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: 23/11/18

Polling in the 3rd phase of the Panchayat Elections 2018, being held in 9 phases, will take place on 24th November. As per the detailed schedule published on 22nd October 2018, the nomination process for 505 halqas having 3933 Panch constituencies commenced with the issuance of notification on 29th October 2018. While 96 Sarpanch and 1437 Panch have been elected unopposed, polling will take place for 358 sarpanch and 1652 panch seats, with 5239 candidates in fray. An electorate of 423592 will be voting for sarpanch constituencies while it is 270668 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, 2773 polling stations are being set up - 918 in Kashmir Division and 1855 in Jammu Division. Of these, 727 have been categorized as Hypersensitive - 493 in Kashmir Division and 234 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).

In the 2nd phase, the State has witnessed a polling % of 71.1% - in the Kashmir Division 52.2% and in the Jammu Division 80.4%. Re-poll was held for Ward No 06 of Panchayat Halqa Feller A, Block Thakrie, Kishtwar on 21st November and a turnout of 71.8% was recorded. Results have been announced for all these by the respective Returning Officers. Orders have been passed in various complaint cases as well as directions of the Hon'ble Courts and wherever necessary Notifications reappointing the election schedules have been issued. All such orders/notifications are available at website of CEO J&K.

As in the first two phases, for this phase too, 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.

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ANNEXURE TO PRESS RELEASE DATED 23rd NOVEMBER 2018

District	Blocks	Total Panchayat Halqas	Total Panch Wards	Sarpanch Elected Unopposed	Panch Elected Unopposed	Poll Going Sarpanch Seats	Electors for Sarpanch Seats	Candidates in fray for Sarpanch Seats	Poll Going Panch Seats	Electors for Panch seats	Candidates in fray for Panch Seats	Polling Stations set up
Kupwara	4	59	455	13	233	46	44987	116	142	18627	298	358
Bandipore	1	8	66	2	19	4	6942	12	16	3408	34	32
Baramulla	2	40	348	16	115	13	17975	35	17	2770	36	116
Ganderbal	1	27	215	11	41	3	5759	9	0	0	29	29
Budgam	2	32	272	15	82	4	3684	8	1	87	2	30
Shopian	1	22	172	11	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kargil	5	38	294	11	244	27	23499	83	50	6937	110	210
Leh	5	32	234	13	230	19	15567	56	4	737	9	143
Kishtwar	4	56	406	2	114	53	58691	171	285	44757	677	394
Doda	3	32	234	1	65	31	45406	125	169	28489	413	231
Ramban	2	13	95	0	27	13	16920	49	68	12991	153	95
Udhampur	2	32	256	0	33	32	42468	138	223	37629	580	256
Kathua	4	47	353	1	72	46	61746	209	281	52240	710	346
Rajouri	2	40	320	0	70	40	49561	162	246	39640	584	320
Poonch	2	27	213	0	63	27	30387	99	150	22356	361	213
Total	40	505	3933	96	1437	358	423592	1272	1652	270668	3967	2773