



## STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, HARYANA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, SECTOR- 17  
PANCHKULA, HARYANA – 134109

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No. SEC/4E-II/2026/523-524

Dated: 03<sup>rd</sup> April, 2026

To

1. All the Deputy Commissioners-cum-District Election Officers (Panchayat) in the State of Haryana
2. The President/General Secretary of the recognized National/State Political Parties

**Sub:- (i) Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on the petition regarding people with criminal antecedents contesting elections; and**  
**(ii) Amendment in Form-4A (Format of affidavit by candidates.).**

Sir/Madam,

I have been directed to refer to the above subject and to say that candidates contesting elections of Panchayati Raj Institutions are required to file an affidavit in Form-4A, along with the nomination paper, declaring therein information about their criminal cases, assets, liabilities, educational qualifications etc. Form-4A, which pertains to the elections of Panchayati Raj Institutions has been amended by the State Government vide Notification Nos.S.O.75/H.A. 11/1994/S.209/2022 dated 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. The amendments made in Form-4A are in pursuance of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (C) No. 784 of 2015 (Lok Prahari Versus Union of India & Others), Writ Petition (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Others Versus Union of India & Another) and Form No. 26 of the Election Commission of India.

2. In the judgment in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 536 of 2011, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has, inter alia, given the following directions:-

- (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.
- (ii) It shall state, in bold letters, with regard to the criminal cases pending against the candidates.
- (iii) If a candidate is contesting an election on the ticket of a particular party, he/she is required to inform the party about the criminal cases pending against him/her.
- (iv) The concerned political party shall be obligated to put up on its website the aforesaid information pertaining to candidates having criminal antecedents.

- (v) The candidates as well as the concerned political party shall issue a declaration in the widely circulated newspapers in the locality about the antecedents of the candidate and also give wide publicity in the electronic media. When we say wide publicity, we mean that the same shall be done at least thrice after filling of the nomination papers."

3. In pursuance of the above mentioned judgement, the State Election Commission, Haryana after due consideration, hereby issues the following directions to be followed by the candidates intending to contest election of Panchayati Raj Institutions who have criminal cases registered/pending against them or cases in which they have been convicted in the past, and to the political parties that set up such candidates:-

- (a) Candidates for elections of Panchayati Raj Institutions who have criminal cases against them- either pending or in which the candidate has been convicted, shall publish a declaration about such cases, for wide publicity, in two newspapers (at least one Hindi and one English) having wide circulation in the concerned area. This declaration is to be published in **Format A-1** attached hereto, at least on three different dates from the day following the last date for withdrawal of candidatures and upto two days before the date of poll. The matter should be published in font size of at least 12 and should be placed suitably in the newspapers so that the directions for wide publicity are complied with in letter and spirit.

**(Illustration):** If the last date for withdrawal is 10<sup>th</sup> of the Month and the date of poll is 20<sup>th</sup> of the Month, the declaration shall be published on three different dates from 11 to 18<sup>th</sup> of the month.

- (b) All such candidates with criminal cases are also required to publish the above declaration on local TV channels or cable networks (if locally available) on three different dates during the abovementioned period. But, in the case of the declaration in local TV channels or cable networks, the same should be completed before the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for conclusion of poll.
- (c) The Returning Officer shall give a written reminder about the directions given herein for publishing declaration about the criminal cases in newspapers and local TV channels or cable networks (if locally available) for wide publicity to all candidates who have criminal cases as per the declaration in items (5) and (6) of Form 4A. A standard format for such reminder to the candidates is annexed as **Format A-2**. The candidates shall submit copies of the newspapers in which their declaration in this regard was published to the Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer (Panchayat) or an officer authorized by the State Election Commission, along with their account of election expenses.
- (d) In the case of candidates with criminal cases set up by political parties, whether recognized parties or registered un-recognized parties, such candidates are required to declare before the Returning Officer concerned that they have informed their political party about the criminal cases against them. Provision for such declaration has been made in Form-4A in item (7).

4. **The Political parties** – Recognized Political parties and registered un-recognized parties, which set up candidates with criminal cases, either pending or of past conviction, are required to publish declaration giving details in this regard on their website as well as in local TV channels or cable networks (if locally available) and at least two newspapers (one Hindi and one English) having wide circulation in the Panchayat Samiti/Zila Parishad area concerned. This declaration by political parties is to be published in **Format A-3**, annexed hereto. Publishing of the declaration in newspapers and in local TV channels or cable networks (if locally available) is required to be done at least on three different dates during the period mentioned in Para-3 (a) above. In the case of local TV channels or cable networks (if locally available), it shall be ensured that the publishing should be completed before the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for conclusion of poll for the election. All such political parties shall submit a report to the Deputy Commissioner concerned stating that they have fulfilled the requirements of these directions, and enclosing therewith the paper cutting containing declaration published by the party in this respect. This shall be done within 30 days of completion of election. Thereafter, within the next 15 days, the Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer (Panchayat) concerned should submit a report to the Commission confirming compliance by the parties concerned, and pointing out cases of defaulters, if any.

5. It may also be noted that the provisions for the additional affidavit in respect of dues against Govt. accommodation, if any, that may have been allotted to the candidates, have now been incorporated in Form-4A itself under item (9) relating to liabilities to Public Financial Institutions and Govt. Therefore, the candidates shall have to give the requisite declaration/particulars in this regard in item (9) of Form-4A.


6. This letter may also be circulated to all the Returning Officers / Assistant Returning Officers and concerned officers/officials in your district with the instructions to take note of the above directions and the amendments in Form-4A and strictly comply with the same during Panchayati Raj Institutions elections to be conducted in near future.

Yours faithfully,

  
Assistant State Election Commissioner,  
For State Election Commissioner, Haryana  
Panchkula.

Endst. No. SEC/4E-II/2026/525-526


Dated: 03<sup>rd</sup> April, 2026

  
03/04/2026

A copy of above is forwarded to the following with the directions to familiarize themselves and all other concerned with these guidelines and strictly comply during municipal elections to be conducted in near future.:-

1. All the District Development and Panchayat Officers in the State.
2. All the Block Development and Panchayat Officers in the State.

  
Assistant State Election Commissioner  
for State Election Commissioner, Haryana  
Panchkula.

  
03/04/2026


Endst. No. SEC/4E-II/2026/527

Dated: 03<sup>rd</sup> April, 2026

A copy of above is forwarded to the Director General, Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana, Chandigarh for publication in the leading news papers having wide circulation in the State of Haryana.

  
Assistant State Election Commissioner  
for State Election Commissioner, Haryana  
Panchkula.

Dated: 03<sup>rd</sup> April, 2026


  
03/04/2026

Endst. No. SEC/4E-II/2026/528

A copy of above alongwith enclosure is forwarded to Programmer, I.T.Cell of this Commission with the directions to host in the official website of this Commission.

  
Assistant State Election Commissioner  
for State Election Commissioner, Haryana  
Panchkula.

- CC: 1. Store-Keeper (two copies for record & necessary action) .  
2. Librarian (two copies for record)

  
03/04/2026

(for candidates to publish in Newspapers, local TV channels or cable networks)

**DECLARATION ABOUT CRIMINAL CASES**

( As per the judgment dated 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of political party: \_\_\_\_\_

(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

\*Name of Election: \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ (name of candidate), a candidate for the abovementioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

| Sr. No. | Pending criminal cases |                             |  | Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences |  |
|---------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
|         | Name of Court          | Case No. and status of case | Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s) | Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)                     | Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed |
|         |                        |                             |  |   |  |
|         |                        |                             |  |   |  |
|         |                        |                             |  |   |  |
|         |                        |                             |  |   |  |
|         |                        |                             |  |   |  |

\*If a person is contesting the election of the seat of Sarpanch, he should write Sarpanch and those who are contesting the election of Panch or member should write Panch or Member from Ward No. \_\_ Gram Panchayat/Panchayat Samiti/Zila Parishad (which is applicable).

**Note:** Details should be given separately for each case in separate rows.

OFFICE OF RETURNING OFFICER

Name of Gram Panchayat/Panchayat Samiti/Zila Parishad \_\_\_\_\_

Post and Ward No. (in case of Panch or member) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Election: \_\_\_\_\_

(Sarpanch, Panch, Member Panchayat Samiti, Member Zila Parishad which is applicable)

It is informed that as per the judgment dated 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court, in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr. and the directions in the State Election Commission, Haryana's letter No. SEC/4E-II/2022/\_\_\_\_\_, dated \_\_\_\_\_, all candidates with criminal cases- either pending cases or cases of conviction in the past, are required to publish declaration regarding such criminal cases in newspapers and local TV channels or cable networks (if locally available) on three occasions during the period from the day following the last date for withdrawal of candidature and two days before the date of poll. Publishing declaration in of local TV channels or cable networks (if locally available) should be completed before the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for conclusion of poll.

Since you, Sh./Smt./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ (mention the name of the candidate), a candidate nominated for the abovementioned election, have declared information about criminal cases in Items (5)/(6) of Form-4A, you are required to publish information in newspapers having wide circulation in the municipal area and on local TV channels or cable networks (if locally available) on at least three occasions each as mentioned above. It is also informed that copies of the newspapers publishing the information about criminal cases should be submitted to the Deputy Commissioner- District Election Officer (Panchayat) concerned or an officer authorized by the State Election Commission, Haryana along with the account of election expenses.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the RO/ARO \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

**Note :** One copy of this should be given to candidate and one copy retained with RO.

(For political party to publish in website, newspapers, local TV channels or cable networks)

**DECLARATION ABOUT CRIMINAL ANTECEDENTS OF CANDIDATES SET UP BY THE PARTY**

(As per the judgment dated 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 of Hon'ble Supreme in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name of Political Party: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Name of Election: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of District : \_\_\_\_\_

| 1<br>Sr.<br>No. | 2<br>Name of<br>candidates | 3<br>Name of Post<br>or<br>Ward No.____<br>and<br>Gram Panchayat/<br>Panchayat<br>Samiti/Zila Parishad | 4<br>Pending criminal cases                                    |  | 5<br>Details about cases of<br>conviction for criminal<br>offences |   |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
|                 |                            |  | Name of<br>Court,<br>case No.<br>& status<br>of the<br>case(s) | Sections of<br>the Acts<br>concerned<br>& brief<br>description<br>of<br>offence(s) | Name of<br>Court &<br>date(s) of<br>order(s)                       | Description<br>of<br>offence(s)<br>&<br>punishment<br>imposed |
|                 |                            |  |  |  |  |   |
|                 |                            |  |  |  |  |   |
|                 |                            |  |  |  |  |   |
|                 |                            |  |  |  |  |   |

\*If a person is contesting the election of the seat of Sarpanch, he should write Sarpanch and those who are contesting the election of Panch or member should write Panch or Member from Ward No.\_\_\_\_ Gram Panchayat/Panchayat Samiti/Zila Parishad (which is applicable).

**Note:** (i) The above information shall be published Panchayati Raj Institutions wise (Gram Panchayat/Panchayat Samiti/Zila Parishad) for each district.

(ii) The matter in newspapers should be published in font size of at least 12.