

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, HARYANA
NIRVACHAN SADAN, PLOT NO.2
SECTOR-17 PANCHKULA**

PRESS NOTE

PANCHAYAT GENERAL ELECTIONS

Panchkula, the 8th September, 2015: Sh. Rajeev Sharma, State Election Commissioner, Haryana stated that the election programme for the conduct of 5th Panchayat General Elections of Panches, Sarpanches of Gram Panchayats (except for Gram Panchayat Chhachhraulli, Radhur, Sadhura of district Yamuna Nagar, Sudhiwas, Tosham of district Bhiwani, Nissing (Rural) of district Karnal, Berwal Nandla of district Panchkula, Jakhal Mandi of district Fatehabad, Atali of district Faridabad, Hassanpur of district Palwal, Samalkha of district Kurukshetra and Jahari, Bhadmalik, Akabarpur Barota and Nasirpur Bangar of district Sonipat) and members of all Panchayat Samitis (except Sonapat, Rai & Murthal) and Zila Parishads (except Sonapat) has been issued today. The elections will be held in three phases i.e. on 04.10.2015, 11.10.2015 and 18.10.2015. The Election programme for elections to different posts of the above said Panchayati Raj Institutions is as under:

TIME SCHEDULE

| Sr. No. | Programme | 1st Phase | 2nd Phase | 3rd Phase |
|----------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Date on which notice shall be published by the District Election Officer (Panchayat) in Form 2 or 3, as the case may be, for inviting nominations under rule 24 of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Election Rules, 1994. | 09.09.2015 | 16.09.2015 | 24.09.2015 |
| 2. | Dates on which Nomination papers shall be presented under Rule 24(2)(i) | 15.09.2015 to 19.09.2015 | 22.09.2015 to 29.09.2015 | 01.10.2015 to 07.10.2015 |
| 3. | Dates on which the list of Nomination papers received shall be pasted under Rule 24(2) (ii) | 15.09.2015 to 19.09.2015 | 22.09.2015 to 29.09.2015 | 01.10.2015 to 07.10.2015 |
| 4. | Date by which Affidavit/declaration shall be furnished by the candidate in Form 4-A, to the concerned Returning Officer. (Rule 27) | 15.09.2015 to 19.09.2015 | 22.09.2015 to 29.09.2015 | 01.10.2015 to 07.10.2015 |
| 5. | Date on which the nomination papers shall be scrutinized under Rule 24(2)(iii) | 21.09.2015 10.00 A.M. onwards. | 30.09.2015 10.00 A.M. onwards | 08.10.2015 10.00 A.M. onwards |
| 6. | Last date for withdrawal of candidature by a candidate under Rule 24(2)(iv) | 24.09.2015 | 03.10.2015 | 10.10.2015 |
| 7. | Date on which symbols shall be allotted to the contesting candidates. | 24.09.2015 after 3.00 PM | 03.10.2015 after 3.00 PM | 10.10.2015 after 3.00 PM |
| 8. | Date on which the list of contesting candidates. shall be pasted under Rule 24(2)(v) | 24.09.2015 | 03.10.2015 | 10.10.2015 |
| 9. | Date on which the poll, if any, shall be held under Rule 24(2)(vi) | 04/10/2015 (Sunday) | 11.10.2015 (Sunday) | 18.10.2015 (Sunday) |
| 10. | Timing of the poll | Between 7.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. | Between 7.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. | Between 7.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. |
| 11. | Counting of votes | i). Panches and Sarpanches immediately after the | | |

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|--|--|---|
| | | close of poll. ii) Member Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad on 21.10.2015 at 8.00 A.M at the place specified by the concerned District Election Officer (P). iii) In case of repoll of Member Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishads, the Commission may change the date and time of counting of votes. |
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2. He further stated that the time schedule for the election of the seats of Panches, Sarpanches and Member Panchayat Samitis shall remain phase wise, so that contesting candidates may avail almost equal time for campaigning. But, in the case of election of the seat of Member Zila Parishad, phase wise time schedule is not possible as the jurisdiction of several wards of Zila Parishads falls within the jurisdiction of two or more than two blocks. **As such, the date for the publication of notice, receipt of nomination, scrutiny, symbol allotment etc. for the contesting candidates, contesting the election of the seat of Member Zila Parishad shall remain same as mentioned in the schedule of first phase, but their block wise election shall be held on 04.10.2015, 11.10.2015 and 18.10.2015.**

3. The State Election Commissioner, Haryana further added that the blocks to be included in 1st, 2nd and 3rd phases would be as under:-

| Sr. No. | | 1 st Phase | 2 nd Phase | 3 rd Phase |
|---------|---------------|--|---|--|
| 1. | Ambala | 1.Barara 2.Saha | 1.Ambala-I 2.Ambala-II | 1.Shahzadpur 2.Naraingarh |
| 2. | Bhiwani | 1.Bhiwani 2.Dadri-I 3.Badhra | 1.Tosham 2.Siwani 3.Bawani Khera | 1.Dadri-II 2.Loharu 3.Kairu 4.Behal |
| 3. | Faridabad | 1.Faridabad 2.Ballabgarh | --- | --- |
| 4. | Fatehabad | 1. Fatehabad 2.Tohana | 1. Bhuna 2. Bhattu kalan | 1.Ratia 2.Jakhal |
| 5. | Gurgaon | 1.Gurgaon 2.Sohna | 1.Pataudi 2.Farukhnagar | --- |
| 6. | Hisar | 1.Hisar-I 2.Hisar-II 3.Narnaund | 1.Hansi-I 2.Hansi-II 3.Agroha | 1.Adampur 2.Uklana 3.Barwala |
| 7. | Jind | 1.Jind 2.Uchana 3.Narwana | 1.Julana 2.Alewa | 1.Pillukhera 2.Safidon |
| 8. | Jhajjar | 1.Jhajjar 2.Bahadurgarh | 1.Beri 2.Matanhail 3.Salhawas | -- |
| 9. | Karnal | 1.Assandh 2.Indri | 1.Karnal 2.Nissing | 1.Gharaunda 2. Nilokheri |
| 10. | Kaithal | 1.Guhla 2.Rajound | 1.Kaithal 2.Pundri | 1.Siwan 2.Kalayat |
| 11. | Kurukshetra | 1.Thanesar 2.Pehowa | 1.Ismailabad 2.Shahabad | 1.Ladwa 2.Babain |
| 12. | M. at Narnaul | 1.Ateli Nangal 2.Kanina 3.Sihma | 1.Narnaul 2. Satnali 3.Mahendergarh | 1.Nizampur 2.Nangal Chaudhary |
| 13. | Mewat at Nuh | 1.Punhana 2.Firozpur Jhirka 3.Nagina | 1.Nuh 2.Tauru | ---- |
| 14. | Panipat | 1.Panipat 2.Israna | 1.Madlauda 2.Samalkha | 1.Bapouli 2.Sanouli Khurd |
| 15. | Panchkula | 1.Pinjore | 1.Barwala | ----- |

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|-----|-------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | 2.Morni | 2.Raipur Rani | |
| 16. | Palwal | 1.Palwal 2.Prithla 3.Hodal | 1.Hassanpur 2.Hathin | ---- |
| 17. | Rohtak | 1.Rohtak 2.Sampla | 1.Meham 2.Lakhanmajra | Kalanaur |
| 18. | Rewari | 1.Rewari 2.Bawal 3.Jatusana | 1.Nahar 2.Khol | ---- |
| 19. | Sirsa | 1.Baragudha 2.Dabwali 3.Odhan | 1.Rania 2.Ellenabad | 1.Nathusari Chopta 2.Sirsa |
| 20. | Sonipat | 1.Sonepat 2.Kharkhoda 3.Mundlana | 1.Gohana 2.Khathura | 1.Ganaur 2.Murthal 3.Rai |
| 21. | Yamunanagar | 1.Chhachhrauli 2.Jagadhri | 1.Sadhaura 2.Bilaspur | 1.Radaur 2.Mustfabad |

4. He further stated that according to the above mentioned programme, the nomination for the seats of Panches, Sarpanches will be received at village Headquarter, Members of Panchayat Samitis shall be received at Block Headquarters and that of Zila Parishads at the District Headquarter. The scrutiny of the nomination papers shall be taken up by the Returning Officers.

5. He further stated that the counting of votes for the Panches and Sarpanches will be taken up on the same day at the polling stations itself, whereas the counting of votes for election to the offices of Members Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads would be taken up on 21.10.2015 at the Block or District Headquarters as fixed by the Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer (Panchayat) of the concerned district.

6. He further stated that the expenditure limit of the expenditure to be incurred by a contesting candidate or his authorised election agents has been increased as under:-

| Sr. No. | Post | Previous Expenditure Limit | Current Expenditure Limit |
|---------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Panch(Member of Gram Panchayat) | Rs. 5,000 | Rs. 10,000 |
| 2.(a) | Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat having upto 15 Wards. | Rs. 15,000 | Rs. 30,000 |
| (b) | Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat having more than 15 Wards | Rs. 25,000 | Rs. 50,000 |
| 3. | Member of Panchayat Samiti | Rs. 50,000 | Rs. 1,00,000 |
| 4. | Member of Zila Parishad | Rs. 1,00,000 | Rs. 2,00,000 |

7. He further stated that a contesting candidate shall have to maintain account of election expenditure and submit the same within 30 days from the date of declaration of the result to the District Election Officer (Panchayat) or any other officer specified by the Commission, in the manner prescribed by the State Election Commission, failing which the defaulting candidate shall be liable to be disqualified under the Haryana Panchayati Raj Election Expenditure (Maintenance & Submission of the Accounts) Order, 1996 for 3 years from the date of issue of such order.

8. He further stated that a candidate filing the nomination paper for contesting the election of the seat of Panch/Sarpanch/Member Panchayat Samiti/ Zila Parishad shall have to deposit an amount in Government Treasury or Sub Treasury or with the Returning Officer

(Panchayat) in cash, as under, as the case may be:-

| Seat | General | SC/BC |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| Panch | Rs.100/- | Rs.40/- |
| Sarpanch | Rs.200/- | Rs.100/- |
| Member Panchayat Samiti | Rs.300/- | Rs.150/- |
| Member Zila Parishad | Rs.400/- | Rs.200/- |

9. He further stated that the election of the seats of Sarpanches and Member Zila Parishad in all the districts would be conducted by the use of EVMs; the election of Members of Panchayat Samiti in districts Panchkula and Rewari shall also be conducted by use of EVMs, for which approximately 46,500 EVMs of single post; and 1300 CUs and 2600 BUs of multi post EVMs would be used. The multi post EVMs shall only be used in Panchkula and Rewari districts. The elections of remaining seats of Panches and Member Panchayat Samitis would be conducted by the use of ballot papers and for this purpose approximately 46,000 ballot boxes would be used.

10. He further stated that the Govt. vide its notification dated 07.09.2015 has amended Section 175 of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, according to this amendment the following persons shall also be disqualified for contesting the elections of the Panchayati Raj Institutions, who:-

- (a) has not been convicted, but charges have been framed in a criminal case for an offence, punishable with imprisonment for not less than ten years; or
- (b) fails to pay any arrear of any kind due to him to any Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society, District Central Cooperative Bank and District Primary Cooperative Agriculture Rural Development Bank; or
- (c) fails to pay arrears of the electricity bills; or
- (d) has not passed matriculation examination or its equivalent examination from any recognised institution/ board.

Provided that in case of women candidate or a candidate belongs to Scheduled Caste, the minimum qualification shall be middle pass.

Provided further that in case of a women candidate belongs to Scheduled Caste contesting election for the post of Panch, the minimum qualification shall be 5th pass.

- (e) fails to submit self declaration to the effect that he has a functional toilet at his place of residence.

In addition to the nomination paper every contesting candidate shall have to submit an undertaking on the above said points.

11. He further stated that there are 6,197 Gram Panchayats, 123 Panchayat Samities and 20 Zila Parishads in the State and the election of these Institutions is to be conducted in three phases. In **1st phase** election there are 51 Blocks and 9,736 polling booths out of which 1,831 are sensitive and 2,014 hyper sensitive. 50, 39,254 voters (27, 11,600 Male + 23, 27,654 Female) will franchise their right to vote. For this purpose approximately 51,114 polling personal, 570 Supervisory Staff and 485 Duty Magistrates will be put on duty. In **2nd**

phase there are 44 Blocks and 7,316 polling booths out of which 1,335 are sensitive and 1,328 hyper sensitive. 36, 62,514 voters (19,66,678 Male + 16,95,836 Female) will franchise their right to vote. For this purpose approximately 38,410 polling personal, 430 Supervisory Staff and 365 Duty Magistrates will be put on duty. **In 3rd phase** election there are 31 Blocks and 4,423 polling booths out of which 957 are sensitive and 923 hyper sensitive. 23, 07,549 voters (12, 26,418 Male + 10, 81,131 Female) will franchise their right to vote. For this purpose approximately 23,220 polling personal, 260 Supervisory Staff and 220 Duty Magistrates will be put on duty. The district wise detail of the data is given in annexure "A".

12. He further stated that the Model Code of Conduct in respect of the Panchayat Elections has come into force from today i.e. 08.09.2015 in the area of Panchayati Raj Institutions where the poll is to be conducted. According to the guidelines of model code of conduct no party or candidate shall include in any activity existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic. There shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes. The right of every individual for peaceful and undisturbed home life shall be respected. All parties and candidates shall avoid scrupulously all activities which are "corrupt practices" and offences under the election law, such as bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, impersonation of voters, canvassing within 100 meters of polling stations, holding public meetings during the 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of the poll and transport and conveyance of voters to and from polling station etc. All the political parties, contesting candidates and Government employees must follow the model code of conduct meticulously to conduct free, fair and peaceful PRI elections in the State. No Officer/Official connected with the election work shall be transferred till the completion of election process besides adhering to other requirements of Model Code of Conduct with the announcement of this schedule for elections, he added.

13. He further stated that the directions are being issued to all the District Election Officers (Panchayat) to give the widest possible publicity to the above programme by munadi in villages, issue of press notes and other handouts and also by inserting paid advertisements in the two local news papers and making publicity through electronic media, so that more and more people may come to cast their vote and elect the members of Panchayati Raj Institutions for strengthening the democracy at grass root level.

14. **Paid News:** Sh. Sharma informed that State Election Commission underlining the role of media in democracy and it's further strengthening and made a request to the media-print as well as electronic to render their help and co-operation by refraining from allowing any undue publicity to a candidate in lieu of money or any other consideration. He emphasized that the Commission is aware of the menace of paid news and thus solicits the help and co-operation of media which is the best way to tackle it.

15. He further stated that State Election Commission will appoint Election Observers in each district to ensure smooth conduct of elections. The Observers will be asked to keep a close watch on every stage of electoral process to ensure free and fair elections. The Election Observers have to visit the district assigned at least four times, review necessary arrangements for the conduct of free, fair and peaceful elections, hold meetings with the D.C, R.O, S.S.P, D.S.P & other officers to review law and order situation and keep check on the complaints received by D.C, R.O, S.S.P, D.S.P etc.

16. He further stated that for the purpose of effective monitoring of the election expenditure of the candidates an Election Expenditure Observers shall also be appointed in each district. Expenditure Observers shall have to keep close watch on the misuse of money power and suggest remedial action to prevent contamination by the evil practice.

17. He further stated that videography of sensitive or hyper sensitive polling stations be got done, if required.

18. He further stated that the conduct of elections involves elaborate security management. It includes ensuring the security of adequate polling personnel, security at the polling station, security of polling materials and also the overall security of the election process. The Home Department has already been requested to deploy adequate police personnel, so that the General Election of PRIs is conducted in a free, fair, peaceful, transparent and violence free manner.

19. He further stated that complaint cells be also established at the office of State Election Commission, Haryana and at District Headquarters to receive day to day complaints regarding elections and its speedy disposal.

20. He further stated that perfect communication plan be set up at headquarter as well as district level, to enable concurrent intervention and mid course correction on the poll day.

21. He further stated that the instructions have already been issued to the District Election Officers (Panchayats) to establish the sufficient number of polling stations with all basic amenities such as ramps, first aid facility, shelter, drinking water, toilet etc., so that the electors including senior citizens, women and physically challenged persons may not suffer any inconvenience.

22. He further stated that directions have already been issued to the District Election Officers (Panchayats) not to depute the ROs/AROs/Pos/APOs and other Polling Staff at his/her own village or ward. Polling parties be formed randomly, through special application software i.e. first at the time of allotting blocks to the employees actually to be deputed on polling duty and second at the time of sending polling parties to the polling booths allotted to them.

23. Sh. Sharma, State Election Commissioner, Haryana appeals to all the voters to participate to elect the Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions for strengthening the democracy at grass root level.