

General Elections and bye-elections 2026: Know Your Candidate's educational qualifications and criminal antecedents using ECINET Platform

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1. Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the schedule for the General Election to Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal and Bye-election to 8 (Eight) Assembly Constituencies of Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Tripura on March 15, 2026.
2. A total of **1,955 candidates are in the fray** for the elections to the legislative assemblies of the States of **Assam and Kerala and the UT of Puducherry** and **bye elections in 4 states** which go to polls on April 9, 2026.
3. The filing of nominations for the elections to the legislative assemblies of West Bengal (Phase-I and II) and Tamil Nadu has also begun and **last date of withdrawal of candidature is 9th April for Tamil Nadu and West Bengal (Phase-I) and 13th April for West Bengal (Phase-II).**
4. Citizens can use the **“Know Your Candidates (KYC)”** module of ECINet to get the information about criminal cases, assets and liabilities, educational qualifications and the authentic social media handles of candidates.
5. Users can access the KYC module under the **“Conduct of Elections” tab of ECINet**. They can also download the entire affidavit (Form 26) submitted by the candidates using ECINet.
6. ECINET is the world's largest electoral service platform bringing all electoral services of the world's largest democracy together in one seamless experience by integrating **40+ apps & portals** of the Election Commission of India.
7. **ECINET provides the voters with services**, such as voter registration, electoral roll search, Track Your Applications, connect with Election Officials, Book-a-call with BLO, e-EPIC download, polling trends, and grievance redressal on one secure platform.
8. It also offers a single-window platform for real-time information access and complaint resolution, including tools like **cVIGIL for reporting violations and Saksham to ensure accessible electoral services** for persons with disabilities.

PK/GDH/RP

