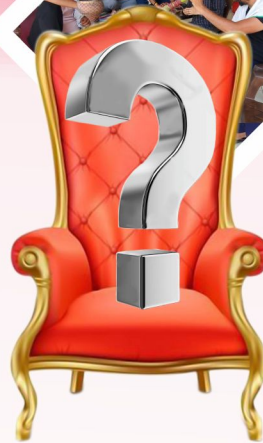


# HARYANA MOOD SURVEY REPORT - 2024



**PEOPLES PULSE**  
*an ear to the ground*





**HARYANA**  
**MOOD SURVEY**  
**(25<sup>th</sup> June to 24<sup>th</sup> July – 2024)**

---

Flat No. 402, Surabhi Complex, Opp. Lotus Hospital, Lakdikapool, Hyderabad - 500 004.  
peoplespulse.hyd@gmail.com, Ph: 8179115784



## METHODOLOGY

Peoples Pulse Research Organization specializing in field work based political and electoral research undertook a month long ground study in poll bound Haryana State.

Haryana is divided into various regions based on dialects or communities e.g. Mewat, Aheerwal, Bagad etc. However, the administrative zones of Haryana cover a lot of nearly homogeneous regions which have more or less similar culture, dialect or caste/political equations. It is for this reason that we have shaped the survey design as per the 6 administrative zones and the findings are also clubbed as per these zones.

Peoples Pulse research scholars covered six regions, ie., Hisar, Karnal, Gurugram, Faridabad, Rohtak and Ambala across Haryana state all the six administrative divisions in 22 districts of the state to understand the Mood of the people at the ground level. This was done from June 25 to July 24 2024, about three months before the schedule for Haryana Assembly elections.

The Mood Survey followed a Systematic Stratified Random Sampling Model. A total of 15,000 samples keeping in mind the gender, demographic and age divide were collected using mixed methods to access the mood of the electorate.

Further, our researchers conducted Face-to-Face interviews with respondents based on a structured questionnaire. In this manner 125-150 samples were collected from each Assembly constituency. The Sample reflects the situation on the ground in terms of caste, religion, community and age as they exist on the field. Gender was given equal representation.

Our survey teams went to all 90 Assembly Constituencies of the state to collect samples and understand the mood and concerns of the electorate.

The Mood Survey based on open-ended free-wheeling conversations with respondents to elicit their views on a host of issues interspersed with the question related to the specific study.

The respondents were chosen through purposive sampling and employing a qualitative inferential method. Our researchers met with various sections of the people and understood their views on different issues and political parties through social listening.

The Research Team concentrated on the questions of the problems or grievances of the people which may have a bearing on the forthcoming Assembly Elections in Haryana, the perceptions of the people towards the governance of BJP, led by Chief Minister Mr. Nayab Singh Saini, the perception of the people towards the main opposition party Congress. The Research Team also gathered people's opinions on other parties like JJP, INLD, BSP.

The Conversations were free and frank without any inhibitions, obstructions and promptings and the Research Team could elicit views of the people on the ground in realistic manner. All the respondents were courteous towards the team and more than willing to answer questions. The Research Team also spoke to a couple of political observers including journalists and Political scientists to cross check facts and figures and get an overall macro view to locates the micro level views expressed by the people in a perspective.

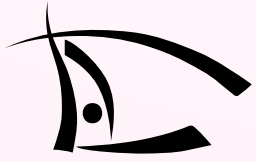
This is the first study report of the ground level ahead of the 2024 Haryana Assembly elections.







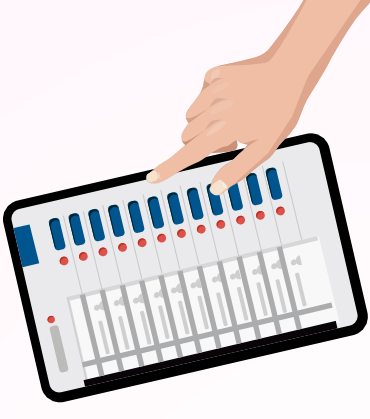




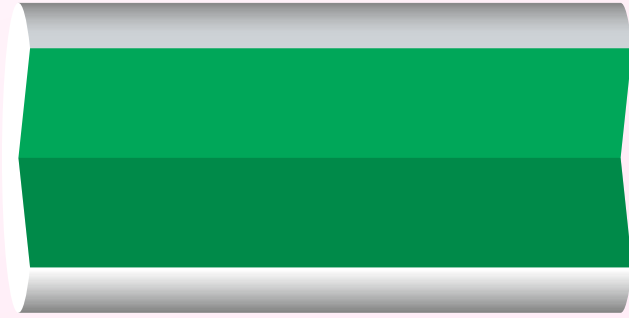
# PEOPLES PULSE

*an ear to the ground*

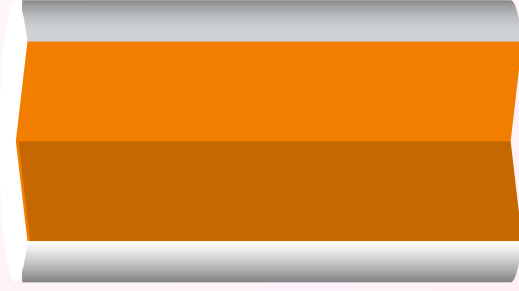
## HARYANA MOOD SURVEY REPORT - 2024 PROJECTED SEATS



**INC**



**BJP**

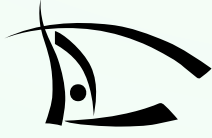


**JJP, INLD, BSP,  
AAP, Oth**



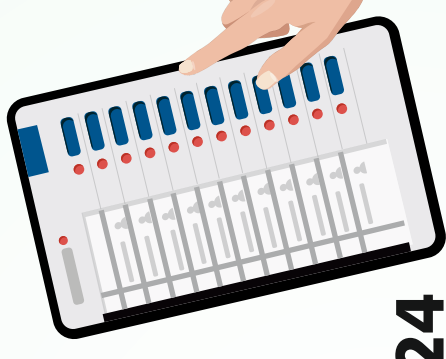
**Total Seats  
90**

**46** to win



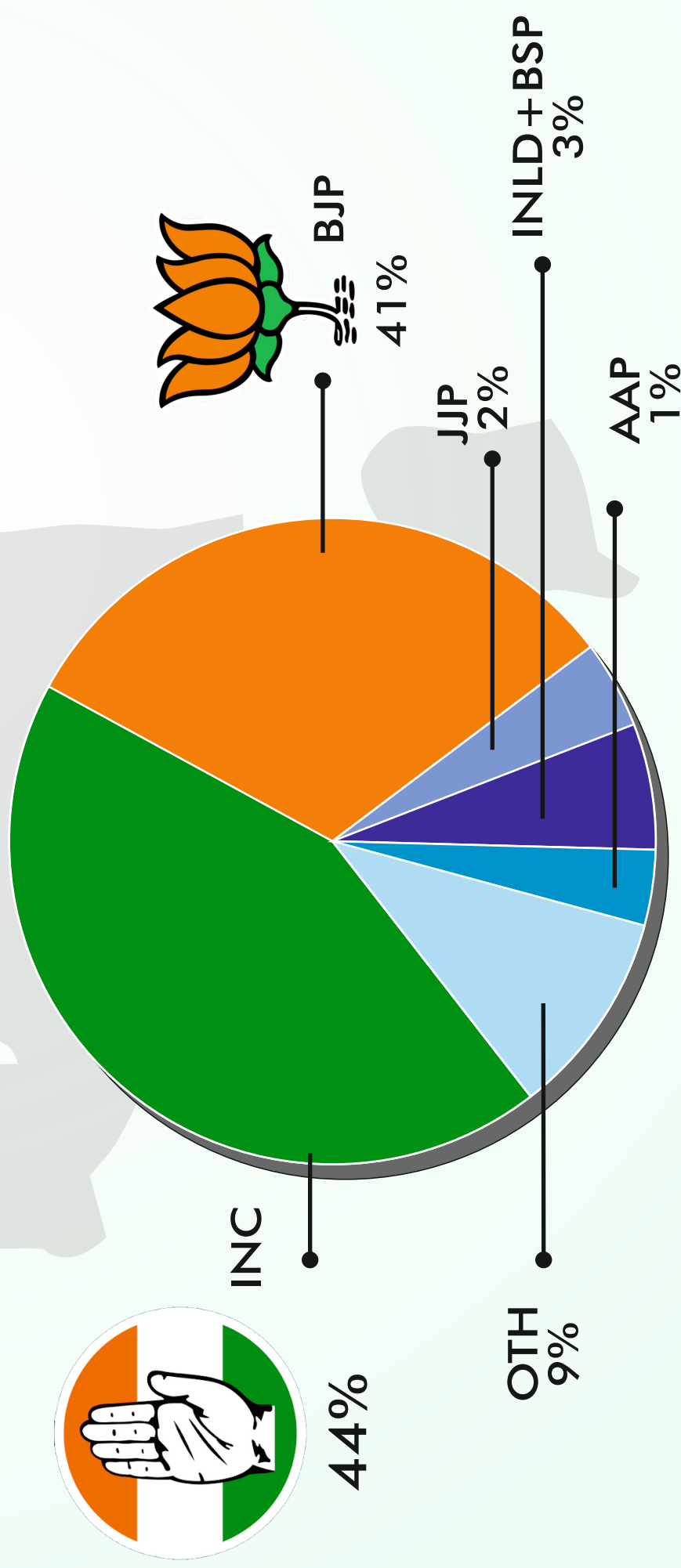
# PEOPLES PULSE

*an ear to the ground*



## HARYANA MOOD SURVEY REPORT - 2024

### VOTE SHARE





# PEOPLES PULSE

*an ear to the ground*

## HARYANA

### MOOD SURVEY REPORT - 2024

#### TOP CM CHOICE



**Bhupinder Singh Hooda**

**40%**



**Nayab Singh Saini**

**30%**



**Manohar Lal Khattar**

**9%**



**Selja Kumari**

**7%**



**Others**

**14%**



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# **SLIGHT EDGE FOR CONGRESS IN HARYANA**

The Congress is continuing the momentum gained in the recent Lok Sabha polls as it braces for the upcoming election to the Haryana Assembly with a 10-year anti-incumbency pushing the BJP on the backfoot.

The term of the current Assembly ends in the first week of November and elections are most likely to be held in October. The State has a total 90 Assembly seats with 46 being the magic mark to form the government.

According to a Mood Survey carried out by Peoples Pulse, the Hyderabad based research organisation. **The Congress is expected to bag between 43 and 48 seats, leaving behind BJP. BJP may get 34 to 39 seats while others (JJP, INLD+BSP, AAP and Independents) could bag 3-8 seats.**

There are at least **15 battleground (key) seats** which could determine the ultimate winner. However, bearing a few constituencies, the contest appeared to be closed in almost every assembly seat. The Battleground seats could turn either way, depending upon the efforts and candidates of both BJP & Congress parties. The number of independent MLAs could also increase as independent candidates are locked in very close contests on a number of battleground seats. Right selection of candidates (to overcome anti-incumbency) and keeping the focus on local issues will play a dominant role in setting the tone.

As per the Mood Survey conducted by Peoples Pulse research organisation, **Congress is expected to poll around 44 % votes and the BJP 41%. The vote share for JJP is likely to be a mere 2 % followed by INLD+BSP (3), AAP (1) and Others (9).**

As per the Mood Survey there was an under current against the 10 years BJP government and reflecting the mood for change in Haryana.

The Mood Survey was conducted for a month from June 25 to July 24 with six teams of researchers covering all the six regions of the State, i.e. Hisar, Karnal, Gurugram, Faridabad, Rohtak and Ambala.

Peoples Pulse has deployed researchers in all the 90 assembly constituencies in Haryana to conduct a Mood study and assess the water dispensation towards the political parties.

The Mood Survey overall field work was coordinated by Mr. Rajan Pandey.

The Mood Survey field work at Zonal level was coordinated by Mr. Abhishek Raj (Hisar), Mr. Suryaprakash Kaswan (Karnal), Mr. Kalyan (Gurugram), Mr. Raghunandan (Faridabad), Mr. Amit Ohlan (Rohtak), Mr. Awesh Tiwari and Mr. Babu Singh (Ambala).

The Mood Survey report was compiled and prepared by Mr. Rajan Pandey, Mr. R. Dilip Reddy, Director, Peoples Pulse, and Mr. G. Murali Krishna, Senior Researcher, Peoples Pulse.

Peoples Pulse research organisation will conduct a Pre-Poll Survey after the election notification is issued.

South First, the fastest growing English news portal, was associated with Peoples Pulse in conducting the Mood Survey in Haryana.

The contest this time round is largely going to be bipolar between the BJP and the Congress. This is mainly on account of the complete marginalization of regional parties like JJP and INLD. The JJP, which had secured **14.84 per cent** votes in 2019, saw its vote share in the recent LS polls plummet to **0.87 %** and is unlikely to improve on it in the Assembly polls.

## **The Broad Findings of the Mood Survey are as follows**

- ◆ The traditional voters of the Congress are consolidating behind it. Jats and Dalits are largely in favour of the Congress. A majority of farmers (65%) are also supporting the party. The BJP's efforts to pitch the election as Jats vs non Jats is not working out just as appointing an OBC chief minister has not yielded results in the LS elections.
- ◆ The Mood Survey found out that BJP support among Dalits has significantly decreased while that among the OBCs has also decreased, albeit in smaller proportions.
- ◆ When asked if they would give one more chance for BJP (in power for 10 years), only 40 % votes said "Yes". A majority of 48% replied in the negative while 12 per cent did not have an opinion.
- ◆ Former chief minister Bhoopinder Singh Hooda has a 10 per cent lead over sitting CM Nayab Singh Saini when it comes to people's choice for the post of CM.
- ◆ Local factors are dominating the electoral discourse. Issues occupying people's mind are - farm distress, unemployment, Agniveer and basic livelihood. The BJP, which was successful in 2014 and 19 in building the right narrative, is falling behind in its response to people's issues, a reflection of which was seen in the LS polls itself.
- ◆ In the upcoming assembly elections, most of the voters will vote according to local issues like performance of the MLA, infrastructure problems etc while bigger-national issues might take a back seat. Due to this, the Modi factor is likely to work less this time.
- ◆ It was the same issues that had an impact even during the LS polls but could potentially affect the BJP more in the Assembly election. The Congress gained a significant 15% vote share in the LS poll compared to 2019 while the BJP dropped almost 12%. For context, the Congress got lead in 42 Assembly seats in the recent LS poll. Its ally, AAP (now contesting separately), secured lead in 4 while the BJP was in the first place in 44 seats.

- ◆ Across regions, youths talked about increasing unemployment and questioned the role of both state and central governments around this issue. They specifically mentioned the Agniveer scheme, which according to most of youth respondents, has decreased the attraction of service in armed forces among young population.
- ◆ Both men and women respondents across regions and communities raised the issue of inflation and expressed their anger on it. In rural areas, majority of farmers-barring the Aheerwal region, talked about the negative role played by the Haryana government in curtailing the farmers' protest.
- ◆ The issue of family ID in Haryana is indeed serious, especially in rural areas. Due to incorrect surveys, many families are being deprived of government facilities. This is having a negative impact on their economic situation and living standards.
- ◆ Anti-incumbency against sitting MLAs from all parties-Another major finding was that a significant number of sitting MLAs from all parties are facing acute anti-incumbency which includes some of the ministers of state cabinet. If tickets are repeated for them, they are likely to lose this time.
- ◆ As per the Mood Survey, the JJP has lost the faith of common voters and Jats are highly unlikely to vote for them. The INLD-BSP alliance is also not likely to make any major change in the political scenario of the state. Besides, the AAP is also not likely to win a single seat. The election is expected to be moving towards a bi-polar contest between the BJP and the Congress. However, independent candidates are likely to win or spoil equations on a number of seats.

According to all parameters the Congress holds a slight edge. As of now it is going to be a close election. Haryana is headed for a exciting election season with several possibilities till the government takes office.

- ◆ The BJP is holding ground in the Faridabad (barring Nuh district) and Aheerwal region while Congress seems to be picking up in Hisar, Ambala, Rohtak regions.



# REGIONWISE MAJOR FINDINGS

## ROHTAK REGION

(Districts – Rohtak, Sonipat, Jhajjar, Jind (Part))

This region is commonly known as Jat Heartland or Deshwali Jatland. It also has a significant influence on the politics of Haryana. Jats are mainly associated with agriculture but are also involved in government & private sector jobs and business. Due to their participation in sports and entertainment, many influential faces are now present in this area. Jats have a significant influence on ticket distribution and election results. Due to the farmers' movement, Hooda's area of influence, and BJP's Jat vs non-Jat politics, Jats are inclined towards Congress.

Congress will likely get most of the vote bank of INLD and JJP. There is a possibility that to attract the Jats, BJP can also bet on sportspersons like Deepak Hooda (former national Kabaddi captain), Sakshi Malik (Olympic wrestler), and Randeep Hooda (actor).

Jat voters spread across different Gotra and Khaps. The role of Khap Panchayats is also crucial in the elections. Dahiya, Malik, Antil, Rathi, Nain, Dalal, Ahalawat, Kadiyan, Hooda are some of the prominent Jat gotra. BJP is trying to play the Khap vs Khap card. Jats are more inclined towards Congress party in Rohtak region.

## **Major Communities and Political Orientation in Rohtak Region**

### **BRAHMINS**

Brahmins are spread in almost every assembly constituency of the region. They are nearly 10-12% in the region. In Ganaur and Rai assembly constituencies, they are considered along with the Tyagi community. Brahmins are politically active like the Jats. They want their candidates on at least two to three seats in the region. Nowadays, they vote opposite to the Jats. The latest rivalry between Jats and Brahmins started in the 2019 Rohtak Lok Sabha election when Arvind Sharma defeated Deepender Hooda. Brahmins are more inclined towards Congress party in Rohtak region.

### **PUNJABIS**

Punjabis mainly live in towns and urban areas. In Rohtak region Punjabis consist of 6-8%. Their influence is decisive in the urban seats of Rohtak, Sonipat, Gohana. They have been the core voters of Jan Sangh and later BJP since the beginning. They are mainly involved in small and big businesses and private jobs. They are Pro BJP.

### **OBC SAINI**

Saini is mainly inclined towards the BJP. This community is primarily associated with small businesses. After Naib Singh Saini became CM, Saini became even more pro-BJP. In Rohtak region Sainis are nearly 3-4%.

### **OBC PRAJAPATI**

Kumhar, Khati, Luhar. In Rohtak region they are around 6 to 8% and they are inclined towards BJP.

## **SCHEDULED CASTS (20 TO 22%)**

### **CHAMAR**

Chamar is the largest caste in the SC community in this region. Chamars are mainly inclined towards INC. But this time, they want their candidate in some assembly constituencies like Kalanaur and Kharkhoda. Whichever party fields a candidate from this community can give them most of their support.

### **VALMIKI**

Valmiki is the second largest caste in the SC community in this region. Valmikis are mainly inclined towards Congress.

### **DHANAK**

Dhanak is the third largest caste in the SC community in this region. Dhanks are divided into INC and BJP.

## **Prevailing Political Scenario in Rohtak Region**

Congress seems to be gaining an edge in this region, especially in rural areas. Many factors are working in favour of Congress. Such as –

- ◆ Bhupendra Singh Hooda is strong in this region.
- ◆ Jats are one-sidedly inclined towards INC.
- ◆ Anti-incumbency against the BJP government.
- ◆ Impact of the farmers' movement.
- ◆ Anger of youth and rural people against unemployment.
- ◆ Different Jat Khaps in the region will ask for their candidate.

## **Electoral Significant Factors and Issues of Rohtak Region**

- 1. Jat VS Non-Jat:** BJP's Jat vs non-Jat politics works deeply here. Rohtak was notoriously the epicentre of the 2016 Jat movement. Since then, a political atmosphere has been created against the Jats in society, which benefited the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Its effect was mainly seen in the OBCs like Saini, Khati, Lohar, Prajapati Kumhar and the Punjabi community in the urban areas. Jats are primarily attracted to Congress, while OBC and Punjabis are largely mobilized to BJP. However, things have changed a lot since 2019, and the gap has reduced a bit, with Deepender Singh Hooda winning the Rohtak Lok Sabha elections. But even now, it will work as the deciding factor in this area.
- 2. BJP's Saini Vs Punjabi CM Face:** There is a slight resentment in the Punjabi community over removing Manohar Lal Khattar and appointing Nayab Singh Saini from the OBC community as CM. Congress can take advantage of this. There is also a possibility of uniting Prajapati Kumhar, Khati, Lohar, and Saini OBCs to support the BJP.
- 3. Post-Farmers Movement Phenomena:** The political situation in the region changed after the farmers' movement, and it still prevails. This shows the anger of the farmers' castes towards the BJP. This is linked to the shortage of canal water for irrigation and expensive domestic electricity, LPG gas, and MSP. The BJP is being held responsible for breaking the social fabric in rural areas. It is worth noting that the farmers' movement has played a role in conveying this message to the public.
- 4. The problem of water logging in city areas:** Due to industry growth, there is much pressure on the cities. Many fertilizers and pesticide product factories exist in Nathupur village of Rai assembly constituency. Chemicals, along with dirty water, are penetrating the ground. Cancer in the surrounding area has reached an alarming stage.
- 5. Unemployment, Agnipath and Cancellation of exams:** Haryana is facing the highest unemployment in the country. Rohtak-Sonapat and Bhiwani region is hugely disappointed with the Agnipath scheme because permanent jobs in the army used to be a significant source of employment in this region.

## **HISAR REGION**

Hisar region is notable for the influence of the late Chaudhary Devi Lal, former Deputy Prime Minister of India; late Bhajan Lal Bishnoi; Om Prakash Chautala, a former four-time Chief Minister of Haryana; and two Deputy Chief Ministers, Chander Mohan Bishnoi and Dushyant Chautala. Hisar comprises of 4 districts like Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad, Sirsa and has 20 Assembly Constituencies.

### **Major Communities and Political Orientation in Hisar Region**

#### **JAT**

Hisar is the area of influence of Jats. Earlier, the Jats were inclined towards the INLD, JJP and BJP. However, following the Jats movement, their inclination has significantly shifted towards the INC party. Jats are spread in almost every assembly constituency of the region.

#### **PUNJABI**

The Punjabi community has consistently shown an inclination towards the BJP. Punjabis mainly live in towns.

#### **BANIYA**

Baniya community had been a traditional voter of BJP. The Hindutva ideology and developmental policies of BJP has consolidated their votes. They also vote for other parties depending on the candidate. Baniya are spread in almost every assembly constituency of the region.

## **KUMHAR**

Kumhar votes are generally split between BJP and INC. But there is a gradual shift towards BJP due to the development works and welfare activities.

## **MAJHABI SIKH**

This community is found in the constituencies adjacent to the Punjab border. Since the Sikh community is currently displeased with the BJP, their inclination is entirely towards the Congress party.

## **CHAMAR**

Chamar is the largest caste in the SC community in this region. Chamar votes for INC because their demands do not get represented within the BJP ideology.

## **BISNOI**

The votes of the Bishnoi community are split evenly between the INC and BJP, and they also consider the individual candidate when casting their votes.

## **BRAHMINS**

The Brahmins started voting more for BJP due to the popularity of Narendra Modi. They believe that their interests will be more protected under the BJP rule.

## **OD**

Earlier, Od community inclination was towards the INLD, but currently, it seems to be divided into BJP & INC.

## **SAINI**

The Saini community mainly supports the BJP and is primarily involved in small businesses. The community's inclination towards the BJP has increased further since Naib Singh Saini became the Chief Minister.

## **Prevailing Political Scenario of the Hisar Region**

- ◆ Given the farmer-centric nature of the region, the people here are very angry with the BJP over the Jat Movement. This is linked to the shortage of canal water for irrigation and expensive domestic electricity, LPG gas, and MSP. This was reflected in the Lok Sabha elections, where Congress won all three Lok Sabha seats in the Hisar division. The existence of regional parties like the JJP and INLD is also dwindling. The Jats in this region consider Hooda as their leader. There is a noticeable Congress wave in the rural assembly constituencies of the Hisar division, while the BJP and independent candidates maintain a stronghold in the urban assembly constituencies.
- ◆ Internal factionalism within the Congress party continues. Both factions are seeing a long list of candidates' names for almost all assembly constituencies.
- ◆ The alliance between BSP and INLD is unlikely to make a difference because both parties have lost their grip in this region.

## **Electorally Significant Factors and Issues of the Hisar region**

- ◆ The problem of water logging in city areas
- ◆ Jat VS Non-Jat
- ◆ The problem of unemployment is at its peak here. By taking free grain, people are becoming lazier day by day. People here are demanding jobs from the government, even if it means stopping the distribution of free grain.
- ◆ The impact of the Agniveer Yojana is evident here, as many coaching institutes that prepared students for the army have shut down.
- ◆ The condition of drinking water is poor throughout the entire Hisar region.

# KARNAL REGION

The Karnal region includes three districts Karnal, Panipat and Kaithal. In Karnal region, there are 13 legislative assembly segments.

## Major Communities and Political Orientation in Karnal Region

### **ROAR/MARATHA (OBC) - Inclined towards BJP:**

Talking about the history and political role of the Roar community, it is particularly influential in districts like Karnal, Panipat, Kurukshetra, and Kaithal in Haryana. It is believed that the ancestors of the Road community were from the Maratha community, who historically were soldiers who settled here after the battles of Panipat.

In terms of current political leanings, the Roar community tends to lean towards the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), unlike the majority Jat community. There could be several reasons for this, such as the BJP giving tickets and positions in the Legislative Assembly to some representatives of the Roar community, thus supporting them.

However, if there is competition from an independent candidate or another party ticket in any constituency, the Roar community can also vote for candidates from their own community.

### **ARORA KHATRI {PUNJABI} - Inclined towards BJP**

During elections in Karnal division, the Arora Khatri Punjabi community plays a crucial role, especially in constituencies like Karnal and Panipat where they constitute the majority of voters. Their influence is significant on most seats within Karnal division. Manohar Lal Khattar, himself from the Arora Khatri community, has represented Karnal as a legislator and served as Chief Minister of Haryana twice.



The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has appointed a Chief Minister from the Arora Khatri community in Haryana, leading to strong support for the BJP within the Karnal division from this community

### **BRAHMIN - Inclined towards BJP**

The Karnal division has a significant number of Brahmin voters, especially in constituencies like Panipat Rural, Panipat City, Assand, Karnal, and Nilokheri.

Brahmins support the BJP due to their alignment with the party's initiatives, such as the construction of the Ram Mandir

### **JAT - Inclined towards INC**

Jat voters in Haryana inclined towards Congress party. They believe that the Congress represents their interests better than the BJP, especially due to perceptions that the BJP has implemented policies that are seen as anti-Jat. Key leaders like Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Deepender Hooda are particularly favored by the Jat community .

### **VALMIKI (SC) - Inclined towards INC**

Earlier, Valmiki voters were inclined towards the BJP, but after the recent Lok Sabha election, some of their vote share has shifted towards the Congress. This shift is expected to benefit the Congress party in the upcoming elections.

### **CHAMAR (SC) - Inclined towards INC**

In most constituencies of Karnal division, there is a significant number of Chamars voters who used to lean towards BSP in the past. However, currently, the Chamar voters have shifted their support towards the Congress party.

### **KASHYAP (OBC) - Inclined towards BJP**

The Kashyap community holds significant influence in Karnal's Gharaunda and Indri constituencies, and they largely favor the BJP. Kashyap supports BJP because of BJP giving tickets and advancing the Kashyap community, as well as from anti-Jat sentiments, which further strengthens their support for the BJP.

### **KAMBOJ (OBC) - Inclined towards INC & BJP**

The Kamboj community does not constitute a large number in Karnal overall, but they hold significant influence in Karnal's Indri constituency. Currently, Kamboj voters are showing support towards the Congress party, and they also support candidates from their own community.

### **SIKH - Inclined towards INC**

The Sikh community constitutes a significant number of voters in most constituencies within Karnal division. They are generally inclined towards the Congress party. This inclination is primarily due to the impact of the Jaat Andolan and mistreatment of farmers by the BJP.

### **GURJAR - Inclined towards BJP & INC**

The Sikh community constitutes a significant number of voters in most constituencies within Karnal division. They are generally inclined towards the Congress party. This inclination is primarily due to the impact of the Jaat Andolan and mistreatment of farmers by the BJP.

### **SAINI - Inclined towards BJP**

The BJP has appointed Nayab Singh Saini from the Saini community as the Chief Minister of Haryana, which is why the entire Saini community is in full support of the BJP.

## **Other BC (Pal, Lohar, Kumhar, Jogi & Other) - Inclined towards BJP**

In the current scenario, BC category voters in every constituency of Karnal division, including Pal, Lohar, Kumhar, and Jogi communities, are leaning towards the BJP. One primary reason for this is their perception that the BJP has provided them with 27% reservation. Another significant factor is their belief that if Jats come to power, the BC communities won't receive benefits, which is why they are supporting the BJP collectively.

## **Prevailing Political Scenario of the Karnal Region**

BJP has a strong hold in this region, but due to anti-incumbency against the present government, Congress is expected to perform better.

- ◆ Manohar Lal Khattar has significant influence in this region, especially among Punjabi community.
- ◆ Randeep Surjewala holds a significant sway in Karnal Region
- ◆ Road voters primarily lean towards the BJP, but if another party fields a candidate from the Road community, they could potentially attract a portion of Road voters.
- ◆ OBC castes have united against Jats, resulting in major voter support for BJP.
- ◆ Among SC voters in Karnal region, Chamar voters are fully supporting INC, and a significant portion of Valmiki voters have shifted towards Congress in this Lok Sabha election.
- ◆ Jat community one-sided supports INC in next assembly election
- ◆ In the Karnal region, the Congress party has significant factionalism, which was evident in the Karnal Lok Sabha elections. Most leaders of the Congress party did not support their candidate. In the Ish region, Randeep Surjewala also has influence, especially in the Kaithal district, so the distribution of tickets will have a greater impact. Currently, the Hooda faction appears more influential.

## **Electorally Significant Factors and Issues of the Karnal region**

### **RAJPUT VS GURJAR**

Recently, in Kaithal, at the intersection on Dhaand Road, a statue of Emperor Mihir Bhoj was installed. Both the Rajput and Gurjar communities consider him their ancestor, but the Rajput community became extremely upset because "Gurjar " was written on the statue's pedestal. At that time, the Rajput community also protested against the government and attempted to remove the word "Gurjar" from the statue. This matter is currently in the High Court, but the Rajput community here believes that BJP MLA Leelaram Gurjar from Kaithal district, while fulfilling his role, had "Gurjar" inscribed on the pedestal of the statue of Emperor Mihir Bhoj, causing considerable dissatisfaction with the current BJP government in Kaithal district.

### **FAMILY- ID**

The issue of family ID in Haryana is indeed serious, especially in rural areas. Due to incorrect surveys, many families are being deprived of government facilities. This is having a negative impact on their economic situation and living standards.

### **UNEMPLOYMENT**

Unemployment in Haryana's Karnal region is a significant issue. Panipat stands out with its industrial areas where local residents can find employment opportunities. However, in districts like Karnal and Kaithal, resources for job opportunities are limited, exacerbating the unemployment problem in these areas..

- ◆ Water Lagging in major cities like Karnal, Panipath
- ◆ The condition of main roads in rural areas is extremely serious. Roads are in poor condition in many places

# **GURUGRAM REGION**

**(Districts: Gurugram, Rewari, Mahendragarh)**

Rewari district is dominated by Yadavs, who are numerically the most dominant caste. The region is known as Aheerwal due to the dominance of Aheer or Yadav caste. SC voters come second with around 16 to 18% of population. Jats are numerically less but come on third position while the rest of the castes like Rajput, Brahmin, Gurjar, Khatis etc come after these 3.

## **Major Communities and Political Orientation in Gurugram Region**

### **YADAVS**

In this region, Yadavs are primarily inclined towards the BJP. A smaller percentage also favours Congress.

### **SCs**

Among the SCs, majority is inclined towards the Congress while a smaller percentage also favours BJP. The Dhanak sub-caste among the SCs favours BJP the most.

### **JAT**

Jats of this region are primarily inclined towards the Congress. A miniscule percentage is favouring the BJP while smaller parties like JJP and INLD have lost support.

### **KHATI**

Primarily inclined towards the BJP.

### **SAINI**

Saini voters are decisively inclined towards the BJP.

### **NAI**

In the Mahendragarh district, Nai voters are mostly inclined towards the Congress while in Rewari district, same caste voters favour the BJP.

## **Prevailing Political Scenario of the Gurugram Region**

BJP seems to be gaining an edge in this region, both in rural and urban. Many factors are working in favour of BJP. Such as –

- ◆ BJP leader Rao Indrajeet is strong in this region.
- ◆ Yadavs and smaller castes are predominantly inclined towards INC.
- ◆ Anti-incumbency against the BJP government is there but other castes of the region don't want a Jat CM. Yadavs especially complain that the development of this region was neglected by the Jat CMs of both BJP and Congress.
- ◆ INC is not able to develop strong leaders among other communities
- ◆ Despite a high number of Army personnel- both retired and in active service, Agniveer is not becoming an issue in this region due to strong caste affinities

## **Major Issues of the Gurugram region**

- ◆ Agniveer
- ◆ Drinking water shortage
- ◆ Irrigation problems
- ◆ Water logging
- ◆ Sewerage and other infrastructural problems in towns and cities

## **FARIDABAD REGION**

There are 3 districts in Faridabad region- Nuh, Faridabad and Palwal. Nuh is a Muslim dominated district where around 3/4th of the population comes from this community. This district, also called Mewat region due to the Meo Muslims is an extremely backward district. Faridabad district- which has 6 ACs has a mixed population. Gurjar, Jat, SC, Brahmin, UP-Bihar migrants, Baniya and Punjabis are influential communities here.

Faridabad is an economically very rich district as it is an important manufacturing hub and construction sector is also booming here. A number of major industrial and services companies have their headquarters and units in Faridabad. Palwal district is mostly rural and it borders Uttar Pradesh.

The Hodal AC of Faridabad is reserved for SC candidates while the Hathin seat of this district has an almost equal number of Hindu and Muslim voters. Communal polarization and tensions are quite rampant in the Nuh district.

Faridabad provides employment to a large number of people from both palwal and Nuh and outside.

### **Major Communities and Political Orientation in Faridabad Region**

#### **JAT**

Jat voters are also numerically dominant in the Faridabad region. In rural areas, Jat respondents talked a lot about the Farmers' agitation and seem to be backing the Congress whole heartedly. In ur

#### **GURJAR**

Gurjar voters are dominant in a number of seats in Faridabad district. Currently, majority of Gurjar voters are in favour of Congress while some are backing BJP in specific areas due to Congress' Gurjar leadership like Lalit Nagar in Tigaon.

## **BRAHMINS**

Brahmin voters also have a significant population in Faridabad and Palwal. Currently, majority of Brahmins are either backing BJP or those Brahmin candidates who are preparing to contest as independents.

## **MUSLIMS**

the Nuh district and Hathin AC of Palwal have a sizable Muslim population. Currently, majority of Muslim voters are in favour of Congress, that too overwhelmingly.

## **PUNJABISAND BANIYAS**

Punjabi and Baniya voters are numerically and resourcefully quite dominant in the urban areas of Faridabad. As of now, majority of them are inclined towards the BJP. However, if Congress strategically gives tickets to their candidates, then it can take away a sizable chunk of these communities on respective seats.

## **Prevailing Political Scenario of the Faridabad Region**

This region is likely to throw mixed results. INC is strong in Nuh district. But in most of the seats of Palwal and Faridabad, it is either a close contest or BJP has an upper hand. Further, BJP seems to be gaining an edge in the urban areas while the rural areas of the region, INC is gaining traction. Many other factors are influencing the outcomes here, such as –

- ◆ BJP leader Krishan Pal Gurjar is strong in this region.
- ◆ Gurjars, Punjabis and smaller castes are predominantly inclined towards BJP while SC, Jat and Muslims favour the INC.
- ◆ Anti-incumbency against the BJP government is there and sitting BJP MLAs are also drawing a lot of flak from the people.
- ◆ Some leaders of INC have individual influence on their respective seats like Lalit Nagar in Tigaon and Neeraj Sharma in NIT.



## **Major Issues of the Faridabad region**

- ◆ Water Logging
- ◆ Colony ID
- ◆ Bad urban infrastructure like roads and sewerage
- ◆ Unemployment
- ◆ Agniveer

## **AMBALA REGION**

The Ambala Division has been a central point for Haryana's economic-industrial prosperity and agrarian politics. Currently, both the Chief Minister and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly hail from this division. This division, with its diverse social fabric, comprises four districts: Ambala, Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar, and Panchkula. Situated on the northeastern edge of Haryana, these districts are bordered by Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, influencing their political dynamics. The Panchkula district includes two assembly seats: Ambala and Panchkula. In the Kalka assembly seat, the votes of Brahmins and Gujjars are crucial for any candidate's victory. Among the approximately 150,000 voters in this area, Brahmins hold the majority, followed by the Gujjar community.

In Panchkula, urban Baniya voters consistently play a decisive role. In Ambala district, the Congress party sees itself in a better position following Varun Chaudhary's victory in the Lok Sabha elections. Dalit and Sikh voters have always been pivotal in this district. This division has been a hub for familial politics. Yamunanagar, the third district in this division, has a distinct industrial identity and is located on the Uttar Pradesh border. This district has four assembly constituencies where the roles of Dalit, Punjabi, Baniya, and Brahmin voters are significant. In Kurukshetra district, the majority population is Jats, with significant presence of Saini, Brahmin, and Ror voters.

### **Economic and Social Issues in Ambala Region**

In the rural areas of this division, prosperity is clearly visible. However, except for Panchkula, urban areas resemble typical Indian cities with disorder, population pressure, and job scarcity. During our survey, an interesting observation was that during the day, the villages in this region appear almost deserted, as most people either work in the fields or commute to cities for work.

Ambala is a major center for the manufacture of scientific instruments, with thousands of small and large units. Despite this, Ambala has not yet been granted the status of a Science City, which has been a long-standing demand of local entrepreneurs. In 2013-14, a Central Minister inaugurated a Tool Room Center with a budget of ₹100 crores for the renewal and research of scientific instruments, but the construction never took place. The demand for laying the Yamunanagar-Chandigarh via Narayangarh railway line is also old, yet unfulfilled despite promises from representatives.

Yamunanagar district falls under the Ambala and Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituencies. Radaur is in Kurukshetra, while Yamunanagar, Jagadhri, and Sadhaura are in Ambala. The railway line from Yamunanagar to Kurukshetra via Radaur has not been built. Efforts to protect against floods by fortifying the banks from Hathnikund Barrage to Gumthala along the Yamuna have also not materialized.

People from Uttar Pradesh come to Yamunanagar and Kurukshetra for employment, while a significant number of youth from the Kalka assembly constituency migrate to Himachal Pradesh for jobs. Despite being a hardworking region, grand houses and wide roads can be seen even in the rural areas, though waterlogging and sewerage issues remain severe problems in most villages. There is deep public discontent over unemployment and inflation in this division.

## **Major Communities and Political Orientation in Ambala region**

### **DALITS**

Dalit voters have significant influence in this division. Four reserved seats in the division have strong Dalit voter presence, with the Congress party appearing to have an edge. Dalit voters, seeking decisive roles, have distanced themselves from regional parties.

### **SIKHS**

The Sikh voter population is considerable in this division, with many supporting Congress, though a section in Panchkula and Kalka backs BJP. Around 20-25 Sikh candidates are contesting from Pehowa seat.

## **BRAHMINS**

Brahmins are a major voting bloc in Yamunanagar, Kalka, and Panchkula. Many Brahmins are displeased with their lack of representation and are pushing for candidacy from urban seats.

## **JATS**

Jat voters are crucial in Ladwa, Shahbad, Pehowa, and Guhla. Typically, Jat voters in this area lean towards Congress unless a major political shift occurs.

## **JATSIKHS**

Jat Sikhs hold considerable influence over Ambala City and Ambala Cantt, with prominent candidates like Nirmal Singh and his daughter Chitra Sarwara. They also have a notable presence in Panchkula and Kalka.

## **MUSLIMS**

Muslims play a key role in Shahbad and Jagadhri seats. Former MLA Akram Khan is seeking a ticket from Jagadhri, with visible public sympathy. On other seats, Muslim voters generally support Congress but are not decisive.

## **Prevailing Political Scenario of the Ambala Region**

INC might take a slight lead from this region. Other observations are:

- ◆ Factionalism, family politics, the ruling party's declining morale, and the irrelevance of regional parties are some of the major conclusions from the survey of this division.
- ◆ Congress appears to have an edge on reserved seats such as Mulana, Sadhaura, Shahbad, and Guhla.
- ◆ In urban seats like Ambala City, Ambala Cantt, and Pehowa, Congress seems stronger, while BJP is better positioned in Panchkula, Kalka, and Yamunanagar.

- ◆ Congress also holds a strong position in rural seats like Narayangarh, Jagadhri etc.
- ◆ Both INC and BJP have to drop unperforming sitting MLAs to win again on those seats
- ◆ Rural voters may vote more aggressively than urban voters which may harm the prospects of BJP
- ◆ The chances of regional parties or independents winning on any of the seats of this region are extremely grim







# PEOPLES PULSE

---

 *an ear to the ground*

Flat No.402, Surabhi Complex, Opp. Lotus Hospital,  
Lakdikapool, Khairathabad, Hyderabad - 500004.  
[peoplespulse.hyd@gmail.com](mailto:peoplespulse.hyd@gmail.com)