

HARI CHAND

ADVOCATE

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ਵਕੀਲ

PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT

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ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ 160045

DATED: 7.4.2019

To,

Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab,
SCO No. 29-30, Sector 17-E, Chandigarh.

**SUBJECT: LEVEL PLAYING FIELD-PRIVATE NEWS
CHANNELS/WEB CHANNELS:**

BY-E-MAIL

Dear Sir:

You may kindly appreciate that when the norms were made by Election Commission of India for creating level-playing field between candidates contesting elections, during those times, there were hardly any private channels. The people would view Door Darshan Channel. These days, no body views Door Darshan etc, nor people tune to All India Radio. Thus, the conventional practice of level-playing field has been rendered irrelevant. I would, therefore, appeal to you to call a meeting of all electronic news channels, particularly regional news channels, and also web-channels, to persuade/direct them to extend reasonable and equal opportunity to all candidates of addressing the voters of their constituency.

I may also submit that most of electronic channels are owned by political leaders. They try to create public opinion in favour of their masters. Their opinion polls are generally highly biased. The voters, in order to have an informed choice, have the right to know about the names of owners of the news channels. Thus, it would be appropriate if the Election Commission of India directs all the electronic news channels, including regional news channels/web channels to publish/notify the names of their owners/directors/Managing Directors/Partners prominently, with certain specified periodicity, particularly during the period of Model Code of Conduct of general elections.

Kindly forward my suggestions, with appropriate recommendations to the Election Commission of India, for taking necessary action.

Soliciting prompt response.

Yours Sincerely,

(HARI CHAND)

ADVOCATE