



Haryana's Electoral History

Why in News?

Haryana, a small yet politically significant state, has a history of frequent political defections, and its electoral landscape is influenced by key families and caste dynamics.

Key Points

- **Birth of Haryana (1966):**
 - Haryana was carved out of undivided Punjab on **November 1, 1966**.
 - **Bhagwat Dayal Sharma**, a former Labour Minister of Punjab, was appointed the first CM.
 - Initially, Haryana had 54 seats, increased to **81 in 1967, and 90 by 1977**.
- **Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram Phenomenon (1967):**
 - **Origin of Expression:** Gaya Lal, an Independent MLA, switched parties multiple times in a single day.
 - **Impact:** The term "**Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram**" became a popular descriptor for political turncoats in India.
- **Political Dominance of Key Leaders:**
 - **Bansi Lal (1968-1975):** A Jat leader from Bhiwani, Bansi Lal held power **until the Emergency**.
 - **Devi Lal (1977):** Led Janata Party to victory post-Emergency; ousted by Bhajan Lal in 1979.
 - **Bhajan Lal's Influence (1980-1982):** Aligned with Indira Gandhi's Congress, stayed in power despite frequent party shifts.
 - **Lok Dal Dominance:** Devi Lal's Lok Dal, in alliance with BJP, gained a majority in 1987.
 - **V P Singh Era:** Devi Lal supported V P Singh's anti-corruption campaign, becoming Deputy PM, with son Om Prakash Chautala taking over Haryana.
 - **Chautala's Multiple Terms:** Om Prakash Chautala served as CM multiple times between 1989 and 1991.
 - **Hooda's Era (2005-2014):** Bhupinder Singh Hooda from Congress led the government, focusing on the Rohtak region.
 - **BJP's Rise (2014):** BJP won 47 seats, making Manohar Lal Khattar the first non-Jat CM of Haryana.
- **Current Political Landscape (2024):**
 - **Rural-Urban Divide:**
 - **Urban Regions:** Gurugram, Faridabad, Panipat have more industry and non-farming sectors.
 - **Rural Belt:** Central and southern areas like Rewari, Jind, Bhiwani, dominated by farming, with significant Jat population.
- **Jat Belt Concerns:**
 - **Farmers' Protests:** Resentment against farm laws, later repealed.
 - **Agniveer Scheme:** Concerns about job security for soldiers.
 - **Wrestlers' Protest:** Anger over sexual harassment allegations against a BJP leader.
 - **Unemployment:** Youth dissatisfied with job opportunities.
- **Urban Regions:** Focus on infrastructure, employment, and governance.
- **Caste Dynamics:**
 - **OBC Influence:** Both BJP and Congress are courting OBC voters; Congress proposes a

caste census and enhanced reservation limits.

- **Jat-Dalit Coalition:** Congress is attempting to bridge historical divides between Jats and Dalits for electoral gains.

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