

# Panchayat Elections: No Polling In 3 South Kashmir Districts

**Srinagar** –The penultimate phase of the nine-phased Panchayat polls in Kashmir recorded a voter turnout of 49.6 percent on Saturday even as no votes were cast again in three of the four districts of the volatile south Kashmir. According to official data, polling was not held in 53 Panch Halqas in Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam.

Jammu division recorded 85.1% voting while state recorded overall 79.9 percent polling.

Polling began at 8 am at 2,633 polling stations – 550 in Kashmir division and 2083 in Jammu division, officials said.

District Baramulla witnessed highest polling of 56.9% voting followed by Kupwara (53.8%), Bandipora (18%), Srinagar (11.6%) and Budgam witnessed 9.1% turnout.

In Jammu, Reasi recorded 89.8%, Kathua 84%, Samba 84%, Jammu 84.8% and Rajouri 82.4%.

In the Phase-II of Panchayat Polls held on 20 November 2018, overall 71.1% polling was witnessed across the State with an 80.4% polling in Jammu division and 52.2% in Kashmir division.

Officials said in Phase-III, the State witnessed a poll percentage of 75.2% including 55.7% in Kashmir division and 83.0% in Jammu division.

In Phase-IV, officials said, JK witnessed 71.3% voting with 82.4% electors exercising their franchise in Jammu division and 32.3% in Kashmir division.

In the Phase-V of Panchayat Polls overall poll percentage of 71.1% was witnessed across the State with 85.2% polling in Jammu division and 33.7% in Kashmir division.

In the Phase-VI of Panchayat Polls overall poll percentage of 76.9% was recorded across J&K including 17.3% in Kashmir division and 84.6% in Jammu division.

In the Phase-VII of Panchayat Polls overall poll percentage of 75.3% was witnessed across the State with 84.8% in Jammu division and 30.3% in Kashmir division.

They said 361 polling stations were categorized as hypersensitive with 171 in Kashmir division and 190 in Jammu division.

The officials said 6,304 candidates were in the fray for 331 Sarpanch and 2007 Panch seats in the penultimate phase, while 43 Sarpanchs and 681 Panchs were elected unopposed.

An electorate of 515121 were eligible to cast vote for Sarpanch constituencies and 419775 for Panch constituencies, they said.

### **No Polling In 3 South Kashmir Districts**

No votes were cast again in three of the four districts of the volatile south Kashmir during the penultimate of the nine-phases Panchayat election. According to official data, polling was not held in 53 Panch Halqas in Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam.

In Pulwama, there were 231 Panch wards scheduled to vote in the phase-VIII and only nine candidates were elected unopposed for Sarpanch seats and 25 for as many Panchayat wards.

For 11 Halqas in Shopian, there were 95 panch wards, four candidates were elected unopposed as Sarpanchs and 11 for Panch wards.

In Kulgam, there was no polling either in 23 Halqas comprising 177 panch wards. 4 candidates for Sarpanch and 5 for Panch wards were elected uncontested and no candidates for remaining wards, hence no election.

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