

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: 10/12/18

Polling in the last phase of the 9 phase Panchayat Elections 2018 will take place on 11th December. As per the detailed schedule published on 22nd October 2018, the nomination process for 236 halqas having 1904 Panch constituencies commenced with the issuance of notification on 14th November 2018. While 68 Sarpanch and 433 Panch have been elected unopposed, polling will take place for 55 sarpanch and 138 panch seats, with 430 candidates in fray. An electorate of 68745 will be voting for sarpanch constituencies whereas it is 20688 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, 452 polling stations are being set up of which 346 have been categorized as Hypersensitive. 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 8th phase, in respect of the Sarpanch and Panch constituencies that have seen contests, the overall voter turnout has been 79.9% for the State, with a poll percentage of 49.6% in the Kashmir Division and 85.1% 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 10TH DECEMBER 2018

District	No of Blocks	Total Panchayat Halqas	Total Panch Wards	Sarpanch Elected Unopposed	Panch Elected Unopposed	Poll Going Sarpanch Seats	Candidates in fray Sarpanch Seats	Electors for Sarpanch Seats	Poll Going Panch Seats	Candidates in fray Panch Seats	Electors for Panch seats	Polling stations setup
Kupwara	3	33	291	10	153	23	68	28786	75	158	11192	203
Bandipora	1	14	100	2	36	9	19	7666	26	52	3078	68
Baramulla	3	45	383	20	63	4	10	5102	5	10	775	35
Ganderbal	1	13	109	6	30	5	11	6370	2	4	519	35
Budgam	2	39	319	12	64	2	4	1722	2	4	210	14
Pulwama	2	39	309	5	9	1	2	3500	0	0	0	11
Shopian	1	11	89	4	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kulgam	1	23	167	5	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anantnag	1	19	137	4	51	11	28	15599	28	60	4914	86