

# Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu & Kashmir

Block A Old Secretariat, Srinagar – 190 001

“Greater Participation for a Stronger Democracy”

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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. Days of poll are 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October for these four phases.

In the first phase, while 78 candidates have been elected unopposed, there are 1204 candidates in fray in 321 wards, comprising of 83 in Kashmir division and 238 in Jammu division. In all, the polling will take place at 820 polling stations, 150 in Kashmir Division and 670 in Jammu Division. In Kashmir Division 138 polling stations have been categorized as Hypersensitive while this number is 52 in Jammu Division.

In the areas going to polls in the first phase, the total electorate is 5,86,064. Basic Minimum Facilities (BMF) have been ensured in all the polling stations across the State. Photo Voter Slips have been distributed among the voters to inform them of their polling station.

Senior government officers have been appointed as General Observers to oversee the smooth, fair and orderly conduct of Municipal Elections, 2018. Also, Expenditure Observers from the State’s Accounts Service are keeping a watch on the expenditure by the candidates. In addition, for the poll day, Micro Observers have been placed in polling stations, particularly those considered sensitive/ hypersensitive. Besides, the Zonal and Sector Magistrates too have been deployed to ensure the smooth conduct of poll as well as monitoring the entire process. The Deputy Commissioners are undertaking Videography of all critical events related to the poll process including the poll day. Control Rooms have been established in all the Municipal Bodies across the State to respond promptly to any complaints of violation of the Model Code of Conduct as also to disseminate information to the public. 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 and, accordingly, the same stands enforced on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2018, from 7 am in the areas going to poll in the first phase. Orders have also been issued prohibiting conduct of Exit poll, and publicity in any manner, from the hour fixed for poll on the first day viz; 08/10/18 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 timing of poll has been increased by two hours. The earlier notified time was 7 am to 2 pm. This has now been revised to 7 am to 4 pm. The Government has also declared holiday on the day of poll in the municipal areas going to polls so as to enable the voters to cast their vote. The day of poll has been declared as public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 too and, therefore, it is enjoined upon all establishments, whether Government or Private to observe the same strictly. Special casual leave shall also be granted to the employees who have to go to other areas to exercise their right to franchise. The School Education Department and the 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 the employees who are electors of the poll going wards and desire to exercise their franchise shall be offered reasonable facility - by way of coming late to office/ allowed to leave office early/ short absence.

The Chief Electoral Officer, J&K appeals to the voters to come forward and exercise their right to franchise in order to choose their local self government to address their local needs.

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District	Municipal Body	No. of Poll going wards	No. of Polling Stations	Candidates in fray
Anantnag	Kokernag	4	4	8
Budgam	Budgam	1	1	2
Bandipore	Bandipora	16	23	42
Baramulla	Baramulla	15	35	31
Jammu	Akhnoor	13	13	48
Jammu	Arnia	12	12	55
Jammu	Bisnah	13	13	59
Jammu	Ghou Manahasan	7	7	21
Jammu	JMC	75	505	447
Jammu	Jourian	7	7	20
Jammu	Khour	13	13	32
Jammu	RS Pora	13	13	59
Kargil	Kargil	13	13	37
Kupwara	Handwara	7	7	18
Kupwara	Kupwara	11	11	29
Leh	Leh	13	21	29
Poonch	Poonch	17	17	58
Poonch	Surankote	9	9	23
Rajouri	Kalakote	7	7	24
Rajouri	Nowshera	12	12	41
Rajouri	Rajouri	17	19	58
Rajouri	Sundarbani	13	13	30
Rajouri	Thanna Mandi	10	10	25
Srinagar	SMC(Ward No. 16,17 &74)	3	35	8
<b>Phase I Total</b>		<b>321</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>1204</b>