



HARYANA ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS **SURVEY REPORT - 2024**



PEOPLES PULSE
an ear to the ground

HARYANA ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS SURVEY REPORT

(5th October – 2024)





METHODOLOGY

Peoples Pulse Research Organization specializing in field work based Political and Electoral Research undertook a survey in poll bound Haryana State.

Haryana is divided into various regions based on dialects or communities e.g. Mewat, Aheerwal, Bagad etc. However, the administrative zones of Haryana cover a lot of nearly homogeneous regions which have more or less similar culture, dialect or caste/political equations. It is for this reason that we have shaped the survey design as per the 6 administrative zones and the findings are also clubbed as per these zones.

Peoples Pulse research scholars covered six regions, ie., Hisar, Karnal, Gurugram, Faridabad, Rohtak and Ambala across Haryana state all the six administrative divisions in 22 districts of the state to understand the Mood of the people at the ground level.

Researchers for the Survey followed a Systematic Stratified Random Sampling Model and conducted Face-to-Face interviews with respondents based on a structured questionnaire. In this manner 75-100 samples were collected from each Assembly constituency. A total of 7200 samples keeping in mind the gender, demographic and age divide were collected to access the mood of the electorate. The Sample reflects the situation on the ground in terms of caste, religion, community and age as they exist on the field. Gender was given equal representation.

The Research Team concentrated on the questions of the problems or grievances of the people which may have a bearing on the forthcoming Assembly Elections in Haryana, the perceptions of the people towards the governance of BJP, led by Chief Minister Mr. Nayab Singh Saini, the perception of the people towards the main opposition party Congress. The Research Team also gathered people's opinions on other parties like JJP, INLD, and BSP.

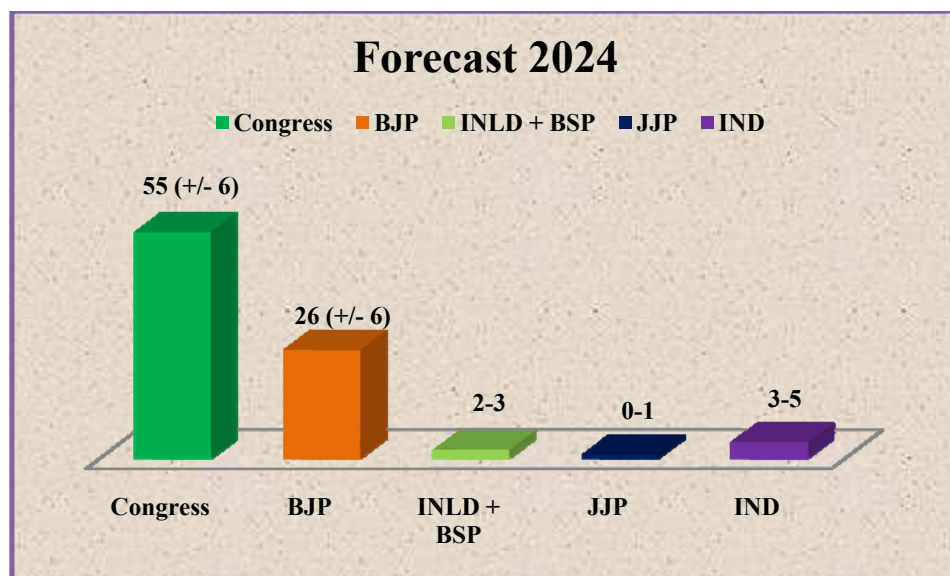
The Conversations were free and frank without any inhibitions, obstructions and promptings and the Research Team could elicit views of the people on the ground in realistic manner. All the respondents were courteous towards the team and more than willing to answer questions.



FINDINGS

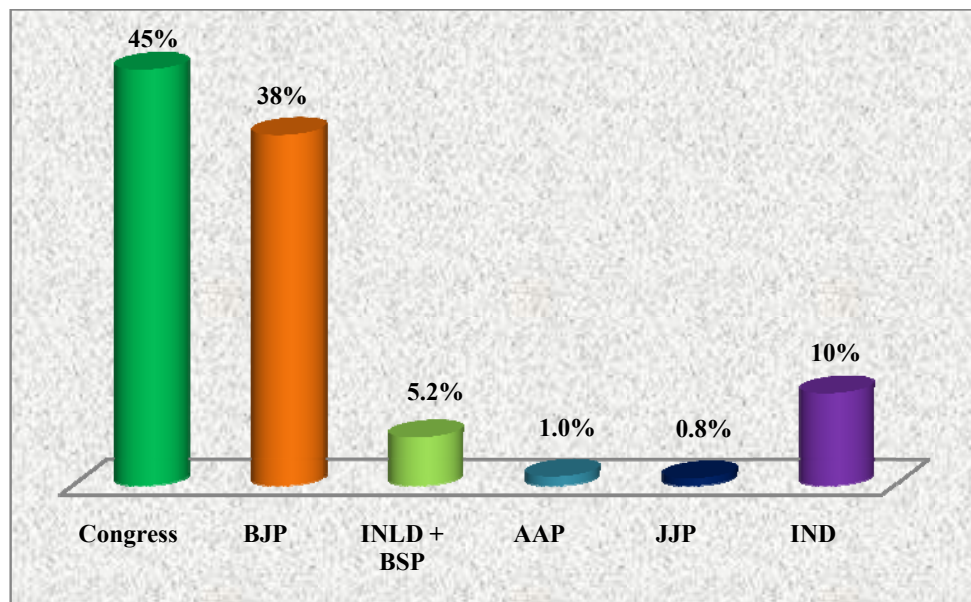
Seat Forecast

Parties	Forecast 2024
Congress	55 (+ or - 6)
BJP	26 (+ or - 6)
INLD + BSP	2-3
JJP	0-1
IND	3-5



Vote share

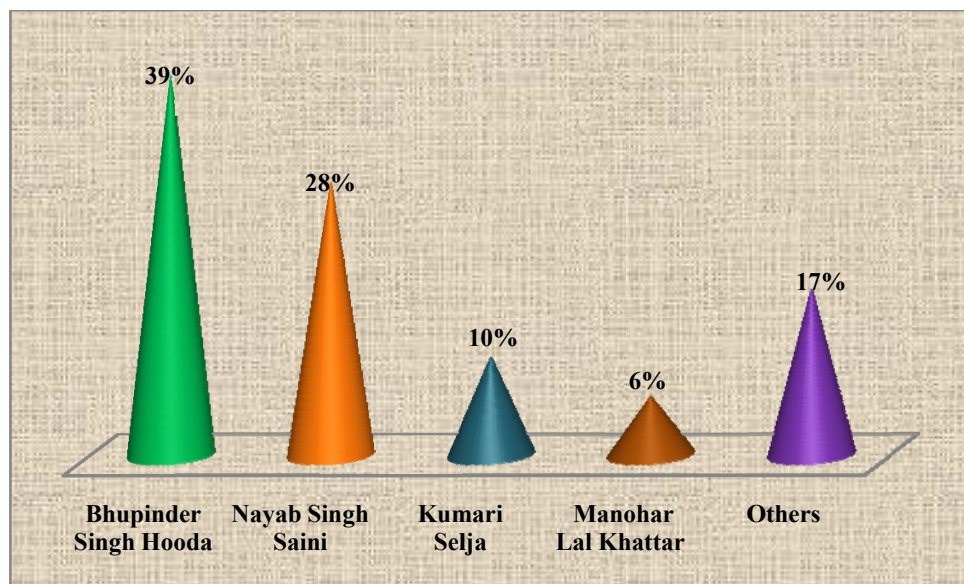
Parties	%
Congress	45%
BJP	38%
INLD + BSP	5.2%
AAP	1.0%
JJP	0.8%
IND	10%



❖ Margin of error Plus or Minus 3 Percent

CM Choice

Bhupinder Singh Hooda	39%
Nayab Singh Saini	28%
Kumari Selja	10%
Manohar Lal Khattar	6%
Others	17%



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CONGRESS SET TO SWEEP HARYANA ASSEMBLY ELECTION

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's 10-year reign in Haryana is all set to end. By all indications it could be a Congress Government in Haryana Post 8th October 2024. Congress is all set to cross the magic figure 46 in the 90 member Haryana Assembly

A survey conducted by People's Pulse, Hyderabad based research organization, suggests a sweep for the Congress party in the ensuing Assembly elections in Haryana.

According to the survey done by Peoples Pulse research organization, in association with South First, a digital platform, the Congress Party is expected to win 55 seats (+ or – 6), the ruling BJP 26 seats (+ or – 6), INLD 2-3 seats, Independents 3-5 seats & JJP 0-1 seat. Exit -Poll survey conducted on 5th October 2024.

The Survey report was compiled and prepared by Dr. Rajan Pandey, Mr. R. Dileep Reddy, Director, Peoples Pulse, Mr. G. Murali Krishna, Mr.I.V.Murali Krishna Sharma Senior Researchers, Peoples Pulse.

The electoral contest in Haryana seems to be moving towards a bi-polar contest between the ruling BJP and the main opposition Congress. Regional parties like Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), which have played a key role in the politics of Haryana till now, seem to be losing traction, which was also evident from the results of 2024 Parliament elections.

The survey revealed that a combination of factors are going against the BJP, and badly too. The two significant sections –farmers and youth, are ranged against the saffron party, as also the community of wrestlers. From a caste point of view, the Congress is getting the support of Jats and Dalits, apart from many other smaller communities. While the influence of Jats over Haryana politics is well known, Dalits account for little over 20 per cent of the state's population. The OBCs are sailing with the BJP but it's not enough to pull the party through. The BJP's efforts to create a Jat vs non Jat narrative in this election is not working.

Going by the survey results, the Congress has a clear edge of 7-8 percent in terms of vote share vis a vis its main rival, BJP. The Congress is expected to garner 45 percent vote share while the BJP is far behind at around 38 percent, INLD-BSP 5.2 percent, JJP, AAP 1 percent, JJP less than 1 Percent and Others 7-8 percent. The survey factors a Margin of error plus or Minus 3 percent regarding the vote share projected.

The BJP is holding ground in the Faridabad (barring Nuh district) Aheerwal region and the Karnal-Panipat region falling on GT road belt while Congress seems to be picking up in Hisar, Ambala, Rohtak regions.

The drop in the performance of BJP is not surprising considering that the party has been in power for 10 years. In fact, the decline began in 2019 itself. It was with the support of JJP that the BJP was able to form the government. But, this time round, there is no scope for smaller parties to play any role.

The most preferred choice for the post of Chief Minister is Bhoopinder Singh Hooda. What was witnessed this time was an increase in the preference among voters for local leader of their region to be their CM choice across parties. Hence, the popularity of Kumari Selja increased not only among Dalit voters but also among voters in Hisar-Sirsa region, across parties. Same way, sections of even BJP voters in Kaithal preferred Randeep Surjewala to be their best CM choice. And even Congress inclined voters in Amabala preferred Anil Vij of BJP as their CM choice. The reasons cited were fear of discrimination against their region if the CM comes from other region. This sentiment was especially against Bhupinder Singh Hooda as voters from other regions like Faridabad, Sirsa-Hisar and Ambala feared all major development will go to the Rohtak region if Hooda becomes the CM.

Local Issues Dominant- In the upcoming assembly elections, most of the voters will vote according to local issues like performance of the MLA, infrastructure problems etc while bigger-national issues might take a back seat. Due to this, the Modi factor is likely to work less this time.

Joblessness, Inflation and Farmers' Protest- Across regions, youths talked about increasing joblessness and questioned the role of both state and central governments around this issue. They specifically mentioned the Agniveer scheme, which according to most of youth respondents, has decreased the attraction of service in armed forces among young population. Both men and women respondents across regions and communities raised the issue of inflation and expressed their anger on it. In rural areas, majority of farmers-barring the Aheerwal region, talked about the negative role played by the Haryana government in curtailing the farmers' protest.

Family ID – The issue of family ID in Haryana is indeed serious, especially in rural areas. Due to incorrect surveys, many families are being deprived of government facilities. This is having a negative impact on their economic situation and living standards.

Anti-incumbency against sitting MLAs from all parties- Another major finding was that a significant number of sitting MLAs from all parties are facing acute anti-incumbency which includes some of the ministers of state cabinet.

Regional parties losing relevance; Independents matter- As per the survey, the JJP has lost the faith of common voters and Jats are highly unlikely to vote for them. The INLD-BSP alliance is has made a comeback and is likely to be the third biggest vote share gainer, but in terms of seats they may have to remain satisfied with 1 to 3 seats. Besides, the AAP is also not likely to win a single seat. The election is expected to be moving towards a bi-polar contest between the BJP and the Congress. However, independent candidates are likely to win or spoil equations on a number of seats. One such seat is Hisar where BJP rebel and independent candidate Savitri Jindal has a decisive edge. Same goes for Pundri where Congress rebel independent Satveer Bhana is leading among all candidates.

Decrease of BJP support among OBCs and Dalits- The survey found out that BJP support among Dalits has significantly decreased while that among the OBCs has also decreased, albeit in smaller proportions.

Caste wise support of major parties

General:

Most of the general caste voters- other than Jats are more inclined towards the BJP than the INC. However, on some of the urban seats, a fragmentation among the general voters especially Punjabi-Baniya and Brahmin voters was witnessed due to various factors like dissatisfaction with the BJP candidate, a more favourable candidate from Congress or independents or rivalry among the general voters. Such seats include Ambala Cant and City, Hisar, Jind, Kaithal, Tosham etc.

Brahmins: Brahmins across the state are more inclined towards the BJP. However, on some seats due to anger against BJP candidate or candidate of own caste from the INC, they are also favouring INC. In some seats of Sonipat and Ambala districts, this trend was visible.

Rajputs: Rajputs are overwhelmingly favouring the BJP across the state. However, in districts like Bhiwani- where BJP did not give any Rajput candidate despite significant Rajput population, they are seen favouring Rebel BJP candidate from own caste (as in Tosham).

Baniyas: Baniyas are also more inclined towards the BJP than Congress. However, in some seats like Jind- where BJP has fielded a Punjabi and Congress a Baniya, the Baniyas are favouring Congress due to caste factor and Punjabi-Baniya rivalry.

Jats: Jats are overwhelmingly supporting the Congress across the state. This time, INLD and JJP are proving to be ineffective in cutting away Jat votes from the Congress.

Punjabis: Punjabi voters are significantly with BJP but on some seats where there is a better Punjabi candidate from non-BJP parties, a section of voters is preferring him/her.

OBCs: OBCs are a major voting block of Haryana, constituting around 1/4th of the state's population. BJP still has support of majority of the OBC castes of the state due to factors like anti-Jat sentiment, the leadership of CM Nayab Singh Saini etc.

Saini: Sainis are overwhelmingly with BJP and want Nayab Singh Saini to be repeated as the CM of state again.

Yadav: Yadavs are mostly influential in the Ahirwal belt or Gurgaon-Rewari-Mahendragarh districts. They are also overwhelmingly with BJP and don't want a Jat CM. However, due to bad candidate choices and rebellions- on some of the seats Yadav vote is dividing between BJP, Congress and independents as in case of Rewari-Kosli-Mahendragarh seats.

Ror/Maratha: Ror or Maratha voters are quite influential in Karnal-Panipat districts and they are overwhelmingly backing the BJP. Congress or others have not been able to breach the Maratha vote bank of BJP.

Kashyap: Kashyap voters are also more inclined towards the BJP but Congress also has support among them due to various issues like anger against the government over family ID, joblessness etc. In this election, Kashyaps are not as committed a vote bank of BJP as Ror or Sainis.

Kamboj: Kamboj voters are mostly concentrated in the Ambala and GT road belt. As of now, they are more inclined towards Congress than the BJP. Some reasons like resignation and Congress joining of BJP state OBC morcha president Karn Dev Kamboj are also responsible for it.

Gurjar: Gurjar voters are divided between BJP and Congress. In the Southern belt of Faridabad, they are more inclined towards BJP while in North Haryana-Ambala region, Gurjars are more inclined towards the Congress. The Gurjars of Ambala-Yamuna Nagar region are also quite vocal about farmers movement and opposition to farm laws than the Gurjars of Faridabad region.

Smaller castes like Panchal, Prajapati, Lohar etc, which are scattered over the state are also divided between the BJP and the Congress, but this time they are less enthusiastic in supporting BJP over Congress, unlike 2019.

SC: Among the SC voters, the support of Congress has increased, as evident from the performance in 2024 Lok Sabha elections also. Issues like reservation and constitution has helped Congress establish a connect with them while issues like joblessness, inflation etc are also affecting them.

Chamar: Chamars are the numerically most significant SC caste of Haryana and they are decisively voting for Congress. The possibility that Kumari Shelja could also become CM is also motivating them. The BSP-INLD alliance and JJP-ASP alliance is not succeeding in cutting away significant proportion of Chamar votes.

Valmiki: Valmikis are the second biggest SC caste group of Haryana and they are more inclined towards the BJP then Congress. However, smaller sections of youth, women from the Valmiki community are supporting the Congress this time on common issues like jobs, inflation etc.

Smaller SC communities like Dhanak, Sainsi, Bajigaretcare divided among BJP and Congress and are voting on seat to seat basis keeping in mind candidates, but a greater percentage is inclined towards the Congress.

Minorities:

The minority voters of Haryana are supporting the Congress overwhelmingly this time.

Muslims: Two biggest communities of Muslims in Haryana are Muslim Gurjars- concentrated in Ambala-Yamuna Nagar region, and Meo Muslims, concentrated in the Nuh district of Mewat. Both communities are strongly backing the Congress along with smaller communities like Pathans.

Sikhs: Sikh voters- other than Saini Sikhs who are BJP supporters, are decisively backing the Congress party. Most of the Sikh voters are farmers and the impact of Farmers Movement is also motivating them to back Congress and vote out the BJP.

Sectional support of various parties:

Women: Haryana doesn't boast of having a committed women vote bank like West Bengal. Mostly the women voters vote according to family preference and caste equations. However, issues like inflation, joblessness, anti-incumbency have also affected them and due to that, women voters are slightly more inclined towards the Congress.

Youth: Youth voters are quite vocal in criticizing the government especially over the issue of jobs. This time, it is expected that a small section of job-seeking youth across castes/regions/male-female binary are going to vote for Congress.

Farmers: Farmers are divided on caste lines mostly. Farmers from Jat, Sikh, Chamar, Muslim and some smaller OBC communities are going to vote for Congress while Saini, Ror, Yadav and Kashyap farmers will prefer the BJP.

Service Sector: Most of the service sector employees in the urban areas still prefer BJP while the support for Congress among them is still less and depends upon various factors like candidates, local development, brand of Modi vs Rahul Gandhi etc.

Traders and Business Community: The trading and business community is still more inclined towards the BJP but due to a number of factors like lack of local development, anti-incumbency against BJP MLAs, bad ticket choice by BJP, their support has slightly decreased when compared to 2019 assembly elections.

Government Employees: A bigger section of government employees is going to vote for Congress this time. The anti-incumbency against BJP government and working of ex CM Manohar Lal Khattar are some of the reasons along with concerns about payment perks, pension, promotions etc.

Workers: Unorganised worker population: both in the urban areas and the rural areas is slightly more inclined towards Congress this time due to various issues like inflation, image of Rahul Gandhi, lack of infrastructure and job prospects etc.

Region-wise Major Findings

Haryana is divided into 6 administrative divisions, which are also quite in sync with the cultural regions. Hence, our region wise major findings have been presented as per the administrative divisions.

Hisar: Sirsa, Fatehabad, Hisar and Jind districts fall under this division. Most of this division falls on the border of Rajasthan and Punjab. Jat and Sikh voters are quite influential in this region along with Dalits. JJP and INLD had major strongholds in this region. In the 2019 assembly elections, Jat votes got divided among the JJP, INC, INLD and the BJP due to which Congress could not perform very well here. This time, both the JJP and INLD are quite weak here and BJP is not being preferred by the Jats, Sikhs and Chamars, who are mostly inclined towards Congress. Developments like withdrawal of candidate against Gopal Kanda by BJP at Sirsa, and fielding weak candidate against Abhay Chautala of INLD at Ellanabad were also criticized by voters as tacit understanding of BJP with INLD and Gopal Kanda's party. Further, JJP leader and ex CM Dushyant Chautala and his family members are finding it hard to effectively campaign in rural areas- especially among the Jat and Sikh voters. Due to all this, it seems that Congress is likely to do well in this region while JJP, INLD, BJP will suffer losses.

Faridabad: Faridabad, Nuh and Palwal districts fall under this division. This region borders Delhi and Uttar Pradesh and Faridabad under it is a major industrial hub. Muslims, Dalits and Gurjars are the most influential communities here while Brahmins, Jats, Baniyas and Punjabis are also influential in some seats. Nuh district comprises the Mewat region of Haryana which is Meo Muslim dominated. This time, INC is likely to sweep this district while BJP may not get a single seat. In Palwal, BJP is expected to suffer losses especially on Hathin and Hodal seats while in Faridabad district, it still seems to have an upper hand due to rebellion on a couple of seats by Congress leaders.

Rohtak: Rohtak, Sonipat, Bhiwani, Jhajjar and Charkhi Dadri districts fall under this division. Only the Sonipat district of this division falls on the GT road. This region is also called the Deswali belt or the Jat belt of Haryana and other than Jats, Brahmins, Dalits and OBCs are major communities here. Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda and his son Deepender are most influential in this region due to Rohtak being their traditional seat. As of now, Congress is likely to do well in this region except Sonipat and Bhiwani, which may throw mixed results for Congress and BJP both.

Ambala: Ambala, Yamuna Nagar, Kurukshetra and Panchkula districts fall under this division. Ambala and Kurukshetra fall on the GT Road belt. It has a mixed demography where a large number of OBC communities and Dalits call the shots along with Punjabis, Baniyas, Gurjars and on some seat Muslims. In recent Lok Sabha elections, Congress won the Ambala Lok Sabha while Kurukshetra Lok Sabha seat was won by BJP. CM Nayab Singh Saini and Haryana assembly speaker GC Gupta are contesting elections from here only, along with ex Home Minister Anil Vij. This is also one of the regions where BJP has faced maximum rebellions and resignations due to ticket distribution. Because of it this time, the seat tally of BJP is likely to slightly fall down and that of Congress likely to slightly increase in comparison to the 2019 assembly elections.

Karnal: Kaithal, Karnal and Panipat districts fall under this division. Both Karnal and Panipat fall on the GT Road belt which is still considered BJP stronghold. This time too, Panipat and Karnal districts are likely to give favourable result to the BJP. Presence of committed OBC voters like Saini and Ror/Marathas, number of urban seats where BJP is stronger and rebellion on some seats by Congress leaders are some of the factors helping BJP in remaining afloat.

Gurugram: Rewari, Gurugram and Mahendragarh districts fall under this division. Gurugram is an industrial and real estate hub while Rewari and Mahendragarh are mostly rural. Also called Ahirwal due to predominance of Ahir or Yadav voters, this region is called a BJP citadel. This time too, the BJP appears stronger than Congress in Gurugram belt as the predominant Yadav voters here don't want a Jat CM from another region, which they fear might cause discrimination against their region.









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