



Exit Polls Banned | Jammu & Kashmir | 05 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the [Election Commission of India \(ECI\)](#) issued a notification banning the release of **exit polls** for the upcoming Assembly elections in **Jammu and Kashmir**.

Key Points

- **Exit polls** are banned from being conducted or published from **7:00 AM on September 18, 2024, to 6:30 PM on October 5, 2024**.
 - An **exit poll** is conducted immediately after people have voted, and assesses the support for political parties and their candidates.
- The move is a **standard procedure** to ensure fairness and prevent exit polls from **influencing voter behavior** during the election process.
 - The ban is based on [Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951](#), which prohibits the conducting, publishing, or publicizing of exit polls.
- **Exit poll** results can be published 30 minutes after the last vote is cast.
- Under [Section 126\(1\)\(b\) of the RP Act, 1951](#), displaying any election-related material, including **opinion polls, is prohibited during the 48 hours** before the end of polling.
 - An **opinion poll** is a **pre-election survey** to gather voters' views on a range of election-related issues.

Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950

- **Key Provisions:**
 - Lays down procedures for **delimitation of constituencies**.
 - Provides for the **allocation of seats** in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils of States.
 - Lays **procedure for the preparation of electoral rolls** and the manner of filling seats.
 - Lays down the **qualification** of voters.

Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951

- **Key Provisions:**
 - It regulates the **actual conduct of elections and by-elections**.
 - It provides **administrative machinery** for conducting elections.
 - It deals with the **registration** of political parties.
 - It specifies the **qualifications and disqualifications** for membership of the Houses.
 - It provides provisions to curb **corrupt practices** and other offences.
 - It lays down the **procedure for settling doubts** and disputes arising out of elections.
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Rise in Militancy in Jammu | Jammu & Kashmir | 05 Sep 2024

Why in News?

The Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has witnessed a [notable increase in militant attacks](#) since mid-2021, culminating in recent incidents including the ambush on Army vehicles in Kathua district and targeted strikes in other areas

Key Points

- **Reasons for Rise in Militancy in Jammu:**
 - **Strategic Shift:** The pursuance of zero terror policy in Kashmir have provided militants to an opportunity to operate in Jammu.
 - In 2020, perceived low militancy in Jammu led to troop movements to Ladakh (along [LAC](#) after the [Galwan Accident](#)), potentially prompting militants to relocate.
- **Strategic Importance of Jammu:** Jammu serves as a crucial gateway to the rest of India, making it an attractive target for militants aiming to disrupt normalcy and create fear.
- **Geostrategic Considerations:** The proximity to the Line of Control (LoC) provides militants easier access from [Pakistan-occupied Kashmir](#), facilitating infiltration and logistics support.
- **Economic Disparities:** Lack of economic opportunity and development in remote and border areas of Jammu create fertile ground for recruitment of local youths by militant groups.
- **Lack of Human Intelligence:** The locals who provided information decades ago are now in their 60s or 70s, and the security forces have not nurtured relations with younger generations, highlighting a gap in human intelligence gathering.

Note:

- **Terrorism:** Terrorism under the [Unlawful Activities \(Prevention\) Amendment Act, 2012](#), involves using violence or threats to create fear for political, ideological, or extremist aims, impacting national or global security.
- **Militancy:** Militancy refers to a readiness to use violence or combativeness, encompassing various groups or **individuals including armed religious factions**, often used interchangeably with terrorism but suggesting a potentially less extreme level of violent expression compared to terrorism.