

## PANCHAYAT GENERAL ELECTIONS

### PRESS NOTE

**Panchkula, the 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2010** : Sh.Dharam Vir , State Election Commissioner, Haryana stated here today that the first phase of general elections of Panchayati Raj Institutions in 31 Blocks of 8 districts of the state i.e. Gurgaon, Hisar, Karnal, Panchkula, Panipat, Rohtak, Rewari and Yamuna Nagar would be conducted on 06.07.2010 for which all the preparation has been made and necessary instructions issued to all the Deputy Commissioners and the police authorities to ensure that the elections take place in a free, fair and peaceful manner. He has also directed the district authorities to provide protection to weaker sections of the society, wherever required. The voting shall start at 7.00 A.M. and close at 4.30 P.M.

2. The State Election Commissioner further stated that in the first phase, elections are to take place for 15,532 seats of panches, sarpanches and members of panchayat samitis and zila parishads. There would no elections against 5,165 seats as they have been filled up un-opposed. Thus, the elections shall take for 10,367 seats, which include 1,316 seats of Sarpanches, 8,268 seats of Panches, 653 seats of Member of Panchayat Samiti and 130 seats of Member of Zila Parishad. Against them, 20,904 candidates are contesting. The break-up is as under:-

Seats	Number of seats	Number of seats without contest - unopposed election	Number of contesting seats	No. of contesting candidates
Member, Zila Parishad	130	Nil	130	1,377
Member, Panchayat Samiti	670	17	653	3,636
Sarpanch	1,365	49	1,316	7,673
Panch	13,367	5,099	8,268	20,904

3. Shri Dharam Vir also added that 4,690 polling stations have been set and 23,47,186 voters will franchise their right to vote. About twenty five thousands civil officials would be deployed for managing the polling stations and performing other election related duties. About 244 magistrates and 292 supervisory teams would closely monitor polling by frequently visiting the polling stations assigned to them. In

each district, one senior IAS officer has been appointed as Election Observer. For maintaining law and order, about 27,700 police personnel and 5,780 home-guards would be deployed. Sensitive and Hyper Sensitive villages have been identified and adequate police force would be deployed at such places. In addition, there would be police patrol parties to keep a close watch on the law and order situation.

4. The Election Commissioner also said that EVMs would be used for voting for the election of Sarpanches in all eight districts and Members of Zila Parishad in districts of Panchkula and Karnal. The Election Commissioner also said that the counting votes for Panches and Sarpanches shall be held immediately after the close of poll, whereas for Panchayat Samit and Zila Parishad, the counting would take place on 12.07.2010 from 8.00 A.M.

6. The State Election Commissioner also appealed to all voters to vote in the interest of strengthening democracy at grass root level and also become partner in establishing local government.