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**VOTING BEHAVIOR IN PUNJAB: URBAN VS. RURAL CASTE
PERSPECTIVES**

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ABSTRACT

Urban and rural caste viewpoints in Punjab are influenced by different socio-economic and cultural elements, and this interaction is seen in voting behavior. The voting results in cities like Amritsar and Ludhiana are impacted by a wide range of caste groups, including Brahmins, Khatri, and Scheduled Castes (SCs). Many factors, including financial interests, family ties, and party alliances, influence voting behavior in urban areas. In the case of the Khatri and Aroras, for example, business groups vote for people who promise economic gains, whilst SCs may back those who promise social welfare. On the other hand, Jat Sikhs and other agricultural groups in rural Punjab are politically powerful because of their landholding and farming status. They were an important voting bloc when the Green Revolution strengthened their political influence. Important roles are played by other rural castes, such as the Ramgarhias and the Labanas, who usually support objectives based on caste.

KEYWORDS: Caste dynamics, Punjab, urban voting behavior, rural voting behavior, Jat Sikhs.