

MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTIONS

PRESS NOTE

Chandigarh: 15th March, 2005: Sh.Chander Singh, State Election Commissioner, Haryana stated that the election programme for 3rd Municipal General Elections in 997 wards of 47 Municipalities (576 Wards of 20 Municipal Council & 421 Wards of 27 Municipal Committees) i.e. Municipal Councils Ambala City, Ambala Sadar, Palwal, Fatehabad, Tohana, Gurgaon, Hisar, Hansi, Jind, Narwana, Karnal, Thanesar, Narnaul, Panipat, Rewari, Rohtak, Sirsa, Sonipat, Yamuna Nagar, Jagadhri and Municipal Committees Naraingarh, Charkhi Dadri, Hodal, Ratia, Ferozpur Jhirka, Nuh, Sohna, Barwala, Jhajjar, Safidon, Cheeka, Gharaunda, Taraori, Assandh, Shahbad, Ladwa, Pehowa, Mahendergarh, Kalka, Samalkha, Bawal, Meham, Kalanwali, Ellenabad, Rania, Gohana and Ganaur has been issued today. The Election programme to the above said Municipalities is given as under:-

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| (1) Date on which notice shall be published by the Returning Officer for inviting nominations under rule 20. | 17/03/2005 (Thursday) |
| (2) Dates on which Nomination papers shall be presented under Rule 19(2) (i). | 23/03/2005 (Wednesday)
to
28/03/2005 (Monday)
11.00 A.M. to 03.00 P.M. |
| (3) Dates on which the list of nomination papers received shall be posted under Rule 19(2)(ii). | 23/03/2005 (Wednesday)
to
28/03/2005 (Monday) |
| (4) Date by which information shall be furnished by the candidate in the format prescribed, to the concerned Returning Officer that he is not suffering from any disqualification. | 29/03/2005 (Tuesday)
Before 10.00 A.M. |
| (5) Date on which the nomination papers shall be scrutinized under Rule 19 (2) (iii). | 29/03/2005 (Tuesday) |
| (6) Last date for making application for the revision of order of the authority scrutinizing the nomination papers to the Deputy Commissioner under Rule 19(2)(iv). | 01/04/2005 (Friday) |
| (7) Last date by which the revision applications filed under Rule 19(2)(iv) shall be decided by the Deputy Commissioner under Rule 19(2)(v). | 04/04/2005 (Monday) |
| (8) Last date for withdrawal of candidature by a candidate under Rule 19(2)(vi). | 05/04/2005 (Tuesday)
between(11.00 AM and 03.00 PM) |
| (9) Date on which the list of contesting candidates shall be posted under Rule 19(2)(vii). | 05/04/2005 (Tuesday) |
| (10) Date on which list of polling stations shall be posted under Rule 19(2)(viii). | 05/04/2005 (Tuesday) |
| (11) Date on which the Poll, if any, shall be held under Rule 19(2)(ix). | 16/04/2005 (Saturday) |

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| (12) Timing of the Poll. | Between 8.00 AM and 04.00 PM |
| (13) Date, Time and place on which the votes polled shall be counted. | Immediately after the polling is closed, at the polling station itself on the same day. |
| (14) Date on which the election Result would be declared. | Immediately after the account of ballot papers received from the Presiding Officers of the Polling Stations of the constituency (Ward) is consolidated by the Returning Officer. |

About 23.50 lakh voters would exercise their right of franchise in the 3rd General Elections to the above said Municipal Councils/Committees.

Sh. Chander Singh has also stated that the Commission has decided that one Observer(Expenditure) of the rank of Deputy Excise and Taxation Commissioner and One Observer(Election) of the rank of Commissioner & Secretary(Senior IAS) shall be appointed in each district to ensure the free and fair elections.

Sh. Chander Singh further stated that keeping in view the fact that the country is facing a serious problem of criminalization of politics in which criminals, i.e. person convicted by Court of Law for certain offences are entering into the election fray and contesting as candidates, the State Election Commission had issued directions in compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to the effect that a contesting candidate is required to state in writing his criminal background if any, details of moveable/immoveable assets, educational qualification etc., disqualification under Section 13 A of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973 especially under clause (c) of Section 13A(1) of the act ibid according to which a contesting candidate having more than two living children after 05.04.1995 is disqualified for contesting election, in the shape of affidavit to the Returning officer at the time of filing of nomination paper.

Shri Chander Singh has also informed that the Commission has recently revised limit on the expenditure, that may be incurred by the contesting candidates or his authorised election agents in connection with the election, to Rs. 50,000/- for a member of Municipal Council and Rs.35,000/- for a Member of Municipal Committee.

The contesting candidate shall have to maintain account of election expenditure and shall submit within 30 days from the date of declaration of the result of the election to the Deputy Commissioner or with any other officers specified by the Commission, in the manner prescribed by the State Election Commission, failing which the defaulting candidate shall be liable to be disqualified under the Haryana Municipal Election Expenditure (Maintenance & Submission of the Accounts) Order, 1996 for 3 years from the date of issue of such order, Shri Chander Singh added.

The Model code of conduct in respect of the Municipal Election shall come into force from today i.e. 15.03.2005. No Officer/Official connected with the election work shall be transferred till the completion of election process, he added.