



E-ISSN: 2664-603X
P-ISSN: 2664-6021
Impact Factor (RJIF): 5.92
IJPSG 2025; 7(9): 171-180
www.journalofpoliticalscience.com
Received: 05-07-2025
Accepted: 06-08-2025

Rajbir Singh Dalal
Professor and Chairperson,
Department of Political
Science, Chaudhary Devi Lal
University, Sirsa, Haryana,
India

Rajdeep Singh
Research Scholar, Department
of Political Science, Chaudhary
Devi Lal University, Sirsa,
Haryana, India

Corresponding Author:
Rajbir Singh Dalal
Professor and Chairperson,
Department of Political
Science, Chaudhary Devi Lal
University, Sirsa, Haryana,
India

Analyzing the voting behaviour pattern in 18th Lok Sabha Election: A case study of Sirsa parliamentary constituency

Rajbir Singh Dalal and Rajdeep Singh

DOI: <https://www.doi.org/10.33545/26646021.2025.v7.i9c.676>

Abstract

This research aims to analyze voting behavior in the Sirsa Parliamentary Constituency, a reserved seat for the Scheduled Castes in Haryana, during the 18th Lok Sabha election. Sirsa's demographic composition is distinctive, featuring Punjabi and Baagdi-speaking populations alongside a substantial Scheduled Caste community. Bordered by Punjab and Rajasthan, Sirsa's electoral dynamics are significantly influenced by the politics of these neighboring states. The study examines how socio-economic factors, political affiliations, and local issues shape voter choices, using a mixed-methods approach that integrates both primary and secondary data, with primary data collected from a sample of 1,350 respondents. Key findings indicate that candidate attributes are paramount, as 38.2% of voters prioritize these attributes over party ideology or local concerns. Furthermore, charismatic leadership, notably the influence of Prime Minister Modi, was significant, with 24.4% of respondents swayed by his image. Economic issues, such as inflation and unemployment, were critical, resonating with 37.3% of voters. The research also reveals a notable shift in voter allegiance from traditional parties like INLD and JJP towards Congress, driven by the effective mobilization of farmer's sentiments and local grievances. It emphasizes the necessity for political parties to address the diverse concerns of their constituents to secure electoral success, reflecting the complexities of voting behavior in contemporary India.

Keywords: Voting behaviour, anti-incumbency, representative democracy, electoral process, votes shifting, election and party ideology

Introduction

Elections are a cornerstone of democracy, particularly in the representative democracy practised in India, serving as a means for the peaceful transfer of power. Voting is the primary form of political engagement in liberal democracies, and the study of voting behaviour is a specialized area within the domain of Political Science. This field typically examines the factors influencing why people vote the way they do and how they make their decisions? Sociologists often focus on socio-economic factors driving support for political parties, analyzing the relationships between class, ethnicity, gender and age with voting patterns. Conversely, political scientists generally examine the impact of political elements such as issues, policy programs, electoral campaigns, and the popularity of party leaders on voting behaviour ^[1]. In simple terms, voting behaviour is defined as the state of mind of the electorate while casting their votes or the factors influencing them when they go to vote. Prof. VM Sirsikar well observed: "An enquiry into the process of election indicates factors other than rationality. It may be said that India has secured a stable government, but the mass manipulation, casteist influences, minority fears and charismatic hold of the Prime Minister have played no main part in this process" ^[2]. In the words of Plano and Riggs, "Voting Behaviour is a field of study concerned with the ways in which people tend to vote in public election and the reasons why they vote as they do" ^[3].

India, the world's largest democracy, has a population of 142 crore ^[4]. Approximately 96.8 crore people, constituting 70% of the total population, were eligible to vote in the 18th Lok Sabha election, 2024 ^[5]. This General Election was held from April 19 to June 1, 2024, in seven phases. The overall voter's turnout was 65.79%, with 65.68% female voters' participation.

The votes were counted on June 4, 2024 and most of the results were declared the same day. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged as the largest party, winning 240 seats and led the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) with a total of 293 seats. The INDIA alliance won 234 seats, with Congress securing 99 of those seats. The election centered on key issues such as economic development, unemployment, rural and farmers hardships, national security, religious sentiments, corruption, accusations of authoritarianism of the ruling regime, and a united opposition claiming to protect the Constitution ^[6]. This research examines the voting behaviour in the Sirsa Parliamentary Constituency (PC) in Haryana, focusing on the diverse socio-economic and political determinants of voting behaviour.

Objectives of the Study

The followings are the main objectives of the present study:

- To define the concept of voting behaviour and highlight its main trends in 18th Lok Sabha election.
- To highlight the main demographic features of Haryana State in general and Sirsa Parliamentary Constituency in particular.
- To identify and analyse the main variables of voting behaviour in Sirsa Parliamentary Constituency.

Research Methodology

The present research is exploratory and analytical in nature in which both primary and secondary data have been used. The primary data has been collected by using well-structured interview-schedule and observation methods from a sample of 1,350 respondents within the Sirsa PC. This sample was selected by using the Morgan and Stanley Method of Sampling from a nearly 20 lakh electorates of the constituency. Stratified random sampling technique was applied to reach the respondents to collect primary data in which 150 respondents were taken from each of the nine Assembly segments of Sirsa PC. The secondary data was taken from various sources like newspapers, articles, books, magazines, websites etc. The simple statistical tools were applied to analyse and interpret the data.

Election Commission and Electoral Process in India

The provisions regarding franchise and elections are contained in Part XV of the constitution from articles 324 to 329. Article 324 mandates the creation of a Central Election Commission (ECI) responsible for overseeing, directing and managing all elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of President and Vice President. This article stipulates that the ECI shall be headed by a Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and such number of other Election Commissioners (ECs), if any, as the President may decide from time to time. It also makes provisions for the appointment of Regional Commissioners during general elections. The Commission is endowed with extensive powers necessary for the efficient management of elections. Article 325 mandates that electoral rolls be free from discrimination based on religion, race, caste, or sex, ensuring that all eligible citizens are included. Article 326 guarantees universal adult suffrage, granting voting rights to all Indian citizens aged 18 or older, with certain legal exceptions. Articles 327 and 328 empower Parliament and State Legislatures to make provisions related to elections, including the delimitation of constituencies and the

preparation of electoral rolls. Article 329 limits judicial interference in electoral matters during the election process. Beyond these constitutional provisions, election conduct is regulated by two key statutes i.e. Representation of the People (ROP) Act, 1950 and 1951. The Act of 1950 addresses constituency delimitation, seat allocation, appointment of election officers, and the preparation and revision of electoral rolls. The Act of 1951 deals with qualifications and disqualifications for legislative membership, corrupt practices, electoral offenses and the procedures for conducting elections. These Acts empower the Union government to issue rules, including the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, and the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961. The ECI duties extend beyond managing elections like monitoring political parties and candidates, enforcing the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), and ensuring transparency in campaign financing. Its independence and fairness are crucial for upholding the integrity of India's democratic system. Additionally, Articles 243K and 243ZA establish State Election Commissions in each state to oversee elections for local bodies ^[7]. There are two types of voting system in India. The first is the direct voting system, where voters elect their representatives directly, and the candidate with the highest number of votes is declared as the winner. This system is used for elections to the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and local bodies. The second is proportional representation, which requires candidates to achieve a predetermined quota of votes to be elected. This method is used for electing the President, Vice President, members of Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Councils ^[8].

The State of Haryana

Haryana, a state in north-western India, comprises of 6841 villages, 140 blocks and 22 districts. According to the Census 2011, the State has 25,351,462 residents, with 13,494,734 men and 11,856,728 women ^[10]. Compared to the national average of 943, Haryana had 879 women for every 1,000 men. The state has 20.17% Scheduled Caste (SC) population and does not have any Scheduled Tribes (ST) ^[11]. The state is divided into 10 Parliamentary Constituencies, out of which 2 are reserved for the SC, i.e. Sirsa and Ambala ^[12].

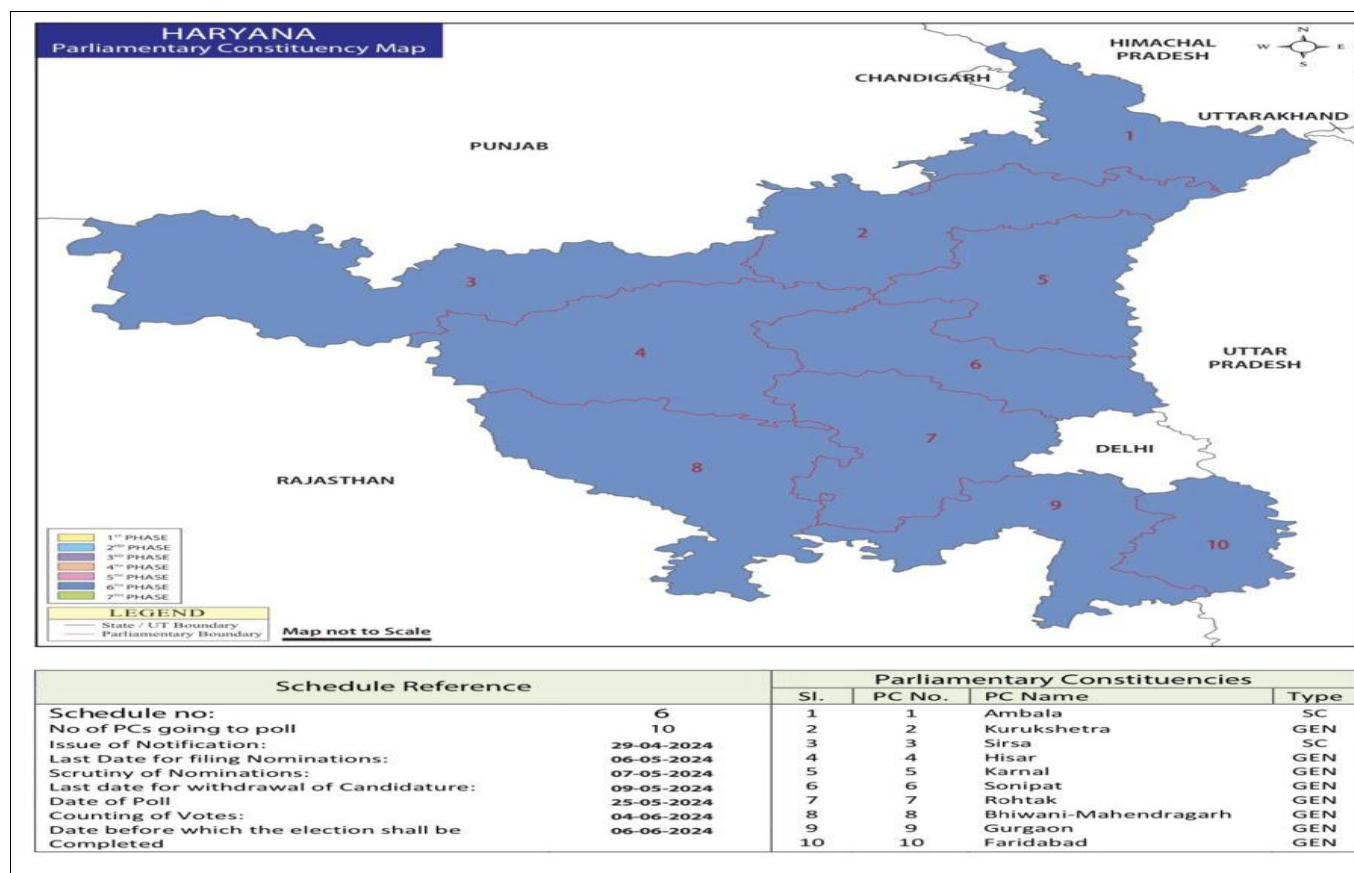
The 18th Lok Sabha election in Haryana was held in the 6th phase on May 25, 2024, where 20,076,786 registered voters had to decide the fate of 223 candidates, including 207 men and 16 women. According to Sh. Anurag Aggarwal, Haryana's Chief Electoral Office stated, 20,031 polling stations have been set up in the state, including 19,812 permanent and 219 auxiliary polling stations. Among these, 5,470 polling stations are in urban areas and 14,342 in rural areas. 176 model polling stations have been established. He pointed out that 99 polling stations will be operated entirely by women staff. Apart from this, 96 polling stations will be manned by youth employees, and 71 by persons with disability (PWD) employees ^[13].

Haryana was set to witness a direct contest between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress Party. The BJP aimed to replicate its 2019 success by sweeping all Lok Sabha seats, while the Congress sought to revive its fortunes in the state. In this general election, the Congress contested in alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) under the Indian National Development Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc. The AAP fielded a candidate in the Kurukshetra seat,

while the Congress contested the remaining nine seats whereas the BJP contested all the ten seats independently. The Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) and the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), which largely draw their support from the

agrarian Jat community, were also in the fray but appeared to be competing for the same vote bank to stay relevant. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) also fielded candidates

Map of Haryana Parliamentary Constituencies



Source: Notification Lok Sabha General Election 2024 ^[9]

The main candidates included former Chief Minister and BJP candidate Manohar Lal Khattar from Karnal, and BJP's Naveen Jindal, INLD's Abhay Singh Chautala, and AAP's Sushil Gupta from Kurukshetra. In Hisar, Ranjit Singh Chautala from BJP, Jai Prakash from Congress, and Naina Chautala from JJP were in the fray. Union Ministers Rao Inderjit Singh and Krishan Pal Gurjar were seeking re-

election from Gurgaon and Faridabad respectively, with Raj Babbar and from Congress on Gurugram seats. Former Union Minister Kumari Selja of Congress took on BJP's Ashok Tanwar in the Sirsa reserved seat, while in Rohtak, Congress fielded the then Rajya Sabha member Deepender Hooda against Arvind Sharma, BJP sitting MP ^[14].

Table 1: Position of Political Parties in General Election, 2024 in Haryana State

Party	Seats		Total votes and share of votes polled	
	Contested	Won	Total votes secured by party	% of votes polled
Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP)	10	5	59,96,486	46.11%
Indian National Congress (INC)	9	5	56,79,473	43.67%
Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)	1	0	5,11,770	3.94%
Indian National Lok Dal (INLD)	7	0	2,26,052	1.74%
Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)	9	0	1,65,866	1.28%
Jannayak Janta Party (JJP)	10	0	1,13,122	0.87%

Source: Website ECI ^[15]

In Lok Sabha election, 2024, the BJP's votes share in Haryana saw a significant decline compared to its exceptional performance in 2019, when it won all 10 seats with substantial margins. Its votes share decreased from 58.21% in 2019 to 46.10% in 2024. Conversely, the Congress experienced a notable increase in its votes share, rising from 28.51% in 2019 to 43.68% in 2024, securing victories in five seats. The AAP contested only Kurukshetra seat as a part of INDIA alliance and lost by a narrow

margin, and its votes share was 3.95% whereas the JJP and INLD secured 0.87% and 1.74% vote shares respectively which were 4.9% and 1.9% in the election of 2019. The BSP obtained just 1.28% votes share in 2024 as compared to 3.65% in 2019. Thus, both BJP and Congress won five seats each, with votes share of 46.10% and 43.68% respectively. Notably, the prominent regional parties INLD and JJP could not secure any seats in Haryana in spite of contesting on 7 and 10 seats respectively ^[16]

Table 2: Brief of 18th Lok Sabha election's result of 10 Parliamentary Seats in Haryana

Consituency	Wining Candidate	Party	Total votes secured	Margin
Ambala (1)	Varun Chaudhary	INC	663657	49036
Kurukshetra(2)	Naveen Jindal	BJP	542175	29021
Sirsa (3)	Kumari Selja	INC	733823	268497
Hisar (4)	Jai Parkash	INC	570424	63381
Karnal (5)	Manohar Lal	BJP	739285	232577
Sonipat (6)	Satpal Brahamchari	INC	548682	21816
Rohtak (7)	Deepender Singh Hooda	INC	783578	345298
Bhiwani Mahendragarh (8)	Dharambir Singh	BJP	588664	41510
Gurugram (9)	Rao Inderjit Singh	BJP	808336	75079
Faridabad (10)	Krishan Pal Gujjar	BJP	788569	172914

Source: Website ECI ^[17]

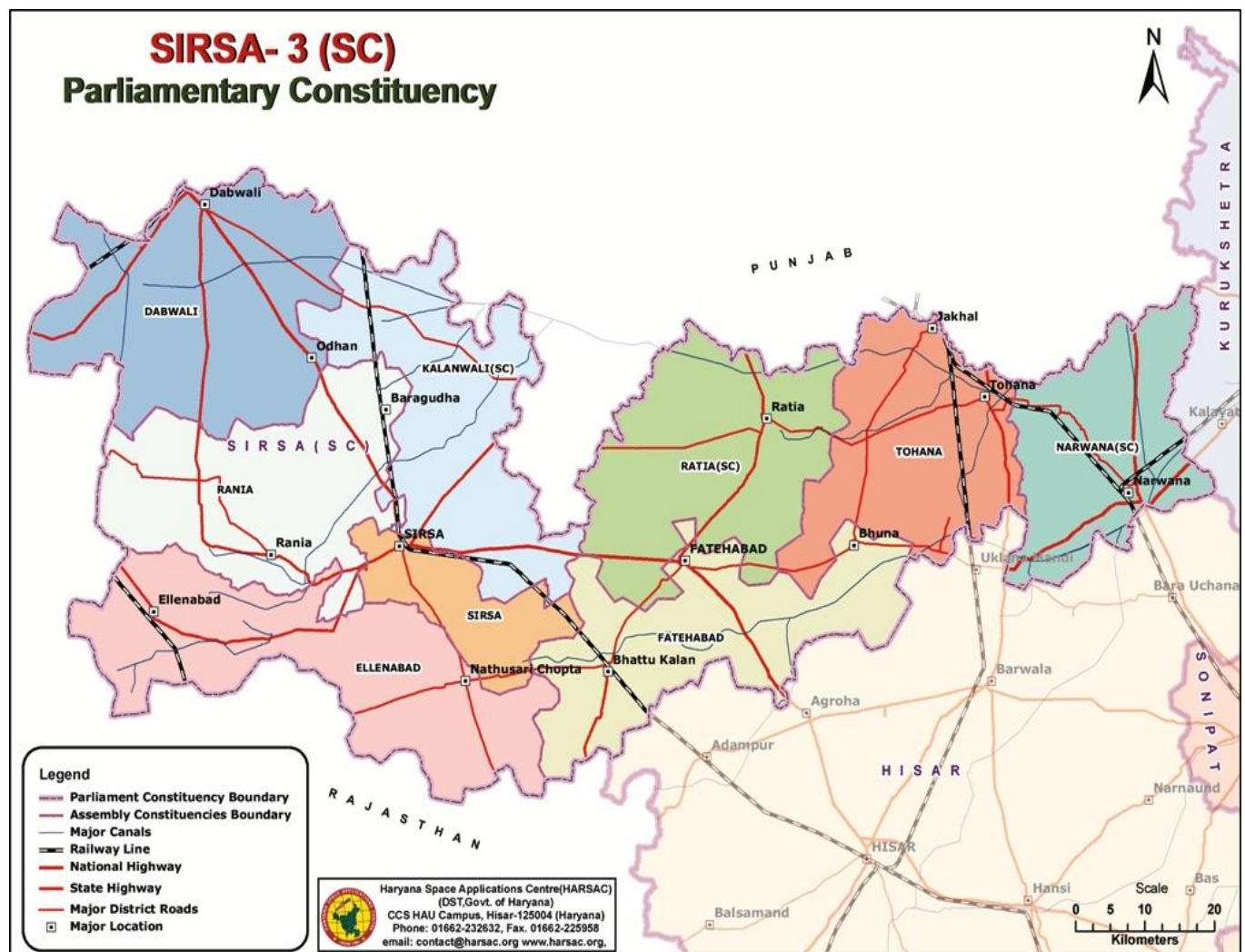
From Table 2, it is clear that Deepender Hooda followed by Kumari Selja and Manohar Lal won with largest margin whereas Satpal Brahamchari, Navin Jindal and Dharambir Singh won with lowest margin.

Sirsa Parliamentary Consituency

Sirsa is one of the ten parliamentary constituencies in

Haryana, reserved for Scheduled Castes. It boasts a rich political history and has undergone various political transformations over the decades. Situated in the north-western part of Haryana, Sirsa shares its borders with seven other parliamentary constituencies: Hisar and Kurukshetra within Haryana, Bathinda, Sangrur, and Patiala in Punjab, and Ganganagar and Churu in Rajasthan.

Map of Sirsa Parliamentary Consituency



Source: Website Chief Electoral Office Haryana ^[18]

This constituency encompasses nine assembly segments across three districts of Haryana, covering the entirety of Sirsa and Fatehabad districts, as well as part of Jind district. It includes Sirsa, Ellenabad, Rania, Dabwali, Kalanwali

(SC), Ratia (SC), Fatehabad, Tohana and Narwana (SC) assembly segments. It has been reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates since its establishment in 1967. Given its predominantly agrarian nature, issues related to agriculture,

irrigation and rural development have been central to electoral campaigns. The significant proportion of the population belonging to Scheduled Castes greatly influences the electoral dynamics of the constituency. The Sirsa constituency is characterized by a diverse voter's base, including both rural and urban populations, which play a decisive role in determining electoral outcomes.

According to the latest Delimitation Commission Report, the Sirsa Lok Sabha constituency has 29% Scheduled Caste population. The literacy rate in the districts encompassing this constituency is estimated at 68%, according to the Census of India, 2011 ^[19]. The total number of voters in this constituency is 19,41,319 of which 10,26,726 are male voters, 9,14,550 females and 43 transgenders ^[20]. Among them, there are 8.13 lakh Scheduled Caste voters followed by 3.58 lakh Jat voters and 1.90 lakh Jatt Sikh voters. The Punjabi community, including Khatri, Arora and Mehta accounts for 1.15 Lakh voters. The Baniya and Kamboj communities each have 90,000 voters. Brahmins constitute 61,000 and Bishnois 48,000 voters. The Backward Classes, which include Kumhars, Sainis, Ahirs, Gujjars, Khatis, and Sunars, have 1.41 Lakh voters. Additionally, there are 18,000 voters from other communities, including Muslims, Christians, and Jains etc. ^[21]. Sirsa has historically been a

stronghold for the Congress Party, having secured victory in this seat nine times. It is also the home region of former Deputy Prime Minister of India, Ch. Devi Lal, and former Haryana Chief Minister and INLD supremo, Om Prakash Chautala, making it a bastion for the INLD ^[22]. Sirsa has shown remarkable political maturity and has produced many leaders who have made significant contributions to Indian politics. Nearly all political parties have had the opportunity to represent Sirsa. For the first time in 2019, Sunita Duggal, a BJP candidate, won with a large margin of 309,918 votes from this seat ^[23]. In the 2024 election for the Sirsa Parliamentary seat, 19 candidates contested among them two were former State Presidents of the Congress Party, pitted against each other. The Congress nominated Kumari Selja, whereas the BJP fielded Dr. Ashok Tanwar, a former Congress State President who had also been associated with Mamata Banerjee's TMC and the AAP before switching over to the BJP on the eve of Lok Sabha elections ^[24]. Additionally, the INLD nominated Sandeep Lot and the JJP, Mr Ramesh Khatak, and the BSP, Lilu Ram Asakhera from this seat ^[25]. The primary contest in Sirsa was between the BJP and the Congress. Kumari Selja secured her third victory from Sirsa by getting 733,823 votes and won it with a significant margin of 268,497 votes ^[26].

Table 3: Electoral History of Sirsa Parliamentary Consistency

Year	Name	Party
1967	Dalbir Singh	Indian National Congress
1971	Dalbir Singh	Indian National Congress
1977	Ch. Chand Ram	Janata Party
1980	Dalbir Singh	Indian National Congress
1984	Dalbir Singh	Indian National Congress
1988	Het Ram	Lok Dal
1989	Het Ram (Bye election)	Janta Dal
1991	Kumari Selja	Indian National Congress
1996	Kumari Selja	Indian National Congress
1998	Sushil Kumar Indora	Indian national Lok Dal
1999	Sushil Kumar Indora	Indian national Lok Dal
2004	Atma Singh Gill	Indian National Congress
2009	Ashok Tanwar	Indian National Congress
2014	Charanjeet Singh Rori	Indian National Lok Dal
2019	Sunita Duggal	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
2024	Kumari Selja	Indian National Congress (INC)

Source: Wikipedia ^[27]

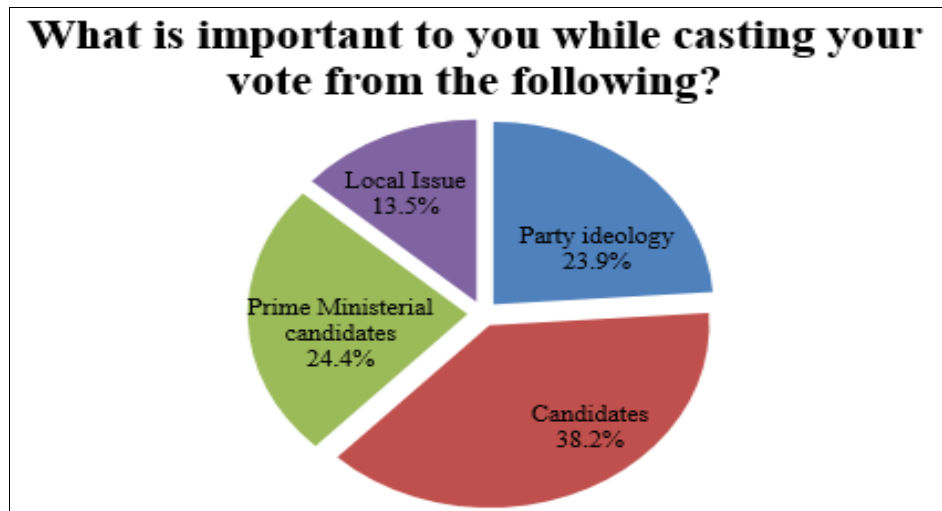
Voting Behaviour in Sirsa Lok Sabha: An Analysis

Voting behaviour is shaped by a multitude of factors that can vary across different contexts and geographic locations. The complexities involved in understanding voter decision-making arise from the interplay of various positive and negative influences. Key determinants include the

candidate's personal attributes, party alignment and ideological perspectives, all of which can significantly sway voter preferences during elections, accordingly it has been analysed in Sirsa Lok Sabha constituency with the help of following factors.

Table 4: What is important to you while casting your vote from the following?

Factors	Total Respondents	Percentage
Party Ideology	323	23.9
Candidate	516	38.2
Prime Ministerial candidate	329	24.4
Local issues	182	13.5
Total	1350	100



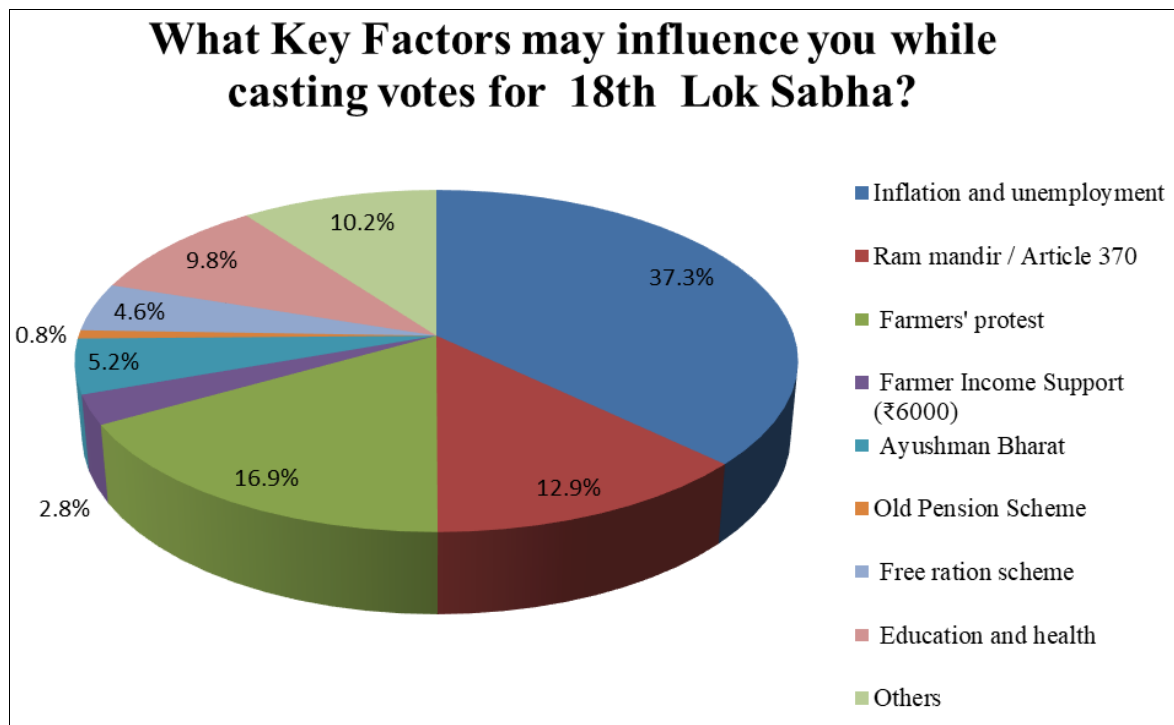
Source: Primary Data collected from Respondents

From Table 4, it is clear that various Socio-Political factors like Charismatic leadership, Candidate's attributes, Party ideology, Local issues etc. remained significant in making the mindset of voters while casting vote and prominent among these are as under:

- **Charismatic Leadership:** Charismatic factors had been evident in the Sirsa Lok Sabha elections, where many voters (24.4 percent) casted their ballots in the name of Prime Minister Modi, often regardless of the specific BJP candidate. This trend has been observed throughout the entire nation as well.
- **Candidate's Personal Attributes:** A larger part (38.2 percent) of the respondents from this seat indicated that the candidate is their primary consideration while casting their vote. The image and personal attribute of Ashok Tanwar as a “dal badlu” (party switcher) and his disconnection from the voters of his constituency during his previous term (2009-2014) significantly impacted the election results. This created a double anti-incumbency effect against the ruling government. Conversely, voters perceived Selja as a prominent leader and former minister with the potential to become the Chief Minister in the upcoming State Assembly election, which significantly benefited the Congress Party in Sirsa. Selja has longstanding ties to Sirsa, as her father was elected as the Member of Parliament from this constituency in 1967, 1971, 1980 and 1984. Following his death, Selja faced electoral defeats in a by-election in 1988 and again in 1989. However, she secured victory in the 1991 and 1996 elections. Despite subsequent losses to INLD's Sushil Indora in 1998 and 1999, she shifted her focus to Ambala, from where she became MP in 2004 and 2009. Nevertheless, she maintained her connections with the local populace in Sirsa [28].
- **Party ideology:** Party ideology is also one of the main considerations (23.9 percent) for voters in this constituency. There is little consideration given to the individual contesting the election on the party's ticket. Some voters pointed out, ‘we are Congressi from the beginning and also vote for it in this election’ (Hum to shuru say congressi hai es bari bhi vote congress ko hi denge)
- **Local Issue:** A small segment (13.5 percent) of respondents indicated that local issues, ranging from village infrastructure and drinking water concerns in the Rajasthan border area to drug-related problems (chitta), were key factors influencing voter choices in this election. According to some voters: “vote hum usi ko denge joh humari samasia ka hal krega”.
- **Caste:** Sirsa is a reserved constituency characterized by a significant population of Scheduled Castes. The influence of caste dynamics prominently reflected in the allocation of party tickets by major political parties. The BJP and Congress nominated Ashok Tanwar and Kumari Selja, respectively, both belonging to the Chamar community, which constitutes the majority among SCs in Sirsa. The JJP and INLD nominated Ramesh Khatik from the Dhanak caste and Sandeep Lot from Valmiki respectively, aiming to garner support from their respective communities. Moreover, it was a general perception about both these parties in this election that they are working for BJP, hence the voters who were having anti-incumbency sentiments did not cast their vote to these parties in spite of being attached with these parties conventionally. It was anticipated that Congress would be able to attract votes from across all castes and after declaration of Kumari Selja as its candidate from this seat, her victory was almost certain only the issue was of victory margin

Table 5: What Key Factors may influence you while casting votes for 18th Lok Sabha?

Factors	Total Respondents	Percentage
Inflation and Unemployment	503	37.3%
Ram Mandir / Article 370	173	12.9%
Farmers' Protest	227	16.9%
Farmer Income Support (₹6000)	38	2.8%
Ayushman Bharat Yojana	70	5.2%
Old Pension Scheme	11	0.8%
Free Ration Scheme	62	4.6%
Education and Health	131	9.8%
Others	137	10.2%
Total	1350	100%



Source: Primary Data collected from Respondents

From Table 5, it is clear that various socio-economic and political factors contributed in making the mind of voters while casting vote and prominent among these are as under:

- Farmer issues:** The Sirsa Lok Sabha seat, being predominantly agrarian, is significantly influenced by farming issues in terms of voting behavior. Accordingly, 17% of voters prioritize the farm protest over other factors while casting their votes. This trend was apparent during election campaigns, as BJP candidate encountered substantial opposition from the farming community and even in some villages entry of BJP candidate was barred which clearly indicated that Congress is garnering the majority of votes from farmers.
- Free Ration Scheme:** The beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act, 2013 and the Free Ration Scheme contributed to the BJP's ability to attract votes from economically disadvantaged population as 4.6 percent of surveyed voters considered the 5 kg per person ration scheme a significant factor in their voting decision. Such voters pointed out, "Modi hume anaj dera hai or hume kya chahiye".
- Inflation and Unemployment:** Inflation and unemployment were significant concerns, impacting not only those who prioritize these issues in surveys but also those who did not explicitly highlight them in their decision-making process. The pervasive sentiment was that inflation exacerbated the difficulties of daily life. The issue of youth unemployment was particularly acute, with widespread frustration over the government's ambiguous policy decisions, such as the implementation of the Common Eligibility Test and the transition of regular employment to temporary or contractual roles. Furthermore, there was notable dissatisfaction regarding the preference for Haryana Kaushal Rojgar Nigam jobs over permanent positions.
- Double Anti-Incumbancy:** In Sirsa, we are witnessing the culmination of anti-incumbency sentiments directed towards the incumbent BJP government. This dissatisfaction stemmed from their inability to fulfill promises made during their two previous terms in office. Besides, growing discontent towards BJP candidate Ashok Tawar, primarily due to his perceived detachment from the people during his previous term, was there.
- Shift of Base Voters of other Parties Toward Congress:** Sirsa, historically dominated by the INLD and with a significant voter base for the JJP, experienced a notable shift in core voter allegiance towards Congress, thereby significantly increasing its support. This change resulted into a substantial victory margin for Congress over the BJP. Voters from the INLD, JJP and other parties felt that voting for their usual parties would be either pointless or would unintentionally aid the ruling BJP, leading them to support Congress instead. A few voters observed, "Congress ko vote dena humari majburi hai kyuki Modi ko harana hai; and hum INLD ke supporter hai par is bari vote Sailja ko denge"
- Election Campaign:** In the Sirsa Lok Sabha constituency, the BJP and Congress were the primary contenders during election campaigns, with a minor role of other parties. BJP candidate Ashok Tawar garnered support by invoking slogans like "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and promoting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the nation. He highlighted key BJP pledges such as the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas and the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. In contrast, Selja, introduced as a beloved daughter or sister of the constituency, criticized the current government. She

argued that all communities (chhatris biraadari) are dissatisfied. Farmers anticipated prosperity, youths sought employment, and the poor expected better facilities, but none of these aspirations had been realized. Instead, people faced rising unemployment, inflation and corruption, worst disparity between the rich and the poor. She questioned the fulfillment of Prime Minister Modi's promises like Rs. 15 lakh will come in bank accounts of every citizen, the availability

of government jobs and housing. She highlighted the increase in LPG cylinder prices from Rs. 400 to Rs. 1,100 and called for an end to the BJP's unfulfilled promises. Urging voters to support Congress, she emphasized the need to protect the Constitution for future generations. Her campaign, focusing on issues like unemployment, inflation and farmers concerns, significantly boosted the Congress Party's performance in the election results ^[29].

Table 6: Result of Opinion Poll conducted in Sirsa Parliamentary Consituency

Constituency Segments	BJP	CONG	BSP	INLD	JJP	Others	Nota	Total
Sirsa	57065	62896	2833	6612	3778	2833	5667	141684
Kalanwali (sc)	41634	64186	2602	11275	4336	4336	1734	130103
Dabwali	48287	68567	2897	13520	7725	2897	965	144858
Rania	48411	60962	1793	17033	2689	1793	1793	134474
Ellenabad	53115	60841	2897	18349	1931	4828	2897	144858
Tohana	54787	89851	5478	6574	2191	3287	2191	164359
Ratia (sc)	59322	79449	3177	9533	3177	3177	1059	158894
Fatehabad	70977	87539	3548	4731	3548	2365	4731	177439
Narwana (sc)	60503	63384	4801	9603	1920	960	2881	144052
Total	494101	637675	30026	97230	31295	26476	23918	1340721

Sources: Opinion Poll conducting during 25/04/2024 to 20/05/2024 in Sirsa PC by team of Deptt of Pol. Science, Ch. Devi Lal University, Sirsa, Haryana.

From Table 6 its clear that Kumari Sailja, the Congress candidate from Sirsa, was comfortably ahead of Dr. Ashok Tanwar, the BJP candidate. Candidates from the ILND, JJP, and BSP were significantly behind in this race. Only a small number of core party supporters or personal appeal from the candidates could influence their votes in this election.

Factors such as the Prime Minister's image, the Ram Mandir issue, Ponzi schemes, Article 370, and the ruling regime's propaganda did not outweigh the challenges of double anti-incumbency, candidate personal attributes, inflation, unemployment, and farmer's issues.

Table 7: Detail Result of Sirsa Parliamentary Consituency, 2024

S.N.	Candidate	Party	EVM Votes	Postal Votes	Total Votes	% of Votes
1	Selja	INC	732298	1525	733823	54.17
2	Ashok Tanwar	BJP	464472	854	465326	34.35
3	Sandeep Lot	INLD	92279	174	92453	6.82
4	Ramesh Khatak	JJP	20049	31	20080	1.48
5	Lilu Ram Asakhera	BSP	10120	31	10151	0.75
6	Rahul Chouhan	Independent	6159	1	6160	0.45
7	Karnail Singh Odhan	Independent	4152	14	4166	0.31
8	Satpal Ladwal	Independent	3413	-	3413	0.25
9	Mistri Daulat Ram Rolan	Peoples Party of India (Democratic)	3058	3	3061	0.23
10	Joginder Ram	Independent	2140	2	2142	0.16
11	Ran Singh Panwar	Independent	1548	2	1550	0.11
12	Rajinder kumar	Bharatiya Asha Party	1239	3	1242	0.09
13	Bagdawat Ram	Independent	1221	3	1224	0.09
14	Jasvir Singh	Independent	1128	8	1136	0.08
15	Naveen kumar Commando	Independent	1113	3	1116	0.08
16	Sukhdev Singh Sandhu	Independent	993	6	999	0.07
17	Dr. Rajesh Mehandia	Bahujan Republican Socialist Party	931	-	931	0.07
18	Dharampal Vartia	Loktantrik Lok Rajyam Party	916	3	919	0.07
19	Surender Kumar Phulan	Independent	614	3	617	0.05
20	Nota	None of the Above	4106	17	4123	0.3
	Total		1351949	2683	1354632	

Source: Website Election commission of India ^[30]

From Table 7, it is clear that Kumari Selja, the Congress candidate got 7,33,823 votes, Ashok Tanwar of BJP 4,65,326 votes and Sandeep Lot of INLD 92,453 votes I.e. 54.17, 34.35 and 6.82 percent respectively of the total casted votes. Thus, the final result of the Sirsa Parliamentary Constituency in this election aligns with the predictions made by the pre-poll survey conducted by the team of Department of Political Science CDLU, Sirsa. Notably, the

primary shift in the Voters support from the BJP, JJP and BSP occurred during the last five to seven days of the election period.

Conclusion and Result Analysis

The voting behaviour in the Sirsa Parliamentary Constituency during the 18th Lok Sabha election revealed a multifaceted landscape influenced by various socio-

economic and political factors. The study highlighted that personal attributes of candidates significantly put impact over voter's preferences, with a notable preference for candidates perceived as connected to the electors. The party ideology also remained a crucial determinant as many voters aligning their choices with the broader political narratives of the parties. Local issues, particularly those affecting daily life, such as infrastructure and water supply, also played role in shaping voting behaviour. The constituency's demographic composition, especially the significant SC population, further complicated the electoral dynamics, as caste affiliations influence party support and candidate selection. Economic concerns, particularly inflation and unemployment, emerged as pressing issues, reflecting widespread dis-satisfaction with the incumbent government's performance. The shift in voter allegiance from traditional parties like INLD and JJP towards Congress underscores a changing political landscape in Sirsa, driven by the effective mobilization of agrarian sentiments and local grievances. Overall, this research contributes valuable insights into the complexities of electoral behaviour in India, emphasizing the need for political parties to address the diverse concerns of their constituents to secure electoral success. The voters cannot be befooled for a long time through money and propaganda power or charismatic face of top leadership without addressing the real issues of public or without having a proper connect with them.

References

- Kumar A, Singh D, Kumar S. Voting behaviour in Haryana Lok Sabha election 2009: An analysis. *IJARIE*. 2015; 1(3):377-378.
- Akhter Z, Sheikh YA. Determinants of voting behaviour in India: Theoretical perspective. *Public Policy and Administration Research*. 2014; 4(8):104-108.
- Hazarika B. Voting behavior in India and its determinants. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. 2015; 20(10):22-25.
- The Economic Times. India overtakes China to become world's most populous nation with 1.428 billion people: UN. *Economic Times*; 2023 Apr 19. <https://m.economictimes.com/news/india/india-population-to-surpass-china-mid-year-un-estimates/articleshow/99605379.cms>
- Deccan Herald. Lok Sabha Elections 2024: Sirsa constituency result. *Deccan Herald*; 2024 Jun 3. <https://www.deccanherald.com/elections/india/lok-sabha-elections-2024-sirsa-constituency-result-3030209>
- Jaldi AS. Retrospective analysis of the 2024 Indian elections: BJP wins the general elections against the strengthening opposition of the India Bloc; 2024, p. 1-24.
- Yadav S. Election Commission and electoral process. In: Roy H, Singh MP, editors. *Indian Political System*. New Delhi: Pearson Education; 2018, p. 277-296.
- Dhoble D. Defects in Indian electoral system. *Purakala*; 2020, p. 25-26. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.35888.38409>
- Election Commission of India. Announcement of schedule for general elections to Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha & Sikkim, 2024. ECI. 2024 Mar 16. (Accessed 2025 Sep 1).
- Haryana CEO. Haryana at a Glance (as on 06.05.2024). Gov.in; 2024 Jun 5. <https://ceoharyana.gov.in/website/electioncommission/images/6f64ffcd-5644-4f20-a840-d8e4eebb9636.pdf>
- Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana. Highlights of Census; 2011. (Accessed 2025 Sep 2). <https://haryana.census.gov.in/census>
- Election Commission of India. Announcement of schedule for general elections to Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha & Sikkim, 2024. ECI. 2024 Mar 16. (Accessed 2025 Sep 1).
- The Hindu Bureau. Haryana set to vote for 10 Lok Sabha, one Assembly by election. *The Hindu*; 2024 May 24. <https://www.thehindu.com/elections/lok-sabha/2024-lok-sabha-haryana-set-to-vote-for-10-lok-sabha-one-assembly-by-election/article68211560.ece>
- The Hindu Bureau. Haryana set to vote for 10 Lok Sabha, one Assembly by election. *The Hindu*; 2024 May 24. <https://www.thehindu.com/elections/lok-sabha/2024-lok-sabha-haryana-set-to-vote-for-10-lok-sabha-one-assembly-by-election/article68211560.ece>
- Election Commission of India. Party wise results: General Election to Parliamentary Constituencies, Trends & Results June-2024, Haryana. ECI; 2024 Jun 5. <https://results.eci.gov.in/PcResultGenJune2024/partywiseresult-S07.htm>
- Sharma P. 12% dip in BJP vote share in Haryana; Congress registers 15% rise. *Hindustan Times*; 2024 Jun 5. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/12-dip-in-bjp-vote-share-in-haryana-congress-registers-15-rise-101717533930933.html>
- Election Commission of India. General Election to Parliamentary Constituencies: Trends & Results June-2024 Haryana. ECI; 2024 Jun 4. <https://results.eci.gov.in/PcResultGenJune2024/statewiseresult-S071.htm>
- Haryana CEO. List of parliamentary constituencies. CEO Haryana. (Accessed 2024 Sep 1). <https://ceoharyana.gov.in/WebCMS/Start/1441>
- Chetan S. Haryana mein 2 poorv congressio kee chunaavee ladaee: EK congress to dusra BJP candidates; punjabi-baagadi vot bank par jor, Ram Rahim ka Dera bhi factor. *Dainik Bhaskar*; 2024 May 15. <https://www.bhaskar.com/local/haryana/sirsa/news/haryana-sirsa-lok-sabha-election-2024-bjp-congress-inld-jjp-133022282.html>
- Haryana CEO. Parliamentary constituencies wise electors: Haryana. Gov.in; 2024 Jun 5. <https://ceoharyana.gov.in/Website/ELECTIONCOMMISSION/Images/9530aad1-9e31-464d-a4fc-2a1f07c4d54b.pdf>
- Chetan S. Haryana mein 2 poorv congressio kee chunaavee ladaee: ek congress to dusra BJP candidates; punjabi-baagadi vot bank par jor, Ram Rahim ka Dera bhi factor. *Dainik Bhaskar*; 2024 May 15. <https://www.bhaskar.com/local/haryana/sirsa/news/haryana-sirsa-lok-sabha-election-2024-bjp-congress-inld-jjp-133022282.html>

22. Times of India. Chautala's stronghold in Sirsa decimated. Times of India; 2019 May 26. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/gurgaon/chautalas-stronghold-in-sirsa-decimated/articleshow/69500988.cms>
23. The Economic Times. "Wave against BJP in Haryana" says Priyanka Gandhi at Sirsa road show. Economic Times; 2024 May 23. https://m.economictimes.com/news/elections/lok-sabha/india/wave-against-bjp-in-haryana-says-priyanka-gandhi-at-sirsa-road-show/amp_articleshow/110361006.cms
24. Takkar J. In Haryana's Sirsa, Selja trusts bond with people, while Tanwar banks on Modi card. Economic Times; 2024 May 25. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/elections/lok-sabha/india/in-haryanas-sirsa-selja-trusts-bond-with-people-while-tanwar-banks-on-modi-card/articleshow/110406852.cms>
25. Chetan S. Haryana mein 2 poorv congressio kee chunaavee ladaee: EK congress to dusra BJP candidates; punjabi-baagadi vot bank par jor, Ram Rahim ka Dera bhi factor. Dainik Bhaskar; 2024 May 15. <https://www.bhaskar.com/local/haryana/sirsa/news/haryana-sirsa-lok-sabha-election-2024-bjp-congress-inld-jjp-133022282.html>
26. Times of India. Sirsa (SC) election results 2024 live updates: Congress' Kumari Selja wins against BJP's Ashok Tanwar with a margin of 2,68,497 votes. Times of India; 2024 Jun 4. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/sirsa-sc-election-results-2024-haryana-sirsa-sc-lok-sabha-elections-poll-result-updates-ashok-tanwar-bjp-selja-cong/articleshow/110673597.cms>
27. Wikipedia. Sirsa Lok Sabha constituency. Wikipedia; 2024 Oct 26. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirsa_Lok_Sabha_constituency
28. Manav S. Two losses and 4 parties later, Ashok Tanwar makes comeback bid in Sirsa as BJP candidate. The Print; 2024 May 14. <https://theprint.in/vs/theprint.in/politics/two-losses-and-4-parties-later-ashok-tanwar-makes-comeback-bid-in-sirsa-as-bjp-candidate/2084121/>
29. Bhatia V. In keen Sirsa battle, Selja seizes on farm rage, unemployment, as Tanwar plays Modi card. Indian Express; 2024 May 18. <https://indianexpress.com/article/political-pulse/ground-report-sirsa-haryana-lok-sabha-polls-kumari-selja-ashok-tanwar-9336912/>
30. Election Commission of India. General Election to Parliamentary Constituencies: Trends & Results June-2024 Parliamentary Constituency 3-Sirsa (Haryana). ECI; 2024 Jun 4. <https://results.eci.gov.in/PcResultGenJune2024/ConstituencywiseS073.htm>