

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu & Kashmir

Block A Old Secretariat, Srinagar - 190 001

“Greater Participation for a Stronger Democracy”

PRESS RELEASE

DATED: 09.10.18

The first phase of the Municipal Elections 2018 has been held yesterday, on 8th October, with an electorate of 4.8 lakhs in Jammu Division and 1.05 lakhs in Kashmir Division for the poll going wards. The elections, being held after 13 years, saw a voter turnout of 56.6 % in this phase, with details as per the Annexure A. The elections witnessed keen contest with heavy voter participation - poll percentage is 75% or more in 14 Municipal Committees while Jammu Municipal Corporation with an electorate of about 4 lakhs witnessed 61.8% polling. There were no incidents of violence in any part of the State.

The second phase of the 4 phase elections will have polling on 10th October. For 263 wards - 214 in Jammu Division and 49 in Kashmir Division - the number of candidates in the fray is 1029. Polling will take place at 544 polling stations, 270 in Kashmir Division and 274 in Jammu Division. In the areas going to polls, the total electorate is 346980, with 128104 in Jammu Division belonging to 18 Municipal bodies and 218876 in Kashmir Division of 5 Municipal bodies. The details are enclosed at Annexure B. Photo Voter Slips have been distributed among the voters to inform them of their polling station.

The poll timings for this phase are **6 am to 4 pm** in order to facilitate the voters. Additional poll staff is also being deployed at the polling stations with larger number of electors.

Deployment of senior Government officers as General Observers to ensure free and fair elections will continue apart from Expenditure Observers, as also Micro Observers at sensitive/ hypersensitive polling stations. Deputy Commissioners have set up control rooms and any complaint of violation of the Model code of conduct is being acted upon swiftly. All critical events of the election process are being videographed with nomination process including scrutiny, preparation of EVMs, poll party randomization, etc. being carried out in the

presence of the political parties/ candidates. Necessary security arrangements have been made including deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

Campaigning including public meetings, processions, etc. has to end 24 hours before the start of poll. Orders have also been issued prohibiting conduct of Exit poll, and publicity in any manner, till half an hour after closing of the last poll which is on 16/10/18. Necessary orders pertaining to declaration of dry day have also been issued.

The Government has declared public holiday on the day of poll in the municipal areas going to polls, including under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 and, therefore, it is enjoined upon all establishments, whether Government or Private to observe the same strictly. Provision of special casual leave for employees who have to go to vote has been made. School Education Department and Labour Department have been specifically instructed to ensure adherence to this order. As per standing guidelines, the Central Government offices shall not be closed but employees who are electors of the poll going wards shall be offered reasonable facility to vote by their controlling officers.

The Municipal Elections 2018 are being held in four phases, covering 79 municipal bodies with an electorate of about 17 lakhs. A total of 3372 nominations have been filed for 1145 wards with poll dates of 8th, 10th, 13th and 16th October.

The Chief Electoral Officer, J&K appeals to the voters to come forward and exercise their right to franchise to choose their councillors.

**Annexure - A to Press Release Dated 09.10.2018
(Details of Voter Turnout Phase - I)**

S. No	Urban Local Body	No. of Electors	(Voter Turnout) Total Polled Votes	Poll %age
1	Akhnoor Municipal Committee	7406	5977	80.70
2	Arnia Municipal Committee	6141	4876	79.40
3	Bandipora Municipal Committee	16947	573	3.38
4	Baramulla Municipal Council	26149	1339	5.12
5	Bishnah Municipal Committee	7093	6135	86.49
6	Budgam Municipal Committee	642	109	16.98
7	Ghou Manahasan Municipal Committee	3213	2745	85.43
8	Handwara Municipal Committee	4376	1224	27.97
9	Jammu Municipal Corporation	401640	248256	61.81
10	Jourian Municipal Committee	2674	2355	88.07
11	Kalakote Municipal Committee	2305	1988	86.25
12	Kargil Municipal Committee	6069	4743	78.15
13	Khour Municipal Committee	5109	4194	82.09
14	Kokernag Municipal Committee	1639	119	7.26
15	Kupwara Municipal Committee	4686	1713	36.56
16	Leh Municipal Committee	14401	7810	54.23
17	Nowshera Municipal Committee	3437	2948	85.77
18	Poonch Municipal Council	12896	9148	70.94
19	Rajouri Municipal Committee	14520	10848	74.71
20	R S Pura Municipal Committee	10279	7849	76.36
21	Srinagar Municipal Corporation	29913	1862	6.22
22	Sunderbani Municipal Committee	2789	2514	90.14
23	Surankote Municipal Committee	1803	1601	88.80
24	Thanna Mandi Municipal Committee	1903	1717	90.23

Annexure B to Press Release dated: 09.10.2018**Details of Phase II**

District	Municipal Body	Poll going wards	No. of Polling Stations	Candidates in Fray
Anantnag	Anantnag	16	44	38
Bandipore	Sumbal	11	11	33
Baramulla	Wattergam	1	1	2
Doda	Bhaderwah	13	13	48
Doda	Doda	17	17	51
Doda	Thathri	7	7	16
Kathua	Basohli	13	13	51
Kathua	Billawar	13	13	42
Kathua	Hira Nagar	13	13	49
Kathua	Kathua	21	54	142
Kathua	Lakhanpur	6	6	17
Kathua	Nagri Parole	13	13	67
Kishtwar	Kishtwar	13	13	53
Kupwara	Langate	2	2	4
Ramban	Banihal	4	4	8
Ramban	Batote	7	7	26
Ramban	Ramban	7	7	24
Reasi	Katra	13	13	44
Reasi	Reasi	13	13	51
Udhampur	Chenani	7	7	20
Udhampur	Ramnagar	13	13	47
Udhampur	Udhampur	21	48	125
Srinagar	SMC(Ward No. 18 to 37)	19	212	71
Phase II Total		263	544	1029