

PRESS NOTE

Chandigarh April 03, 2005 : Shri Chander Singh, State Election Commissioner, Haryana announced that as per the Time Schedule issued by the State Election Commission, Haryana the votes for the offices of 26836 Panches and 2739 Sarpanches of Gram Panchayats, 1256 Members Panchayat Samitis and 164 Zila Parishads in the 53 blocks of 18 districts for the first phase were polled today i.e. 03.04.2005. For these elections 8045 Polling Stations were set up and total 32176 Polling Personnels were appointed to conduct these elections. The polling was peaceful by and large except a few stray incidents.

The State Election Commission, Haryana has appointed Commissioner rank officers as Election Observers and the Observers (Expenditure). All the observers appointed by the State Election Commission were to see that election in all the wards will be conducted in a free and fair manner without any favour and fear. The Observer (Expenditures) have also reached to their respective destinations to observe that no candidate should cross the expenditure limits prescribed by the State election Commission in this regard.

Moreover to maintain law & order position about 20,000 Police Personnels were also appointed. To keep a overall check on the polling process 985 Returning Officers (Panchayat) were also appointed. The polling started at 8.00 A.M. and concluded at 4.00 P.M. In one incident of Polling Booth No.790 of Gram Panchayat Balkara, Block Dadri, District Bhiwani, the Presiding Officer of this Polling Booth died due to heart attack at the polling station but as the reserve staff was available, the polling held smoothly at the Polling Station also. The overall percentage of votes polled in the State was 75 to 80%.

The counting of votes for the offices of Panches & Sarpanches of Gram Panchayats has started at the Polling Stations immediately after the close of poll and counting of votes for Members Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishad will be held on 10.04.2005.