

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATION

EMERGENCE OF PUBLIC LIFE

The public life of the people of this district as elsewhere was neither active nor well organized in the past. The rulers were of the despotic attitude towards their subjects and they hardly did anything constructive to encourage public participation in affair of the State. On the contrary efforts at mobilizing public opinion by a citizen or through institution were nipped in the bud. Those who tried to raise their voice against the policies of the rulers were crushed ruthlessly and so the population remained ignorant of political matters. Sometimes a raja or a zamindar would found a school or orphanage to please their English masters through minor act of philanthropy which used to gain popularity among the masses. It was only with the growing consciousness of the affairs in other parts of the world, brought home through education in foreign languages and fast modes of communication that a political awareness gradually grew up in the people. The political awakening of 1857, the partition of Bengal in 1905, the Swadeshi movement of 1906, the Home Rule and the Swarajaya movement in succeeding years sponsored by the devoted workers aroused public opinion in such a strong measures that it ultimately led to the Independence of the country in 1947.

POLITICAL PARTIES

The district has branches of several political organisation of national and provincial level. It is difficult to asses the numerical strength of their members which keeps on fluctuating with expediency. The major political parties in the district are the Indian National Congress, the Bhartiya Kranti Dal (now Bharatiya Lok Dal), the Akhil Bhartiya Jan Sangh, the Socialist Party, the Communist Party and the Hindu Mahasabha.

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

From the results of the various general elections it is clear that the Indian National Congress was a strong and active party in the district. The Congress party contested in all general elections. In the elections of 1952 to the Vidhan Sabha all the 16 seats went to the Congress party. There was a split in the party in 1969 and the two emerging groups came to be known as the Congress (organizational) and the Congress (Ruling). These established their separate branch office in the district also, as elsewhere. Its off shoot organisation is Yuvak Congress which has influence among the youths.

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ORGANIZATIONAL)

This party is the result of split in the Indian National Congress. It was headed by Sri Nigalingappa. The party could not do much to influence the people. In 1971, one candidate was set up for the Lok Sabha elections but he was defeated. In the general elections of 1974 to the Vidhan Sabha 15 candidates were set up to contest the elections but none of them was returned.

AKHIL BHARTIYA JAN SANGH

The Akhil Bhartiya Jan Sangh is the second important party in the district. It also contested all the general elections for Vidhan Sabha as well as for the Lok Sabha seats. But it could get only two seats in 1967 and one seat in 1974 for the Vidhan Sabha. For the Lok Sabha seat it never succeeded. It has two youth organisation namely Vidhyarthi Parishad and Bhartiya Yuva Sangh, having influence in student community.

BHARTIYA KRANTI DAL

The Bhartiya Kranti Dal later known as the Bhartiya Lok Dal is the third influential party of the district wielding influence among farmers. Though it could not get any seat in Lok Sabha from the district but in 1969 and 1974 general elections to the Vidhan Sabha, the party won 3 and 4 seats respectively.

The parties participating once only in the general elections have been Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party, and the Uttar Pradesh Revolutionary Socialist Party in 1952; the Uttar Pradesh Sikh Pratinidhi Board and the Mazdoor Parishad in 1969; the Shoshit Samaj Dal, the Akhil Bhartiya Lok Tantrik Dal and the Muslim League in 1974. These parties could not make a head way so far.

REPRESENTATION OF DISTRICT IN STATE LEGISLATURE

Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly)

For the general elections to the Vidhan Sabha in 1952, the district was divided into 13 constituencies, 10 single-member and three double seated ones having one seat reserved for the Scheduled Caste candidate. The single member constituencies were those of Bansaon(south-East), Bansaon (Central), Bansaon (East), cum-Gorakhpur (South), Gorakhpur (Central), Gorakhpur (South-East), Pharenda (South), Gorakhpur (West), Pharenda (Central), Pharenda (North), Maharajganj (North) and the double seated constituencies were Bansaon (South-West), Gorakhpur (North-East) and Maharajganj (South). The following statement gives the relevant data concerning the assembly elections of 1952.

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seats won	Valid Votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	7	...	33,826
Hindu Maha Sabha	5	...	12,862
Indian National Congress	16	16	2,90,366
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	16	...	48,791
Ram Rajya Parishad	3	...	5,830

Socialist Party	15	...	36,828
U.P. Revolutionary Socialist Party	4	...	5,203
Independents	41	...	75,310

Total	107	16	5,09,016

On the eve of the general election of 1957, the constituencies were delimited in 1956 and the district was divided into 9 single-member constituencies of Tilpur, Binaikpur, Pharenda (West), Pharenda (East), Gorakhpur, Maghar, Maniram, Bhawapar, Chillupar and 3 double-member constituencies each with one seat reserved for the Scheduled Caste candidates Maharajganj, Pipraich and Bansgaon.

The following statement gives the number of candidates set up, seats won and votes secured by each contesting party in Assembly elections of 1957 :

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seats won	Valid Votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	9	...	27,730
Communist Party of India	5	...	57,267
Indian National Congress	15	11	3,02,000
Praja Socialist Party	11	...	54,826
Ram Rajya Parishad	2	...	19,964
Independents	1	4	2,57,091

Total	73	15	7,18,878

Before general elections of 1962, the constituencies again underwent delimitation and 15 single-member constituencies were carved out, with seats in three constituencies of Dhuriapar, Jangaha and Maharajganj being reserved for the Scheduled Caste candidates only. The 12 general seats were Bansgaon, Chillupar, Bhawapar, Pipraich, Gorakhpur, Maniram, Maghar, Pharenda(West), Shyam Deurwa, Binaikpur and Tilpur.

The following statement shows the number of candidates set up, seats won and votes secured by each contesting party in the Assembly elections of 1962.

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seats Won	Valid Votes Polled
Bharatiya Jan Sangh	11	-	43218
Communist Party of India	5	-	17444
Hindu Maha Sabha	11	1	81917

Indian National Congress	15	11	214896
Praja Socialist Party	13	1	45941
Ram Rajya Parishad	4	-	3868
Socialist Party	15	2	120600
Independents	14	-	36904

Total	88	15	5,64,788
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The constituencies were delimited again in 1966 for the general elections of 1967. The number of constituencies remained the same, 15 single member with three constituencies of Dhuriapar, Jhangaha, and Maharajganj being reserved for the Scheduled Caste candidates and the remaining 12 were reconstituted into Bansgaon, Chillupar, Kauriram, Pipraich, Gorakhpur, Maniram, Sahjanwa, Paniara, Pharenda, Laxmipur, Siswa and Shyam Deurwa. The following statement shows the number of candidates set up, seats won and votes secured by each contesting party in the Assembly election of 1967 :

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seats Won	Valid Votes Polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	13	2	1,02,490
Communist Party of India	4	...	25,387
Communist Party of India(Marxist)	3	...	15,043
Indian National Congress	15	6	2,02,516
Praja Socialist Party	10	2	61,072
Republican Party of India	5	...	5,811
Samyukta Socialist Party	12	3	1,25,545
Swatantra Party	9	...	8,918
Independents	33	2	1,36,028
Total	104	15	6,82,810

Following the President's rule in the State which was imposed on the 25th February, 1968 a mid-term poll was held in February, 1969, with the constituencies remaining the same as in 1967.

The following statement shows the number of candidates set up, seats won and votes secured by each contesting party in the mid-term Assembly elections of 1969:

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	14	...	96,897
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	15	3	1,40,415
Communist Party of India	2	...	10,385
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	1	...	3,645

Hindu Maha Sabha	9	1	51,699
Indian National Congress	15	8	2,31,688
Mazdoor Parishad	2	...	833
Muslim and other Minority Federation	1	...	1,309
Praja Socialist Party	5	1	37,903
Republican (Ambedkerite)	1	...	4,126
Republican Party of India	6	...	11,101
Samyukta socialist Party	13	2	82,942
Socialist Party	4	...	5,387
Socialist Unity Centre	1	...	1,710
Swatantra Party	4	...	3,713
Independents	8	...	32,899

Total	101	15	7,28,542

On October 1, 1970, the President's rule was again imposed in the State as the then chief minister of the Bhartiya Kranti Dal-Congress coalition refused to resign when the Congress withdrew its support. The President's rule was revoked on October 18 and the Samyukta Vidhayak Dal ministry was sworn in on October 18, 1970. This government did not last long and in the wake its collapse on April 3, 1971 the Congress government came to power. Two years later, the Chief Minister, though commanding a comfortable majority in the Assembly, submitted the resignation of his council of ministers to the governor on June 12, 1973, clearing the way for President's rule in the State again for the third time since the Independence which ended in November 1973, with Congress government taking the office.

The popular government returned to power again through the general elections held in February, 1974. The district was divided into 15 constituencies namely Gorakhpur, Bansgaon, Dhuriapar, Chillupar, Kauriram, Maniram, Sahjanwa, Paniara, Pharenda, Pipraich, Laxmipur, Siswa Bazar, Mundera Bazar, Maharajganj, Shyam Deurwa, with Bansgaon, Mundera Bazar and Mahrajganj being reserved.

The statement given below indicates the number of candidates set up seats won, and valid votes secured by each contesting party in the general elections of 1974 :

Party / Independents	Contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Akhila Bhartiya Rashtriya Samaj Lok Tantrik Dal	1	---	2938
Bharitya Jan Sangh	13	1	1113014
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	15	4	197985
Communist Party of India	1	1	16799
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	1	-	2334
Congress (Organisational)	15	-	61276
Hindu Maha Sabha	3	1	44305
Indian National Congress	14	7	300460

Indian Union Muslim League	1	-	315
Ram Rajya Parishad	1	-	1225
Republican Party of India	6	-	9425
Shoshit Samaj Dal	4	-	9493
Socialist Party of India	14	1	67392
Independents	62	-	101800

Total	151	15	928761

GENERAL LEGISLATURE

Lok Sabha (House of People)

There were three Lok Sabha Constituencies in the district for the general elections of 1952, Gorakhpur (North), Gorakhpur (Central), and Gorakhpur (South), 11 candidates from various parties had contested. In the general elections of 1957, there were only two Lok Sabha constituencies, of Maharajganj and Gorakhpur, the latter being double member with one seat reserved for the Scheduled Castes. Of the 13 contesting candidates, two from the Congress and one independent were returned.

In 1962, the district had the 3 reorganized Lok Sabha constituencies of Bansaon, Gorakhpur and Maharajganj, Bansaon being reserved for the Scheduled Castes. Of the 17 contestants all 3 of the Congress party were returned.

Party/Independents	1952			1957			1962			1967			1971	
	Contes- tants	Seats Won	Valid Votes Polled	Contes- tants	Seats won	Valid votes Polled	Contes- tants	Seats won	Valid votes Polled	Contes- tants	Seats won	Valid votes Polled	Contes- tants	Seats won
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	1	-	12,611	2	-	67,463	2	-	40,455	2	-	89,616	1	-
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Congress (N)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hindu MahaSabha	1	-	25,678	-	-	-	2	-	81,218	-	-	-	-	-
Indian National Congress	3	3	2,33,689	3	2	3,04,954	3	3	2,36,621	3	1	2,54,803	3	2
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	2	-	42,117	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Praja socialist Party	-	-	-	3	-	85,613	3	-	47,455	1	-	5,773	1	-
Ram Rajya Parishad	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	16,402	-	-	-	-	-
Samyukta Socialist Party	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1,59,388	1	-
Socialist Party of India	2	-	19,810	-	-	-	3	-	1,14,334	-	-	-	-	-

Swatantra Party	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6,400	2	-	9,160	-	-
Independents	2	-	28,405	5	1	2,51,394	2	-	12,019	5	1	1,88,370	7	1
Total	11	3	3,62,370	13	3	7,09,454	17	3	5,52,904	16	3	7,05,110	17	3

In 1967, constituencies remained the same as in 1962. There were 16 contestants, and one each from the Congress and the Praja Socialist Party and one independent were returned.

In the parliamentary general elections of 1971, the constituencies remained the same. There were 17 candidates in the field. Two seats were won by the Congress(R) and one went to an independents.

The following statement shows the number of valid votes polled for each party and the number of seats contested and won by it in the five general elections :

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

Riaj-ul-Akhbar, an Urdu publication appearing every fourth day, was started in 1881, but in 1907 its office was shifted to Lucknow. The editor Hakim Barham Started another Urdu weekly magazine called the Mushriq in the district in 1906. It had a circulation of 600 copies and included local news and articles on social, religious and political matters. The same/editor started yet another Urdu weekly (comic paper) entitled the Itr-i-Fitna, which contained contributions in verse and prose with illustrations. It suspended publication in 1898 but was resuscitated in 1903. Thus the district has an early history of journalism and publication and with the growth of literacy, political consciousness and economic activity, the press has become a powerful medium of public expression and there are a number of newspapers and periodicals in different languages to the credit of the district now. The following table gives information about some of the important newspapers, published in the district in 1974 :

Name of the newspaper	Periodicity	Year of commencement	Copies in circulation
1	2	3	4

IN HINDI

Hindi Dainik	Daily	1965	7800
Manav Jeevan	Bi-weekly	1956	N.A.
Gorakhpur Gazette	Weekly	1930	1600
Gorakhpur Times	"	1964	N.A.

Poorvi Awaaz	"	1966	9500
Poorvi Times	"	1970	N.A.
Poorvi Sandesh	"	1967	6202
Sahi Samachar	"	1966	N.A.
Shatdal	"	1972	N.A.
Budh Shumi	Fortnightly	1971	3000
Kranti Dhvaj	"	1974	1500
Arogya	Monthly	1947	8458
Arogya Mandir	"	1967	500
Gyan Sakti	"	1967	1000
Kalyan	"	1926	163909

IN URDU

Ishtarak	Weekly	1966	983
Murad	"	1932	1500
Subh-e-Wattan	"	1961	1800

IN ENGLISH

News letter	Monthly	1952	2500
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BI-LINGUAL

Mashriq	Weekly	1906	1720
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Other Periodicals

The popular dailies, weeklies and monthlies published outside the district but widely circulated in the district are given in the below :

Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly
<u>HINDI</u>			
Aaj	Dharmayuga	Sarita	Maya
Hindustan	Saptahik	Mukta	Chandamama
Bharat	Hindustan		Niharika
Tarun Bharat			Kadambini
Navjeewnn			Madhuri
Nav Bharat Time			Parag
Swatantra Bharat			Lot Pot

ENGLISH

The Statesman	Blitz	Filmfare	Imprint
Times of India	Current	Star & Style	Life

Hindustan Times
Indian Express
Northern Indian
Patrika
The Pioneer
National Herald

Link Screin
The Observer
The Illustrated
Weekly of India
Sports
Pasttime

Caravan

Mirror
Picturpost
Readers-Digest

URDU

Milap
Pratap
Quami Awaz

Tej
Aajkal

Beeswin Sadi
Shama

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANISATIONS

There are a number of voluntary social service organisations in the district looking after the economic and social interests of the people in general and of the Backward Classes in particular. In the past, such institutions depended mainly on the philanthropy and the missionary zeal of the people but with the posting to the district in November, 1955, of an assistant social welfare officer, now designated as the district Harijan and social welfare officer. He look after education of the members of the Scheduled Castes and their welfare, ex-criminal tribes settlement and administration of the Untouchability (offences) Act, 1955 and arranges grants to non-official bodies and social institutions devoted to the cause of members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, women's welfare schemes, child welfare, uplift of fallen and destitute women and children; orphanages, poor houses, widow's homes, suppression of immoral traffic, etc.

Though voluntary welfare organisations are free to undertake any of their welfare schemes, government has to see that these activities are in harmony with their schemes and policies. This they achieve through the system of grants given to such voluntary organisations and priodic checks to see that the grants are utilized for the specific purposes.

Efforts have been made to co-ordinate the activities of the old voluntary social service agencies and the new governmental institutions. There are a number of non-official social services organisations engaged in the welfare of children, women, youth, destitute, handicapped, and Harijans in the district. A brief account of the more important ones is given below :

Orphanages

The Rai Durga Prasad Bahadur Poor House and Orphanage, Gorakhpur was established in 1901 for the welfare of the orphans and destitutes irrespective of the community to which they belonged. It is a residential institutions.

The Hamidiya waqf State Orphanage, Gorakhpur was founded in 1904 with the similar object. A school is run for imparting training in tailoring, carpentry and niwar (cotton-tape) weaving. There were 8 inmates in 1973-74. It received Rs. 1200 as yearly grant from the government in the last two financial years, 1972-73 and 1973-74.

Institutions for Women's Welfare

The Hindu Abala Ashram, Gorakhpur was established in 1924. It is managed by a committee under the Akhil Bharatiya Hindu MahaSabha. It provides boarding and lodging free of charge to destitute women, training in various crafts such as tailoring, embroidery and knitting is also imparted here, one of the aims of this institution is to arrange marriage of such women who desire to enter in wedlock and be rehabilitated permanently.

Institutions for Community Welfare

Sahyogi Sewa Mandal, Mian Bazar, Gorakhpur, was established in 1954 to promote the physical, moral and mental well-being of the people in the district. There are 100 active members of the Mandal. It runs an adult education centre at Golghar, having a library, a reading room and vyayamshala (gymnasium). On the occasion of fairs the volunteers perform various duties like, watch and ward, traffic regulation, crowd control, assistance to people, etc.
