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## Jammu & Kashmir Elections 2024 | Jammu & Kashmir | 03 Oct 2024

### Why in News?

Jammu & Kashmir held its first assembly elections in a decade and the first since the abrogation of [Article 370](#) in 2019. The third and final phase concluded on **1<sup>st</sup> October, 2024**.

### Key Points

- **Constituencies and Turnout Breakdown:**
  - **Kashmir Division (16 Seats):**
    - **Highest turnout: Gurez (77.96%)** has highest turnout across the Kashmir region, outpolling 37 constituencies of Jammu division also.
  - **Jammu Division (24 Seats): Highest turnout: Inderwal: 82.16%**, Padder-Nagseni: 80.67%, Shri Mata Vaishnodevi: 80.45%, Akhnoor: 79.70%, Marh and Chhamb: 79%
- **First phase voter turnout (18<sup>th</sup> September): 61%**
- **Second phase voter turnout (25<sup>th</sup> September): 57.3%**

### Jammu & Kashmir Demography

- **Population Statistics (2011 Census):**
  - Total population: 12,541,302 (0.93% of India's total population).
  - Males: 6,640,662.
  - Females: 5,900,640.
  - Sex ratio: 892 females per 1,000 males (compared to the national ratio of 933).
- **Religious Composition:**
  - Muslims: 68.32%.
  - Hindus: 28.44%.
  - Sikhs: 1.87%.
  - Buddhists: 0.90%.
  - Christians: 0.28%.
  - Others: 0.01%.

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## Impact of Candidate's Death in Elections | Jammu & Kashmir | 03 Oct 2024

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In a significant development, a 75-year-old candidate from the **Surankote constituency** in **Poonch district** passed away just six days ahead of the results of the [Jammu & Kashmir Assembly election](#).

## Key Points

- **Results Awaited:** If a candidate dies after voting but before the results are declared, the election results will be awaited as usual.
- **If Another Candidate Wins:** The results will be valid, and no re-election is needed if another candidate wins after counting.
- **If the Deceased Candidate Wins:** If the deceased candidate wins, the election will be cancelled.
- **Re-Voting/By-Election:** A re-election or by-election will be held on this seat since the elected candidate cannot represent the constituency.
- **Relevant Law: Under Section 151A of the [Representation of the People Act, 1951](#),** elections must be held within **6 months in such a case.**
- **Death of a Candidate Before Voting:**
  - **Election Cancelled:** If a candidate dies before voting and after the nomination and withdrawal period has ended, the election on the concerned seat is cancelled.
  - **New Poll Date:** A new date is set for the election in that constituency to ensure voters can choose a replacement candidate.
  - **Relevant Provision:** The process is governed by the [Representation of the People Act, 1951](#), ensuring that voters have the chance to elect a new candidate fairly.

## Representation of the People Act, 1951

- **Provisions:**
  - It regulates the **conduct of elections.**
  - 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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PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/22-09-2023/jammu-&-kashmir/print>