



Exit Polls Banned

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.

