



1 Please provide information on the INLD, its structures and its policies.

A previous research response dated 21 August 2006 outlines the establishment, the main policies and the political philosophy of the INLD.¹ A previous research response dated 29 April 2009 provides information on the current leadership and activities of the INLD in Haryana.²

The *Political Handbook of the World 2009* explains that the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) began under the name Haryana Lok Dal (HLD), formed by politician Devi Lal in October 1996. The party became the INLD in 1999 when Devi Lal’s son, Om Prakash Chautala, returned as chief minister of Haryana and took control over the party. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) joined the INLD at the February 2000 state election, which the INLD won, however the alliance broke up prior to the 2004 general election, which saw the INLD winning no seats. The INLD subsequently “lost control of Haryana in the March 2005 state elections”.³

The RRT Country Research package titled *Republic & States of India at a Glance* similarly explains that the INLD is based in Haryana and led by Om Prakash Chautala. The INLD was the ruling party in Haryana from 2000 to 2005 in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This alliance dissolved prior to the 2005 state election, which was won by the Indian National Congress (INC).⁴

Information about the INLD provided on Ajay Singh Chautala’s (Secretary General of the State Body of INLD) website explains that the party “is dedicated to the all-round uplift of farmers, labourers, rural and urban areas and the downtrodden and exploited”. The website also provides the following organisational structure of the INLD:⁵

(i)	Primary units	Village/Ward/Committees
(ii)	Intermediate units	(a) Block / Tehsil/ Constituency Councils (b) Block / Tehsil / Constituency Executives
(iii)	District Units	(a) The District Councils (b) The State Executives
(iv)	State Units	(a) The State Councils (b) The District Executives

¹ RRT Country Research 2006, *Research Response IND30398*, 21 August – Attachment 1

² RRT Research & Information 2009, *Research Response IND34729*, 29 April – Attachment 2

³ ‘India’ in *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition 2009*, CQ Press Electronic Library http://library.cqpress.com/phw/document.php?id=phw2009_India&type=toc&num=80#H2_3 – Accessed 30 November 2009 – Attachment 3

⁴ RRT Country Research 2006, *The Republic & States of India at a Glance*, August – Attachment 4

⁵ ‘Indian National Lok Dal’ (undated), Ajay Singh Chautala website <http://www.ajaychautala.com/INLD.aspx> - Accessed 3 December 2009 – Attachment 5

(v)	National Units	(a) The National Council (b) The National Executives
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In addition, an article dated 12 August 2009 highlights the INLD's support for poor farmers in their criticisms of the ruling Congress party's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) project in Haryana, which INLD general secretary Ajay Chautala has described the as "the biggest land scandal in the history of India", as it grabs "poor farmers' land on the false assurances of creating 200,000 jobs".⁶

- 2 **Are there reports of the BJP or high class Hindus targeting members of the INLD in Haryana?**
- 3 **Are there any reports of the BJP or high class Hindus targeting poor farmers or their representatives in Haryana?**

The response to these questions is divided into the following sections: [Introduction](#); [INLD – Targeted by BJP](#); [INLD – Targeted by high class Hindus](#); [Poor farmers – Targeted by BJP](#); [Poor farmers – Targeted by high class Hindus](#).

Introduction

An article in *The Economist* dated 8 October 2009 explains that the BJP's core supporters are "the urban upper castes and middle classes", and links the party to "its parent organisation, a mass-membership Hindu-revivalist outfit called the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)", which holds extremist Hinduist positions.⁷ A 2007 journal article on the political impact of India's caste system similarly indicates that in recent years, "[t]he core of the BJP's support came from the upper caste, well-off Hindus... The BJP and most of its allies represent a confluence of social and economic privileges. The higher the economic status of a group, the higher the vote for the BJP".⁸

Information on the Haryana Online website explains that among Haryana's Hindu population, "the Jats occupy a preeminent position...being the largest group in the state":

Religion has always provided the main basis for the structure of the Haryana society...In present day Haryana, Hindus are about 90% of the population, Sikhs 6.2%, Muslims 4.05% and Christians 0.10%. Hindus are divided into a number of castes like Jats, Brahmins, Ahirs, Gujars, Aggarwals, Arora Khattris, Sainis, Rajputs and Rors. Among them all, the Jats occupy a preeminent position in Haryana, being the largest group in the state.⁹

INLD – Targeted by BJP

No reports of violence between the INLD and the BJP, or targeting of INLD supporters or members by the BJP, were found among the sources consulted.

⁶ 'INLD demands judicial probe into Haryana SEZ 'scandal'' 2009, Thaindian News, source: IANS, 12 August http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/inld-demands-judicial-probe-into-haryana-sez-scandal_100231415.html - Accessed 8 December 2009 – Attachment 6

⁷ 'Shorts and all' 2009, *The Economist*, 8 October http://www.economist.com/world/asia/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14586982 – Accessed 2 December 2009 – Attachment 7

⁸ Saeed, M.S. 2007, 'Caste System in India and its Impact on Politics', Institute Of Strategic Studies Islamabad website, *Strategic Studies*, vol.25, no.1, Spring http://www.issi.org.pk/journal/2007_files/no_1/article/a4.htm – Accessed 10 September 2007 – Attachment 8

⁹ 'People of Haryana' (undated), Haryana Online website <http://www.haryana-online.com/People/people.htm> - Accessed 8 December 2009 – Attachment 9

An article from *Gaea News* dated 24 August 2009 explains that following an alliance with the INLD in the 2009 Lok Sabha elections which failed to win any seats, the BJP planned to sever its ties with the INLD in Haryana.¹⁰ Another article dated 24 August 2009 from *ANI* reports that Bharatiya Janata Party General Secretary Vijay Goel addressed a conference where he claimed that “[t]he alliance with INLD has come to an end, we will contest the upcoming Assembly polls in the state on our own”.¹¹ Similarly, an article dated 4 October 2009 explains that since the disbandment of the INLD-BJP alliance, the Congress Party are a clear favourite to win the Assembly elections, leaving the BJP and the INLD to fight it out for second place.¹²

Two articles from October 2009 report sporadic incidents of violence in the Haryana Assembly polls, including two involving conflict between INLD and Congress supporters; however, no mention is made of any conflict between INLD and BJP supporters or members.^{13 14} However, an article dated 19 October 2009 indicates that “[a] lot of bad blood exists between the INLD and the BJP in Haryana ever since they parted ways after the parliamentary elections”.¹⁵

INLD – Targeted by high-class Hindus

A number of articles suggest that Hindu Jats in Haryana; who occupy a preeminent position among Haryana’s Hindu population and are politically dominant in the state; largely support the INLD, with INLD leader Om Prakash Chautala described as the undisputed leader of the Jats. However, some articles suggest that the Jat community are aligned with the ruling Congress Party, the leader of which is also a Jat, and which has a history of conflict with the INLD.

Some INLD party members are also members of the Jat caste. Background information on Jats provided on the Haryana Online website claims that one of the “most famous Jat leaders from Haryana” is Chaudhary Devi Lal, former Deputy Prime Minister of India, and founder of the INLD and father of INLD leader Om Prakash Chautala.¹⁶ A previous research response dated 12 July 2007 provides information which indicates that Jats have historically supported the INLD, however explains that the Congress party has achieved some success in gaining Jat support in Haryana.¹⁷

A 2005 *Frontline* article explains that the 2004 elections “demolished the myth that the Jats – who constitute 22 to 25 per cent of the State’s population – are anti-Congress”:

¹⁰ ‘BJP all set to sever its ties with INLD in Haryana’ 2009, *Gaea News*, 24 August – Attachment 10

¹¹ ‘BJP snaps ties with INLD in Haryana’ 2009, Sify News, source: ANI, 24 August <http://sify.com/news/bjp-snaps-ties-with-inld-in-haryana-news-national-jjypEcbfcfi.html> - Accessed 8 December 2009 – Attachment 11

¹² ‘Haryana’s splintered opposition – and confident Congress’ 2009, Prokerala website, source: IANS, 4 October <http://www.prokerala.com/news/articles/a83458.html> – Accessed 10 December 2009 – Attachment 12

¹³ ‘Assembly Polls: 49 pc voting in Haryana till 3 pm’ 2009, *OneIndia News*, 13 October <http://news.oneindia.in/2009/10/13/assembly-polls-49-pc-voting-in-haryana-till-3-pm.html> - Accessed 10 December 2009 – Attachment 13

¹⁴ Ahuja, R. 2009, ‘Sporadic violence in Haryana’, *The Hindu*, 14 October <http://www.thehindu.com/2009/10/14/stories/2009101455631000.htm> - Accessed 10 December 2009 – Attachment 14

¹⁵ Singh, R. S. 2009, ‘Election Analysis: Haryana turned battleground for rival Sikh leaders’, *The Tribune*, 19 October <http://www.tribuneindia.com/2009/20091019/haryana.htm> - Accessed 14 December 2009 – Attachment 15

¹⁶ ‘Jats’ (undated), Haryana Online website <http://www.haryana-online.com/People/jats.htm> - Accessed 8 December 2009 – Attachment 16

¹⁷ RRT Research & Information 2007, *Research Response IND31942*, 12 July – Attachment 17

The Jats, who have emerged as an economically and politically powerful community over the last few decades in Haryana, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh, are not traditionally known to favour the Congress in Haryana. And the Congress has been considered a party of communities other than Jat. But the 2005 verdict seems to have helped the Congress to shed this image. This is evident from the election of Bhupinder Singh Hooda, a Jat leader, as Chief Minister. In the process, the party refused to consider the influential non-Jat leader Bhajan Lal's claim to the post. The Congress' declaration of affinity to the Jats is likely to help the BJP project itself as the party of non-Jat castes.

It is apparent that despite the politics of caste, the electorate as a whole – more than 70 per cent voted in the elections – voted against the undisputed leader of the Jats, Om Prakash Chautala, and his party. The voters seem to have cast their ballots in favour of only those candidates who they were certain would be in a position to defeat the INLD.¹⁸

An article dated 12 October 2009 describes Congress Party leader and Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda as “the “tallest leader” among the state's dominant Jat community”, who has angered non-Jats by providing most jobs and favours to Jats.¹⁹ In addition, one Jat leader and former member of the INLD, Sampat Singh, left the INLD to join the Congress Party in July 2009.²⁰

An article dated 4 May 2009 claims that “[i]n caste terms, there are only two groups in Haryana: The Jats and the non-Jats”; with the Jats' political support divided between Congress Party leader Hooda and INLD leader Chautala.²¹ Conflict between the Congress Party and the INLD is outlined in previous research responses cited earlier, dated 29 April 2009 and 12 July 2007.^{22 23}

However, an article dated 21 October 2009 claims that “the INLD still retains its hold over the peasantry including Jats who had shifted towards the Congress in the 2005 Assembly elections”.²⁴ In addition, an article dated 23 October 2009 states that “[t]he 25% votes to INLD [in the Assembly polls], it is believed, are largely seen as evidence of Jats gravitating towards the son of late Devi Lal. The hardcore Jat image Chautala gained during his previous regimes and the anger it led to among the other communities is seen as proof that his turnaround performance is built around the kernel of Jat support. It flies in the face of the enthusiasm Hooda was said to have generated among Jats”.²⁵

¹⁸ Rajalakshmi, T. K. 2005, 'A thumping victory', *Frontline*, Vol. 22, Issue 06, 12-25 March
<http://www.hinduonnet.com/fline/fl2206/stories/20050325001702700.htm> - Accessed 9 December 2009 – Attachment 18

¹⁹ Dogra, C. S. 2009, 'Creaking Chariots Of Kuru', *Outlook India*, 12 October
<http://www.outlookindia.com/article.aspx?262112> – Accessed 10 December 2009 – Attachment 19

²⁰ 'Former Lok Dal leader joins Congress' 2009, *Thaindian News*, 27 July – Attachment 20

²¹ Phadnis, A. 2009, 'Haryana: It's advantage Hooda', Rediff Elections website, source: Business Standard, 4 May
<http://election.rediff.com/column/2009/may/04/column-its-advanatge-hooda-in-haryana.htm> – Accessed 10 December 2009 – Attachment 21

²² RRT Research & Information 2009, *Research Response IND34729*, 29 April – Attachment 2

²³ RRT Research & Information 2007, *Research Response IND31942*, 12 July – Attachment 17

²⁴ Ahuja, R. 2009, 'Heavy turn-out points to tough fight in Haryana', *The Hindu*, 21 October
<http://www.thehindu.com/2009/10/21/stories/2009102161160700.htm> - Accessed 9 December 2009 – Attachment 22

²⁵ Ghildiyal, S. 2009, 'Cong's Jat experiment falls flat in Haryana', *The Times of India*, 23 October
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Cong-Jat-experiment-falls-flat-in-Haryana/articleshow/5150212.cms> - Accessed 10 December 2009 – Attachment 23

Poor farmers – Targeted by BJP

No information was found regarding the targeting of poor farmers by members or supporters of the BJP in Haryana.

An article dated 29 September 2009 describes the BJP's election promises to farmers in Haryana prior to the 13 October Assembly elections, in which the BJP claimed it would "provide every farmer with a soil health card, under which soil testing will be done every six months and a record for that will be maintained", make available 15 hours of power supply per day to farmers, and allow the involvement of farmers in "fixing the Minimum Support Price rates for various crops".²⁶

In addition, an article from the *Punjab Newslines Network* dated 12 February 2009 states that "BJP national president Rajnath Singh on Thursday assured a fair deal to the farming community [in Haryana] and promised to waive off their pending loans, give direct subsidy on fertilizer and grant of agriculture loans at 4 percent, if National Democratic Alliance (NDA) returns to power. He sought full support from farmers in the Lok Sabha elections":

Rajnath Singh said that center government's policy on agriculture subsidies was faulty and he promised that NDA government would take make revolutionary changes. "Agriculture was on our priority agenda, he asserted. He said that presently the subsidy on fertilizer was being given to industries which is not passed on to farmers. He assured that NDA government would give direct subsidy to the farmers. He said that NDA had planned its agenda to protect the interests of farmers and give boost to agri [sic] economy.

...He also took a dig on Hooda government in Haryana and said that farmers were not getting power and water.²⁷

Poor farmers – Targeted by high-class Hindus

No specific reports of poor farmers being targeted by high class Hindus were found among the sources consulted; however, there are reports of Hindu Jats targeting lower-caste members such as Dalits.

A previous research response dated 6 November 2007 identifies the Jats as a landowning peasant caste which includes Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims. It is reported that in Haryana, Hindu Jats constitute approximately a quarter of the population and are dominant in politics. Violence between Jats and lower castes, particularly Dalits, is also reported.²⁸

Another research response dated 10 September 2007 similarly highlights the prominence and power of the Hindu Jats, and explains that lower caste members in Haryana, particularly Dalits, have suffered mistreatment at the hands of the Jats, Gujjars and/or the police in the state.²⁹ The response cites a 2007 article which discusses the distribution of castes among the other backward castes (OBCs) classification, explaining that "[i]n the middle rung of OBCs, there are...numerous castes of small and marginal subsistence farmers...At the top of the OBC hierarchy are the dominant castes such as Jats and Gujjars in the northern states [such as

²⁶ 'BJP releases Haryana poll manifesto, woos every section' 2009, *Zee News*, 29 September <http://www.zeenews.com/news567029.html#> - Accessed 9 December 2009 – Attachment 24

²⁷ 'BJP president promises soaps to farmers, promises direct subsidy' 2009, *Punjab Newslines Network*, 12 February <http://www.punjabnewslines.com/content/view/15262/93/> - Accessed 14 December 2009 – Attachment 25

²⁸ RRT Research & Information 2007, *Research Response IND32432*, 6 November – Attachment 26

²⁹ RRT Research & Information 2007, *Research Response IND32303*, 10 September – Attachment 27

Haryana, who]...are, by and large, substantial landowners, numerically preponderant, politically powerful and enjoy high social status”.³⁰

The article dated 12 October 2009 cited earlier explains that Congress Party and Jat leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda has angered farmers, “whose protests in the drought-hit areas have been largely ignored”.³¹

4 To what extent does the state offer protection to the targets of political violence in Haryana?

The research response dated 29 April 2009 cited earlier discusses the extent to which state protection is available to members of the INLD and others in Haryana who experience political violence.³² Police corruption and the politicisation of police in Haryana are addressed in the previous research response dated 12 July 2007 cited above.³³

In addition, the previous research response dated 10 September 2007 cited earlier addresses the availability of police protection for low caste people from Jats in Haryana, indicating that Dalits in particular have suffered mistreatment by the police, and that Jats have a significant presence in the Haryana police force.³⁴

The Freedom House report on India released in July 2009 states that recent elections in India “have generally been free and fair”, with a decline in election-related violence during recent state elections. However, the report also identifies “pervasive criminality in politics, decrepit state institutions, and widespread corruption”:

Under the supervision of the Election Commission of India (ECI), recent elections have generally been free and fair. The 2004 national polls featured a decline in election-related violence, though some fraud and other minor irregularities occurred in Bihar despite the nationwide introduction of electronic voting machines. Violence has also declined during recent state-level elections. Badly maintained voter lists and the intimidation of voters in some areas continue to be matters of concern.

A wide range of political parties operate freely. Due to the rising popularity of regional and caste-based parties, coalition governments have become the norm.

Government effectiveness and accountability are undermined by pervasive criminality in politics, decrepit state institutions, and widespread corruption. India was ranked 85 out of 180 countries surveyed in Transparency International’s 2008 Corruption Perceptions Index. The electoral system depends on “black money” obtained through tax evasion and other means. Politicians and civil servants are regularly caught accepting bribes or engaging in other corrupt behavior.³⁵

³⁰ Baviskar, B.S. 2007, ‘Repeating Mandal mantra’, *The Tribune* website, 16 September <http://www.tribuneindia.com/2006/20060916/edit.htm#4> – Accessed 5 September 2007 – Attachment 28

³¹ Dogra, C. S. 2009, ‘Creaking Chariots Of Kuru’, *Outlook India*, 12 October <http://www.outlookindia.com/article.aspx?262112> – Accessed 10 December 2009 – Attachment 19

³² RRT Research & Information 2009, *Research Response IND34729*, 29 April – Attachment 2

³³ RRT Research & Information 2007, *Research Response IND31942*, 12 July – Attachment 17

³⁴ RRT Research & Information 2007, *Research Response IND32303*, 10 September – Attachment 27

³⁵ Freedom House 2009, ‘Freedom in the World – India’, Freedom House website <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&year=2009&country=7625> – Accessed 14 December 2009 – Attachment 29

However, an article in *Thaindian News* on 15 October 2009 explains that the Haryana Police have “registered a case against Haryana’s Transport Minister Mange Ram Gupta and seven other people for poll-related violence...in the Jind assembly constituency”:

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Jagbir Singh Dhull was injured when ruling Congress and opposition Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) activists clashed during Tuesday’s assembly poll.

INLD activist Raju alleged that the Congress activists barged into his house and threatened to set it on fire.³⁶

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US Department of State website <http://www.state.gov>

UK Home Office <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

Non-Government Organisations

Amnesty International website <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Freedom House <http://www.freedomhouse.org/>

Human Rights Watch (HRW) website <http://www.hrw.org/>

UNHCR Refworld website <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/>

International News & Politics

The Economist <http://www.economist.com/>

Region Specific Links

The Times of India <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>

The Hindu <http://www.thehindu.com/>

Thaindian News <http://www.thaindian.com/>

The Tribune <http://www.tribuneindia.com/>

Indian Express <http://www.indianexpress.com>

Prokerala website <http://www.prokerala.com/>

OneIndia News <http://news.oneindia.in/>

Frontline <http://www.hinduonnet.com/fline/>

Outlook India <http://www.outlookindia.com/>

Rediff Elections website <http://election.rediff.com/>

Zee News <http://www.zeenews.com/>

Punjab Newslite Network <http://www.punjabnewslite.com/>

Topic Specific Links

Ajay Singh Chautala website <http://www.ajaychautala.com/>

Haryana Online website <http://www.haryana-online.com/>

Search Engines

Copernic <http://www.copernic.com/>

Google <http://www.google.com.au/>

CQ Press Electronic Library <http://library.cqpress.com/>

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

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³⁶ ‘Haryana minister booked after Jind violence’ 2009, *Thaindian News*, source: IANS, 15 October http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/haryana-minister-booked-after-jind-violence_100260796.html - Accessed 14 December 2009 – Attachment 30

ISYS (RRT Research & Information database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)
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