

OFFICE OF THE ELECTION AUTHORITY

UNDER PANCHAYATI RAJ ACT, 1989

(CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, JAMMU AND KASHMIR)

“Greater Participation for a Stronger Democracy”

PRESS RELEASE

DATED: 07/12/18

Polling in the 8th phase of the 9 phase Panchayat Elections 2018 will take place on 8th December. As per the detailed schedule published on 22nd October 2018, the nomination process for 483 halqas having 3860 Panch constituencies commenced with the issuance of notification on 12th November 2018. While 43 Sarpanch and 681 Panch have been elected unopposed, polling will take place for 331 sarpanch and 2007 panch seats, with 6304 candidates in fray. An electorate of 515121 will be voting for sarpanch constituencies whereas it is 419775 for panch constituencies. Photo Voter Slips have been distributed among the voters to inform them of their polling station. The district wise details are in the enclosed Annexure.

In this phase, 2633 polling stations are being set up - 550 in Kashmir Division and 2083 in Jammu Division. Of these, 361 have been categorized as Hypersensitive - 171 in Kashmir Division and 190 in Jammu Division. Basic Minimum Facilities (BMF) have been ensured in all the polling stations for facilitating the voters. Security arrangements have been made including deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

At the end of 7 phases, in respect of the Sarpanch and Panch constituencies that have seen contests, the overall voter turnout has been 73.8% for the State, with a poll percentage of 44.4% in the Kashmir Division and 83.2% in the Jammu Division.

Orders have been passed in various complaint cases as well as on directions of the Hon'ble Courts and wherever necessary Notifications appointing the election schedule have been issued. All such orders/notifications are available at website of CEO J&K.

In order to ensure free and fair polls, general observers, expenditure observers and micro observers have been appointed apart from magistrates. Control Rooms established in all the districts are responding to any complaints of violation of the Model Code of Conduct or any other election related matter. The legal provision of end of campaigning including public meetings, processions, etc. 48 hours before the hour fixed for the end of poll stands enforced in the areas going to poll. Necessary orders pertaining to declaration of dry day have also been issued.

The timing of poll is from 8 am to 2 pm. The State Government has declared holiday on the day of poll, including under the Negotiable Instruments Act, and, therefore, it is enjoined upon all establishments, whether Government or Private to observe the same strictly. Also, provision of Special casual leave for state government employees has been made. Central government offices shall also afford reasonable facility to its employees who desire to vote.

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.

ANNEXURE TO PRESS RELEASE DATED 7th DECEMBER 2018

| District | 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 | 39 | 321 | 4 | 158 | 35 | 36532 | 101 | 142 | 16965 | 303 | 293 |
| Bandipora | 22 | 196 | 6 | 28 | 2 | 4066 | 4 | 2 | 415 | 36 | 19 |
| Baramulla | 42 | 366 | 6 | 115 | 24 | 29345 | 65 | 80 | 12369 | 170 | 213 |
| Srinagar | 7 | 59 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 820 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Budgam | 40 | 315 | 8 | 35 | 2 | 5215 | 5 | 1 | 384 | 2 | 18 |
| Pulwama | 29 | 231 | 9 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shopian | 11 | 95 | 4 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kulgam | 23 | 177 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reasi | 55 | 431 | 1 | 104 | 54 | 69972 | 204 | 325 | 56943 | 790 | 428 |
| Kathua | 52 | 384 | 0 | 50 | 52 | 70363 | 223 | 334 | 62769 | 846 | 384 |
| Samba | 35 | 285 | 0 | 29 | 35 | 72529 | 157 | 256 | 66427 | 680 | 285 |
| Jammu | 96 | 758 | 0 | 84 | 94 | 183884 | 404 | 659 | 166217 | 1687 | 744 |
| Rajouri | 32 | 242 | 0 | 33 | 32 | 42395 | 125 | 208 | 37286 | 500 | 242 |