

PRESS NOTE

Chandigarh March 15, 2005 : The State Election Commission, Haryana has issued the Time Schedule to conduct 3rd Panchayat General Elections of Panches and Sarpanches of Gram Panchayats, Members Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads in the State of Haryana. The elections will be held in two phases i.e. 03.04.2005 (Sunday) and 09.04.2005 (Saturday). This information is given by Shri Chander Singh, State Election Commissioner, Haryana today.

(i) First Phase

| | Name of 53 Blocks where poll would be held | Name of Districts |
|-----|---|--------------------------|
| (a) | Ambala-I, Shahzadpur & Saha | Ambala |
| (b) | Badhra, Bawani Khera, Bhiwani, Dadri & Behal | Bhiwani |
| (c) | Panipat & Israna | Panipat |
| (d) | Kalanaur & Lakhan Majra | Rohtak |
| (e) | Jhajjar & Bahadurgarh | Jhajjar |
| (f) | Jind, Uchana, Safidon & Alewa | Jind |
| (g) | Radaur, Sadhaura & Mustafabad | Yamuna Nagar |
| (h) | Guhla at Cheeka, Kalayat and Siwan | Kaithal |
| (i) | Fatehabad, Tohana & Jakhhal | Fatehabad |
| (j) | Ladwa & Thanesar | Kurukshetra |
| (k) | Karnal, Nissing at Chiro & Assandh | Karnal |
| (l) | Sonipat, Mundlana, & Kathura | Sonipat |
| (m) | Farukh Nagar, Sohna, Pataudi & Taoru | Gurgaon |
| (n) | Ballabgarh, Hodal & Faridabad | Faridabad |
| (o) | Ateli Nangal & Kanina | Mahendergarh |
| (p) | Rewari & Khol at Rewari | Rewari |
| (q) | Hansi-I, Hisar-I, Barwala & Narnaund | Hisar |
| (r) | Dabwali, Baragudha & Ellanabad | Sirsa |

(ii) Second Phase

| | Name of 66 Blocks where poll would be held | Name of Districts |
|-----|---|--------------------------|
| (a) | Barara, Naraingarh & Ambala-II | Ambala |
| (b) | Kairu, Loharu, Bond kalan, Tosham & Siwani | Bhiwani |
| (c) | Bapauli, Samalkha & Madlauda | Panipat |
| (d) | Rohtak, Meham & Sampla | Rohtak |
| (e) | Sahlawas, Matenhail & Beri | Jhajjar |
| (f) | Julana, Pilukhera & Narwana | Jind |
| (g) | Bilaspur, Jagadhari & Chhachhrauli | Yamuna Nagar |
| (h) | Pundri, Kaithal & Rajaound | Kaithal |
| (i) | Bhattu Kalan, Ratia & Bhuna | Fatehabad |
| (j) | Shahbad, Babain & Pehowa | Kurukshetra |
| (k) | Indri, Gharaunda & Nilokheri | Karnal |

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| (l) | Rai, Kharkhoda, Ganaur & Gohana | Sonipat | |
| (m) | Gurgaon, Nuh, Nagina, Ferozpur Jhirka & Punhana | Gurgaon | |
| (n) | Hassanpur, Hathin & Palwal | Faridabad | |
| (o) | Mahendergarh, Narnaul & Nangal Chaudhary | Mehendergarh Narnaul | at |
| (p) | Bawal, Nahar & Jatusana | Rewari | |
| (q) | Hisar-II, Adampur, Agroha, Uklana & Hansi-II | Hisar | |
| (r) | Sirsa, Nathusari Chopta, Rania & Odhan | Sirsa | |
| (t) | Morni, Raipur Rani, Pinjore & Barwala | Panchkula | |

TIME SCHEDULE

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| a) | Date on which notice shall be published by the 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. | 17.03.2005 (Thursday) |
| b) | Period for making nomination under Rule 24(a). | 18.03.2005 (Friday) to 19.03.2005 (Saturday) (10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.) |
| c) | Date by which information shall be furnished by the candidate that he/she is not suffering from any disqualification in the format prescribed, to the Returning Officer (Panchayat) | 21.03.2005 (Monday) Before 10.00 A.M. |
| d) | Date of Scrutiny under Rule 24 (b). | 21.03.2005 (Monday) (From 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.) |
| e) | Date of Withdrawal under Rule 24(c). | 22.03.2005 (Tuesday) (From 10.00 A.M. to 3.00 P.M.) |
| f) | Date of Poll (if required) under Rule 24 (d) | |
| | First Phase | 03.04.2005 (Sunday) |
| | Second Phase | 09.04.2005 (Saturday) |

While giving this information Shri Chander Singh 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.

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 the 10.04.2005 **except where repoll is recommended by the District Election Commissioners** at the Block/Sub Division and District Headquarters respectively .

Sh. Chander Singh further stated that keeping in view the facts that the country is facing the serious problem of criminalization of politics in which criminals, i.e. person convicted by Court of Law for certain offences are entering into the election fray and contesting as candidates, the State Election Commission had issued directions in compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to the effect that a contesting candidate is required to state in writing that his criminal background details of moveable/immoveable assets, education qualification etc., disqualification under Section 175 of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 especially under clause (q) of Section 175 of the Act ibid according to which the contesting candidates having more than two living children after 22.04.1995 in the shape of affidavit to the Returning Officer at the time of filing of nomination paper.

A contesting candidate for the office of Panches and Sarpanches would be required to make declaration on plain paper before the Returning Officer (concerned) at the time of filing of nomination paper. Similarly, for the office of Member Panchayat Samiti and Member Zila Parishad a candidate would be required to file an affidavit on non-judicial stamp paper/document paper (Pakka Paper) and sworn before the 1st Class Magistrate or Notary Public or a Commissioner (oath) appointed by the Hon'ble High Court or before SDO/Tehsildar/Naib Tehsildar (conferred with the powers) Executive Magistrate having jurisdiction to the Area added by Shri Chander Singh.

Shri Chander Singh has informed that the Commission has recently revised limit on the expenditure that may be incurred by the contesting candidates or his authorised election agents in connection with the elections is as under :

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| 1. | Panch (Member of Gram Panchayat) | Rs 5,000-00 |
| 2. | (a) Sarpanch of a Gram Panchayat having upto 15 Wards. | Rs. 15,000-00 |

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|-----|---|----------------|
| (b) | Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat having more than 15 Wards. | Rs. 25,000-00 |
| 3. | Members of Panchayat Samiti | Rs. 50,000-00 |
| 4. | Members of Zila Parishad | Rs.1,00,000-00 |

The contesting candidate shall have to maintain account of election expenditure and shall submit within 30 days from the date of declaration of the result of the election lodge with the District Election Officer (Panchayat) or with 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, Shri Chander Singh added.

Shri Chander Singh further informed that the State Election Commission, Haryana has recently issued directions to all the Deputy Commissioners-cum-District Election Officer (Panchayats) to the effect that the voters who have been issued Electoral Identity Cards for Assembly/Lok Sabha Elections and the number thereof may produce these Cards to exercise their franchise in the Panchayat Elections also. The Commission has also permitted the odd voters to vote provided his identity is otherwise established to the satisfaction of the Presiding Officer or any such other officer authorised by him in this behalf and for this purpose the voter may produce some documentry evidence which may be helpful in establishing his identity like Ration Cards, Driving Licenses, Passport, Identity Card issued by Centre/State Government etc., Property Tax or other Tax Document, Passbook issued by Banks/Post Office, Kisan Passbook, Electricity Bills, Chullah Tax/House Tax Bill, Armed License, Physical Handicapped Certificate, Student Identity Card, Railway/Bus Passes, Conductor License, Freedom Fighter Identity Card, Ex-Serviceman Pension Book, CSD Canteen Card issued for Ex-soldiers, School Leaving Certification/original Degree/Mark Sheet, Pension Payment Order, Ex-servicemen's Widow/Dependent Certificate, or any other similar documents establishing the identity of the voters to the satisfaction of the Presiding Officer.

The Model Code of conduct in respect of the Panchayati Raj Institutions elections shall come into force immediately. No Officer/Official connected with the election work shall be transferred till the completion of election process, he added.

The General elections of Panches & Sarpanches of Gram Panchayats Loharu and Tosham of District Bhiwani, Hathin & Hassanpur of District Faridabad, Jakhal Mandi of District Fatehabad, Punhana & Nakanpur of District Gurgaon, Uklana Mandi of District Hisar, Julana of District Jind, Ateli Mandi of District Mehendergarh and Radaur, Chhachhrauli, Buria & Sadhaura of District Yamuna Nagar could not be conducted because the tenure of these Gram Panchayats will expire in the year 2006 & 2007, but the voters of these Gram Panchayats will exercise their votes to election the Members of Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads.

Sh. Chander Singh has also informed that the Commission has decided that the one Election Expenditure Observer of the rank of DETC and one Election Observer of the rank of Commissioner & Secretary (Senior IAS) will be appointed in each district to conduct these elections free and fair.