

# General Elections India 2019: A Study Of Gurgaon Parliamentary Constituency In Haryana

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## Abstract

*There was Modi wave in India for the second time after Pulwama terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir, with the state of Haryana being no exception. After the agitation for Jat reservation, the political equation in Haryana changed as it mobilised the non-Jat voters in favour of BJP. In Gurgaon parliamentary constituency, the most developed district of Haryana Gurgaon and the most backward district of both Haryana and India Nuh (erstwhile Mewat) co-exist. Moreover, communities of Meo Muslims and Hindu Ahirs are dominant in the region. The present paper analyses the outcome of elections on economic and social considerations in this Parliamentary constituency of Haryana.*

**Keywords:** Gurgaon, Parliament, Elections, Democracy, Ahir, Meo.

## 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 not able to be recognised as opposition party this time also. 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 are there in the fray. A total of 19,441 polling stations were set up in the State out of which 5510 polling stations are in urban areas and 13,931 are 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. 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.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 1:** Haryana Religion Population

Religion	Population	% of total Population
Total	25351462	100%
Hindu	22171128	87.46%
Muslim	1781342	7.03%
Sikh	1243752	4.91%
Jain	52613	0.21%
Christian	50353	0.2%
Buddhist	7514	0.03%
Religion not stated	42212	0.17%
Other religions and persuasions	2548	0.01%

**Source:** census of India 2011

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 Sonapat 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

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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 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.

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 and daughter of big congress leader Kiran Chaudhary was candidate. 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>4</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, Ferozepur 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 Alwar and Bharatpur in Rajasthan. The INLD, which had won two assembly seats in 2014 from Mewat district, are 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 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 strong candidature of Rao Inderjeet Singh and Modi wave in the country, BJP was seen popular there.<sup>5</sup> 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 stood 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 In a big rally at Kurukshetra, Prime minister Narendra Modi campaigned in favour of his party. Arjun Chautala, grandson of former CM, Omprakash Chautala, was also fighting here as INLD candidate there.

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 2:** Gender wise distribution of voters in Hayana

Name of Parliamentary Constituency	Male	Female	Third gender	Total voters
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
Total	9716516	8340173	207	18056896

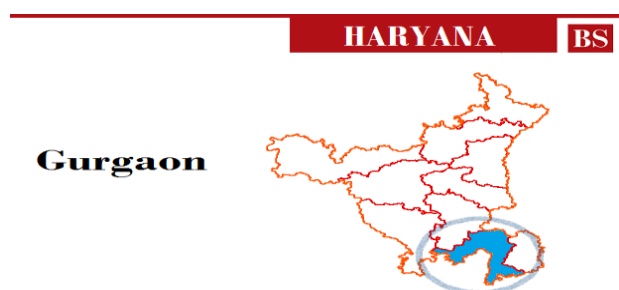
**Sources:** Office of election department, Panchkula, Haryana.

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.

## GURGAON PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

Gurgaon Parliamentary constituency, as part of Punjab state came into existence during first general elections of 1952 and was in existence up to 1977. Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad has been its MP after 2<sup>nd</sup> Elections of 1957. It came into existence again after the recommendation of delimitation commission in 2008.

The Gurgaon city, known as the Millennium City, is the administrative headquarter of the constituency and the district is one of the most advanced regions of India and to be rated as the third richest city with 250 large and medium-scale industries and some renowned entertainment hubs, in it. It is interesting and unique fact about the parliamentary constituency that three assembly constituencies of Mewat district (now Nuh), are included in it. Mewat district was declared most backward district by 2018 NITI Ayog survey. Richest and poorest regions are incorporated in the constituency of Gurgaon.<sup>6</sup>



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

The Gurgaon parliamentary constituency was made operational by merging four assembly segments of erstwhile Faridabad parliamentary constituency and five assembly segments of erstwhile Mahendragarh parliamentary constituency. The number of assembly constituencies of the parliamentary constituency adjusted as nine assembly segments, out of which Bawal and Pataudi assembly constituencies are reserved for scheduled castes candidates.

Among these nine assembly constituencies, Rewari and Bawal(SC) are from Rewari district while Pataudi, Badshahpur, Gurgaon & Sohna in the Gurgaon district. Assembly constituencies of Nuh, Ferozpur Jhirka and Punhana are coming from Nuh (erstwhile Mewat) district. The Gurgaon parliamentary constituency has 21,50,668 registered voters at the time of 2019 parliamentary elections. Out of which 11,45,459 were males and 10,05,174 females. Main contest in 2019, was among the candidates of Indian National Congress, Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) and of Jannayan Janta Party (JJP).<sup>7</sup>

**Table 3:** Electoral History of Gurgaon Parliamentary Constituency

Year	Winner	Party
1952	Thakur Das Bhargava	Indian National Congress
1957	Abul Kalam Azad	Indian National Congress
1958 (by-poll)	Prakash Vir Shastri	Independent
1962	Gajraj Singh Yadav	Indian National Congress
1967	Abdul Ghani Dar	Independent
1971	Tayyab Husain	Indian National Congress
1977-2008	Seat did not exist	
2009	Rao Inderjeet Singh	Indian National Congress
2014	Rao Inderjeet Singh	Bhartiya Janta Party
2019	Rao Inderjeet Singh	Bhartiya Janta Party

Source: Office of Election Tehsildar, Gurgaon

In 2014, Rao Inderjit Singh had defeated Zakir Hussain of the INLD by a huge margin of 2,74,722 votes. BJP was hopeful with him in these elections who is cabinet minister in central government too.

## PRE-POLL SCENERIO IN THE PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

With the Lok Sabha elections coming closer, candidates in different political parties were lobbying for the party ticket. With more than twenty lakhs' voters, Gurgaon Parliamentary constituency is with two leading communities of Hindu Ahirs and Meo Muslims with approximately five lakhs' voters each. Hindu Ahirs have majority voters in five out of Nine

assembly constituencies in Gurgaon Parliamentary Constituency and most of parties were selecting their candidates from them.

Considering him strong candidate, BJP selected its Sitting MP and union Minister, Rao Inderjit Singh in 2019 general elections from Gurgaon Parliamentary constituency again. He is well educated and lawyer by profession. His assets are of 42.09 crores, as per election-form filed by him in 2019. A bronze medal winner of Commonwealth Shooting Championship, he has been MLA in the Haryana Assembly for four terms and MP for four LS terms too. His father, Rao Birendra Singh, has been Chief Minister of state with his 'Vishal Haryana Party'. "Mr. Singh fits well into the caste combination as he comes from the dominant Hindu Ahir community in the region and he also has his own vast base of dedicated cadres in the region," Senior BJP leader G.L. Sharma and chairman of Haryana Dairy Development Cooperative Federation, claimed that the Balakot air strikes, corruption-free administration, improved road infrastructure, and the Modi factor would be the major poll planks in south Haryana.<sup>8</sup> The air strikes, according to the leader, would be a major poll plank in Haryana which has a huge number of serving and retired defence personnel in it.<sup>3</sup> Rao's campaign was revolving around Modi Government achievements at the centre, and of Khatter government's in Haryana state. His personnel reach in Gurgaon city and countryside specially in Gurugram and Rewari district was making him most popular figure. Moreover, his campaign received a boost with the assistance of Zakir Hussain among Meos. Instead of BJP, there was a fight for party ticket in Congress party for the constituency. Among serious contenders were Captain Ajay Singh Yadav, former MLA and Minister, Rao Daan Singh, former MLA and Aftab Ahmad, former MLA and cabinet minister in previous state government. The name of former minister Aftab Ahmed was considered seriously as there are many Muslim voters in the parliamentary constituency. As per district congress unit in-charge, Ashok Bhasker, "Mr. Ahmed would be the most likely choice in case the party decides to field a Muslim candidate in Gurugram. But it involves the danger of polarisation of voters along religious lines."<sup>9</sup>

After all, Six-time MLA and Minister in previous Haryana Governments, Captain Ajay Singh Yadav was selected as Congress party candidate. Capt. Ajay Singh was a commissioned officer in the Indian Army, is also well educated and B.Sc-LLB. His assets are of 27.48 cr. His father Rao Abhey Singh too was three-time MLA in Haryana Assembly. His son is married to Lallu Prasad Yadav's daughter. His campaign was revolving around his own personnel works in the region, achievements of previous Congress governments in the state and at the centre. Former Minister Aftab Ahmed was active especially in Mewat region in his favour. The Congress' campaign revolved around unemployment, agrarian crisis, demonetisation and Goods and Services Tax, besides the local issues. "The fact that Gurugram twice witnessed traffic jams on account of rain in two years, lack of transport infrastructure, pollution and the recent amendments in the Punjab Land Preservation Act to help builders will be key local issues," said Mr. Aftab Ahmed.

Third Main Candidate in the fray, was Virender Rana, as Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) candidate. Pawan Kumar, A school Teacher as Shiv Sena candidate and Dr. Mahmood Khan, as JJP Candidate in the fray. After psephologist and academic Yogendra Yadav left the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and floats his own political outfit, the party has no big name in the region. What is interesting to note that there are multiple cases of candidates having similar names. Pawan Kumar and Pawan Nehra, Ramesh Chand and Ramesh Kumar, Rao Inderjeet, and Rao Inderjit Singh, Virendra Rana and Virendra Singh were noticed in the form. Chaudhary Rais Ahmed was joint candidate of BSP and Loktantra Suraksha Party (LSP). He is graduate with 45.93 crores assets.<sup>10</sup>

The constituency also has many Yadav voters. And since both Rao Inderjit Singh and Captain Ajay Singh Yadav belong to the Yadav community, there was a great chance of Yadav votes getting divided between them, especially in Rewari and Gurugram districts. Moreover, it was interesting to know that after the joining of big Meo leader Zakir Hussain, the great grandson of Yashin Meo Khan and son of Tayyab Hussain, whether BJP will win the support of Meos-Muslim or not.

## RESULT AND ANALYSIS

As result of 2019 general elections, Under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi expended its base in all corners of Indian Nation. BJP received 22,90,78,261 votes, the 45% of total votes which are the highest by any party in any Lok Sabha elections. Moreover, the votes are almost double the 11,94,94,952 votes, the 37.4% gained by Indian National Congress.<sup>11</sup>

BJP retained all Ten Lok Sabha seats of Lok Sabha in Haryana state. In Gurgaon Parliamentary constituency, with a total of 21500728 and 1465509 valid electors in Gurgaon Parliamentary constituency, Bhartiya Janta Party candidate, Rao Inderjeet Singh retained his seat by securing 881546 votes. He won over Indian National Congress candidate Capt. Ajay Singh Yadav who secured 495290 votes with a margin of 386256 votes. This was his third consecutive victory in Gurgaon Parliamentary constituency. Following table shows the details of the result in the Parliamentary constituency. Voting turnout was 67.36% of its registered electors against 71.55% in the previous general elections held in 2014.<sup>12</sup>

**Table 4: Result of the 2019 in the constituency**

Party	Candidate	Vote	% of votes polled
BJP	Rao Inderjit Singh	8,81,546	60.94
INC	Capt. Ajay Singh Yadav	4,95,290	34.24
NOTA	None of above	5,389	0.37
Majority		3,86,256	26.70
Turnout		14,48,101	67.33

**Source:** Office of election Tehsildar, Gurgaon.

There were 1320620 valid voters out of total of 1844906 voters in Gurgaon parliamentary constituency in 2014. Rao Inderjeet Singh defeated Indian National Lok Dal Candidate Zakir Hussain by securing 644780 votes with a margin of 274722 votes. In 2009, The constituency had total 1244437 and valid 756236 votes. Rao Inderjeet Singh won by securing 278516 votes as India National Congress candidate with a margin of 84864. Bahujan Samaj Party candidate Zakir Hussain was second with total 193652 votes only.<sup>13</sup>

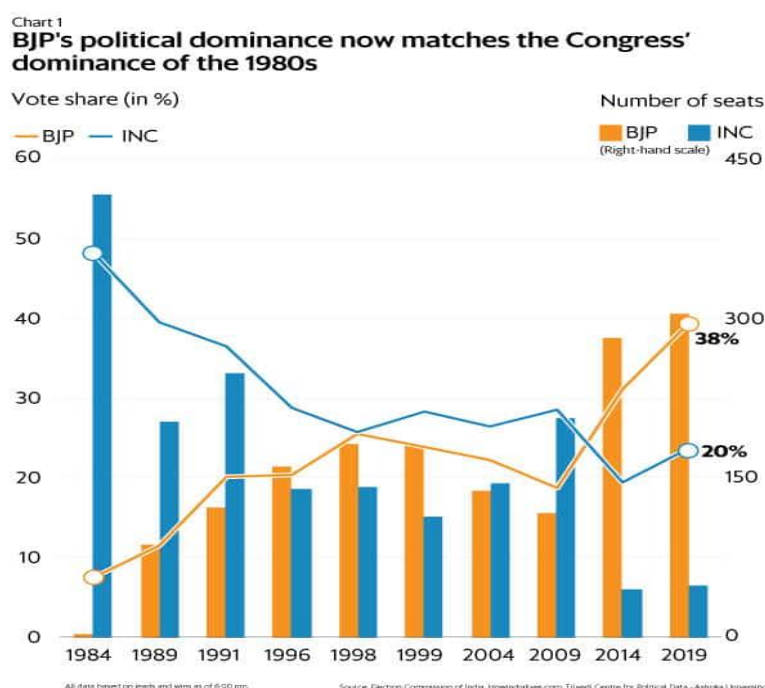
**Table 5:** Result of Gurgaon Parliamentary constituency in 2014 Elections

Party	Candidate	Vote	% of votes polled
BJP	Rao Inderjit Singh	6,44,780	48.82
INLD	Zakir Hussain	3,70,058	28.02
INC	DharamPal Yadav	1,33,713	10.12
AAP	Yogendra Yadav	79,452	6.02
BSP	Dharampal	65,009	4.92
NOTA	None of above	2,657	0.20
Majority	2,74,722		20.80
Turnout	3,20,620		71.58

**Source:** Office of election Tehsildar, Gurgaon.

## CONCLUSIONS/FINDINGS

Gurgaon Parliamentary Constituency incorporate most advance and most backward region i.e., Gurgaon and Mewat region. The Gurgaon city, which is an integral part of the parliamentary constituency, is part of the administrative headquarters as well as the Municipal Corporation of the district. The district is one of the most advanced regions with a whopping population of 15,14,432 people as per the 2011 census data. The economy of the Gurgaon parliamentary constituency thrives on a strong industrial base, as Gurgaon is known as the Millennium City, contributing to be rated as the third richest city in the country, by housing around 250 large-scale and medium-scale industries. On the other hand, Mewat district was declared most backward district of whole of India by NITI Ayog's survey of 2018 and its three assembly constituencies are included in Gurgaon Parliamentary constituency now.<sup>14</sup>



**Source:** Ten charts that explain the 2019 Lok Sabha verdict | Mint (livemint.com)

These assembly constituencies of the Mewat district i.e., Punhana, Ferozepur Jhirka and Nuh, were to play a big role in the contest. The Mewat region comprising in Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh, is dominated by Meo-Muslims. As result, we witness different type of voting behaviour in these two regions of rich and poor people of the state as well. Following observations which play as decisive factors in the outcome of the Gurgaon Parliamentary general elections of 2019 may be concluded as...

1. Modi Wave is considered responsible for the result in Gurgaon Parliamentary constituency also with all other rest of the Haryana Parliamentary constituencies. Moreover, not only in 2019, BJPs candidates winning margin is enhanced in comparison to 2014, but at national level also seats of BJPs are also increased from 282 to 303 in 2019. Moreover, after the Balakot airstrike, the wave becomes more intensive as big number of Military serving and ex-servicemen are residing in the state specially in South-Haryana. (Amit Nehra, Senior Journalist, Gurgaon, September 9, 2019)
2. "Besides, the BJP has strengthened its position in south Haryana significantly on account of completion of Kundli-Manesar-Palwal Expressway and announcement of AIIMS in Manethi village of Rewari district during the annual budget. These two projects have turned the table specially in South-Haryana. In addition to BJP workers, Personal cadres, of Rao Inderjeet Singh, are also understood to be responsible for such a huge margin in the outcome which is increasing continuously in last three parliamentary elections here. The margin percent in Gurgaon Parliamentary constituency was far more than the national margin of BJP even. There is no need to mention here again that Rao Inderjeet Singh is legislating the legacy of Rao Tula Ram and Rao Birender Singh, former Chief Minister of Haryana. Moreover, in addition to this third continuous term as Member of Parliament and Minister in Central Government, he has been many a time MLA and Minister in different Haryana state governments from time to time.
3. Meo Muslim leader Zakir Hussain had joined BJP before general elections of 2019. He is considered strong leader specially in Mewat region spreading in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. He is legislating a legacy of Yashin Meo Khan and Ch. Tayyab Hussain and has personnel base in these states. Moreover, family is considered most respected among Meo community. Adding of three assembly constituencies form Meo dominated Mewat region in Gurgaon Parliamentary constituency became favourable factor for the winning of Rao Inderjeet Singh. "Moreover, when voting is to take place, rumours like collective strength of Meos votes with Congress, are spread in Ahirwal/Yadav dominated area, so as to fortify the collective strength of Yadav votes in his favour." (Sandeep Singh, Son of Ex MLA, Pataudi, August 20,2019)
4. Meos vote for Meos/Muslims while caste play dominant role among Hindu Ahirs in rest of the part of Gurgaon Parliamentary constituency i.e., Rewari and Gurugram districts. Since both Rao Inderjit Singh and Captain Ajay Singh Yadav belong to the Yadav community, there was a division of votes in Ahir dominated region between them. But, with the joining of big Meo leader Zakir Hussain, BJP gained the support of Meos-Muslim in its favour while effect of Aftab Ahmad was undermined there.
5. Lack of proper opposition at national level becomes another reason for the outcome of 2019 general elections of Gurgaon Parliamentary constituency also. BJP is in present government at central and Haryana state governments as well. Main opposition party, Indian National Congress and Indian National Lok Dal is not so effective in the state and at the central politics. Moreover, so many corruption cases are pending against Congress party leaders in Hon'ble Courts. Big leaders of Indian National Lok Dal are already in jail.

## ENDNOTES

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