

## **Deputy Election Commissioner of India conducts high-level meeting Related to Poll arrangements in Srinagar through video conferencing**

Sh. R. Bhattacharya, Deputy Election Commissioner of India and Sh. B.R. Sharma, Chief Electoral Officer, J&K on 22nd December 2008, reviewed the poll arrangement being made in the district Srinagar through an interactive session with the high ranking officers of the Civil and Police Administration through video conferencing at NIC J&K State Center, Jammu. Eight (08) constituencies of the Srinagar went to polls on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December, 2008.

From Srinagar the Additional Director General CRPF, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, the IGP Kashmir, DIG Srinagar-Badgam, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, SSP Srinagar as well as the four ECI observers participated.

The Deputy Election Commissioner and the Chief Electoral Officer whole-heartedly appreciated the facilities provided by NIC and arranging the VC session at a notice of 15 minutes. They were presented by Sh. Abhay Kumar, State Informatics Officer, J&K and Sh. Saleem Khan, PSA & Coordinator Election Project J&K with hard copies of the GIS based maps of the J&K state showing the boundaries of 22 districts and 87 ACs. They were informed that the district-wise and AC wise maps have been made available on the official website of Chief Electoral Officer, J&K. The two dignitaries lauded the efforts of NIC J&K and expressed hope that NIC would continue to provide excellent services to the Election department.

Among the issues discussed were maintenance of law and order, proper handling of EVMs by Presiding Officers, genuine voter-identity proofs, conveying of poll percentage well in time, establishment of Joint Election Control Room for better coordination, stationing of security forces and poll personnel in respective polling stations during night hours ahead of the poll day. The Observers role during elections was also discussed.

The instructions were also conveyed for imposing restrictions on entering of Personal Security Officers with candidates inside polling stations and stopping their vehicles 100 meters away from polling stations. The candidates have been advised to use only three commercial vehicles during the poll day. The CEO informed that journalists can cover polling in the walling compound of the polling station but not inside it.