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# CASTE DYNAMICS AND VOTING CHOICES IN PUNJAB

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**ABSTRACT**

Voting patterns and caste dynamics in the Indian state of Punjab are the subjects of this research. Election results in Punjab are heavily impacted by the caste system, which in turn shapes the province's sociopolitical landscape. This study shows how caste identities are very important in determining political preferences and alliances by analyzing vote trends, party tactics, and caste-based mobilization in depth. Results show that dominating castes like Jats and Dalits have a lot of sway in elections and can make or break a political party or candidate. Caste is both a constant and ever-changing factor in Punjabi electoral politics, and this study delves into how different parties use caste as a tactic to win over voters.

**Keywords:** Rural-Urban Divide, Social Stratification, Agrarian Community, Caste-based Discrimination, Identity Politics.