

## **General Elections 2019 In Faridabad Parliamentary Constituency Of Haryana: An Analysis**

**By**

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### **Abstract**

General elections in Faridabad parliamentary constituency witnessed some local issues like completion of delayed Kundli-Manesar-Palwal and Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal expressways and six flyovers on Delhi-Faridabad-Agra national highway (NH-2) which gave relief to the regular traffic jam in the city and surroundings, extension of Metro rail line up to Aironda in Faridabad, setting up Shri Vishwakarma Skill University and the grant of smart city status to Faridabad, in addition to Modi wave and feelings of nationalism specially after Pulwama attack on security forces in Jammu & Kashmir added fuel in favour of BJP government at centre level. After Jat reservation agitation, the consolidation of non-Jat in favour of BJP, on the one hand and on the other hand, last-minute declaration of 10% reservation for economically backward classes in government jobs and education sector by central government dented into Jat voters which brought the BJP candidate at number one position with considerable margin.

**Keywords:** Elections, Haryana, Faridabad, Parties,

### **Introduction**

In 2019 general elections, BJP increased its strength in Lok Sabha from 282 to 303 seats and main opposition party Indian National Congress was limited to just 52 MP there. There will be no Leader of Opposition in the upcoming Lower House for second consecutive term as no political party was able to be recognised as opposition party this time also. The trend happened in case of Haryana state also as BJP increased its strength from Nine to all ten seats. 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.<sup>1</sup> All the parliamentary constituencies of Haryana state went to poll in single phase on 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2019. Out of these ten constituencies, two i.e., Sirsa and Ambala, are reserved for Scheduled candidates. For 18056895 registered voters, out of 223 candidates were in contest, out of which 11 women were there in the fray. A total of 19,441 polling stations were set up in the State, out of which 5510 polling stations were in urban areas and 13,931 were in rural areas. Haryana is one of the states in India with Twenty-one districts in it, out of which 165 towns and 6841 villages are there. As per 2011 census, population of state was 25351462, with 13494734 males and 11856728 females. Sex-ratio of Haryana was 879 in comparison to 943 at the national level. There were 20.17% Scheduled Caste (SC) and no Scheduled Tribe (ST) population in Haryana state. Hindu comprise the dominance of 87.46% of the population while Muslims are of approximately 7%, Sikhs are 4.91% while the presence of Jains, Christians and Buddhists are less than one percent respectively.<sup>2</sup>

Society in Haryana state is understood to be caste ridden and the voting behaviour is also decided by this dominant characteristic as result. It is understood that Jat voters have influence in more than 40 legislative constituency segments, including 12 reserve constituencies of the state. On the other hand, Ahir plays role in approximately 7 to 9 assembly constituencies. In parliamentary elections Scheduled Caste play role on Ambala while Jats, Saini and Jat Sikhs play role in Kurukshetra seat. Jat, Panjabi Khatri, and Brahmins play major role in Karnal while Jats and Brahmins are playing dominant role in Hissar and Sonipat Parliamentary Constituency. Meo-Muslim and Ahirs in Gurgaon while Jats and Gurjers dominates the election scenes in Faridabad. In Rohtak Parliamentary constituency, Jat plays major role in the outcomes.<sup>3</sup>

In 2014 general elections, BJP won seven out of ten parliamentary seats in Haryana. Two i.e., Sirsa and Hissar went to Indian National Lok Dal, while Indian National Congress was to be satisfied with only one, the Rohtak seat, where Dipender Singh Hooda, son of former CM, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, won. The INLD is facing trouble ever since its Hisar sitting MP Dushyant Chautala floated his own Political party, Jananayak Janata Party (JJP).

## **Environment Of The State At The Time Of Elections**

Among the prominent BJP leaders in the fights are Rao Inderjeet Singh from Gurgaon and Krishan Pal Gurjar, its former state president for Faridabad seat again while Brijender Singh, union minister Birender Singh's son and great grandson of Ch. Chhoturam is fighting against Bhavya Bishnoi, grandson of former CM Bhajan Lal for Hissar parliamentary seat. Hissar contest becomes interesting with the entry of Dushyant Singh Chautala, sitting MP and leader of newly floated JJP. The seat witnessed a fight among different dynasties of Haryana politics.

In Congress, former CM and MLA from Garhi-Sampla, Bhupinder Singh Hooda is fighting from Sonipat while former union minister Kumari Selja is in contest from Ambala reserve parliamentary seat. Another big leader of the party and state Congress chief Ashok Tanwar is fighting from Sirsa parliamentary constituency. With the entry of Digvijay Chautala, Sonipat seat became more interesting where Bhupinder Hooda and Digvijay Chautala are expecting to gain more and more votes from the vote share of over 6.70 lakh Jat voters while sitting MP, Ramesh Kaushik, a Brahmin, was hopeful with a major share of about 1.50 lakh Brahmin voters in the Parliamentary constituency.<sup>4</sup>

In Rohtak, Bhupinder Singh's son, Deepender Hooda, who was seeking a fourth straight victory from the Hooda citadel. The Jat leader is facing competition from former MP Arvind Sharma, a prominent Brahmin leader and strong Modi wave in the country. Deepender has won thrice in this Parliamentary constituency. With Jats in dominance, there are Yadavs, Brahmins and other non-Jat communities who have contributed to his victory in previous elections. But post-Jat agitation and BJP's non-Jat politics, the equations have been changed. Bhiwani has also becomes the hot seat where Shruti Chaudhary, grand daughter of former Haryana's Chief Minister Bansi Lal was candidate. Her mother, Kiran Chaudhary, is also big congress leader. Bhiwani witnessed direct fight between Shruti Chaudhary and sitting MP, Dharambir. In 2014, Shruti had finished third, losing out to Dharambir by a margin of 1.3 lakh votes and Rao Bahadur Singh of INLD by a meagre 7,000 votes.<sup>5</sup>

Another hot seat in 2019 election in state was Gurgaon where sitting MP and son of former CM, Rao Birender Singh was fighting to sustain its position in state and national politics. Three assembly constituencies of the Mewat region – Punhana, Ferozpur Jhirka and Nuh, were to play a big role in the contest. The Mewat region is dominated by Meo Muslims

and pans across north-western India, in Haryana and Rajasthan. The INLD, which had won two assembly seats in 2014 from Mewat district, is now facing a grim situation with its Meo Muslim legislators defecting to the Congress. This time, the contest was seen as a direct fight between Inderjeet Singh and Congress big leader and former cabinet minister Capt. Ajay Singh Yadav. Though, Congress chief Rahul Gandhi campaigned here to mobilise urban and Meo Muslims voters in Gurgaon Parliamentary constituency. But in front of Modi wave throughout the country and strong candidature of Rao Inderjeet Singh, BJP was seen popular there. State Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khatter, as one of the star campaigners of BJP in Haryana, was campaigning seriously in the state and specially in Kurukshetra in favour of party candidate, Nawab Singh Saini who is fighting against the newly rebel Rajkumar Saini and his Lok Suraksha Party. Nawab Singh Saini was looking to mobilise Dalit and minority votes, which will strengthen BJP's position. Moreover, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, himself has campaigned here when a big rally was organised. Arjun Chautala, grandson of former CM, Omprakash Chautala, was also fighting here as INLD candidate.

Specially after Jat reservation and Khatter's government's stand against it, changed the political equation and mobilised the non-Jat voters in favour the BJP in 2019 elections. Though, Jats, who constitute 27% of the population in Haryana state, have been the politically dominant force in previous elections, but recent chasm between Jats and non-Jats seems to have changed political landscape completely. Following table shows about the breakup of voters in all Parliamentary constituencies of Haryana state (as on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019).

**Table 1:** *Gender wise distribution of voters in Hayana*

| <b>Name of Parliamentary Constituency</b> | <b>Male</b>    | <b>Female</b>  | <b>Third gender</b> | <b>Total voters</b> |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Ambala                                    | 990603         | 862944         | 30                  | 1853577             |
| Kurukshetra                               | 882798         | 774525         | 12                  | 1657335             |
| Sirsa                                     | 959026         | 844316         | 11                  | 1803353             |
| Hissar                                    | 882418         | 749383         | 8                   | 1631809             |
| Karnal                                    | 1019227        | 884941         | 25                  | 1904193             |
| Sonipat                                   | 866353         | 726230         | 27                  | 1592610             |
| Rohtak                                    | 937701         | 799422         | 10                  | 1737133             |
| Bhiwani                                   | 889989         | 764366         | 12                  | 1654367             |
| Gurgaon                                   | 1145459        | 1005174        | 35                  | 2150668             |
| Faridabad                                 | 1142942        | 928872         | 37                  | 2071851             |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>9716516</b> | <b>8340173</b> | <b>207</b>          | <b>18056896</b>     |

**Sources:** *Office of election department, Panchkula, Haryana.*

Congress campaign in the state was revolving around the achievements of its previous governments in the state and in centre like, minimum income guarantee scheme and a jobs promise, but the state BJP government's opening up/ transparency of government jobs recruitment was being seen as a major achievement. The jobs have also given heft to BJP's accusation against the Hooda that jobs, education opportunities and development were all concentrated in their constituencies only.

## **About Faridabad Parliamentary Constituency**

Faridabad Parliamentary constituency came into existence for the first time at the time of 1977 elections. The headquarter of the constituency is Faridabad city, the most populated city of Haryana state which was founded in 1607 by Sheikh Farid, treasurer of Mughal King Jahangir, to protect the GT Road between Delhi and Agra. In independent India, Faridabad was

part of Gurgaon district. The city is part of NCR and 284 KM of Haryana state capital, Chandigarh. The population of the district is 1414050 with 754542 males and 659508 females in it. Literacy rate in the district is more than 83 percent, as per 2011 census of India.<sup>6</sup>



**Source:** <http://www.business.standard.com>

Faridabad is known as industrial capital of Haryana as home of large-scale companies like Escorts, Howell, JCB India Limited, Indian Oil (R&D), Larsen & Toubro, Whirlpool India and of Yamaha. More than 5,000 units of auto parts producers are based in Faridabad. The Faridabad Small Industries Association claims that Faridabad and Gurgaon districts account for almost 56% of the income tax collected in Haryana. Faridabad has been selected as one of the hundred Indian cities to be developed as a smart city under PM Narendra Modi's flagship Smart Cities Mission. Among educational institutes J.C. Bose University of Science and Technology, YMCA, Lingaya's University and Manav Rachna International University are established in the district. Faridabad parliamentary constituency spreads over two districts i.e., Faridabad and Palwal and has nine assembly segments — Hathin, Hodal (SC), Palwal, Prithla, Faridabad NIT, Badkhal, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Tigaon, in it. It has a mix of Jat, Gujjars, Brahmin and Scheduled Caste voters and more than one lakh Meo Muslim voters in it. Slum and migrant voters also form a considerable strength with the growing of city as industrial hub.<sup>7</sup>

**Table 2:** *Electoral history of Parliamentary constituency*

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Member</b>                                | <b>Party</b>             |
|-------------|--|--------------------------|
|             | Constituency did not exist from 1952 to 1976 |                          |
| 1977        | Dharam Vir Vasisht                           | Janta Party              |
| 1980        | Tayyab Husain                                | Indian National Congress |
| 1984        | Rahim Khan                                   |                          |
| 1988        | Khursheed Ahmad Chaudhary                    | Lok Dal                  |
| 1989        | Bhajan Lal                                   | Indian National Congress |
| 1991        | Awtar Singh Bhadana                          |                          |
| 1996        |  |                          |
| 1998        | Ram Chander Baina                            | Bhartiya Janta Party     |
| 1999        |  |                          |
| 2004        |  | Indian National Congress |
| 2009        | Awtar Singh Bhadana                          |                          |
| 2014        |  |                          |
| 2019        | Krishan Pal Gujjar                           | Bhartiya Janta Party     |

**Source:** *Office of Election Tehsildar, Faridabad.*

## Election Scenerio In Faridabad Constituency

Krishan Pal Gurjar remained strong aspirant for party ticket from Faridabad parliamentary constituency. He has been party chief in 2009 and have been MLA in 1996. Gurjar became party candidate from the parliamentary constituency in 2014 side-lining three-time MP, Ram Chander Bainsa and was elected MP and made minister in union government. Moreover, being from Gurjar community, he was found strong candidate for the Parliamentary constituency.

Despite openly known rivalry with union minister Vipul Goel and his widely criticism on his allegations on illegal mining, Gurjar was facing another allegation of concentrating on specific community and region, his list of work was so long which was enough to attract the voters in his favour. His campaign was highlighting the extension of Metro rail line up to Aironda in Faridabad, setting up Shri Vishwakarma Skill University and grant of smart city status to Faridabad. Moreover, he was trying to be credited for the completion of much-delayed Kundli-Manesar-Palwal and Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal expressways and six flyovers on Delhi-Faridabad-Agra national highway (NH-2) which gave relief to the regular traffic jam in the city and surroundings. Gurjar who was Union minister of social justice and empowerment after 2014 and was riding high in his campaigning. Beyond national leaders, his campaign was taken care by his son Devender Chaudhary, deputy Mayor in Faridabad municipal corporation.<sup>8</sup>

Indian National Congress selected its old war horse and former MP in 1991,2004& in 2009, Awtar Singh Badana as its candidate from Faridabad parliamentary constituency. He had joined BJP in 2015 and was seeking BJP ticket from here. When denied BJP ticket, he joined Congress again which dented his image so badly. His argument of being devotee of Congress party for the last thirty years and having strong base in the people specially in Gurjar community was enough to get party ticket from the constituency. The four-time former MP, Bhadana is considered an influential Gujjar leader who has a stronghold in Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh.

**Table 3:** *Assembly segments in Faridabad parliamentary constituency*

| Name of assembly seat | District  | Member            | Party       |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|
| Hathin                | Palwal    | Parveen Dagar     | BJP         |
| Hodal (SC)            |           | Jagdish Nayar     | BJP         |
| Palwal                |           | Deepak Mangla     | BJP         |
| Parithla              | Faridabad | Nayan Pal Rawat   | Independent |
| Faridabad NIT         |           | Neeraj Sharma     | INC         |
| Badkhal               |           | Seema Trikha      | BJP         |
| Ballabhgark           |           | Mool Chand Sharma | BJP         |
| Faridabad             |           | Narender Gupta    | BJP         |
| Tigaon                |           | Rajesh Nayar      | BJP         |

**Source:** *office of election Tehsildar, Faridabad*

Awtar Singh Badana and Krishan Pal Singh Gurjar, both belong to Gurjar community, which is dominant community in the region. While campaigning Congress candidate, Awtar Singh Bhadana comment that “he had claim over BJP ticket but denied. He further says that BJP should have even compared his and Krishan Pal Gurjar’s stature. Whole of the community is with him and he had done huge work in the region.” It need not to mention here again that Awtar Singh Bhadana had joined BJP in 2015 and was seeking BJP ticket prior to his joining to Congress party again at the time of election. His son, Arjun Bhadana, is taking care of all election management and other family members were also campaigning side by side. There is



no 'Modi-Wave' like thing in the constituency. People of Faridabad are fed-up with the central government and local MP, which will support him in the election. Moreover, after the announcement of 'Nyay-Yojna' (Justice-Scheme) by Rahul Gandhi, position of Congress party in Faridabad becomes stronger, he said.<sup>9</sup>

Though, all MLAs of different assembly segments of the parliamentary constituency, from BJP, INLD, BSP or INC were active in the campaign. Congress MLAs Karan Dalal and Jagdish Nagar were so critical to Krishan Pal Gurjar and blaming that crime is on the rise. Moreover, he takes credit of the work done by Congress rule. It was interesting that INLD MLA from Faridabad NIT Nagender Bhadana, while praising Haryana and central government during campaign said "I may be from an opposition party, but the fact is that the chief minister deserves kudos for getting a five-km long open sewerage cemented with wide roads on both sides, besides bringing drinking water facility through a 25-km pipeline for some villages of my assembly segment. Krishan Pal Singh Gurjar was also criticised for not utilising complete fund allotted to the parliamentary constituency. He did not spend approximately 2.3. crores for the parliamentary constituency.<sup>10</sup>

## Result & Its Analysis

As result of 2019 general elections in Haryana, a total of 223 candidates were participating against 10 seats of Lok Sabha. Out of these total candidates, only 9 women were in contest. The voting percentage was 69.5 per cent. There are 10 Lok Sabha constituencies in Haryana.

**Table 4:** *Result of Haryana Parliamentary elections 2019*

| <b>Name of Constituency</b> | <b>Winning Candidate</b> | <b>Party</b> | <b>% of votes polled</b> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Ambala                      | Rattan Lal Kataria       | BJP          | 56.72                    |
| Bhiwani-<br>Mahendergarh    | Dharmbir                 | 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                    |
| Sonipat                     | Ramesh Kumar Sharma      | BJP          | 52.03                    |

**Source:** *Haryana Lok Sabha Elections Results 2019: Party Wise Seats, Constituency Wise Result, Winners & Runner-up, Opinion Poll, and News (indianexpress.com).*

Faridabad is one of the constituencies in 10-seat of Haryana state. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Faridabad went to the polls on May 12, 2019, in Phase 6. It saw 64.12% of its registered electors turning out to vote, against 64.97% in the previous national elections held in 2014. Krishan Pal defeated his nearest rival, Avtar Singh Bhadana, by a margin of 638239 votes. While Pal received 68.8 votes, runner-up Avtar Singh Bhadana polled 20.72 votes. In the 2019 elections there were a total of 215 polling stations in 89 Faridabad constituency.<sup>11</sup> The corresponding figure in the 2014 elections was 185.

**Table 5: Results of Faridabad Parliamentary Constituency 2019**

| Party    | Candidate           | Vote     | % of votes polled |
|----------|---------------------|----------|-------------------|
| BJP      | Krishan Pal Gujjar  | 9,13,222 | 68.68             |
| INC      | Awtar Singh Bhadana | 2,68,327 | 20.85             |
| BSP      | Mandheer Singh Maan | 84,006   | 6.53              |
| Majority |                     | 644895   | 47.83             |

**Source:** *Office of Election Tehsildar, Faridabad.*

At the time of the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Faridabad had 1,411,765 registered electors – 712,184 of them male and 699,581 females. The constituency had seen a 63.78% voter turnout. In 2014, the male voter turnout here was 65.92%, while 61.60% female voters turned out for voting. A total of 10 candidates had contested in this constituency.<sup>12</sup> The participation of women candidates was 2.

**Table 6: Results of Faridabad Parliamentary Constituency 2014**

| Party    | Candidate           | Vote     | % Of votes polled |
|----------|---------------------|----------|-------------------|
| BJP      | Krishan Pal Gujjar  | 6,52,516 | 57.70             |
| INC      | Awtar Singh Bhadana | 1,85,643 | 16.42             |
| INLD     | R.K. Anand          | 1,32,472 | 11.71             |
| AAP      | Pursottam Dagar     | 67,355   | 5.96              |
| BSP      | Pt. Rajender Sharma | 66,000   | 5.84              |
| Majority |                     | 466876   | 41.28             |

**Source:** *Office of Election Tehsildar, Faridabad.*

## Finding/Observations

- As result of 2019 general elections in India, BJP increased its strength from 282 to 303 seats in Lok Sabha and main opposition party Indian National Congress was limited to just 52 MP only. No party is recognised as opposition Party/Leader in the house as result. 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.<sup>13</sup>
- At Haryana state level, BJP captured all ten seats instead of Nine in 2014. Moreover, trends emerged from the 2019 parliamentary elections are like continuity of subordinate role of regional parties after 2014, recession of dynasty politics, new equations of Jat and Non-Jat, winning of state ruling party in parliamentary elections, Modi wave and micromanagement of BJP through *pannaparmukhs* for door-to-door campaign, rock the scene.
- Jat Vs. Non-Jat equations emerged in Haryana political politics specially after Jat agitation for reservation and the same reflected in the electoral behaviour of the voters also. Moreover, after last minutes declaration of 10% reservation for economically backward classes in government jobs and education sector by central government dented Jat consolidated vote-bank also simultaneously. The fact effects the voting behaviour in the constituency also which penetrated BJP in the rural area of Haryana too.<sup>14</sup>
- In Faridabad parliamentary constituency, no doubt, Modi wave was flowing in throughout all the corners. But local issues like completion of delayed Kundli-Manesar-Palwal and Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal expressways and six flyovers on Delhi-Faridabad-Agra national highway (NH-2) which gave relief to the regular traffic jam in the city and surroundings, extension of Matro rail line up to Aironda in Faridabad setting up Shri Vishwakarma Skill University and the smart city status to Faridabad

played important role among voters of approximately complete literate parliamentary constituency. Moreover, being from the Gurjar community, Krishan Pal Gurjar added the flavour in the margin.<sup>15</sup>

- During campaign, Congress candidate, Awtar Singh Bhadana claim that there is no 'Modi-Wave' like thing in the constituency. People of Faridabad are fed-up with the central government and local MP. Position of Congress party in Faridabad becomes stronger, especially after the announcement of 'Nyay-Yojna'(Justice-Scheme) by Rahul Gandhi. But all those claims were proved wrong in the result. Lack of proper opposition at national level and the factor of image of transparency specially in recruitment of jobs by BJP governments in the state and centre became another reason of his defeat in Faridabad parliamentary constituency.<sup>16</sup>
- Indian National Congress candidate Awtar Singh Bhadana, though senior leader and enjoy support in Gurjar community also but his image of changing parties again and again, dented his image in front of BJP's strong candidate who was riding on Modi-Wave, beyond local achievements in the region. The neutral voters did not support him much in general. (Dr. Jitender Sharma, Associate Professor in Palwal College)
- All sitting and former MLAs from different parties including BJP, INLD, BSP or INC were active in the campaign. Congress MLAs Karan Dalal and Jagdish Nagar were so active in the campaign in favour of Congress candidate. But BJP is said to manage MLAs from INLD and BSP at the time of 2019 general elections.
- Other candidates lost their security deposits in this dual between the two strongmen of two National parties. INLD/JJP candidates were losing due to infighting in their respective parties. This dilemma of in front of Jat-Voters benefited the BJP candidate.

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