



GENERAL ELECTIONS 2019: A STUDY OF ROHTAK PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY OF HARYANA

Dr Jai Kishan Bhardwaj*

*Kurukshehra University, Kurukshehra, jkbhardwaj@kuk.ac.in

***Corresponding Author: Dr Jai Kishan Bhardwaj**

*Kurukshehra University, Kurukshehra, jkbhardwaj@kuk.ac.in

Abstract

In compared to 2014, the Rohtak parliamentary constituency had a Modi wave during the general elections, which increased the winning margin in the Lok Sabha elections of 2019. Numerous causes were important in the BJP party's incredible win. The wave of support for the BJP government at the national level has been fuelled by feelings of nationalism, particularly in the wake of the attack on security personnel in Jammu and Kashmir known as the Pulwama. A key element in the Lok Sabha elections in the area was the degree of transparency in the operation of the Haryana state government. Caste was a significant factor in the elections as well. Deepender Singh Hooda's accomplishments, such as the founding of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Indian Institute of Management (IIM), in addition to other developmental works and Metro connectivity up to Bahadurgarh of constituency, have been overshadowed by the Jat-reservation/agitation of 2016 and widespread violence in Rohtak. In addition to the variables, the role of caste in the Rohtak Parliamentary constituency elections is examined in the current paper.

Keywords: Elections, Parliamentary, Haryana, Rohtak, Mahendergarh.

INTRODUCTION

India's general election of 2019 was held from April 11 through May 19, electing the 17th Lok Sabha, with the greatest turnout ever of 67% and a higher turnout of female voters. The counting took place on May 23 and most of the results were released that day. The result was that the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) won with 303 seats. Additionally, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won 353 seats with 45% of the vote on all-India basis. Congress's United Progressive Alliance garnered 91 seats, but Congress only managed to win 52, falling short of its claim to be the leader of the opposition. It is important to note that for the same, at least 10%, or 55 seats, are required. Main issues, rocking the electoral scene at national level were - allegations of undermining institutions, economic performance, national security and terrorism, unemployment and rural distress and dynastic politics. (<https://eci.gov.in/general-election/general-elections-2019>)

On May 12, 2019, a single election was held in Haryana's parliamentary constituencies. Two of these 10 constituencies, Sirsa and Ambala, are reserved for candidates from Scheduled Castes. A total of 223 candidates, including 11 women, competed for the votes of 18056895 registered voters. The Haryana State set up 19,441 polling booths, of which 13,931 were in rural areas and 5510 were in urban areas. One of the Indian states is Haryana, which has 21 districts, including 165 towns and 6841 villages. According to the 2011 census, the state's population was 25351462, consisting of 13494734 men and 11856728 women. In Haryana, there were 879 women for one thousand males, compared to 943 nationwide. In the state of Haryana, there were no Scheduled Tribes (ST) and a Scheduled Caste (SC) population of 20.17%. (Rao,2019)

Table 1: Position of political parties in General Elections of 2019 in Haryana State

Party	Seats		Total and percentage of votes polled	
	Contested	Won	Gained votes	% of votes polled
BJP	10	10	7357347	58.21
INC	10	--	3604106	28.51
JJP	7	--	619970	4.9
BSP	8	--	461273	3.65
INLD	10	--	240268	1.9

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Indian_general_election_in_Haryana

As per results of 2019 general elections, all ten seats were won by BJP, led by strong Modi-wave in the whole country. BJP in Haryana extended its position this time while the party had been able to score seven seats in the state in 2014 when two seats were gone to INLD led by Om Parkash Chautala and Congress was to satisfy itself with only one seat i.e., of Rohtak Parliamentary constituency. In 2019, Congress, the grand old

party, loosed only seat also when three-time MP Deepender Singh Hooda was defeated by BJP's candidate Arvind Kumar Sharma with a slender margin. All other Nine seats were lost with huge margins in the range of 1.60-6.50 lakh. Biggest loss of Sonipat Parliamentary seat, when its former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda was defeated by BJP candidate Ramesh Kaushik. Congress party heavy weight leaders including, party big-wig Kumari Selja from Ambala, Kuldeep Sharma from Karnal, Nirmal Singh from Kurukshetra, Bhavya Bishnoi from Bhiwani and Ajay Singh Yadav from Gurgaon, were washed out in these elections. (<http://www.yuvaharyana.com>)

ROHTAK PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

Rohtak is one of the oldest districts of Haryana lies 70 Kilometres, north-western side of national capital Delhi, and 250 kilometres from state capital Chandigarh, on National Highway no. 9 and part of National Capital Region (NCR). As per 2011 census, the city is sixth most populous city of Haryana with 373133 persons living there. A coin mound is found in the region nearby of Kharkhauda town of Yaudheyas period way back of 3rd century BC. A statue of 23rd Jain Tirthankar, Parsvanatha, of 7th Century AD. is also found here near to Asthal Bohar village. close to Rohtak city. The city was conquered by Mahammad of Ghaznavi between 1020 to 1030. The city is mentioned in Ain-a-Akbari also, as a Mogul pargana. At present, Rohtak city is shortlisted for smart city teg, and considered as one of the important places politically also as hometown of former chief minister of Haryana, Ch. Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and Present Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khatter. The region is considered as one of the important sites of cultural relevance as some places are in the district including Mahadev Temple in Kilo village, Baba Mast Nath Math in Asthal Bohar village and a fort built during emperor Mohammad Tughlaq. The Monastery of Baba Mast Nath was founded in 1731. So many of British officers used to live here during British period and a Church was built also in those years. The city is known for fastener and Turned parts industry, which is the backbone of the region. (Dangi,2020)

Rohtak Parliamentary constituency is one of the 10 Lok Sabha (Parliamentary) constituencies of Haryana, comprising Rohtak district, Jhajjar district and a part of Rewari district. Assembly segments in the constituency are i.e., Meham, Garhi-Sampla-Kiloi, Rohtak, Kalanaur, Bahadurgarh, Badli, Jhajjar, Beri and Kosli, a total of 9.

Table 1: - Position of political parties in the Rohtak Parliamentary Constituency's Assembly segments in 2019

Sr. No.	Name	District	Member	Party
60.	Meham	Rohtak	Balraj Kundu	Independent
61.	Garhi-Sampla		Bhupinder Singh Hooda	INC
62.	Rohtak		Bharat Bhushan Batra	INC
63.	Kalanaur (SC)		Shakuntla Khattak	INC
64.	Bahadurgarh	Jhajjar	Rajender Singh Joon	INC
65.	Badli		Kuldeep Vats	INC
66.	Jhajjar (SC)		Gita Bhukkal	INC
67.	Beri		Raghuvir Singh Kadian	INC
73.	Kosli	Rewari	Laxman Singh Yadav	BJP

Source: Office of Election Tehsildar, Rohtak

In the past, the Constituency has been recognized as producing the Deputy Prime Minister, Chief Minister, and youngest MP. With a large majority of 1.89 lakh votes, Ch. Devilal was elected MP from here in 1989 and later appointed Deputy Prime Minister. Ch. Bhupinder Singh Hooda, a local MP at the time, was elected chief minister of Haryana in 2005. When he was elected to the Lok Sabha in 2005 with 66.87 percent of the vote, his son Deepender Singh Hooda, then just 27 years old, is recognized as the youngest MP. After the general elections in 2009 and 2014, Deepender continued to win.

1980	Indresh Swami	Janta Party (Secular)
1984	Hardwari Lal	INC
1987		Lok Dal
1989	Chaudhary Devi Lal	Janta Dal
1991	Bhupinder Singh Hooda	INC
1996		
1998		
1999	Indresh Singh	Indian National Lok Dal
2004	Bhupinder Singh Hooda	INC
2009	Deepender Singh Hooda	
2014		
2019	Arvind Kumar Sharma	BJP

Source: Office of Election Tehsildar, Rohtak

ELECTION SCENERIO IN THE CONSTITUENCY

Deepender Singh Hooda, sitting member of parliament and a strong candidate for the party ticket, was chosen by the Congress party as its candidate for the upcoming Rohtak parliamentary elections. Both his grandfather Ch Ranbir Singh and father Bhupinder Singh Hooda served as MPs from this constituency, which is regarded as the party's safest seat. He won the election for a third time in 2014 after defeating BJP candidate Om Parkash Dhankhar by more than 1.7 lakh votes, making him a strong prospect for the position in 2019. His grandfather Ranbir Singh triumphed in 1952 and 1957 as well, and Father Bhupinder Singh Hooda once overcame Ch Devilal, the Jat Stalwart from same parliamentary constituency.

He is considered soft spoken and popular amongst youth especially. The family is credited for the development of the area and jobs to the youths in the region. His position this time declined specially after 2016 Jat-Agitation and wide-spread violence in Rohtak city, followed by caste polarization popularly known as Jat Vs. Non-Jat. "He is supportive and visits the constituency regularly. He intervened and helped sort out the matter when an official was ignoring our complaints of road damage," said Mukesh Kumar, the sarpanch of Jassia village. "Despite being Jat leaders, Hooda had the support of other castes as well. But things have changed in five years. The saffron party has managed to build a public perception that the 2016 Jat quota violence was orchestrated by Hooda. So, the victims who were targeted have turned against the Congress. Besides, Deepender's remarks in which he indirectly referred to chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar as a 'Pakistani' has not gone down well with Punjabi voters in the state. But a lot will depend on who is fielded against him," says Subhash Sharma, a political analyst based in Rohtak. (Verma,2019)

Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma was the 2019 candidate for the BJP. He served as MP thrice, once from Sonipat in 1996 and twice from Karnal in 2004 and 2009. He was the BSP's proposed candidate for Chief Minister. But right before the 2019 elections, in the presence of BJP leader Amit Shah and the chief minister of Haryana, he joined Bhartiya Janta party. "I have thoughtfully taken this decision after observing that BJP has done a lot of work for poor, Dalits, farmers, youths, unemployed people, women, and the elderly. Today, I am whole-heartedly joining the BJP," Sharma told the media in Delhi. He has worked as a dental surgeon in Rohtak for a while. He is regarded as a responsible politician and a well-known non-Jat figure among those vying for the Rohtak parliamentary seat. It is remarkable that the Parliamentary constituency has almost three lakh Brahmin votes. Particularly during the 2016 Jat agitation, which polarised non-Jat voters, Modi-Wave supported him and most effectively in the region thanks to his personal connections. Majra, his native village, is in the Bahadurgarh town district of Rohtak. (Hindustan Times, 2019)

Though the race was regarded to be neck and neck between the two incumbent Congress and BJP candidates, a third contender who was visible during the campaign was Pardeep Deshwal of the JJP. JJP was attempting to trace all its previous roots in the area. Large-scale party figures were advocating for him, but the party was not making a major impression.

During the campaign, some issues and controversies were rising including 2016 'Jat agitation' and local trader's protest of Hooda's after it. Even blame of local traders who blamed them of fulfilling their 'selfish Political Motives', as response to a boycott call initiated by Congress after GST. During campaign, Deepender Hooda was claiming of establishing, Indian Institute of Management (IIM), and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), in Rohtak beyond other developmental works including good road connectivity and Metro line up to Bahadurgarh in the constituency. However, the fact that he asked only a few questions in the Lok Sabha and that he didn't take part in many of the parliamentary debates. The 2019 elections in this Jat-dominated seat were also shaken by the issue of using or not using the MP fund. (Indian Express, 2019)

All these anti-Hooda, anti-Congress, and anti-establishment sentiments were seen multiplied during the campaign by Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma's soft-spoken persona, the Jat agitation's response and widespread violence in the region, the Modi wave at the national level, and the unification of non-Jat castes behind the BJP. 'There were undoubtedly some caste-related emotions in Haryana as a whole. However, the Modi-factor

pervaded every aspect of the 2019 parliamentary elections.’ – Senior journalist and political analyst Amit Nehra. ‘Jats have been representing the Rohtak seat since the first General Elections in 1952. Before Independence, the Rohtak region led by peasant leader Sir Chhotu Ram was anti-Congress, but the party managed to establish its base here after his demise. This Jat-dominant region has never supported a particular ideology. Even the Bhartiya Jan Sangh (BJS) won the seat in 1962 and 1971 but the winning candidates were again Jats’ – Satish Tyagi, Political analyst, and author.

Though, there is dual between congress party and BJS turned BJP in the constituency since the first parliamentary elections of 1952. But, in 2019, the dual becomes so intensified that it happened town to town, village to village and person to person. The intensity of the fight can be understood with the fact that the BJP’s rally at Rohtak where Prime Minister, Narendra Modi was the Chief Speaker, was opposed with the organization of big parallel rally at Gohana on the same day by Bhupinder Singh Hooda/Congress party. Though, there was a large crowd in the Congress rally. But it became turning point as BJP cadres were able to convince the voters that these are the same people who are responsible for the violence in Rohtak during Jat-agitation of 2016.

RESULTS & ANALYSIS

Under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP expanded its base as result of the 2019 general elections. The BJP received 22,90,78,261 votes, the highest percentage of any party in any Lok Sabha election (45% of the total votes). Additionally, the votes are nearly twice as much as the 11,94,94,952 votes that the Indian National Congress received. In 2019 general elections, the BJP kept all 10 of the Lok Sabha seats in Haryana state. There were 223 people running for the state's 10 parliamentary seats. Only 9 women entered the race out of the total number of candidates. 69.5 percent of the vote was cast. (<https://eci.gov.in/files/file/10961-17state-wise-seat-won-valid-votes>)

Table 4: Results of 2019 general elections among parliamentary constituencies of Haryana state.

Name of Constituency	Winning Candidate	Party	% of votes polled
Ambala	Rattan Lal Kataria	BJP	56.72
Bhiwani- Mahendergarh	Dharambir	BJP	63.45
Faridabad	Krishan Pal	BJP	68.8
Gurgaon	Rao Inderjeet Singh	BJP	60.94
Hissar	Brijender Singh	BJP	51.13
Karnal	Sanjay Bhatia	BJP	70.08
Kurukshetra	Nayab Singh	BJP	55.98
Rohtak	Arvind Kumar Sharma	BJP	47.01
Sirsa	Sunita Duggal	BJP	52.16
Sonapat	Ramesh Kumar Kaushik	BJP	52.03

Source: Haryana Lok Sabha Elections Results 2019: Party Wise Seats, (www.indianexpress.com)

Arvind Kumar Sharma defeated Deepender Singh Hooda of the Congress in the Rohtak Parliamentary Constituency’s 2019 parliamentary elections, which resulted in his victory. The following table compares the vote shares of the different candidates running in the Rohtak Parliamentary constituency in the 2019 general elections.

Table: Political Party performances in the 2019 General Elections in Rohtak Parliamentary Constituency

Party	Candidate	Votes	% of votes polled
BJP	Arvind Kumar Sharma	573845	47.01
INC	Deepender Singh Hooda	566342	46.4
JJP	Pardeep Deshwal	21211	1.74
NOTA		3001	0.25
Turnout		1224994	70.52

Source: Office of Election Tehsildar, Rohtak

As the BJP candidate, Arvind Kumar Sharma received 573845 votes, or 47% of the total. Deepender Singh Hooda of the INC received 566342 votes, Kishan Lal Panchal of the BSP received 38364 votes, Pardeep Kumar Deshwal of the JJP received 7158 votes, and Dharmvir of the INLD received 7158 votes. In the Jat-dominated Haryana parliamentary constituency of Rohtak, a non-Jat candidate won for the first time in its history.



Table: Political Party performances in the 2014 General Elections in Rohtak Parliamentary Constituency

Party	Candidate	Votes	% of votes polled
INC	Deepender Singh Hooda	490063	46.86
BJP	Om Prakash Dhankhar	319436	30.56
INLD	Shamsher Singh Kharkara	151120	14.45
AAP	Naveen Jaihind	46759	4.47
NOTA		4932	0.47
Turnout		1045723	66.71

Source: Office of election Tehsildar, Rohtak

Deepender Singh Hooda, candidate for the Congress, continued to prevail in the 2014 general elections despite Modi wave and anti-congress wave in the state and in the whole country, in general. The Congress party was, however, losing voters in these elections. However, it was seen as a significant victory because, apart from Rohtak Parliamentary Constituency, the Congress party lost everywhere in Haryana state. In contrast, the 2009 elections in the constituency set a record for the proportion of votes cast for the Congress party, receiving 69.98% of the total votes polled, in the history of the Rohtak Parliamentary seat.

Table: Political Party performances in the 2009 General Elections in Rohtak Parliamentary Constituency

Party	Candidate	Votes	% of votes polled
INC	Deepender Singh Hooda	585016	69.98
INLD	Nafe Singh Rathi	139280	16.86
BSP	Rajkumar	68210	8.16
HJC(BL)	Krishan Murti	20472	2.45
Independent	Satya Narain Ranga	6876	0.82
Turnout		835930	65.76

Source: Office of election Tehsildar, Rohtak

OBSERVATIONS/COCLUSIONS

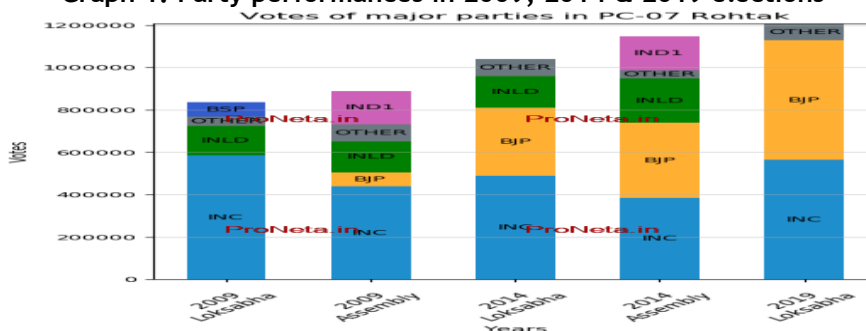
1. In the general elections, the BJP gained 303 seats nationally, up from 282, while winning all ten parliamentary seats in Haryana, up from nine in her favour in the general elections of 2014. This time around, no opposition Party or leader was accepted as the official opposition leader.
2. Institutional deterioration, economic performance, terrorism, national security, rural distress, and dynastic politics were the main concerns at the national level in 2019. The Haryana state election environment is being shaken by new trends such as the fall of dynasty politics, Jat vs. Non-Jat comparisons, winning of the state ruling party in parliamentary elections, the Modi wave, and BJP micromanagement through pannaparmukhs for door-to-door campaigning.
3. Along with the other parliamentary seats in the state of Haryana, the BJP won the Rohtak seat in 2019. Because it was the home district of the former chief minister of Haryana, Ch Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Rohtak was regarded as the Congress party's safest seat in the state. Moreover, from the initial elections in 1952, the Hooda family has won the Rohtak seat nine times. Even though the winning margin was not very large, the BJP's victory in the Rohtak seat in the 2019 parliamentary elections is a significant one.
4. Despite being the Hooda clan's political stronghold, Rohtak's lone remaining parliamentary seat at the time of the 2014 elections was also won by the BJP in the 2019 elections. While INLD's voting percentage reduced and it moved from third to fourth place in the results of the election in the parliamentary constituency, the Congress party (INC) saw a decrease in its support base here.
5. During the election, the concerns surrounding the use of time in the parliament, the sitting member's participation in various discussions, and the use of MP funds for local welfare and development projects were novel in and of itself, especially given Rohtak's caste-based voting practises.
6. Caste dominates the election process in the constituency and generally at the state level. Additionally, a new political equation between Jats and Non-Jats was seen during the campaign, which was reported to have developed in the wake of the 2016 Jat agitation, unmistakably strengthened the BJP base in the state. Since 1952, Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma is elected as the first non-Jat member of parliament for the Rohtak parliamentary constituency. Moreover, through 10% reservation grant for other backward classes, Jat vote bank was also tried to be dented by BJP in last hours of elections. (Anand, 2019) I don't believe that Jats and Non-Jats were equated in those Rohtak elections. After a few months, the Congress party candidate won the Haryana Assembly elections in Rohtak legislative constituency with a big margin, according to Dr. Vikram Kharab, an assistant professor at Kurukshetra University.
7. OBC card played by BJP in Rohtak was successful which was witnessed during counting of votes also. The



assembly segment of Kosli, dominated by Ahirs/OBC, provide a lead to BJP which was not surpassed by congress, up to the last. According to Jagdish Sharma, District Rohtak President of the Khet-Mazdoor Congress, "Congress party's poor performance in Kosli area can be seen as result of party infighting and passive attitude of local leaders/workers accept Daan Singh there." In all other areas, however, "Congress party is supported by every community including OBC."

8. Congress' accomplishments in the Rohtak constituency, such as the founding of the All-India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), were undermined by accusations of low participation in parliamentary debates and underuse of MP funds. In addition, his winning margin has decreased in each election since 2009. He won by a 4-lakh margin in 2009 and a 1.7 lakh margin in 2014. (Hindustan Times,2019)
9. The historical comparison of Rohtak's previous five parliamentary elections reveals that the BJP's vote share increased after the 2009 elections while the Congress party's vote share decreased after each election, which led to the party's defeat this time, in 2019. The approximate fixed vote share of INLD significantly dropped in the 2019 elections. The party's breakup and the rise of JJP from it may be seen as the cause.

Graph 1: Party performances in 2009, 2014 & 2019 elections



Source: <https://indianexpress.com/elections/rohtak-lok-sabha-election-results>

10. After winning all ten of the state's legislative seats, the leadership of the Haryana Chief minister has grown stronger, particularly in the eyes of the party high command. It is important to note that Sh. Manohar Lal Khatter, the current chief minister of Haryana, hails from the district of Rohtak.

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Declaration

It is to be certified that the paper entitled **GENERAL ELECTIONS 2019: A STUDY OF ROHTAK PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY OF HARYANA** is my own creation. It is not sent for publication, neither published anywhere.

With Regards

Dr. Jai Kishan Bhardwaj

Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. jkbhardwaj@kuk.ac.in, Mobile:9896249926