

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

PRESS NOTE

Panchkula, the 22nd November, 2018: Dr. Dalip Singh, State Election Commissioner, Haryana stated that the programme for the conduct of the General Elections of the seats of Mayor and Members of all the wards of Municipal Corporation, **Hisar, Rohtak, Yamuna Nagar, Panipat & Karnal** and of Municipal Committee, **Jakhal Mandi** (Fatehabad) & **Pundri** (Kaithal), respectively, has been issued today i.e. 22.11.2018. The Election programme to the above said municipalities is as under:-

(1)	Date on which notice shall be published by the Returning Officer for inviting nominations.	24.11.2018 (Saturday)
(2)	Dates on which Nomination papers shall be presented and posted.	01.12.2018 (Saturday) to 06.12.2018 (Thursday) 11.00 A.M. to 03.00 P.M. (Except 02.12.2018)
(3)	Date on which the nomination papers shall be scrutinized.	07.12.2018 (Friday) 11.30 A.M. onwards
(4)	Last date for withdrawal of candidature.	08.12.2018 (Saturday) Between 11.00 A.M and 3.00 P.M.
(5)	Date on which symbols shall be allotted to the contesting candidates.	08.12.2018 (Saturday) after 3.00 PM
(6)	Date on which the list of contesting candidates shall be posted.	08.12.2018 (Saturday)
(7)	Date on which list of polling stations shall be posted.	08.12.2018 (Saturday)
(8)	Date on which poll shall be held.	16.12.2018 (Sunday)
(9)	Re-poll, if any.	18.12.2018 (Tuesday)
(10)	Timing of the poll.	Between 7.30 A.M. and 4.30 P.M.
(11)	Date, time and place on which the votes polled shall be counted.	On 19.12.2018 at 8.00 A.M at the place(s) specified by the Deputy Commissioner concerned.
(12)	Date on which the election result would be declared.	Immediately after the completion of counting.

2. Dr. Singh further stated that the abovesaid elections of the municipal institutions shall be conducted by the use of EVMs. The detail of wards, reserved seats and voters etc. of these municipalities is as under:-

Municipality	No. of wards	Expected Polling Booths	Ward reserved for S.C.	Ward reserved for S.C.(W)	Ward reserved for B.C.	Ward reserved for Women	Voters			
							Male	Female	Trans-gender	Total
M.Corp., Hisar	20	204	6,9	10	7,8	2,3,5,11,13,20	120063	106147	--	226210
M.Corp., Karnal	20	225	1,14	6,16	17,20	3,4,8,11,12	128557	117274	05	245836
M.Corp., Panipat	26	278	2,6,7	19,24,	11,25	1,3,9,14,15,17,22	177996	150258	05	328259
M.Corp., Rohtak	22	256	3,6	5,20	1,7	2,12,13,16,18,19	144950	131118		276068
M.Corp., Y.Nagar	22	303	11,12	18,19	4,13,	3,9,14,17,20,22	162506	139520	--	302026
M.Comm., Jakhhal Mandi, Fatehabab	13	13	6,8	5,7,	1,9	2,12,13	4602	4238	--	8840
Pundri, Kaithal	13	13	9	6	2,12	1,7,10,11	7452	6466	--	13918
Total	136	1292	14	12	14	37	746126	655021	10	1401157

The seats of Mayor in Municipal Corporations and President in Municipal Committees are reserved as under:-

Municipality	Reserved for
M.Corp., Hisar	Unreserved
M.Corp., Rohtak	Unreserved
M.Corp., Y.Nagar	Unreserved
M.Corp., Karnal	Women
M.Corp., Panipat	B.C. Women
M.Comm., Jakhhal Mandi, Fatehabab	Women
Pundri, Kaithal	Women

3. Dr. Singh further added that this is the first time when eligible electors of the Corporations shall elect their Mayor direct through casting the votes. Earlier the Mayor was got elected by the elected members of the Corporation

from amongst themselves. The elections of the seats of Sr. Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Corporations and of the seats of President and Vice President in Municipal Committees shall be held indirectly from amongst the elected members, as per earlier practice.

4. Dr. Singh also added that the last general election of Municipal Corporation, Hisar, Karnal, Panipat, Rohtak and Yamuna Nagar was held on 02.06.2013 and of Municipal Committee, Pundri (Kaithal) was held on 04.08.2013. During these elections the position of wards, polling booths, voters and poll percentage (%) etc. was as under:-

Municipality	No. of wards	No. of Polling Booths	No. of Electors			Poll %
			Male	Female	Total	
M.Corp., Hisar	20	196	114299	98201	212500	67.1
M.Corp., Karnal	20	206	111536	97907	209443	73.5
M.Corp., Panipat	24	235	145752	119060	264812	69.2
M.Corp., Rohtak	20	238	137687	121705	259392	67.9
M.Corp., Y.Nagar	20	246	142440	117637	260077	74.2
M.Committee, Jakhai Mandi, (Fatehabab)	Newly Constituted/ First Election	--	--	--	--	--
Pundri, (Kaithal)	13	15	7361	6545	13906	85.7
Total	117	1136	659075	561055	1220130	

5. Dr. Singh further added that elaborate arrangements for the conduct of elections in free, fair, transparent and peaceful manner and to maintain law and order would be made. Adequate police force would be deployed to maintain the law and order at the polling stations and the sensitive and hyper sensitive areas for conducting the elections.

6. Dr. Singh also stated that the expenditure limit for contesting the election of the seat of Mayor of Municipal Corporation, Member of Municipal

Corporation and Member of Municipal Committee is fixed as under:-

Mayor of Municipal Corporation	Member of Municipal Corporation	Member of Municipal Committee
Rs. 20,00,000/-	Rs. 5,00,000/-	Rs.2,00,000/-

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 or an officer authorized by the State Election Commission, failing which the defaulting candidate shall be liable to be disqualified. The Commission has disqualified (for three years to contest the election) the following number of candidates, who failed to file their election expenditure statement during the last election held in the year period 2013:-

Name of Corporation	No. Of candidates disqualified
Hisar	113
Karnal	128
Panipat	95
Rohtak	100
Y.Nagar	95
Total	531

Dr. Singh further added that as per new amendment, if any contesting candidate fails to file his election expenditure statement within a period of 30 days from the declaration of election result, shall be disqualified for a period of 5 years.

7. Dr. Singh further stated that the photographs of the contesting candidates shall be got printed on the ballot papers alongwith other particulars to be displayed on the balloting unit of EVMs and in the tender ballot papers in addition to the existing particulars. The photograph of the candidate shall be printed in the panel and shall appear on the right side of the name in between the name and symbol of the candidate. The ballot paper for Mayor shall be of pink colour and for member colour would be white.

8. Dr. Singh further added that NOTA (None of the above) 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 is to be treated as a "Fictional Electoral Candidate" while declaring the election results.
- ii). If in election, all the contesting candidates individually receive lesser votes than the 'Fictional Electoral Candidate' i.e. NOTA, then none of the contesting candidate will be declared as elected and fresh election shall be held for that post.
- iii). In case contesting candidate and the 'Fictional Electoral Candidate' i.e. NOTA receive equal valid votes; then the contesting candidate (not NOTA) shall be declared as elected.
- iv). Fresh election will start from nomination stage itself.

Dr. Singh further clarified that.-

- i). No candidate shall be eligible to file his nomination if he was a contesting candidate in first election in which his votes were less than 'Fictional Electoral Candidate' i.e. NOTA.
- ii) If in re-election, NOTA again get highest votes, then no further election shall be held and contesting candidate with highest votes (excluding NOTA) shall be declared as elected.

9. The Model code of conduct in respect of these municipal elections shall come into force from today i.e. 22.11.2018. No Officer/Official connected with the election work shall be transferred till the completion of election process.

10. Dr. Singh further apprised that with the amendment of Rule 14 of the Haryana Municipal Corporation Election Rules 1994 and the Haryana Municipal Election Rules 1978 through gazette notification dated march 14,

2017 and May 22, 2017 only those persons are entitled to get their names included in the electoral rolls of the municipality whose names exist in the relevant part of assembly electoral rolls till the first day of filing of nomination papers for the elections of municipality. Hence any person intending to get his/her name registered as voter in the relevant municipal ward will first have to get his/her name registered in the assembly rolls.

11. Dr. Singh finally appealed to the voters to participate in the elections to elect the members of municipalities for strengthening the democracy at grass root level.