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How Ittar Pradesh was won

# RAVAN

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In 1991, an alliance of Kanshi Ram's Bahujan Samaj Party and the Samajwadi Party had held back the tide against the growing Ram Janmabhoomi movement by uniting Dalit, dominant OBCs and EBCs. Some thirty years later, the SP threw itself into the hectic recreation of Kanshi Ram's winning strategy, organising numerous meetings of underrepresented caste groups, building a sense of pride and self-respect among them as a direct weapon against the BJP's attempts at subsuming them under a Hindu umbrella, ensuring that election rhetoric never strayed far from core social-justice demands and, finally, ensuring that ticket distribution effusively represented Dalits and, crucially, EBCs. The effects of this were clear to any reporter with their nose to the ground and entirely missed by a liberal commentariat hoping to see the victory as a rejection of Hindutva or a reflection of







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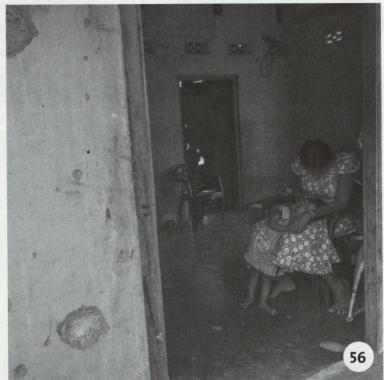
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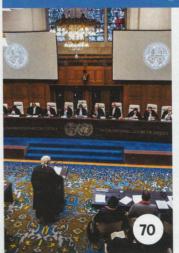
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