



TRENDS OF ELECTORAL POLITICS AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

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Abstract

Jorhat is a thriving metropolis that strikes the ideal balance between the old and the new. The town's location and characteristics are the result of its participation in numerous significant historical events, all of which are recounted here. In 1984, the district of Sibsagar in Assam was reshaped to become the present-day district of Jorhat. Jorhat, Majuli, Titabor, Mariani, and Teok are the five Legislative Assembly Constituencies that make up the district. There is largely "Misings" among the Majuli Sub-70% Division's tribal population. Almost every year, the island is inundated by floodwaters. The purpose of this research is to identify current political voting tendencies.

Keywords: Trends, Electoral Politics, Political, Participation, election.

Introduction

Jorhat's History includes rebellions, insurrections, and devastation. At the conclusion of Ahom reign in Assam, Jorhat was mentioned in Ahom chronicles. King Susenpha alias Pratap Singha built Garh Ali and Hatigarh between 1604 and 1641. Jorhat district's history centres on its capital city. Ahom King Gaurinath Singha moved the capital from Sibsagar or Rangpur to Jorhat in 1794 by uniting two haats or marketplaces on the two sides of the river Bhogdoi (Deshpande, 2009).

During this time, the Ahom Government developed Jorhat holistically. Jorhat's ancient and new roads were renovated and built to link it to adjacent areas. During this time, the Ahom Kings built several tanks and temple sheds (Gohain, 2007). This time produced major literary works. Purandar Singha's restoration shaped Assam's history. Kashinath Tamuli Phukan wrote Asom Buranjisar, Dutiram Hazarika wrote Kaliabharat Buranji, Bisweswar Vaidhyadhipa wrote Belimar Buranji, and Monpur Arandhora wrote Barbhuyan Buranji. At the same period in Jorhat, Moniram Dewan began authoring Buranji Vivekratna. The final capital of Ahoms, Jorhat, was a city of pomp and splendour and a centre of Assamese culture and civilisation (Islam, 2010).



Research Methodology

The study is exploratory, quantitative, and combines quantitative and qualitative research. Primary and secondary sources were used. Primary data from a field survey using stratified random sampling. Field surveys used questionnaires to acquire primary data. Interviewing stakeholders is another way. Data was analyzed using SPSS. Books, periodicals, articles, government reports (e.g., Census report, Election commission report), newspapers, TV, etc. are secondary sources.

Sampling

Before 2016, Assam had 34 districts. The field survey was in Jorhat. Two of the district's five assembly seats, Mariani and Teok, were chosen. Stratified Random Sampling (SRS) was used to sample 4 polling stations from each LAC. During the survey, 599 samples were obtained from 74 respondents at each voting site.

Field Survey and Interview Schedule

Field survey questionnaires gathered primary data. The poll was performed in a specified universe using stratified random sampling. The interviewer recorded replies to a predefined questionnaire. The researcher (myself) and an outreach surveyor performed the study (ORS). These surveyors were trained on how to approach respondents to elicit excellent answers to each question to accomplish the intended goals.

Mariani

Mariani has a multicultural culture with several groups speaking different languages. The district has a long border with Nagaland, where there are long-serving border deputies. Mariani Constituency election results indicate an intriguing pattern. Since its founding, the Congress Party has won every election.

Teok

Teok is one of Jorhat District's founding constituencies. Constituency politics are mixed. Congress Party won most elections, followed by AGP, while CPI and Janata party were also present. Many leftists lack effective leadership.

Jorhat district

Jorhat district is between 26.20", 2710.30", and 93.39", east longitudes. The district is bordered by Lakhimpur, Nagaland, Sivasagar, Dibrugarh, and Golaghat. It's 2851 km². It's 116m high (381 feet). Assam's 12th largest district 6 Revenue Circles has 848 villages. It has 5CDBs. Four



statutory and seven Census Towns are in the district. Jorhat's population in 2011 was 1,092,256, with 556,805 men and 535,451 females (48.87 percentages). Jorhat's population is 78.88% rural and 20.12% urban. Male literacy in Jorhat is 88.38% while female literacy is 78.22%.

Results

Electoral Politics of Assembly Election in Jorhat District: Constituency wise analyses

- In Jorhat District, only Titabor and Teok were formed in 1951. Majuli, Jorhat, and Mariani were all founded in 1962.

Mariani Legislative Assembly Constituency (LAC)

- Assam's Jorhat district includes Mariani. From Jorhat Station, it's 17.5 kilometres. Nagaland borders Mariani. Mariani's population in 2011 was 131613.
- The population is 54% male and 46% female. Mariani has a multicultural culture with several groups speaking different languages. 351 Mariani is air-connected.
- Jorhat is closest airport. It's well linked to the rest of the nation via train. Mariani is road-linked to Dhodar Ali. Mariani was founded in 1967 with 41466 voters before the general election.

Teok Legislative Assembly Constituency (LAC)

- Teok is situated 25 km east of Jorhat town and is well linked to Jorhat, Sibasagar, and Guwahati. Tea tribes, plain tribes like Mishing, and general castes make up the constituency's population. Census 2011 found 184611 people in Teok Circle, Jorhat. 93319 men, 91292 women. Teok's SSR is 978. Teok Circle's urban sex ratio is 950 and rural is 980.
- According to the 2011 Census, 4.8% of the population lives in cities and 95.2% in rural regions. The urban literacy rate is 92.1% while the rural rate is 80.6%. The constituency has 118981 voters, according to 2016 election statistics. Teok is one of Jorhat District's founding constituencies.

Majuli Legislative Assembly Constituency

- Majuli is a Brahmaputra River island. Majuli formerly covered 1,250 square



kilometres, but erosion has reduced it to 421.65 square kilometres.

Titabor Legislative Assembly Constituency (LAC)

- Titabor lies at the extreme south of Jorhat district, bordering Nagaland for eight kilometres and surrounded by Kakadonga and Mariani rivers. Titabor is a subdivision of 106 revenue villages, excluding Titabar town, spanning 41,609 hectares.
- Titabor's 2011 population was 183,425 people. 940 females to 1000 men is higher than national records. Titabor has 63.25% literacy. Roads and trains link Titabor. Na Ali and Gar Ali lead to Jorhat.

Jorhat Legislative Assembly Constituency (LAC)

- Jorhat was divided, trifurcated, and then merged until 1967. In 1951, Jorhat North and Jorhat South had the following voter strengths. 75 Jorhat South and 76 Jorhat north voted 46.6% and 77.69% in the first election.
- In 1951, the margin was 28%; in 1956, it was 25%; and in 1962, it was 0.23%. The PSP candidate's total votes fell from 35.58% in 1956 to 25.07%.

Discussion

Jorhat conducted elections like other Assam districts. 14 General Elections occurred till 2016. This report includes 2011 election results for reference. This chapter discusses Jorhat district constituency-wise election results since 1952. Before that, it's important mentioning a few significant special elections in Assam's political history.

Table 1: General Elections in Jorhat and their Significance

Sl. No	Year of Election	Significance
1	1951,56,62,67,72	Usual Election
6	1978	Significant as the first election after the declaration of controversial emergency of 1976 and first non-congress government formed by Janata Party
7	1983	Significant because people boycotted the election held



		during Assam Agitation.
8	1985	<p>Significant because:</p> <p>i) First election after Assam Agitation</p> <p>ii) AGP formed and taken part in election</p> <p>iii) Regional sentiment everywhere</p>
9	1991	Usual Election
10	1996	Death of INC leader and CM Hiteswar Saikia. Created vacuum in leadership in Assam Congress
11	2001	Poor economic condition and failure of AGP
12	2006	Usual Election
13	2011	Usual Election
14	2016	Set back of congress after three consecutive terms, rise of BJP, formation of first government by BJP –AGP – BPF and others.

Conclusion

The study analyzes the trends of Electoral Politics and Political Participation. The primary difficulties haven't changed from the beginning. Unemployment remains a state and district election concern. This is a common election problem. Elections still focus on poverty, agricultural underdevelopment, etc. Since 1991, insurgency has overshadowed other key challenges. Peace and progress follow. Local concerns include Majuli floods, Assam Nagaland border conflicts in Jorhat, and Mariyani labour welfare.

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