Building etc.)	13(2) Notice Date Outstanding Amount	Reserve Price EMD Amount
M/S Tijiya Engg. Pvt Ltd	OWNER OF THE PROPERTY : Babulal Poddar S/O Niwas Poddar, All that piece and parcel of land measuring 7 (seven) bigha 14 (fourteen) cotah 1 (one) chitaks and 30 (thirty) sqft. Long with share of 30 (thirty) feet wide common Road lying to the East measuring 06 (six) cotahs land in total 115275 sqft. Appearing to C.S. and R.S. Dag No. 1441 under C.S. and R.S. Khatian No. 430 of Mouja Ramnagar J.L. No. 84 Renenue Survey No. 985, Touzi No. 32, Pargana Singur, sub Registrar Office Serampore, P.S. Singur, Dist. Hooghly. Bounded: On the North by Vacant Land, On the South by: 10' wide Old Metal Road and NH-2, On the East by: Vacant Land, On the West by: Vacant Land	13(4) Notice Date 01.06.2020 Rs.14.80 Crore	RP: Rs.83.00 Lakh EMD: Rs.8.30 Lakh BIA: Rs.50000/-

**E-Auction Date: 23.03.2022, Time: 12 Noon to 4 PM with Auto Extension of 10 Minutes**  
**Last Date & Time of Submission of EMD and Documents (Online) On or Before: 21.03.2022 Up to 4.00 PM.**  
Bidder will register on website <https://www.msccommerce.com> and upload KYC documents and after verification of KYC documents by the service provider. EMD to Be Deposited In Global EMD wallet through NEFT/RTGS/ transfer (after generation of challan from <https://www.msccommerce.com>).  
The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider "https://www.msccommerce.com"  
For detailed terms and conditions please refer to the link provided in [www.centralbankofindia.co.in](http://www.centralbankofindia.co.in) secured creditor or auction platform (<https://msccommerce.com>) Helpline No.-033-22901004

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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD**  
Civil Side Chapter XII, Rules 1 and 7  
**Miscellaneous Petition No. 1119 of 2008 (civil)**  
(Under Article 227 of constitution of India)  
**The New India Assurance Company LTD & another Appellant Versus**  
**Smt. Bhuwan Devi and others. District-Jhansi Opposite Party TO, R/3.**  
**Tapan Mandal S/o Sri Bankim Mandal**  
R/o Tala Panda P.S. - Midnapore, District - Midnapore (West Bengal)  
Whereas the above mentioned applicant has made an application to the Court for.....in the above noted for case you are hereby called upon to enter appearance on or before the **08th day of March 2022** to show cause why the application be not granted. The said application will be of heard on such day thereafter as may be subsequently notified in accordance with the rules. Take notice that in default of appearance on or before the day before mentioned in person or by Advocate or some person by law authorised to act on your behalf, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.  
A copy of the application together with a copy of the affidavit filed by the application is annexed here to.  
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this, the 21-2-2022.  
Arun Kumar Shukla  
Advocate for petitioner  
Date:-18-02-2022  
Seat No. 24 T, U Hall  
High Court Allahabad  
Mob.- 9415317590.  
Note-A process fee of Rs.....Chargeable under Date  
Chapter XXXVII, Rule 2 of Rules of Court, author has been paid.  
**Signature of Clerk receiving the fee**

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**M/S G. B. Enterprises (Transport) Pvt. Ltd.,**  
14, T. N. Chatterjee Road Kolkata through Director Harvansh Singh S/o Gurumukh Singh R/o 46/345 Banerjee Road, Kolkata  
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