

BE to the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) 2 Seats, 2026

"TOP-PRIORITY"

"BY E-MAIL / POST"

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, TELANGANA
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (ELECTIONS) DEPARTMENT**

9th Floor, B.R.K.R Bhavan, Adarsh Nagar, Hyderabad -500 063.

Memo.No.279/Elecs.D/2026-1,

Dated:18.02.2026

Sub:- ELECTION - Biennial Elections to the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) 2 Seats, 2026- "Guidelines of ECI on Publicity of Criminal antecedents by political parties & Candidates - Reg.

Ref:- 1.ECI, Press Note No. ECI/PN/21/2026, Dated: 18.02.2026.
2.ECI Guidelines on Publicity of Criminal antecedents by political parties & Candidates, January, 2022.

-:o0o:-

1. A copy of the references cited, wherein ECI has issued instructions regarding Form-26 (Format of Affidavit) to be filed by the candidates along with the guidelines on publicity of criminal antecedents by political parties & Candidates is sent herewith to the Returning Officer & Additional Secretary to Government, Telangana State Legislature, Hyderabad.

2 The Returning Officer is informed that the Commission has directed that the Affidavits filed by all candidates, whether set up by the recognized political parties or unrecognized political parties or independents shall be kept on the website soon after the candidate files the same and within 24 hours in any event. Therefore, the R.O is requested to upload the scanned copies of affidavits (format in Form-26) filed by the candidates on daily basis on ECI. & C.E.Os, website as per ECI instructions. The affidavits should be scanned with high resolution for legible reading.

3. The Returning Officer is, therefore, requested to take necessary action duly following the ECI instructions. For detailed instructions, the Hand Book for R.O. for Council elections and other Hand Books and latest instructions of the E.C.I. issued from time to time should be referred and followed scrupulously. The Instructions are also available on ECI Website.

**C.SUDHARSAN REDDY
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER &
E.O. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To

The Secretary to State Legislature, Telangana, Assembly Building, Public Garden's Hyderabad-500004 (w.e)

Copy to :

The Returning Officer & Additional Secretary to State Legislature, Telangana, Assembly Building Hyderabad

Sri Sudhakar, SLA (for placing on ceo-telangana website) with a request to provide the software to the RO, to upload the Affidavit on ECI /CEO web site, and also monitor the same on daily.

Sf/Sc

// FORWARDED BY ORDER //


SECTION OFFICER



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India

निर्वाचन सदन
NIRVACHAN SADAN
अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली- 110001
ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. ECI/PN/21/2026

Dated: 18th February, 2026

PRESS NOTE

Subject: Biennial Elections to the Council of States to fill the seats of members retiring in April, 2026.


The term of office of 37 members of the Council of States elected from 10 States is due to expire in April 2026, as detailed in Annexure 'A'.

2. Now, the Commission has decided to conduct biennial elections to the Council of States for those 37 seats as per the following programme:

Sl. No.	Events	Dates
1.	Issue of Notifications	26 th February, 2026 (Thursday)
2.	Last date of making nominations	05 th March, 2026 (Thursday)
3.	Scrutiny of nominations	06 th March, 2026 (Friday)
4.	Last date for withdrawal of candidatures	09 th March, 2026 (Monday)
5.	Date of Poll	16th March, 2026 (Monday)
6.	Hours of Poll	09:00 am- 04:00 pm
7.	Counting of Votes	16 th March, 2026 (Monday) at 05:00 pm
8.	Date before which election shall be completed	20 th March, 2026 (Friday)

3. The Commission has directed that only integrated violet colour sketch pen(s) of pre-fixed specification, provided by the Returning Officer, shall be used for the purpose of marking preference(s) on the ballot paper. No other pen shall be used for marking preferences in the above said elections.

4. Adequate measures for close monitoring of the election process by appointing observers shall be taken to ensure free and fair election.


(RAJESH KUMAR SINGH)
UNDER SECRETARY

By CEO (Sr)
M-Process for
Further action
18/2/2026
93
18 FEB 2026
18/2/2026

ANNEXURE- 'A'

Sl No. 1	State 2	Name of Member (Sh./Smt./Ms.) 3	Date of Retirement 4
1.	Maharashtra	Karad, Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao	02.04.2026
2.		Khan, Dr. (Smt.) Fauzia Tahseen Ahmed	
3.		Chaturvedi, Priyanka Vickram	
4.		Pawar, Sharadchandra Govindrao	
5.		Patil, Dhairyashil Mohan	
6.		Patil, Rajani Ashokrao	
7.		Athawale, Ramdas Bandu	
8.	Odisha	Mamata Mohanta	02.04.2026
9.		Muzibulla Khan	
10.		Sujeet Kumar	
11.		Niranjan Bishi	
12.	Tamil Nadu	N.R. Elango	02.04.2026
13.		P. Selvarasu	
14.		M. Thambidurai	
15.		Tiruchi Siva	
16.		Dr. Kanimozhi NVN. Somu	
17.		G.K. Vasan	
18.	West Bengal	Saket Gokhale	02.04.2026
19.		Ritabrata Banerjee	
20.		Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya	
21.		Mausam Noor (vacant w.e.f. 05.01.2026)	
22.		Subrata Bakshi	
23.	Assam	Rameswar Teli	09.04.2026
24.		Bhubaneswar Kalita	
25.		Ajit Kumar Bhuyan	
26.	Bihar	Amarendra Dhari Singh	09.04.2026
27.		Prem Chand Gupta	
28.		Ramnath Thakur	
29.		Upendra Kushwaha	
30.		Haribansh Narayan Singh	
31.	Chhattisgarh	Kavi Tejpal Singh Tulsi	09.04.2026
32.		Phulo devi Netam	
33.	Haryana	Kiran Choudhry	09.04.2026
34.		Ram Chander Jangra	
35.	Himachal Pradesh	Indu Bala Goswami	09.04.2026
36.	Telangana	Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi	09.04.2026
37.		K.R. Suresh Reddy	

By Speed Post/ E-mail

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110 001.

No.485/Comp/IT app/Election/IT-2/2023

Dated: 15.06.2023

To

Chief Electoral Officers of

Mizoram, Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana. *J & K-reg.*

**Sub: General Elections-2023 to Legislative Assemblies of Mizoram, Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Jammu & Kashmir-
Integration of State Payment Gateway for online nomination facility-reg:**

Sir,

You are aware that a facility has been provided by ECI where the contesting candidates can file online nomination on Suvidha portal <https://suvidha.eci.gov.in/>. The Portal also allows the contesting candidates to deposit the security deposit through online mode. The facility of online payment of security deposit by the candidates is subject to successful integration of State Payment Gateway. So, the states are required to get the payment gateway integrated with ECI Suvidha Portal. Once the integration is done then only the candidates of that states will be able to use the online payment facility to deposit the security to State treasury.

2. You are requested to take up the issue with concerned department regarding e-payment facility which can be utilized for the payment of security by the candidates while applying nomination online for forthcoming General Election to Legislative Assembly of the state.

3. It is requested to share the technical documentation, if e-payment facility available, for the integration of State Payment Gateway containing details like Integration APIs, Redirection URLs, Encryption techniques used, Keys etc. for both testing as well as production environment. A Nodal Officer may also be nominated for co-ordination with the ECI team for API integration. It shall be noted that this should be considered as 'Top Priority'.

4. You are also requested to provide the Shape file of your respective states including ACs and District details. AC-District master is required that includes the district number, district name, AC number and AC name as well.

Yours faithfully,



(Sanjay Kumar)
Under Secretary

By speed post/ email

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NirvachanSadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No.3/ER/2020/SDR

Dated: 19th March, 2020

To,

The Chief Electoral Officer of
All States and Union Territories

Sub:- Affidavits filed by candidates with their nomination paper-uploading on website-regarding


Sir/Madam,

I am directed to state that as per the Commission's letters no. 3/ER/2011/SDR dated 12th October, 2012 and no. 3/ER/2013/SDR dated 12th July, 2013, the Affidavit in Form 26 appended to the CE Rules, 1961 and counter-affidavit thereupon are uploaded on the CEO's website within 24 hours of filing the same.

It has come to the notice of the Commission, that along with the Affidavits, copies of other documents such as Aadhaar card etc., which have not been prescribed in the Commission's instructions, are also being uploaded on the website. The Commission has directed that copy of no document, other than the Affidavit, shall be uploaded on the website.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,


(N.T. Bhutia)
Secretary

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI – 110001

No.4/2021/SDR/Vol.II

Dated: 24th August, 2021

To,
The Chief Electoral Officers
Of all States / Union Territories

Subject: Filing of False Affidavit in Form 26-reg.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the Commission's instruction issued vide its letter No. 4/2014/SDR/Vol. I dated 26.04.2014 on the subject cited and to state that under Section 125A of the RP Act, 1951, there is no stipulation that complaints under that Section have to be made by the public servant concerned (in this case the R.O.). Therefore, it would be open to any aggrieved person to move petition before the appropriate Court of competent jurisdiction with petition for action under Section 125A in the case of any false declaration or concealing of information in the Affidavit in Form 26.

2. Further, attention is invited to the Commission's Press note no. ECI/PN/42/2020 dated 16.06.2020 in this matter of filing of false Affidavit in Form 26. The Commission has reviewed the above referred position of filing complaints by any aggrieved person in the competent court under Section 125A of the RP Act, 1951. And, it has been decided that, in pursuit of a level-playing field, the Commission would take cognizance of complaints regarding furnishing of false information in the Affidavit, which indicate serious omission on the part of the candidate, and refer such matters to the relevant investigating authorities on a case-to-case basis.

3. The complaints regarding false affidavits during the process of nomination will continue to be dealt in accordance with the instructions laid down in Para 6.6.1 of the Handbook for Returning Officers' (February, 2019 edition), wherein it is specified that:-

“Even if no objection has been raised with regard to a nomination paper, Returning Officer has to satisfy himself/herself that it is valid in law. If any objection is raised, Returning Officer shall have to hold a summary inquiry to decide the same and to treat the nomination paper to be either valid or invalid. Returning Officer should record his/her decision in each case giving briefly the

reasons where an objection has been raised or why he/she rejects the nomination paper. Returning Officer's decision could be challenged later in an election petition and hence the importance of recording a brief statement of reasons at this time. If Returning Officer accepts the nomination paper of a candidate overruling the objections raised by an objector, he may be supplied with a certified copy of his/her decision upon his request."

4. In this connection, attention is also brought to the decision of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in *B. Ramamoorthy v. CEC, ECI & Ors.*, (W.P. No. 14260 of 2021) dated 14.07.2021, wherein it has been directed that:

"13. It is necessary that the Election Commission devise a procedure for dealing with complaints of the present kind. Ideally, a notice should be issued to the relevant candidate and his explanation sought and the matter be closed by a reasonable order if the explanation is found suitable or satisfactory. If, however, the explanation is found unsatisfactory, the Election Commission should pursue the matter with full rigour, irrespective of the political allegiance of the relevant candidate"

5. Any complaint of false affidavit subsequent to nomination process may be dealt in the following manner: -

- (i). A complaint of false affidavit without any substantial document/evidence may be disposed of appropriately with reasoned order and suggesting that he/she may himself/herself approach the competent court; if required.
- (ii). A complaint of false affidavit with supporting document/evidence will be referred to the CEO of the State/UTs, who consequent upon examination will act in accordance with the directions of the Commission in the matter.
- (iii). On examination of supporting documents, CEO would refer such cases of serious omission or commission on a case-to-case basis where he considers it appropriate to seek Commission's directions.

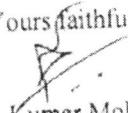
(iv). In case of 5(ii) and 5(iii), complainant would be asked to file an affidavit clearly stating that averments made in his complaint and supporting documents attached therewith are all true and genuine.

(v). References so forwarded by CEO would be dealt on case-to-case basis and Commission may refer them to appropriate authority for enquiry/comments.

6. The above instructions may be brought to the notice of all DEOs and ROs for their guidance and further compliance.

Kindly acknowledge.

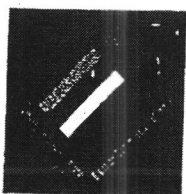
Yours faithfully,


(Ashwani Kumar Mohal)
Secretary

**GUIDELINES OF
ELECTION COMMISSION OF
INDIA
ON
PUBLICITY OF
CRIMINAL ANTECEDENTS
BY POLITICAL PARTIES &
CANDIDATES**

In Compliance with Hon'ble Supreme Court's Decisions in WP (C) No. 784 of 2015 (Lok Prahari Vs. Union of India & Others) and in WP (C) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. UoI & Anr.), in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011 and in contempt petition(C) No. 656 of 2020 in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in writ petition (civil) no. 536 of 2011

January-2022



Election Commission of India

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110 001

(Available at eci.gov.in)

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Subject: - Publicity of criminal antecedents by Political Parties & Candidates-

Reference: - 1-No. 3/4/2017/SDR/Vol.II dated 10th October, 2018

2-No. 3/4/2019/SDR/Vol.I dated 19th March, 2019

3-No. 76/ECI/INST/FUNC/EEM/EEPS/2019/VOL. XVII dated 8th May, 2019

4-No. 3/4/2019/SDR/Vol.III dated 30th August, 2019

5-No. 3/4/2020/SDR/Vol.III dated 6th March, 2020

6-No. 3/4/2020/SDR/Vol.III dated 19th March, 2020

7-No. 3/4/2019/SDR/Vol.IV dated 16th September, 2020

8- No. 3/4/2019/SDR/Vol.IV dated 30th October, 2020

9- No. 3/4/2020/SDR/Vol.III dated 11th January, 2021

10- No. 3/4/2021/SDR/Vol.III dated 26th August, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Indian elections are extremely competitive. In 17th General Elections, 2019, a total of 8054 candidates belonging to 673 political parties including independents vied for 543 seats in the Lok Sabha. One of the main concerns of electoral environment has been the participation of some candidates with criminal backgrounds. Hon'ble Supreme Court in its catena of judgments [dated 13th March, 2003 in Civil Appeal No. 490 of 2002 (People's Union for Civil Liberties and another v Union of India)] facilitated disclosure of full background including criminal antecedents and financial status of every candidate in the form of affidavit. Subsequently, in WP (C) No. 784 of 2015 (Lok Prahari Vs. Union of India & Others) and WP (C) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr. the Court on 25th September, 2018 directed vide Para 4:

(i) Each contesting candidate shall fill up the form as provided by the Election Commission and the form must contain all the particulars as required therein.