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Election Commission

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EC gives timeline for showing criminal cases

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

16/1/21
New Delhi: The Election Commission has outlined the three occasions on which candidates for polls to the Rajya Sabha and state legislative councils shall need to publish details of criminal cases, in accordance with an earlier direction of the Supreme Court.

The time-line, as indicated in a letter sent to the president, general secretary or chairperson of all recognised national and state political parties on January 11, requires the criminal antecedents to be published thrice— first within the first two days of withdrawal of nomination, second between the third and fourth days, and third from the fifth to sixth day, prior

to the date of poll.

Date of poll in case of Rajya Sabha and state legislative council elections by members of legislative assembly (MLAs), if required, must be a date not earlier than seventh day after the date of withdrawal of candidature, as per Section 39 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

In September 2020, the EC had released the time-line of publishing of criminal antecedents in Lok Sabha/assembly polls. The three occasions, as spelt in the EC order, were within the first four days of withdrawal of candidature, between fifth and eighth days, and from ninth day till the last day of campaign (the second day prior to date of election).