Lawbreakers are becoming the lawmakers thus affecting the overall polity of the country. It hinders free and fair election which is the bedrock of a democracy and limits the choice of voters to elect a suitable candidate. Increase in corruption and inefficiency in the system and leads to circulation of black money and Consequences perpetuation of crime. Introduces a culture of violence in society and reduces people's trust in democracy. Reflect poor image of the state's institutions The Court also issued the following directions in exercise of our constitutional powers under Articles 129 and 142 of the Constitution of India It shall be mandatory for political parties to upload on their website detailed information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases Political parties must tell reason to the public on why candidates whith criminal history has been selected, and also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates. Court Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate Verdict concerned and not mere "winnability" at the polls. The above information shall also be published in one local vernacular and one national newspaper and or the official social media platforms of the political party within 48 hours of selection of candidate The political party concerned shall then submit a report of compliance with these directions with the Election Commission within 72 hours of the selection of the said candidate. If a political party fails to submit such compliance report with the Election Commission, it shall bring such non-compliance to the notice of the Supreme Court as being in contempt of this Court's orders/directions. Bringing state funding of the elections which can give fair chance to clean candidate. Providing power to the Election Commission to undertake audit of the funds of political partie Bringing political parties under the ambit of Right to Information act Way forward Focus on good governance so that voters do not depend on tainted politicians to get their work done Needs to bring judicial reforms in order to fast track the court cases of criminals. Civil societies and NGOs should create awareness about consequences of criminalization of politics so

that they chose clean candidate.

Bihar election would first time witness the implementation of Supreme Court verdict on criminalisation of politics.

Criminalisation of politics is the increase in the power of criminal in affecting the election process and winning as candidate in the elections.

This power is seen in three components

- 1. Money Power: Criminals provide huge amount of black money to political parties to contest the election
- 2. Muscle Power: Criminals provide Gundas to affect the gullible voters to vote for their party
- 3. Authoritative control: These criminals have authoritative control over the politics and administration of local area and can completely change the outcome.

In 2004, 24% of the Members of Parliament had criminal cases pending against them.

In 2009, MPs with criminal charges on them increased to 30% which in 2014 and 2019 got further increased to 34% and 43% respectively.

Data shows that in place of decreasing and criminalization of politics has been increasing over the years.

Currently, under the Representation of Peoples (RP) Act, lawmakers cannot contest elections only after their conviction in a criminal case.

Under Section 8 of the Representation of the People (RP) Act, a person convicted with a sentence of two years or more years is disqualified from contesting elections.

Lack of Political will to prevent the control of criminals.

Lack of administrative capability has ensured that criminals are trusted more by the public to provide delivery of services.

Since, it has invaded all the parties, voters are left with no option.

Politics of caste and religion has made people to overlook the criminalization of politics and larger interest of society.

Decline of societal ethics: violence, crime is being considered normal by the people. It is even considered imperative to make one's political career.

Increasing money and muscle power due to election becoming highly competitive and expensive in nature which make it difficult for clean candidate to win.

Nexus between the administration and politics has also brought criminals into the picture.

Lack of enforcement of laws and judgments for example, blatant violation of Model Code of Conduct

Criminalization of Politics Legal provision

Reason

What it mean

Data

Context