



Original Research Paper

**Voting Trends in Assembly Elections
Haryana A Geographical analysis (2009-
2024)**

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Abstract

The present study examines the electoral trends and patterns of political parties in the Haryana Legislative Assembly elections conducted between 2009 and 2024. Haryana provides a particularly significant case for electoral analysis due to its dynamic political environment characterized by frequent shifts in party alignments, leadership-centred mobilization, caste-based political competition and the continued influence of regional political formations. The study is based on official election statistics obtained from the Election Commission of India and the Chief Electoral Officer, Haryana. It analyses electoral trends through multiple indicators, including party-wise vote share, degree of electoral success, representation of women candidates, performance of Scheduled Caste candidates and patterns of victory margins. A comparative approach has been adopted to identify continuity and change in the electoral behavior of voters across four Assembly elections held in 2009, 2014, 2019 and 2024. The electoral trends indicate an increasing concentration of political competition between the BJP and the Congress, suggesting the evolution of a more bipolar party system in the state. Overall, the study concludes that Haryana's electoral geography has undergone a process of political realignment characterized by changing voter preferences, shifting party loyalties and the growing dominance of national political parties in the state's electoral arena.

Keywords: Electoral Trends, Vote Share, Political Parties, Electoral Geography, Electoral Realignment, Political Competition.

Introduction

Elections constitute the most visible and significant expression of democratic participation. In representative democracies, electoral processes serve not only as mechanisms for the formation of governments but also as instruments through which citizens communicate their political preferences, expectations and levels of satisfaction with existing political arrangements. Electoral outcomes therefore provide valuable insights into the changing nature of political competition, voter behavior and party systems. The systematic study of electoral trends enables researchers to identify long-term patterns of political support, emerging alignments and shifts in the balance of power among competing political parties. Such analyses are particularly important in federal democracies like India, where state-level electoral dynamics often differ considerably from national political trends.

The Assembly elections conducted in Haryana between 2009 and 2024 represent a particularly significant phase in the evolution of the state's party

system. During this period, Haryana witnessed substantial changes in the distribution of electoral support among major political parties. The period saw the decline of some established regional political formations, the emergence of new political actors, the rapid expansion of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the fluctuating fortunes of the Indian National Congress (INC). These developments collectively transformed the electoral landscape of the state and contributed to the emergence of new patterns of political competition. The study of these transformations is essential for understanding the broader processes of political change occurring within Haryana.

The period from 2009 to 2024 is particularly suitable for trend analysis because it encompasses multiple phases of political transformation within Haryana. The 2009 election reflected the continuation of traditional patterns of competition involving the Congress and the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD). The 2014 election marked the emergence of the BJP as a major political force in the state. The 2019

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Received: 25th May, 2026; Revised: 6th June, 2026; Accepted: 8th June, 2026; Available Online: 04rd August, 2026

(DOI): 10.70102/AEJ.2026.18.2s.58

election witnessed the appearance of the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) and the restructuring of regional political competition. The 2024 election further revealed the increasing concentration of electoral support around the BJP and Congress, indicating the possible emergence of a more bipolar party system. The comparison of these four elections therefore provides an opportunity to identify both continuity and change in Haryana's electoral geography. The analysis presented in this paper is based on official election statistics published by the Election Commission of India and the Chief Electoral Officer, Haryana. The data have been organized and interpreted through a comparative framework to identify long-term electoral trends. Particular attention has been given to changes in party support, representation patterns and electoral competitiveness across the study period. Through the examination of these indicators, the chapter seeks to explain how Haryana's electoral landscape evolved between 2009 and 2024 and what these changes reveal about the broader transformation of the state's political system. Thus, paper analysis the provides a comprehensive assessment of electoral trends in Haryana Assembly elections by analysing party-wise performance, degree of electoral success, representation of women and Scheduled Castes, and patterns of victory margins. Together, these indicators offer a systematic understanding of the changing nature of electoral competition and political realignment in Haryana during the period under study.

Review of the Literature –

The study of electoral geography in India has a rich tradition dating back to the work of scholars like Selig Harrison, Paul Brass, and Rajni Kothari in the 1950s-1970s. Brass's foundational work on Indian politics established the importance of factional politics and community affiliations in determining electoral outcomes, laying the groundwork for subsequent geographical analyses. Yogendra Yadav's seminal analysis of India's 'third electoral system' highlighted the growing importance of what he called the 'silent revolution' — the increasing electoral participation of lower castes, minorities, and women. His work demonstrated that the post-1989 period witnessed a fundamental restructuring of India's political landscape that had specific geographic manifestations. At the state level, Singh's analysis of dominant caste politics in Haryana provides important contextual grounding for the present study. Singh argued that the Jat community's electoral dominance was always more precarious than it appeared, resting on a coalition of interests that was vulnerable to disruption by external shocks — economic distress, governance failures, or the emergence of alternative political entrepreneurs. Chhibber and Kollman's work on party system formation in federal democracies offers a useful theoretical framework for understanding the emergence of regional parties in Haryana. Their

argument that party systems at the state level often diverge from national patterns due to the specific issues and cleavages that dominate regional politics helps explain the long presence of INLD and the more recent emergence of JJP. Verma and Sardesai's analysis of media effects on voting behaviour in India is particularly relevant given the dramatic expansion of digital media and social media platforms during the study period. Their finding that media exposure does affect political preferences, but in complex interaction with existing social identities, cautions against simplistic accounts of the 'media-driven' election.

Objectives of the Research –
To analysis the Voting Trends in Assembly Elections Haryana in (2009-2024).

Data based and Research Methodology –
The study employs a multi-method approach combining quantitative analysis of electoral data with qualitative analysis of party manifestos. This paper data based on the secondary sources such as official electoral statistics from the Election Commission of India for the assembly elections of 2009, 2014, 2019, and 2024, including constituency-wise data on seats won, valid votes polled, and voter turnout and Census of India data (2011) for district-level demographic and socio-economic variables. The analytical framework involves three levels of analysis: macro-level analysis of statewide trends; meso-level analysis of divisional and district patterns; and micro-level analysis of constituency-level swings and specific geographic clusters. Electoral data is analysed in terms of seats won, vote share percentages, and swing calculations between election cycles.

Results and Discussions –
Electoral Trends of Political Parties in Haryana Assembly
Table:1. Electoral Trends of Political Party in the Assembly Elections Haryana.

Election Year	2009	2014	2019	2024
Parties	% of Votes	% of Votes	% of Votes	% of Votes
INC	35.08	20.58	28.08	39.24
BJP	9.04	33.20	36.49	40.10
INLD	25.79	24.11	2.44	4.16
JNJP	-	-	14.84	0.90
HJC(BL)	7.40	3.57	-	-
BSP	6.73	4.37	4.14	1.83
AAAP	-	-	0.48	1.80
Independents	13.16	10.60	9.71	10.47
Others	2.80	3.57	3.82	1.50
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Computed by Researcher based on Assembly Elections Haryana (2009 – 2024)

The electoral history of Haryana has been characterized by frequent shifts in party alignments and changing centres of political influence. Unlike states where electoral competition remained largely bipolar over a long period, Haryana has experienced repeated phases of party fragmentation, regional assertion and political realignment. The electoral trends presented in Table 1 reveal the changing distribution of party support during the Assembly elections of 2009, 2014, 2019 and 2024. The pattern reflects not only changes in the fortunes of individual political parties but also broader transformations in the political geography of the state.

This pattern signifies the maturation of a bipolar political structure in Haryana, replacing the fragmented and multi-cornered contests that were common during earlier decades.

Emergence of BJP Dominance in 2014 The Assembly election of 2014 marked a decisive turning point in Haryana's political history. The BJP increased its vote share dramatically from 9.04 per cent in 2009 to 33.20 per cent in 2014. Such an increase represented one of the most significant electoral expansions recorded by any political party in the state during the study period. The growth of BJP support was accompanied by a sharp decline in the electoral position of the Congress, whose vote share fell from 35.08 per cent to 20.58 per cent. Although the INLD retained a substantial support base with 24.11 per cent votes, it failed to transform this support into statewide political dominance. The election therefore signified the beginning of a new political phase in which the BJP emerged as the principal claimant for statewide leadership from a geographical perspective, the expansion of BJP support indicated the successful penetration of regions that had previously remained outside its traditional electoral base. The party's appeal increasingly transcended regional and social boundaries, enabling it to establish a more comprehensive territorial presence throughout

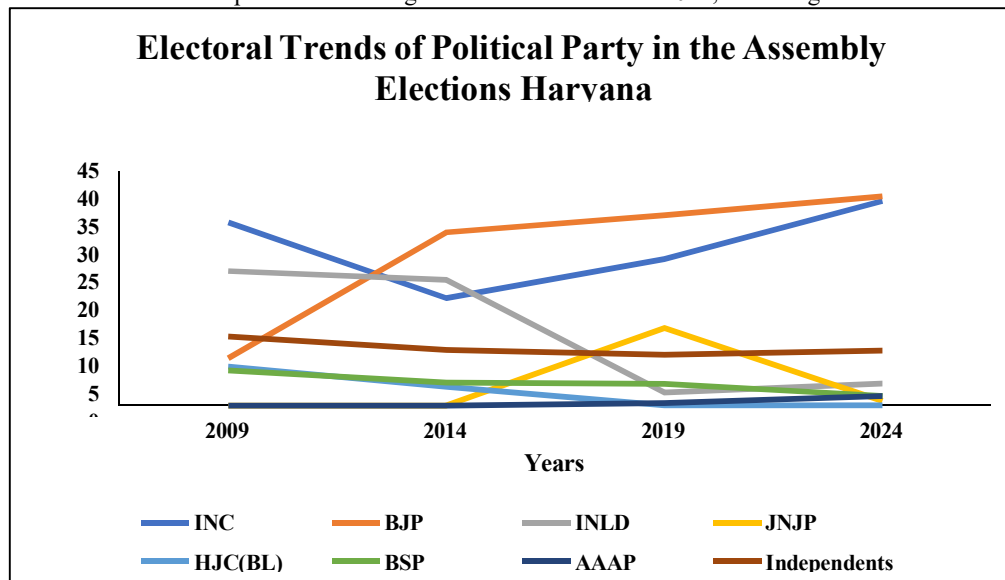
Haryana.

The electoral trends of political parties in Haryana between 2009 and 2024 reveal a profound transformation in the state's party system. The period witnessed the rise of the BJP from a peripheral political actor to a dominant statewide force, the recovery and resurgence of the Congress after its decline in 2014, and the gradual erosion of regional parties such as the INLD and JJP. Simultaneously, electoral competition evolved from a fragmented multi-party arrangement towards an increasingly bipolar structure.

The analysis therefore suggests that Haryana's electoral geography has entered a new phase characterized by greater concentration of votes, stronger statewide political narratives and intensified competition between the two principal national parties. While local political factors continue to exert influence, the overall trajectory points towards the consolidation of a more stable bipolar party system in the state.

Concluding Observations –

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District-wise Electoral Competitiveness: -

District-wise analysis reveals considerable variation in the degree of electoral competitiveness across Haryana. In the 2009 election, districts such as Sonipat, Hisar, Jind and Rohtak exhibited a mix of very low, low and moderate victory margins, indicating intense political competition among major parties. Sonipat, for instance, contained constituencies across multiple margin categories, suggesting the presence of diverse political preferences within the district. Similarly, Hisar and Rohtak emerged as politically competitive regions where no single party enjoyed overwhelming dominance. The 2014 election maintained this competitive character in many districts. Sonipat, Hisar, Ambala, Jind and Faridabad continued to record a significant concentration of closely fought constituencies. At the same time, districts such as Karnal and Mahendergarh witnessed a larger number of constituencies falling within higher margin categories, reflecting stronger support for particular political parties. The district-level pattern indicates that electoral competitiveness in Haryana was influenced by local political leadership, caste configurations, regional issues and party organization. While statewide political trends affected electoral outcomes, district-specific factors continued to play a decisive role in shaping the intensity of electoral competition.

Success of Major Political Parties in Haryana Assembly Elections (2009–2024) Degree of Success (%) = $\frac{\text{Seats Won}}{\text{Seats Contested}} \times 100$.

The degree of success of major political parties in Haryana Assembly elections between 2009 and 2024 reveals important changes in the effectiveness of party organization, geographical spread of support and conversion of votes into seats. While vote share indicates the extent of electoral support, the success rate demonstrates how efficiently a party transformed that support into legislative representation. The data show a clear transition from Congress–INLD dominance in 2009 to BJP predominance after 2014, followed by the emergence of an increasingly bipolar contest between the BJP and Congress.

Table: 2. Degree of Success in Percentage of Major Political Parties in the Assembly Elections of Haryana

Elec tion s	2009			2010			2011			2012			2013		
	Part ies	Co nte ste d	S e a t s W o n	% o f S e a t s	Co nte ste d	S e a t s W o n	% o f S e a t s	Co nte ste d	S e a t s W o n	% o f S e a t s	Co nte ste d	S e a t s W o n	% o f S e a t s		
INC	90	40	44.44	90	15	16.67	90	31	34.44	89	37	41.57			
BJP	90	44	48.89	90	47	52.22	90	40	44.44	89	48	53.93			
JJP	-	-	-	-	-	-	87	10	11.49	66	0	0.00			
INLD	88	31	35.23	88	19	21.59	81	1	1.23	51	2	3.92			
HJC (BL)	87	6	6.90	65	2	3.08	-	-	-	-	-	-			
BSP	86	1	1.16	87	1	1.15	87	0	0.00	35	0	0.00			
Inde pen dent s	513	76	13.65	603	53	8.80	377	76	18.66	464	35	7.54			

Note: Success Rate (%) = $\frac{\text{Seats Won}}{\text{Seats Contested}} \times 100$.

Source: Computed by Researcher based on Assembly Elections Haryana (2009 – 2024).

In 2019, the BJP maintained a strong position with a success rate of 44.44 per cent, winning 40 of the 90 seats contested. The Congress recovered significantly, increasing its success rate to 34.44 per cent through 31 victories. A notable development was the entry of the Jannayak Janata Party, which won 10 seats from 87 contests and achieved a success rate of about 11.49 per cent. At the same time, the INLD collapsed electorally, securing only 1 seat from 81 contests and recording a success rate of 1.23 per cent. This clearly indicated the fragmentation and transfer of the traditional INLD support base.

This recovery suggests the gradual strengthening of women's presence in the political arena and indicates that female candidates are increasingly capable of competing successfully in Assembly elections. The trend may also reflect the growing influence of women voters and the increasing willingness of political parties to nominate women in electorally competitive constituencies.

An examination of the degree of success further highlights the challenges faced by women candidates. The success rate declined from 13.04 per cent in 2009 to 11.21 per cent in 2014 and reached its lowest level of 8.33 per cent in 2019. However, the

figure improved significantly to 12.87 per cent in 2024. These fluctuations indicate that while the number of women contesting elections may have increased, electoral success remained uneven and highly dependent upon broader political circumstances.

Overall, the analysis suggests that women have gradually strengthened their position within Haryana's electoral system, although their representation remains below the level required for equitable political participation.

The increase in seats won during 2014 and 2024 demonstrates progress toward greater inclusiveness, while fluctuations in success rates indicate the persistence of structural and political barriers. The trends therefore reflect both the advancement of women in electoral politics and the continuing need for measures that enhance their effective political representation in Haryana.

Conclusion -

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