



NC and PDP: A Political Overview | Jammu & Kashmir | 09 Oct 2024

Why in News?

The [Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly elections](#) of 2024 have seen the **National Conference (NC)** and Congress alliance leading, with the **People's Democratic Party (PDP)** trailing behind.

Key Points

▪ Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (NC):

- Founded in 1932 by [Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah](#).
- Emerged as a powerful political force advocating for Kashmiri rights and [land reforms](#).
- After Independence, [Maharaja Hari Singh](#) signed the [Instrument of Accession](#) in 1947 amidst a Pakistani invasion.
- Sheikh Abdullah was appointed Prime Minister of an [interim government in 1948](#).
- The NC won **73 of 75 seats** in the 1951 elections for the [Constituent Assembly of J&K](#).
- Sheikh Abdullah was dismissed and jailed in 1953, reportedly under Prime Minister [Nehru's](#) orders, due to concerns over Abdullah's links with Pakistan.
- Abdullah returned to power after an accord with [Indira Gandhi](#) in 1975.
- Sheikh Abdullah's son, Farooq, succeeded him in 1982.
- **Militancy and the 1990s:**
 - The 1990s saw the rise of [militancy in the region](#), with the NC's political dominance weakening.
- **Post-2000 Political Alliances:**
 - The NC briefly aligned with the **BJP-led NDA in 1999**.
 - Since then, NC has intermittently allied with Congress, including in the 2019 elections under the INDI Alliance.
 - Since the abrogation of [Article 370](#) in 2019, the NC has called for the restoration of [J&K's special status](#).

▪ Peoples Democratic Party (PDP):

- Founded in 1999 by **Mufti Mohammed Sayeed** after leaving the Congress.
- Sayeed's political career started in the **Democratic National Conference**, an NC splinter group.
- Sayeed briefly served as **India's first Kashmiri Muslim Home Minister (1989-91)** in the **V P Singh government**.
- The PDP came to power in 2002 in coalition with the Congress, with Sayeed serving as CM.
- **Alliance with BJP (2014):**
 - In 2014, the PDP entered into an alliance with the BJP, a controversial decision given their ideological differences.
 - Mufti Mohammed Sayeed passed away in 2016, and his daughter Mehbooba Mufti took over as party leader.
- The PDP, like the NC, has demanded the restoration of Article 370 since its abrogation.
- The PDP's political influence has waned in recent years, with only 3 seats won in the 2024 elections.

State Party

- A party is recognised as a state party in a state if any of the following conditions is fulfilled:
 - If it secures **6% of the valid votes polled in the state** at a general election to the

respective state [legislative assembly \(state LA\)](#) and also, it wins 2 seats in the same state LA.

- If it secures **6% of the total valid votes** in the state at a general election to the LS; and also, it wins 1 seat in the LS from the same state.
- If it wins **3% of seats in the LA** at a general election to the legislative assembly of the state concerned or 3 seats in the assembly (whichever is more).
- If it wins **1 seat in the LS for every 25 seats** or any fraction thereof allotted to the state at a general election to the LS from the state concerned.
- If it secures **8% of the total valid votes polled in the state at a General Election** to the LS from the state or to the State LA.

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