

State Elections 2024

8 October 2024

Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir

Haryana

The agro-industrial state of Haryana went to the polls on 5 October 2024 to elect 90 candidates to the next State Assembly. The election saw a 65.65% voter turnout, which surpassed the turnout for the 2024 Lok Sabha election (64.8%).

In what is seen as a surprise verdict that defied both exit poll predictions and expectations of heavy antiincumbency, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has emerged as the single largest party for the third consecutive term, securing a clear majority of 48 out of 90 seats. Incumbent Nayab Singh Saini (BJP) is expected to serve another term as Chief Minister.

Party	Total Seats Won
Bharatiya Janata Party - BJP	48
Indian National Congress - INC	37
Indian National Lok Dal - INLD	2
Independent- IND	3
Total	90

The BJP has laid out a series of promises aimed at addressing regional development, business growth, labour welfare, and industry development. The focus is on boosting local economies, enhancing youth employment, and providing critical social welfare measures. Here are the key areas of their manifesto:

1. Regional Development

- Construction of 10 industrial cities on the lines of IMT Kharkhoda, providing jobs for 50,000 local youth per city through special incentives to entrepreneurs.
- KMP's Orbital Rail Corridor and Vande Bharat trains: New transport infrastructure launched in collaboration with the Government of India to improve connectivity across the state.
- Various rapid rail services: Intercity Express Metro services between Faridabad and Gurugram with government support, aiming to ease commutes and boost development in NCR regions.
- Aravalli Jungle Safari Park: An international-level wildlife tourism initiative in South Haryana, aiming to boost tourism and local economies.

2. Business Growth

- Loans up to Rs 25 lakh: The Haryana State Government guarantees loans to OBC category entrepreneurs, supplementing the Mudra Scheme to foster business creation and economic growth.
- Scholarships for OBC and SC students: Full scholarships to individuals studying medicine and engineering in government colleges across India, to encourage future professionals and skill development in critical sectors.

3. Labour Welfare

- Rs 2,100 monthly under Laado Laxmi Yojana: Direct financial aid to women to support their livelihoods.
- MSP for 24 crops: Guaranteed procurement of crops at Minimum Support Price (MSP), ensuring financial stability for farmers.
- Free medical treatment up to Rs 10 lakh for families under Chirayu-Ayushman Yojana and free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh for the elderly (70+ years).
- Social pension increases: All social monthly pensions will increase based on a scientific formula linking Dearness Allowance (DA) and pensions.
- Rs 500 LPG cylinders: Under Har Ghar Grihani Yojana, cylinders will be made available at Rs 500, reducing the financial burden on households.

Jammu & Kashmir

The festival of Indian democracy was celebrated in spectacular fashion in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), which saw its first full-fledged assembly election since the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A of the Indian Constitution in 2019.

J&K went to the polls in three phases that were held in 3 phases (18 September, 25 September, and 1 October 2024) to elect 90 members to the J&K Assembly. The electorate participated in strong numbers, showing a 63.88% voter turnout, with female voters outnumbering male voters.

The Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC or NC), Kashmir's oldest regional party, emerged as the single largest party with 42 seats, falling four short of the majority mark, 46. The BJP came in second with 29 seats, followed by the INC with 6 seats. The NC will likely form

Party	Total Seats Won
Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC)	42
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	29
Indian National Congress (INC)	6
Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP)	3
Jammu & Kashmir People Conference (JPC)	1
Aam Aadmi Party (AAAP)	1
Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M))	۱
Independents	7
Total	90

the government in J&K in a coalition with the INC, with NC leader Omar Abdullah as the new Chief Minister. The key poll promises in the manifesto, starting with a demand for restoration of Articles 370 and 35-A, are as follows:

1. Comprehensive job package for J&K youth

- 1 lakh jobs, filling up of vacancies in govt departments within 180 days, incentive-linked jobs under the startup scheme
- Employment in the energy sector through govt facilitation and hydropower generation projects (including solar power)
- Employment-Linked Incentive scheme for corporates to be introduced

2. Tourism, industry and mining

- Exploring new tourist destinations and developing ski resorts, adventure tourism; incentives to locals to develop hotel and tourism infrastructure
- Establishment of industrial parks and SEZs to attract investment
- Incentives to industries that hire locally trained individuals
- Reexamination of 'Ease of Doing Business' and start-ups policies
- Responsible mining of recently discovered lithium deposits, enforcing payment of royalties for previously mined resources
- Exploring sapphire mining opportunities in Padder and Kishtwar

3. Sustainability

- Green initiatives to promote renewable energy (esp. solar and wind) and to reduce pollution
- Developing efficient waste management systems
- Subsidies and further financial incentives for households to install solar panels

4. Infrastructure Development

- Implementation of a comprehensive plan for multimodal urban public transport through public-private partnership
- Jhelum/ Tawi Reconstruction Project (expected to generate 1,000 new jobs)