

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

PRESS NOTE

Panchkula, the 3rd May, 2017: Dr. Dalip Singh, State Election Commissioner, Haryana stated that the election programme for the conduct of the General-elections of four Gram Panchayats i.e. Berwal Nandla of Block Barwala, District Panchkula, Jakhal Mandi of Block-Jakhal, District Fatehabad, Firozpur Jhirka (Rural) of Block Firozpur Jhirka, District Mewat and Nissing (Rural) of Block Nissing, District Karnal has been issued today i.e. on 03.05.2017. The poll for these elections shall be held on 28.05.2017. The Election programme in this respect is as under:

(Time Schedule for Elections)

| Sr. No. | Programme | Date |
|---------|--|---|
| 1. | Date on which notice shall be published by the District Election Officer | 05.05.2017 |
| 2. | Dates on which Nomination papers shall be presented. | 12.05.2017 to 17.05.2017 [[10.00 A.M to 3.00 P.M.) except 11.09.16 & 12.09.16 being public holidays] |
| 3. | Dates on which the list of Nomination papers received shall be pasted. | 12.05.2017 to 17.05.2017 |
| 4. | Date by which Affidavit/declaration shall be furnished. | 12.05.2017 to 17.05.2017 |
| 5. | Date on which the nomination papers shall be scrutinized. | 18.05.2017 (10.00 A.M. onwards) |
| 6. | Last date for withdrawal of candidature by a candidate. | 19.05.2017 (upto 3.00 P.M.) |
| 7. | Date on which symbols shall be allotted. | 19.05.2017 (After 3.00 PM) |
| 8. | Date on which the list of contesting candidates shall be pasted. | 19.05.2017 (immediately after the allotment of symbols) |
| 9. | Date on which the poll, if any, shall be held. | 28.05.2017 (Sunday) |
| 10. | Timing of the poll | Between 8.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. |
| 11. | Counting of votes | i). Immediately after the close of poll. ii). In case of repoll, the Commission may change the date and time of counting of votes. |

2. He further stated that according to the above mentioned programme, the nomination will be received at village Headquarter. The scrutiny of the nomination papers shall be taken up by the Returning Officers only.

3. He further stated that the counting of votes for all the elections shall be held at all the polling stations on the same day, but before starting counting, the Returning Officers would ensure that voting in all the polling booths under their control have been completed.

4. He further stated that a candidate filing the nomination paper for contesting the election of the seat of Panch and Sarpanch shall have to deposit an amount in Government Treasury or Sub Treasury or with the respective Returning Officer in cash, as under, as the case may be:-

| Seat | General | SC/BC |
|----------|----------|----------|
| Panch | Rs.100/- | Rs.40/- |
| Sarpanch | Rs.200/- | Rs.100/- |

5. He further stated that the Model Code of Conduct in respect of these Panchayat elections has come into force in the areas where 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. 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.

6. He further stated that the directions are being issued to all the Deputy Commissioners –cum-District Election Officers to give wide 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 through electronic media, so that more and more people may come to cast their vote and elect the members of Panchayati Raj for strengthening the democracy at grass root level.

7. Dr.Singh also said that first time NOTA(None of the above) option will be used in the elections of Sarpanch, so that voters who come to the polling stations and decide not to vote for any candidate in fray, are able to exercise their right not to vote with maintaining their right of secrecy.

8. He further stated that any person whose name is not included in the voters list/electoral rolls of the concerned Gram Panchayats, may apply to the Deputy Commissioner concerned alongwith prescribed fee not later than four days from the date of publication of election programme.

9. Dr. Dalip Singh, State Election Commissioner, Haryana further appeals to all concerned voters to participate to elect the Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions for strengthening the democracy at grass root level.