

**LOCAL BODIES ELECTIONS
2018**

PRESS NOTE

PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS

IN

JAMMU & KASHMIR

PRESS NOTE

PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS:-

The last General Elections to the Panchayats were held in the year 2011, after a gap of 10 years, through secret ballot. The Panchayats elected in the year 2011 completed their tenure in July, 2016.

The powers to determine and delimit Halqa Panchayat, Preparation of Panchayat Electoral Rolls and conduct of elections are vested with the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K as Election Authority under J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 through the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Act, 2018 dated 17th March, 2018.

PREPARATION OF PANCHAYAT ELECTORAL ROLL:-

The Election Authority has published Draft Panchayat Electoral Rolls on 18th of August, 2018 with reference to 1st January, 2018 as the qualifying date, for inviting claim & objections. The finalisation of the Panchayat Electoral Rolls is under way & Final Electoral Rolls are likely to be published by end of this month. As per Draft Electoral Rolls, the number of Blocks/Panchayats /Panch Constituencies in the Panchayat Halqas alongwith number of electorates is given as under:-

S.No.	District	No. of Blocks	No. of Panchayat Halqas	No. of Panch Constituencies	Electorates in 2018 * (as per draft Roll)
1.	Kupwara	24	385	3161	386152
2.	Baramulla	26	402	3330	519814
3.	Bandipora	12	150	1126	180940
4.	Ganderbal	7	125	967	156843
5.	Srinagar	4	20	170	32337
6.	Budgam	17	296	2434	381572
7.	Pulwama	11	189	1513	299344
8.	Shopian	9	98	788	152316
9.	Kulgam	11	178	1336	304295
10.	Anantnag	16	333	2523	409036
11.	Leh	16	95	687	69735
12.	Kargil	15	98	750	77038
13.	Kishtwar	13	136	982	138649
14.	Doda	17	237	1683	245831
15.	Ramban	11	142	1042	160950
16.	Reasi	12	153	1195	185286

S.No.	District	No. of Blocks	No. of Panchayat Halqas	No. of Panch Constituencies	Electors in 2018 (as per draft Roll)
17.	Udhampur	17	236	1848	314441
18.	Kathua	19	257	1951	361301
19.	Samba	9	98	788	180458
20.	Jammu	20	322	2568	621566
21.	Rajouri	19	312	2394	367337
22.	Poonch	11	228	1860	267188
	Total	316	4490	35096	5812429

RESERVATION OF CONSTITUENCIES:-

Notification with regard to reservation of Sarpanch/Panch Constituencies for Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribes and Women as per provision of the Act and Rules governing Panchayat Elections have been issued by the competent authority i.e., Directors of Rural Development Department, J&K.

POLLING STATIONS:-

Suitable number of polling stations shall be notified for each Panch Constituency of a Panchayat Halqa as determined by the District Panchayat Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner), after final publication of Panchayat Electoral Rolls.

BALLOT BOXES:-

Ballot boxes would be used during the forthcoming Panchayat Elections, 2018. Sufficient numbers of ballot boxes are being made available for the smooth conduct of the elections.

BALLOT PAPERS:-

In view of the recent amendments making direct elections to Sarpanch, the electors shall cast their votes for the Panch as well as Sarpanch. For this purpose, two separate colours of ballot papers shall be used.

VOTER SLIPS:-

To facilitate the voters to know where he/she is enrolled as a voter at a particular polling station and what is his/her S.No in the electoral roll, voter slips will be distributed to all enrolled voters. The voter slips shall be in Urdu and English language.

ELECTORS PHOTO IDENTITY CARDS (EPIC)/ALTERNATE DOCUMENTS:-

The Election Authority has decided that compulsory identification of voters will be made in the Panchayats Elections. Electors who have already been provided with EPIC shall be identified through EPIC only. However the Election Authority has also notified a list of alternative documents which can also be used for the purpose of identification, by the electors who are yet to be provided EPICs.

POSTAL BALLOTS:-

In order to facilitate the Kashmiri migrant voters, a scheme to enable them to vote through Postal Ballot is being provided in the Panchayat Elections.

OBSERVERS:-

General Observer shall be deployed to ensure free and fair Panchayat Elections. The observer will be asked to keep a close watch on every stage of the electoral process. Their names, addresses within the district and their telephone numbers will be publicized. In addition to Micro Observers shall be deployed to observe the poll proceeding in the Polling stations on the Poll day.

ELECTION EXPENDITURE MONITORING:-

Comprehensive instructions for the purpose of effective monitoring of the election expenditure of the candidates have been issued. Expenditure Observers are being appointed to keep close watch on Election Expenditure of the candidate. Control Room and complaint monitoring centre shall be operative during the entire election process. All the candidates have to ensure that they maintain day-to-day expenditure record in the prescribed register, which will be supplied to the contesting candidate in the form of 'Expenditure Register', from the date of nomination to the date of declaration of result. The Election Authority has fixed the limits of expenditure to be incurred by the Contesting Candidate as under:-

For election to Sarpanch	-	Rs 20000/-
For election to Panch	-	Rs.5000/-

VIDEOGRAPHY:-

All critical event will be videographed. District Panchayat Election Officers (Deputy Commissioners) will arrange sufficient numbers of video and digital cameras and camera teams for the purpose. The events for videography will include filing of nomination, scrutiny thereof and allotment of symbols, storage and distribution of Ballot Boxes, important public meetings, processions, etc., during campaign, process of dispatching of postal ballot papers, polling process and counting of votes.

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT:-

With the announcement of this Schedule for the conduct of Panchayat Elections through this Press Note, provision of the Model Code of Conduct shall come into force with immediate effect. All the provisions of the Model Code will apply to all the Panchayat Halqas (Rural Areas) and will be applicable to all the candidates, political parties and the State/Central Government.

SCHEDULE:-

In terms of Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996, the Government in Rural Development Department J&K has issued Notification calling upon all the Panchayat Halqas in the State to elect Sarpanches and Panches vide its SRO No.405 dated 16th September, 2018.

Election Authority, J&K has prepared the Schedule for holding of Panchayat Elections, 2018, which is as under:-

A) PHASES AND IMPORTANT DATES

Phase	Date of issuance of Gazette Notification	Last date for making nomination	Date of Scrutiny	Last date for withdrawal of candidature	Date of Poll wherever necessary
I	23-10-2018 (Tuesday)	30-10-2018 (Tuesday)	31-10-2018 (Wednesday)	02-11-2018 (Friday)	17-11-2018 (Saturday)
II	26-10-2018 (Friday)	02-11-2018 (Friday)	03-11-2018 (Saturday)	05-11-2018 (Monday)	20-11-2018 (Tuesday)
III	29-10-2018 (Monday)	05-11-2018 (Monday)	06-11-2018 (Tuesday)	08-11-2018 (Thursday)	24-11-2018 (Saturday)
IV	01-11-2018 (Thursday)	08-11-2018 (Thursday)	09-11-2018 (Friday)	12-11-2018 (Monday)	27-11-2018 (Tuesday)
V	03-11-2018 (Saturday)	10-11-2018 (Saturday)	12-11-2018 (Monday)	14-11-2018 (Wednesday)	29-11-2018 (Thursday)
VI	06-11-2018 (Tuesday)	13-11-2018 (Tuesday)	14-11-2018 (Wednesday)	16-11-2018 (Friday)	01-12-2018 (Saturday)
VII	09-11-2018 (Friday)	16-11-2018 (Friday)	17-11-2018 (Saturday)	19-11-2018 (Monday)	04-12-2018 (Tuesday)
VIII	12-11-2018 (Monday)	19-11-2018 (Monday)	20-11-2018 (Tuesday)	22-11-2018 (Thursday)	08-12-2018 (Saturday)
IX	14-11-2018 (Wednesday)	22-11-2018 (Thursday)	24-11-2018 (Saturday)	26-11-2018 (Monday)	11-12-2018 (Tuesday)

- B) Hours of poll – 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
- C) The counting of votes shall be taken up on the day of poll unless notified otherwise, followed by announcement of the results.
- D) Date before which the elections shall be completed - 17th December 2018.

E) DISTRICT –WISE PHASING OF PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS:-

Kashmir Division								
Phase 1 st	Phase 2 nd	Phase 3 rd	Phase 4 th	Phase 5 th	Phase 6 th	Phase 7 th	Phase 8 th	Phase 9 th
Bandipora	Anantnag	Bandipora	Anantnag	Anantnag	Anantnag	Anantnag	Bandipora	Anantnag
Baramulla	Bandipora	Baramulla	Bandipora	Bandipora	Bandipora	Bandipora	Baramulla	Bandipora
Budgam	Baramulla	Budgam	Baramulla	Baramulla	Baramulla	Baramulla	Budgam	Baramulla
Ganderbal	Budgam	Ganderbal	Budgam	Budgam	Budgam	Budgam	Kulgam	Budgam
Kargil	Ganderbal	Kargil	Kargil	Ganderbal	Ganderbal	Ganderbal	Kupwara	Ganderbal
Kupwara	Kargil	Kulgam	Kulgam	Kargil	Kulgam	Kulgam	Pulwama	Kulgam
Leh	Kupwara	Kupwara	Kupwara	Kulgam	Kupwara	Kupwara	Shopian	Kupwara
Srinagar	Leh	Leh	Leh	Kupwara	Pulwama	Pulwama	Srinagar	Pulwama
		Shopian	Pulwama	Leh	Shopian	Shopian		Shopian
			Shopian	Pulwama	Srinagar			
				Shopian				

Jammu Division								
Phase 1 st	Phase 2 nd	Phase 3 rd	Phase 4 th	Phase 5 th	Phase 6 th	Phase 7 th	Phase 8 th	Phase 9 th
Doda	Doda	Doda	Doda	Doda	Doda	Jammu	Jammu	
Kathua	Kathua	Kathua	Jammu	Jammu	Jammu	Poonch	Kathua	
Kishtwar	Kishtwar	Kishtwar	Kathua	Poonch	Kathua	Rajouri	Rajouri	
Poonch	Poonch	Poonch	Kishtwar	Rajouri	Poonch	Ramban	Reasi	
Rajouri	Rajouri	Rajouri	Rajouri	Ramban	Rajouri	Reasi	Samba	
Ramban	Ramban	Ramban	Ramban	Reasi	Ramban	Samba		
Udhampur	Udhampur	Udhampur	Udhampur	Udhampur	Reasi			
					Samba			
					Udhampur			

In the process of finalizing the election schedule, the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K has taken into consideration all the relevant aspects viz; holidays, festivals, examination dates as also the usual weather patterns and migratory movements during the months of October to December, 2018.
