

# **OFFICE OF THE ELECTION AUTHORITY**

UNDER PANCHAYATI RAJ ACT, 1989  
(CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER), JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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**“Greater Participation for a Stronger Democracy”**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**DATED: 16/11/18**

The Panchayat Elections 2018 are being held in 9 phases, with poll dates from 17<sup>th</sup> November to 11<sup>th</sup> December. The elections have been announced on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and the detailed schedule has been published on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018. The electorate of 5854208 has been called upon to elect 4483 Sarpanches and 35029 Panches.

The first phase nomination process for 536 halqas having 4048 panch constituencies commenced on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018. While 85 sarpanch and 1676 Panch have been elected unopposed, polling will take place at 3296 polling stations, 1303 in Kashmir Division and 1993 in Jammu Division for 420 sarpanch and 1845 panch seats, with 5585 candidates in fray. In all, 687 polling stations have been categorized as Hypersensitive - 491 in Kashmir Division and 196 in Jammu Division. The district wise details are in the enclosed Annexure.

In the areas going to polls in the first phase, 445059 will be voting for sarpanch seats while 272792 will be polling for panch constituencies. Basic Minimum Facilities (BMF) have been ensured in all the polling stations across the State. Photo Voter Slips have been distributed among the voters to inform them of their polling stations.

Senior government officers have been appointed as General Observers to oversee the smooth, fair and orderly conduct of Panchayat Elections, 2018. Also, Expenditure Observers are keeping a watch on the expenditure by the candidates. In addition, for the poll day, Micro Observers have been placed in polling stations, particularly those considered hypersensitive. Besides, the Zonal and Sector Magistrates too have been deployed.

Control Rooms have been established in all the districts across the State to respond promptly to any complaints of violation of the Model Code of Conduct as also to disseminate information to the public. Security arrangements have been made including deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

Campaigning including public meetings, processions, etc. has to end 48 hours before the hour fixed for the end of poll and, accordingly, the same stands enforced from 2 pm, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in the areas going to poll in the first phase. Necessary orders pertaining to declaration of dry day have also been issued.

The timing of poll is from 8 am to 2 pm. The Government has declared holiday on the day of poll in the panchayat areas going to polls so as to enable the voters to cast their vote. The day of poll has been declared as public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 too and, therefore, it is enjoined upon all establishments, whether Government or Private to observe the same strictly. Special casual leave shall also be granted to the employees who have to go to other areas to exercise their right to franchise. As per standing guidelines, the Central Government offices shall not be closed but the employees who are electors of the poll going wards and desire to exercise their franchise shall be offered reasonable facility to do so.

The Chief Electoral Officer, J&K appeals to the voters to come forward and exercise their right to franchise in order to choose their local self government to address their local needs.

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## Annexure to Press Release dated 16-11-2018

District	Blocks	Total Panch Halqas	Total Panch Wards	Sarpanch Elected Unopposed	Panch Elected Unopposed	Poll Going Sarpanch Seats	Electors for Sarpanch Seats	Candidates in fray Sarpanch Seats	Poll Going Panch Seats	Electors for Panch seats	Candidates in fray Panch Seats	Polling Stations setup
Kupwara	5	64	498	14	279	50	47896	142	192	23649	404	400
Bandipore	3	20	146	6	68	4	11182	31	20	2544	42	90
Baramulla	5	63	497	9	206	52	59275	138	199	29932	422	421
Ganderbal	1	15	105	9	21	1	1100	2	0	0	0	7
Srinagar	1	5	45	4	7	1	1555	2	1	242	2	7
Budgam	1	26	222	13	89	9	12499	22	17	2222	35	81
Kargil	4	23	179	3	135	20	13883	48	44	4053	90	155
Leh	6	32	226	12	201	20	13196	52	3	215	6	142
Kishtwar	5	50	358	7	116	34	37018	100	164	25538	378	247
Doda	4	52	364	0	143	51	46627	190	214	30241	484	364
Ramban	2	27	195	0	74	27	32828	89	119	21211	263	195
Udhampur	4	42	332	0	40	42	53172	162	292	46763	739	332
Kathua	2	29	209	1	45	28	28310	113	162	23421	405	209
Rajouri	2	35	253	2	86	33	28505	119	165	21830	383	253
Poonch	2	53	419	5	166	48	58013	152	253	40931	570	393