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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Deccan Herald ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 25/1/2020

# Devise plan to clean up politics: SC

## Criminals must be denied tickets: Election Commission

25/1/20

NEW DELHI, DHNS

**T**he Supreme Court on Friday asked the Election Commission to come out with a framework to stop criminalisation of politics in the national interest as the poll panel said the top court's 2018 direction to candidates to declare their criminal antecedents in the media had not helped curb the malaise.

A bench of Justices R F Nariman and S Ravindra Bhat asked the EC to work out the mechanism with Delhi BJP leader and advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, the petitioner, within a week.

"This is a matter of national importance. You come out with a framework with the petitioner. We will do something," the bench told the EC and the petitioner.

The EC suggested that instead of publishing criminal cases, political parties should be asked not to give tickets to candidates with criminal antecedents.

The court had on March 29, 2019 issued notice to the Union government and the Election Commission on a plea by Upadhyay for contempt

action against the officials for failing to notify the leading newspapers and TV channels in which candidates were to publish criminal cases pending against them.

The petitioner had contended the 'Election Symbol Order & Model Code of Conduct' was not duly amended to make provisions for it.

In 2018, a five-judge bench had ordered that if a candidate was contesting an election on

the ticket of a particular party, he/she was required to inform the party about the criminal cases pending against him/her and the political

party shall be obligated to put up on its website information pertaining to candidates having criminal antecedents.

"The candidate as well as the political party concerned shall issue a declaration in 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 filing of nomination papers," the court had ordered.

