



Voting Turnout in Jammu & Kashmir

Why in News?

Recently, Jammu & Kashmir recorded a **56.79% voter turnout** in the second phase of its **2024 assembly elections**.

- This election is the first since the [abrogation of Article 370](#) in 2019 and marks the first assembly elections in a decade for the [Union Territory](#).

Key Points

- **Second Phase of Voting:**
 - Voting took place in **26 assembly seats** across **six districts** (three in Jammu division, three in [Kashmir Valley](#)).
 - A total of **56.79% voter turnout** was recorded in this phase.
 - **2.5 million voters** were eligible to vote, including **1.20 lakh** first-time voters aged 18-19.
- **Key Districts & Constituencies:**
 - **Kashmir Valley:** 15 seats including **Ganderbal, Srinagar, Budgam**.
 - **Jammu Division:** 11 seats including **Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch**.
- **Highest Turnout:** Reasi (71.81%) and Poonch (71.59%).
- **Lowest Turnout:** Srinagar (27.31%) and Habbakadal (11.1%).
- **Polling Stations:**
 - A total of **3,502 polling stations** were set up across the 26 constituencies.
 - **100% webcasting** was conducted at all polling stations for transparency.
- **Phases of Election:**
 - **First phase** held on **18th September** recorded a **61% turnout**.
 - The **final phase** of voting will be held on **1st October, 2024**.

Kashmir Valley

- **Geography and Climate:**
 - The Kashmir Valley is situated between the [Himalayas and the Pir Panjal range](#), covering approximately **55,538 square kilometers**. It experiences a temperate climate with distinct seasons.
- **Cultural Diversity:**
 - The region is home to a diverse population, including **Kashmiri Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists**, renowned for its rich cuisine, handicrafts like Pashmina shawls, and vibrant festivals.
- **Protected Areas:**
 - The Kashmir Valley is home to several protected areas, including **Gulmarg Biosphere Reserve** and [Hemis National Park](#), which are vital for conserving its unique flora and fauna, including [critically endangered species like the Hangul deer](#).

