

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

INTRODUCTION

Prior to its formation as a separate district in November, 1989, the area pertaining to Panipat district was a part of Karnal district. During the British period, the system of legislation was very defective and general public was not associated with the function of law making. As a consequence, the Indian Councils Act of 1861 was passed which had a great significance in the legislative history of India, since it provided the association of Indians with the making of the law of land. The Act empowered the Governor-General to nominate not less than six and not more than twelve additional members of whom at least one-half should be non-officials. In order to provide for share of Indians in the administration of public affairs, the Indian Councils Act, 1892 was passed which widened the function of the legislatures in India and converted them into mini-parliaments. But, it was only the Indian Council Act of 1909 which sought to associate Indians, in a real and effective manner, not only with the work of legislation but also with the day-to-day administration of the country. It increased the strength of the councils and gave them the right of interpretations and of moving resolutions. It introduced a system of elections according to which the people elected the members of bodies, the latter elected the members of the provincial legislature, and they in turn elected the members of the Imperial legislature.

The Government of India Act, 1919 introduced representative Government into India. It created bicameral Central Legislature and Legislative Councils in the provinces. The first General Elections under the Act were held in 1920 for both the houses. This Act was replaced by the Government of India Act, 1935. A bicameral Legislature was introduced in the Punjab. The legislative Assembly had a life of five years. The Punjab Legislative Council was a permanent body, one third of its members retiring every third year.

The franchise, under the aforesaid two Acts, was generally based on nationality, residence, community, religion, race, age, sex, property, taxation, etc. Special representation was provided for commerce, industry, mining, plantation, labour, land-holders, the Panjab University, and the Scheduled

Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As a result, the constituencies were of diverse nature and the qualifications for membership varied accordingly, except with respect to age.

The First General Elections under the Act of 1935 were held in January 1937 and the second and last in March 1946. The Second General Elections were delayed as the World War-II was going on.

Under the Government of India Act, 1919, the Universal Adult Franchise had limited role to play. It was based on high property qualifications. Persons having either an annual income of ₹10,000 to ₹20,000 or paying land revenue of ₹750 to ₹5,000 were entitled to vote for the Councils of States. The franchise was also bestowed for special personal qualifications such as past or present membership of University Senate of legislature. The franchise of Legislative Assembly was also based on property qualification and varied from province to province. The payment of municipal taxes amounting to not less than ₹15 to ₹20 per annum or occupation or ownership of a house which could yield an annual rent of ₹180 or assessment to income tax on an annual income of not less than ₹2,000 to ₹5,000 or assessment to land revenue for ₹50 to ₹150 per annum varying from province to province could entitle a person to be a voter for the Assembly. The Government of India Act, 1919 did sow the seeds of communal representation in the country by earmarking constituencies for the Muslims, Sikhs etc. Under the Act of 1935, the right to vote was extended considerably. The women and the depressed classes were also made eligible to become voters. In this way, about 15 per cent of the total population of the province was enfranchised. It is, however, said that the Act not only retained the separate electorates for the Muslims, but also extended them to the Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans.

ELECTIONS HELD UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

The Constitution of India which came into force on 26 January, 1950 has made a clean sweep of postulate of communal electorates and has substituted in its place, common electorate for all adult citizens of India. Article 326 of the Constitution provides that elections to the House of People (Lok Sabha) and to the Legislative Assembly of every State shall be on the basis of Universal Adult Franchise. Every citizen of India, who is not less than 18 years (earlier 21 years) of age, is entitled to vote if he is not otherwise disqualified. Until 2009, fifteen general elections have been held in the country. The phenomenal success of these elections characterized by smooth

progress of voting is a proof of the spirit of the masses to adjust them to a democratic way of life. A brief account of these elections is given below:-

LOK SABHA GENERAL ELECTIONS

After Independence in 1947, first Lok Sabha Elections were held in the year 1951-52, then second in year 1957 and third in 1962. At that time, Haryana was a part of Punjab State. Panipat became a part of Karnal Parliamentary Constituency during the first and third General Election in 1951-52 and 1962 respectively. In second General Elections of 1957, the area now comprising Panipat district was a part of Kaithal Parliamentary constituency being a part of district Karnal. Even after the formation of Haryana in 1966, during all the twelve General Elections (4th to 15th), the area of Panipat district has always formed a part of Karnal Parliamentary constituency elections for this parliamentary segment. As Panipat has always been a part of Karnal Parliamentary constituency the results of these elections, as such, do not exactly reflect the position of the district. The position of candidates returned by the constituency during the 1st (1951-52) to 15th (2009) General Elections is given in the table below:-

Year of General Election	Total number of Electors	Name of the winning Party	Total valid votes polled	Votes fetched by the winning party	Percentage of votes fetched by the winning party
1951-52	15,30,064	Indian National Congress	8,42,919	3,55,391	42.16
1957	4,02,728	Indian National Congress	2,56,120	1,19,388	46.60
1962	4,77,020	Bhartiya Jan Sangh	3,16,066	1,34,458	42.54
1967	4,63,594	Indian National Congress	3,36,205	1,68,204	50.03
1971	5,04,480	Indian National Congress	3,16,780	1,52,249	48.06
1977	5,56,203	Bhartiya Lok Dal	4,15,837	3,40,961	82.00
1980	6,67,048	Indian National Congress	4,30,635	1,51,786	35.25
1984	7,46,675	Indian National Congress	5,07,586	2,47,063	48.67
1989	9,46,620	Indian National Congress	5,95,298	2,74,465	46.11
1991	9,50,987	Indian National Congress	6,24,059	2,00,770	32.17
1996	11,49,141	Bhartiya Janta Party	8,00,907	3,38,013	42.20
1998	11,37,817	Indian National Congress	7,96,738	3,27,750	41.14
1999	11,31,448	Bhartiya Janta Party	7,71,101	4,33,733	56.27
2004	12,40,344	Indian National Congress	8,18,927	3,18,948	38.95
2009	12,16,977	Indian National Congress	8,11,029	3,04,698	35.57

VIDHAN SABHA GENERAL ELECTIONS

First General Election, 1951 (Punjab Vidhan Sabha).—The area now forming Panipat district had two Vidhan Sabha constituencies consisting of two seats viz. Panipat and Samalkha (single member). Two candidates were declared elected. The total number of electors in these constituencies was 1,09,497 out of which 68,516 valid votes were polled. The extent of constituency, number of electors who voted and percentage of total valid votes is given below:-

Name of Constituency	Extent of Constituency	Number of seats	Votes		
			Total	Polled	Percentage
Panipat	Panipat City, and Sadr (excluding Patti Kalyana part <i>Zail</i>) Thana of Panipat Tehsil	1	58,710	29,499	50.24
Samalkha	Samalkha <i>thana</i> and Patti Kalyana part <i>Zail</i> of Panipat Sadar thana and Naultha <i>Zail</i> of Urlana Kalan thana of Panipat Tehsil.	1	50,787	39,017	76.82

Second General Election, 1957.—The area now forming Panipat district had two Vidhan Sabha constituencies consisting of two seats viz. Panipat and Samalkha (single member). Panipat returned Indian National Congress party's candidate while Samalkha returned an Independent candidate. The total number of electors in these constituencies was 1,15,815 out of which 85,487 valid votes were polled. The extent of constituency, number of electors who voted and percentage of total valid votes is given below:-

Name of Constituency	Extent of Constituency	Number of seats	Votes		
			Total	Polled	Percentage
Panipat	Panipat City, and Panipat Sadr <i>thanas</i> in Panipat Tehsil	1	56,524	39,299	69.53
Samalkha	Samalkha <i>thana</i> and Urlana Kalan <i>thana</i> (excluding Bhalsi <i>Zail</i>) in Panipat Tehsil.	1	59,391	46,188	77.77

Third General Election, 1962.— Like earlier, this General Election was also held for the two seats of Panipat and Samalkha assembly constituencies.

Panipat returned the Jan Sangh candidate while Samalkha returned an Indian National Congress candidate. The total number of electors in these constituencies was 1, 38,799 out of which 1, 02,318 valid votes were polled. The extent of constituency, number of electors who voted and percentage of total valid votes is given below:-

Name of Constituency	Extent of Constituency	Number of seats	Votes		
			Total	Polled	Percentage
Panipat	Panipat City and Panipat Sadr <i>Thanas</i> in Panipat Tehsil	1	69,158	49,308	71.21
Samalkha	Samalkha <i>Thana</i> and Urlana Kalan <i>Thana</i> (excluding Bhalsi <i>Zail</i>) in Panipat Tehsil.	1	69,641	53,010	76.10

Fourth General Election, 1967 (Haryana Vidhan Sabha).—By virtue of the Punjab Re-organization Act, 1966, Punjab was reorganized and a new State of Haryana with unicameral legislature came into being on November 1, 1966. As a result of recommendation of Delimitation Commission in November 1966, the area that now forms Panipat district was provided with three Vidhan Sabha Constituencies, namely Panipat, Sambhalka and Naultha legislative constituencies. The extent of constituency, total number of electors, votes polled and percentage of valid votes are given below:-

Name of Constituency	Extent of Constituency	Number of seats	Votes		
			Total	Polled	Percentage
Panipat	Panipat Municipality; Panipat k.c.(excluding p.cs Qawi, Shera, Madlauda, Bal Jattan, Kachrauli, Assan Kalan, Luhari, Sutana, Siwah, Nagla, Rana Mazra, Sanauli Khurd, Kurur, Ujah, Jalalpur and Nanhera) in Panipat tehsil.	1	54,919	43,037	78.36
Sambhalka	Sambhalka k.c. and p.cs Siwah, Nagla, Rana Mazra, Sanauli Khurd, Kurur, Ujah, Jalalpur and Nanhera in Panipat k.c. in Panipat Tehsil.	1	56,590	42,804	75.64
Naultha	Naultha k.c. and p.cs Qawi, Shera, Madlauda, Bal Jattan, Kachrauli, Assan Kalan, Luhari, and Sutana in Panipat k.c. in Panipat tehsil.	1	48,723	37,838	77.66

The total number of electors in these constituencies was 1,60,232 out of which 1,16,524 valid votes were polled. One candidate each of Jan Sangh was returned from Panipat and Sambhalka while one candidate of Indian National Congress was returned from Naultha for the First Vidhan Sabha of Haryana State.

Mid-Term Election, 1968.—Haryana Vidhan Sabha was dissolved on November 21, 1967 and mid-term elections were held in May 1968. Out of three seats the congress captured two seats of Sambhalka and Naultha while the seat of Panipat went to Jan Sangh. The total number of electors in these constituencies was 1,67,264 out of which 96,538 valid votes were polled. The extent of constituency, total number of electors, votes polled and percentage of valid votes are given below:-

Name of Constituency	Extent of Constituency	Number of seats	Votes		
			Total	Polled	Percentage
Panipat	Panipat Municipalty; Panipat k.c.(excluding p.cs Qawi, Shera, Madlauda, Bal Jattan, Kachrauli, Assan Kalan, Luhari, Sutana) as per 1967 elections in Panipat Tehsil.	1	58,343	37,566	64.39
Sambhalka	Sambhalka k.c. and p.cs Siwah, Nagla, Rana Mazra, Sanauli Khurd, Kurar, Ujah, Jalalpur and Nanhera in Panipat k.c. in Panipat Tehsil.	1	58,797	30,681	52.18
Naultha	Naultha k.c. and p.cs Qawi, Shera, Madlauda, Bal Jattan, Kachrauli, Assan Kalan, Luhari, and Sutana in Panipat k.c. in Panipat Tehsil.	1	50,124	30,555	60.96

Mid-Term Election, 1972.—Haryana Vidhan Sabha was again dissolved and mid-term elections were held in March 1972. Congress captured all the three seats of Panipat, Sambhalka and Naultha. No change was made in the limits of

the constituencies. The assembly constituency-wise details are given below:-

Name of Constituency	Votes			Winning Party	
	Total	Polled	Percentage	Name	Votes obtained
Panipat	62,669	48,077	76.71	Indian National Congress	27,513
Sambhalka	65,496	44,976	68.67	Indian National Congress	20,346
Naultha	55,457	40,889	73.73	Indian National Congress	20,760

Sixth General Election, 1977.—Sixth General elections to the Haryana Vidhan Sabha were held on 12th June 1977. As per the recommendation of Delimitation Commission of India, in December 1976, the number of constituencies in Haryana was increased from 81 to 90. The area that now forms Panipat district was provided with the same three assembly constituencies, namely Panipat, Sambhalka and Naultha. Janta Party candidates were returned on all the three seats. The extent of the assembly constituencies and other details are given below:-

Name of Constituency	Extent of Constituency	Votes			Votes obtained by winning candidate
		Total	Polled	Percentage	
Panipat	Panipat Municipality and P.Cs; Panipat Taraf - Makhdoomzadgan, Panipat Taraf - Ansar, Binjhaul, Panipat Taraf - Rajputana and Ugrakheri in Panipat K.C. in Panipat tehsil.	65,640	41,964	63.81	28,988
Sambhalka	Panipat K.C. (excluding Panipat Municipality and P.Cs; Kabri, Panipat Taraf - Makhdoomzadgan, Panipat Taraf - Ansar, Kutani, Assan Kalan, Sutana, Binjhaul, Panipat Taraf - Rajputana, Siwah and Ugrakheri) and Sambhalkha K.C. in Panipat tehsil.	65,771	43,824	66.63	16,273
Naultha	Naultha K.C. and P.Cs Kabri, Kutani, Assan Kalan, Sutana and Siwah in Panipat K.C. in Panipat tehsil.	61,047	40,642	66.57	22,023

Seventh General Election, 1982.—There was no change in the number of constituencies in the district. Seats of Sambhalka and Naultha returned Indian National Congress candidates and Panipat seat was captured by Bhartiya Janta Party. The assembly constituency wise details are given below:-

Name of Constituency	Votes			Winning Party	
	Total	Polled	Percentage	Name	Votes obtained
Panipat	79,674	56,404	70.75	Bhartiya Janta Party	26,467
Sambhalka	78,653	55,561	70.64	Indian National Congress	17,507
Naultha	74,787	53,718	71.83	Indian National Congress	17,152

Eighth General Election, 1987.—No change was made in the extent and number of constituencies in the district. Seats of Sambhalka and Naultha were captured by Lok Dal candidates while seat of Panipat was won by Indian National Congress candidate. The assembly constituency wise details are given below:-

Name of Constituency	Votes			Winning Party	
	Total	Polled	Percentage	Name	Votes obtained
Panipat	1,08,493	78,280	72.15	Indian National Congress	32,476
Sambhalka	96,505	72,604	72.23	Lok Dal	28,378
Naultha	90,434	67,630	74.53	Lok Dal	41,808

Ninth General Election, 1991.—Ninth General Election to the Haryana Vidhan Sabha were held in June 1991. There was no change in the limits of all the three assembly constituencies of the district. Panipat, Sambhalka and Naultha returned the candidates of Indian National Congress, Janta Dal and Janata Party respectively. The assembly constituency wise details of total number of electors, electors who voted and poll percentage are given below:-

Name of Constituency	Votes			Winning Party	
	Total	Polled	Percentage	Name	Votes obtained
Panipat	1,27,766	83,525	65.37	Indian National Congress	32,745
Sambhalka	1,05,034	74,586	71.01	Janta Dal	24,225
Naultha	96,704	67,898	70.21	Janata Party	24,582

Tenth General Election, 1996.— The Tenth General Election to the Haryana

Vidhan Sabha were held in April/May 1996. There was no change in the extent of the three constituencies in the district. Seats of Sambhalka and Naultha returned Haryana Vikas Party candidates and Panipat returned an independent candidate. The assembly constituency wise details of votes are given below:-

Name of Constituency	Votes			Winning Party	
	Total	Polled	Percentage	Name	Votes obtained
Panipat	1,72,359	1,20,678	70.02	Independent	49,123
Sambhalka	1,20,249	91,469	76.07	Haryana Vikas Party	20,103
Naultha	1,11,756	82,848	74.13	Haryana Vikas Party	24,790

Eleventh General Election, 2000.—The Eleventh General Election to the Haryana Vidhan Sabha were held in the months of February and March 2000. There was no change in the extent of the three constituencies in the district. Indian National Lok Dal won the seats of Sambhalka and Naultha while Panipat returned Indian National Congress. The assembly constituency wise details of votes are given below:-

Name of Constituency	Votes			Winning Party	
	Total	Polled	Percentage	Name	Votes obtained
Panipat	1,75,071	1,05,760	60.41	Indian National Congress	43,514
Sambhalka	1,22,079	87,637	71.79	Indian National Lok Dal	37,174
Naultha	1,13,005	82,419	72.93	Indian National Lok Dal	44,882

Twelfth General Election, 2005.—There was no change in the extent of the three assembly constituencies in the district for the twelfth general elections held in 2005. All the three seats were won by the Indian National Congress. The assembly constituency wise details of votes are given below:-

Name of Constituency	Votes			Winning Party	
	Total	Polled	Percentage	Name	Votes obtained
Panipat	2,00,927	1,29,907	64.69	Indian National Congress	55,828
Sambhalka	1,37,653	1,06,413	77.62	Indian National Congress	51,767
Naultha	1,27,220	94,553	74.72	Indian National Congress	37,396

Thirteenth General Election, 2009.—The extent and number of constituencies in Panipat district was changed under the delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008. After delimitation one constituency of Naultha was abolished and two new constituencies were carved out separately for Panipat City and Rural area thereby increasing the number of constituencies from three to four, namely Panipat Rural, Panipat City, Israna and Samalkha. The Israna constituency was reserved for Scheduled Caste candidate. The extent of each of these constituencies is given below:-

Name of the assembly constituency	Extent of Constituency
24. Panipat Rural	KC Panipat of Panipat Tehsil.
25. Panipat City	Panipat (Municipal Council + OG) of Panipat Tehsil.
26. Israna (SC)	KCs Madlauda-I, Madlauda-II of Panipat Tehsil & Israna Tehsil.
27. Samalkha	Samalkha Tehsil

Of these constituencies Panipat Rural, Panipat City, Israna(SC), and Samalkha returned Independent, Indian National Congress, Indian National Lok Dal and Haryana Janhit Congress(BL) candidates, respectively. The assembly constituency wise details of total number of electors, electors who voted, poll percentage and votes obtained by winning candidates are given below:-

Name of Constituency	Votes			Winning Party	
	Total	Polled	Percentage	Name	Votes obtained
Panipat Rural	1,26,120	96,030	76.14	Independent	23,770
Panipat City	1,43,964	94,455	65.61	Indian National Congress	36,294
Israna (SC)	1,28,202	94,889	74.01	Indian National Lok Dal	43,905
Samalkha	1,42,719	1,12,142	78.57	Haryana Janhit Congress(BL)	39,463

POLITICAL PARTIES

Most of the political parties in the district are units of all India parties. Among national parties, Indian National Congress took part in all elections to Lok Sabha in the district, being part of Karnal Parliamentary constituency, since 1952 but with varying degree of fortunes in various elections. Erstwhile Bhartiya Jan Sangh now Bharatiya Janata party also contested almost all the elections of Lok Sabha since 1952 and tasted both victories and defeats. Janata party swept Lok Sabha polls in 1977. Janata (S), a break-away group of Janata Party, won the 1980 Lok Sabha elections.

A national front was formed by Lok Dal (B), Lok Dal, Janata Party and Telgu Desam Party and contested Lok Sabha elections held in 1989 under the banner of Janata Dal and tasted defeat as the seat was won by Congress. Among the other parties, Zamindara Party, All India Scheduled Castes Federation, Depressed Classes League, Ram Rajya Parishad, Republican Party, Swatantra Party, Communist Party of India and Communist Party of India (M), Arya Sabha, Bhartiya Kranti Dal, Forward Block, Praja Socialist Party, Doordarshi Party, Bahajun Samaj Party, Samta Party, Jansatta Party, Shiv Sena, Samajwadi Party, Haryana Vikas Party, Haryana Lok Dal (Rashtriya), Haryana Janhit Congress (BL) and others registered political parties also contested various Lok Sabha elections without any success. This parliamentary seat has returned the congress candidate in eleven out of the total fifteen General Elections held since 1952. The position of the candidates returned by the constituency during the 1st to 15th General Elections has been given in the table in previous section of this chapter on Lok Sabha General Elections.

In Vidhan Sabha elections also, Indian National Congress remained a force to reckon with since 1952 and won a number of seats in various elections, barring Vidhan Sabha polls held in 1977 and 1996 when it failed to win any seat, but in 2005 Indian National Congress swept the poll again and won all the three seats in the district. Bharatiya Jan Sangh (now Bharatiya Janata Party) also contested almost all the elections to Vidhan Sabha and secured sizeable number of votes and captured Panipat seat consecutively thrice in 1962, 1967 and 1968. Janata Party, Lok Dal (Indian National Lok Dal), Janata Dal, Haryana Vikas Party and Haryana Janhit Congress (BL), have contested various elections and won a seat or two in various elections but

Bahujan Samaj Party could not win any seat in any election to Assembly. Independent candidates have been in the fray since beginning and won one seat each in elections held in 1957 (Samalkha) and 1996 (Panipat) and 2009 (Panipat Rural). The position of different political parties in the district represented in the Vidhan Sabha, from 1st General Elections in 1952 to 15th General Elections in 2009, constituency-wise, can be seen from the following tables:-

Panipat Assembly Constituency¹

Year of Election	Votes			Winning party	
	Total	Polled	Percentage	Name	Votes obtained
1952	58,710	29,499	50.24	Indian National Congress	--
1957	56,524	39,299	69.53	Indian National Congress	--
1962	69,158	49,308	71.30	Jan Sangh	19,939
1967	54,919	43,037	78.36	Jan Sangh	20,459
1968	58,343	37,566	64.39	Jan Sangh	16,957
1972	62,679	48,077	76.72	Indian National Congress	27,513
1977	65,646	41,964	63.93	Janata Party	28,988
1982	79,674	56,404	70.79	Bhartiya Janta Party	26,467
1987	1,08,543	78,280	72.12	Indian National Congress	32,476
1991	1,27,766	83,525	65.37	Indian National Congress	32,745
1996	1,72,359	1,20,678	70.02	Independent	49,123
2000	1,75,071	1,05,760	60.41	Indian National Congress	43,514
2005	2,00,802	1,29,903	64.69	Indian National Congress	55,828

Panipat City Assembly Constituency²

Year of Election	Votes			Winning party	
	Total	Polled	Percentage	Name	Votes obtained
2009	1,43,964	94,455	65.61	Indian National Congress	36,294

Panipat Rural Assembly Constituency³

Year of Election	Votes			Winning party	
	Total	Polled	Percentage	Name	Votes obtained
2009	1,26,120	96,030	76.14	Independent	23,770

Samalkha Assembly Constituency

Year of Election	Votes			Winning party	
	Total	Polled	Percentage	Name	Votes obtained
1952	50,787	39,017	76.82	Indian National Congress	--
1957	59,391	46,188	77.77	Independent	--
1962	69,641	53,010	76.10	Indian National Congress	29,119
1967	56,590	42,804	75.64	Jan Sangh	12,215
1968	58,797	30,681	52.18	Indian National Congress	17,486
1972	65,496	44,976	68.67	Indian National Congress	20,346
1977	65,771	43,824	66.63	Janata Party	16,273
1982	78,653	55,561	70.64	Indian National Congress	17,507
1987	96,505	72,604	75.23	Lok Dal	28,378
1991	1,05,034	74,586	71.01	Janata Dal	24,225
1996	1,20,249	91,469	76.07	Haryana Vikas Party	91,469
2000	1,22,079	87,637	71.79	Indian National Lok Dal	37,174
2005	1,37,080	1,06,413	77.62	Indian National Congress	51,767
2009	1,42,719	1,12,142	78.57	Haryana Janhit Congress(BL)	39,463

Naultha Assembly Constituency⁴

Year of Election	Votes			Winning party	
	Total	Polled	Percentage	Name	Votes obtained
1967	48,723	37,838	77.67	Indian National Congress	12,943
1968	50,124	30,555	60.96	Indian National Congress	16,130
1972	55,457	40,889	73.73	Indian National Congress	20,760
1977	61,047	40,642	66.57	Janata Party	22,023
1982	74,787	53,718	71.83	Indian National Congress	17,152
1987	90,434	67,397	74.53	Lok Dal	41,808
1991	96,704	67,898	70.21	Janata Party	24,582
1996	1,11,756	82,848	74.13	Haryana Vikas Party	24,790
2000	1,13,005	82,419	72.93	Indian National Lok Dal	44,882
2005	1,26,540	94,553	74.72	Indian National Congress	37,396

Israna (SC) Assembly Constituency⁵

Year of Election	Votes			Winning party	
	Total	Polled	Percentage	Name	Votes obtained
2009	1,28,202	94,889	74.01	Indian National Lok Dal	43,905

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

The humanitarian urge to organize voluntary associations to meet the needs of social and cultural upliftment of people is innate. To meet this innate requirement people associate themselves with the voluntary organizations to undertake different activities of public welfare being an essential part of any community life as Government alone cannot provide everything to its people. This urge has found greater scope of expression after independence as a result of popular awakening. The voluntary service organizations usually require some financial support from the Government. There are a number of such voluntary organizations in the district engaged in promoting a variety of public welfare activities including recreation, sports, economic welfare, educational welfare, social objectives, offering medical relief and constructive activities based on ideals of prominent leaders and social reformers. Brief description of notable voluntary social service organizations functioning in the district is given in the forthcoming paragraphs.

District Red Cross Society, Panipat.— The District Red Cross Society at Panipat started its functioning in December, 1989. It is affiliated to the Haryana Branch of Indian Red Cross Society with its Headquarters at Chandigarh. At the district level, the Deputy Commissioner is the ex-officio president of the Society with fourteen executive members. The Civil surgeon is its ex-officio Vice-Chairman. The wife of the Deputy Commissioner is the Chairperson of the Red Cross, Hospital Welfare Section. The rest of the members are nominated and elected as per the constitution of society.

The aims and objectives of the District Red Cross Society Panipat include: hospital welfare, community health, sanitation; relief of sick, suffering and wounded persons; maternity and child welfare; to organize family planning programme with particular reference to motivation; education and clinical facilities; to organize youth welfare activities and help to the youth wing of the Red Cross; blood transfusion service; relief of soldiers, sailors, airmen, other military personnel of government of India; disaster and emergency relief of all kinds; assistance to Saint John Ambulance Association and Charitable Institution approved by the State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society; and all other objects mentioned in the first Schedule of Act XV of 1920 (with amendments upto date).

The District Branch follows all rules and regulations framed (under Indian Red Cross Society) by the Haryana State Red Cross Branch, carries out

the directive issued by it from time to time, and extends help to it as and when required.

The subscription from different categories of members is: patron, ₹20,000; vice-patron, ₹10,000; institutional member, ₹1,000; life member, ₹500; life associate, ₹250; annual member, ₹50; and annual associate, ₹10.

The activities run by the Red Cross Society, Panipat include Red Cross Blood Bank, Red Cross Maternity Hospital, Red Cross Physiotherapy Centre, Red Cross Drug De-addiction Centre, Red Cross Family Welfare Centre, Red Cross Ambulance Services, Red Cross Sewing Machine Centre, Relief Operations in case of any calamity, financial help and medical assistance to poor and needy people in Panipat.

Hospital Welfare Section.— This section was established in December, 1989 as an institute affiliated to the District Red Cross Society. Its membership is open to both men and women. Its aims are to undertake hospital welfare activities which include supply of medicines, food, clothing, books etc. to the needy patients in hospitals and health Centres. It occasionally distributes sweets and fruits to indoor patients. Besides, it arranges ambulance services for poor and deserving patients; organizes health check-up of school children; and organizes immunization camps in the rural areas.

St. John Ambulance Association, Panipat.— The association was formed on December, 1989 to provide training in first-aid and to arrange transport for the patients in hospitals. It is governed by St. John Association Haryana State Branch, Chandigarh and is affiliated to All India St. John Ambulance Association, New Delhi. By the end of March, 2009, first-aid training was imparted to 7051 candidates of different categories. The sources of income of association include income from the ambulance, fees from first-aid training subscription by the members, besides financial assistance from District Red Cross Society.

District Olympic Association, Panipat.— It was set up at Panipat in 1989 under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner and the District Sports Officer is Honorary Secretary of the Association. It is affiliated to the Haryana Olympic Association. It controls various amateur sports associations in the Districts and encourages their activities by giving recognition to them and supervising their activities in order to maintain the standard of sports. It also provides financial help to the teams selected for participation at State

level tournaments. The sources of income of the Association include subscriptions, membership fee, grants from the State Government, etc.

District Council for Child Welfare, Panipat.— The Council, affiliated to the Haryana State Council for the Child Welfare having headquarters at Chandigarh, was established with the formation of Panipat as an independent district in 1989. The Deputy Commissioner is the Ex-Officio President while the wife of the Deputy Commissioner is the Vice-President and Chairperson of the Council. The District Child Welfare Officer is the Ex-Officio Honorary General Secretary. The aim of the council is to promote primarily the welfare of children, education of the public about child welfare programmes and promotion of welfare services for both normal and handicapped children. The council is running 14 creches. The children coming to these creches are looked after by trained *bal-sevikas* and mid-day meal amounting to ₹2.05 per day per children is served to the children. The council is also running projects like Street Working Children Project, a Fashion Designing Centre, two Craft Centres, a Hair and Skin Care Centre and Hobby Classes in dance, music, martial art, computer learning etc.

Besides membership, the income of the Council includes grant-in-aids from Indian Council for Child Welfare, Delhi; from Social Justice and Empowerment Department, and Women and Child Development Department, Haryana; and 50% share of Child Welfare Fund collected by District Education Officer, Panipat. The following statement shows the income and expenditure from 2000-01 to 2010-11: -

(₹ in lakh)		
Year	Income	Expenditure
2000-01	10.90	9.11
2001-02	12.88	9.89
2002-03	20.24	14.35
2003-04	20.81	10.70
2004-05	25.46	14.84
2005-06	24.97	15.93
2006-07	22.88	15.64
2007-08	36.84	20.74
2008-09	19.41	44.94
2009-10	30.08	36.27
2010-11	31.96	30.25

Mata Sita Rani Sewa Sanstha. – The Sanstha was founded in 1992. The organization is working for development and empowerment of women. The main activities of this organization are: women enlightenment camps in rural areas, school education for poor children, movement against female feticide, study centre for secularism and national integrity, campaign against AIDS, etc. The Sanstha also celebrates anniversaries of martyrs and historical events by organizing special movements. It joined hands with freedom fighters to celebrate birth centuries of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Aruna Asaf Ali, Sukhdev and his supportive Durga Bhabhi, besides celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha and 150th anniversary of revolt of 1857.

Samaj Sewa Samiti Samalkha.—It was established in 1983 with its motto 'service to huminity is service to God'. Its main objects are providing medical facilities to people by establishing hospital, to promote and to aid education, and to help victims of accident and natural calamities. This organization has set up a charitable hospital in Samalkha in 1983 for the needy and poor people. Since then more than ten thousand people have been treated in the said hospital. The income of the Samiti is purely based on donation from public.

Jan Sewa Dal, Panipat. - It was founded in 1976 with its motto 'Always ready to help the victims and poor people'. Its main objectives include contribution towards medical facilities to poor, help the victims of accidents and natural calamities, widow welfare, to provide dress, books and shoes etc. to poor school going children and organization of free eye camps. The organization has helped in cremation of nearly 25000 unclaimed dead bodies up to March 2010. The main source of income of the organization is subscription from its members and donation.

Khadi Ashram, Panipat.—It was in 1947 that a Central Relief Committee was formed to help in resettling the displaced persons from the West Punjab(Pakistan). It continued to work up to 1952. The Punjab Relief Committee took to this work independently with the capital left by the Central Committee and in 1953 its name was changed to Khadi Ashram. It functioned in Ambala City from 1955 to 1960 when it was shifted to Panipat. The institution is aided by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Bombay. Some of its important objects are to provide employment opportunities, utilize the raw material and produce articles for meeting the basic needs of villagers, and to inculcate the spirit of cooperation among them.

The village industries promoted by this institution include hand-made paper, *ghani* oil, hand-pounded rice, soap prepared from non-edible oils, pottery and *ban* manufacture.

Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Patti Kalyana.—The office of Gandhi Smarak Nidhi was shifted in 1955 from Ambala Cantt. to Patti Kalyana. The land required was donated by inhabitants of the village. Due to certain reasons, the office of the Nidhi was shifted to Chandigarh on April 1, 1964 but was again shifted back to Patti Kalyana on June 1, 1967.

The main object of the Nidhi is to conduct and promote manifold constructive activities with which Mahatma Gandhi was associated during his life time and all such activities as are required in furtherance of the ideals of truth and non-violence. The Nidhi has a number of Gandhi Study Circles spread all over Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. The Nidhi established a hospital 'Prakritik Jeevan Kendra' in the year 1968 with an objective to provide cost effective and quality healthcare to the needy poor people of the surrounding area. This 100 bed hospital is outspread in 25 acre land 20 kilometres from Panipat towards Delhi.

The Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Rajghat, New Delhi, is the financing authority for Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Patti Kalyana. The income expenditure position of Nidhi for carrying out its activities during 2001-02 to 2010-2011 is given below:-

(₹ in lakh)		
Year	Income	Expenditure
2001-02	35.35	29.22
2002-03	37.28	29.49
2003-04	36.87	31.01
2004-05	39.25	35.60
2005-06	37.25	32.90
2006-07	38.75	36.92
2007-08	50.36	38.72
2008-09	64.18	52.89
2009-10	81.95	81.91
2010-11	85.58	85.33

Shri Sanatan Dharam Mahabir Dal.— This organization was founded in 1983 with the purpose of achieving the aim ‘*Nar Sewa Narain Sewa* (Service of man is service of God)’. The organization has 29 registered members in March 2011. The objectives of the ‘*Dal*’ include: welfare of poor people, opening of dispensaries, free eye camps, medicine, free spectacles, opening of school for expansion of education, built temple for worship, supply of drinking water, distribution of cycle rickshaws to handicapped people etc. The organization is running a free dispensary, organizing free eye camps and has built a temple “*Shaktipeeth Sankat Mochan Mahavir Mandir*”.

Rotary Club, Panipat.— The club was founded in 1989, by the leading representatives belonging to different trades. At that time it had 157 members from different classifications. It was recognized through an official charter by Rotary International. In March, 2011 it has a membership of 162 members. The club is a non-religious and non-political organization devoted to the ideal of ‘service to the community’. It encourages and fosters high ethical standards in business and profession. The application of ideal of service by Rotarian in his personal, business and community life, the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through world fellowship of business and professionalmen united in the ideal of service.

Weekly meetings are held by the club on every friday. The club renders social service by organizing medical check-up camps and distributing medicine among poor patients, providing help to poor and needy students, pioneering pulse polio programme of Govt. of India, organizing blood donation camps, eye camps and rendering assistance in case of natural calamities. The main source of the income of the club is monthly subscriptions by members.

Lions Club, Panipat.— It is an international organization whose motto is “*Make your fellow men needed*”. It creates brotherhood to serve the humanity at large. The Lions club Panipat was established in 1975. As on 31st March, 2011 it has 63 members.

The club renders social service by organizing medical check up camps and distributing medicine among poor patients, providing free books and help to poor and needy students, organizing blood donation camps, eye camps and rendering assistance in case of natural calamities. Besides subscription, the sources of the income included contribution from members and donations.

A list of other voluntary organizations, working in the district, with their location and areas of function is given in Table-XLVIII of the Appendix.

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

Newspapers and periodicals play a very important role in the daily routine of the people. Reading of newspapers has become a habit of people. These days newspapers and periodicals not only publish news on the political scene of the country, but also disseminate international news. Besides, newspapers also bring to the reader all kinds of other information on topics such as history, economics, sports, social, religion etc. These also publish articles contributing to various other topics. A list of newspapers and periodicals published in the district is given in the Table-XLIX of the Appendix.

Besides reading the newspapers and periodicals published in the district, the people of the district also read national level newspapers and periodicals published from outside the district. The newspapers and magazines published at Chandigarh, Delhi, Ambala and other metropolitan cities are much in circulation in Panipat.

¹ Abolished vide Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008.

² Created vide Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Created vide Haryana Government Gazette (Extra Ordinary) Notification No. S.O. No.3600, dated the 23rd November, 1966, pp.36-37 and abolished vide Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008.

⁵ Created vide Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008.