

PRESS NOTE PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS ELECTIONS

Chandigarh, the 7th October, 2022: Sh.Dhanpat Singh, State Election Commissioner, Haryana stated that programme for conduct of general elections of three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the State has been issued on 07.10.2022. The schedule to conduct elections of all three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions in ten districts namely; Bhiwani, Fatehabad, Jhajjar, Jind, Kaithal, Mahendergarh, Nuh, Panchkula, Panipat and Yamuna Nagar, as per 'Table-A' given below:-

TABLE –A

Sr. No.	Programme	Date
1.	Date on which notice shall be published by the Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officers (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.	08.10.2022 (Saturday)
2.	Dates on which Nomination papers shall be presented under Rule 24(2)(i)	14.10.2022 (Friday) to 19.10.2022 (Wednesday) (10.00 AM to 3.00 PM)
3.	Dates on which the list of Nomination papers received shall be pasted under rule 24(2) (ii)	14.10.2022 (Friday) to 19.10.2022 (Wednesday)
4.	Date by which Affidavit/declaration shall be furnished by the candidates in Form 4-A, to the concerned Returning Officer. (rule 27)	14.10.2022 (Friday) to 19.10.2022 (Wednesday)
5.	Date on which the nomination papers shall be scrutinized under rule 24(2)(iii)	20.10.2022 (Thursday)
6.	Last date for withdrawal of candidature by a candidate under rule 24(2)(iv)	21.10.2022 (Friday)
7.	Date on which symbols shall be allotted to the contesting candidates.	21.10.2022 (Friday) (after 3.00 PM)
8.	Date on which list of the contesting candidates shall be pasted under rule 24(2)(v)	21.10.2022 (Friday)
9.	Dates on which the poll, if any, shall be held under rule 24(2)(vi)	Members of Zila Parishads and Panchayat Samitis 30.10.2022 (Sunday) Sarpanches and Panches of Gram Panchayats 02.11.2022 (Wednesday)
10.	Timing of the poll	Between 7.00 A.M. to 6.00 P.M.

11.	Re-Poll, if any required		
	For Zila Parishads and Panchayat Samitis	02.11.2022	(with Gram Panchayats)
	For all Gram Panchayats (Panches and Sarpanches)	04.11.2022	
12.	Counting of votes	For Zila Parishads and Panchayat Samitis at the place specified by the concerned Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer (P) on the date which will be notified by the State Election Commission, Haryana, with the election schedule of remaining Districts and for Sarpanches and Panches on polling booths, immediately after completion of poll on all the polling booths of each Gram Panchayat.	
13.	Declaration of result	Immediately after the completion of counting.	

Nomination form and format of affidavits to be enclosed with the nomination are available on State Election Commission's website i.e. <https://www.secharyana.gov.in>

2. Model Code of Conduct

Model Code of Conduct shall come into force from today i.e. **07.10.2022** in respect of Panchayati Raj Institutions where poll is to be held on **30.10.2022** and **02.11.2022**. No officer/official connected with the election work shall be transferred from his/her present place of posting till the completion of election process.

3. Educational Qualification for contesting candidates

Name of post	Category		
	Unreserved	Women/SC	SC (Women)
Panch	10 th	8 th	5 th
Sarpanch	10 th	8 th	8 th
Member Panchayat Samiti	10 th	8 th	8 th
Member Zila Parishad	10 th	8 th	8 th

4. Security Deposit

Name of post	Amount of deposit	
	General	Women, Schedule Caste and Backward Class
Panch	Rs.250/-	Rs.125/-
Sarpanch	Rs.500/-	Rs.250/-
Member Panchayat Samiti	Rs.750/-	Rs.375/-
Member Zila Parishad	Rs.1000/-	Rs.500/-

5. Expenditure Limit

Expenditure limit for the candidates contesting election for Panchayati Raj Institutions has been fixed as follows:-

Name of post	Member
Panch	50,000/-
Sarpanch	2,00,000/-
Member Panchayat Samiti	3,60,000/-
Member Zila Parishad	6,00,000/-

All the contesting candidates are required to maintain account of election expenditure and submit the same within 30 days from the date of declaration of election result to the Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer (Panchayat) or an officer authorized by the State Election Commission, failing which the defaulting candidate shall be liable to be disqualified for 3 years.

6. Manpower

About 36,000 polling personnel including ROs, AROs, Supervisory Staff, Presiding Officers, Polling Officers and other staff will be deployed for smooth conduct of these elections.

7. Police Deployment Sensitive & Hyper Sensitive booths

Elaborate arrangements are being made for conduct of elections in a free, fair, transparent and peaceful manner. Adequate police force shall be

deployed to maintain law and order at the polling stations and extra police force will be provided in sensitive and hyper sensitive areas.

8. EVMs & Ballot Boxes

M-2 Type 33,500 EVMs have been supplied to the concerned districts. A separate EVM shall be used for each post i.e. Sarpanch, Member Panchayat Samiti and Member Zila Parishad. 16217 ballot boxes have been supplied to all the districts. Ballot paper shall be used for the post of Panch.

11. Printing of Ballot Papers

The ballot papers for the post of Panches shall be printed in black ink on white paper and ballot paper for the post of Sarpanch in Blue ink on white paper, ballot paper for the post of Member Panchayat Samiti in yellow ink on white paper and for the post of Member of Zila Parishad in red/pink ink on white paper or on respective coloured paper with black ink as notified by the State Election Commission, Haryana vide its notification No.SEC/E-II/SA/2022/2269, dated 12th September, 2022, prescribed the design of ballot paper to be used on Electronic Voting Machine and design of tendered ballot paper of an election of Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat, Member Panchayat Samiti and Member Zila Parishad in the State of Haryana where the election will be held by voting machine.

12. NOTA (None of the above)

NOTA option will be used in these elections so that voters who come to the polling stations and decide not to vote for any candidate in fray, may be able to exercise their right of not to vote while maintaining their right of secrecy. The salient features of the NOTA are as under:-

- (i) NOTA shall be treated as a 'Fictional Electoral Candidate' while declaring the election results,
- (ii) In case, a contesting candidate and the "Fictional Electoral Candidate' i.e. NOTA receive highest equal number of valid votes then the contesting candidate (not NOTA) shall be declared as elected.

- (iii) If in any election, all the contesting candidates individually receive lesser votes than the 'Fictional Electoral Candidate' i.e. NOTA then none of the contesting candidates will be declared as elected.
- (iv) In case of situation arising under sub-section (iii) above, re-election shall be held for the seat. Further all such contesting candidates who secured less votes than NOTA shall not be eligible to re-file nomination/contest the re-election.
- (v) In re-election, if NOTA again gets the highest number of votes then further election will not be conducted and the contesting candidate with the highest votes (excluding NOTA) shall be declared as elected.

The following procedure shall be followed in such circumstances,

- i) If the Returning Officer, upon completion of counting but before declaration of result, finds that NOTA has received higher valid votes than all other contesting candidates individually; then the Returning Officer shall not declare the result for that particular seat(s) and shall immediately send his report to the State Election Commission in this regard.
- ii) Upon receipt of such report, the State Election Commission shall after perusal, declare the fresh election programme for the said seat(s).

13. Electoral Roll/Voters List

State Election Commission has prepared voters' lists of Panchayati Raj Institutions on the basis of Vidhan Sabha electoral rolls published by the Election Commission of India on 05.01.2022 with reference to 1st January, 2022 as qualifying date up to 16.05.2022. However, if any person whose name is not included in the ward wise voters list of Panchayati Raj Institution concerned, but his/her name exists in the relevant part of the electoral roll of the State Legislative Assembly constituency, he/she may apply (in Form "1A") to the Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer (Panchayat) for

inclusion of his/her name in the voters' list of Panchayati Raj Institution till the first date of filing of nomination.

14. Appointment of Election Observers (General/Expenditure and Police)

For conduct of elections in a free, fair, transparent and peaceful manner, the State Election Commission shall appoint senior IAS Officers as Election Observers (General), senior IPS officers as Police Observers for the maintenance of law and order and senior officers of Excise and Taxation Department as Expenditure Observers in the Panchayati Raj Institutions concerned. These Observers shall keep reporting to the State Election Commission from time to time.

15. Voters Awareness Programme

The State Election Commission in this respect shall release advertisements in the local newspapers and electronic media i.e. radio and T.V. channels, from time to time to aware the voters.

16. Details of Wards, Polling Booth, Voters, Reservation etc.

The detail of total number of voters and number of polling booths, Sensitive, Hyper-Sensitive is given in **Annexure-A** and seats/wards of Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads is given at **Annexure-B**.

17. COVID -19 Pandemic Protocol

The State Election Commission shall issue guidelines/directions to the district administration to follow COVID-19 related protocol during elections meticulously.

18. Appeal

An appeal is issued to the voters of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the State to participate in these elections to elect their representatives without any bias of caste/religion and without any fear or favour for strengthening democracy at the grass root level.