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CASTE DYNAMICS IN PUNJAB'S URBAN AND RURAL VOTES

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ABSTRACT

The voting behavior in Punjab is substantially influenced by caste dynamics, which exhibit a distinct contrast between urban and rural regions. Urban cities such as Ludhiana and Amritsar display a diverse range of caste groupings, including Brahmins, Khattris, and Scheduled Castes (SCs), all of which influence voting results based on economic interests and historical connections. In contrast, the rural areas of Punjab are mostly controlled by Jat Sikhs, who possess significant political influence due to their agricultural background and economic strength. They form a formidable voting group, together with other castes such as Ramgarhias and Labanas. Political organizations like as the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and Indian National Congress (INC) deliberately organize these caste groupings, while growing Dalit movements contest established social rankings, therefore altering the political scenario.

KEYWORDS: political parties, socio-economic factors, Dalit movements, Green Revolution.