

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer West Bengal

13, Strand Road, Kolkata 700001

No. 12/CEO/PN/2026

Dated: 25.03.2026

PRESS NOTE

In compliance with the directives of the Election Commission of India following the announcement of the General Election on 16.03.2026, to ensure free and fair election, the ECI is conducting various measures across all 294 Assembly Constituencies in West Bengal.

ECI training programme for all the 294 Returning Officers of the State

An intensive training programme was organised today for all 294 Returning Officers of the State of West Bengal. It was organized across five different venues, covering all five administrative divisions of the State to ensure comprehensive participation and effective coordination. Officials from the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), New Delhi, conducted the sessions under the supervision of senior officers of the ECI.

Further, District Election Officers (DEOs) of the State have been instructed by the Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal, not to engage any contractual employees in election-related duties. DEOs have been directed to prepare two separate databases comprising of State Government and Central Government employees who may be engaged as polling personnel.

DEOs have also been requested to furnish a certificate confirming that no contractual employees are included in the database of polling personnel prepared for appointment in the ongoing General Election to the WBLA 2026.

Integrated 24×7 District Control Rooms are also being operated at every DEO level. These control rooms are being managed by officials from the DEO office in coordination with State Police and CAPF personnel to ensure smooth conduct of the electoral process.

Key Security Measures

The administration has deployed a multi-layered security strategy to maintain law and order and to ensure a peaceful voting environment:

Updated law and order report is placed below (up to 24/03/2026)

Sl. No.	Items	Cumulative from 15/03/2026
1	No of unlicensed arms/ explosives seized	
	a) Arms / Weapons	Arms / Weapons 86
	b) Cartridges / Explosives / Bombs (In Numbers)	Cartridges 123
		Explosives 0
	Bombs 489	
2	Licensed Arms	a) Total Licensed Arms 52,814
		b) Deposited 34,340

Enforcement and Seizure

Intensive monitoring has led to significant seizures. Since the announcement of the election, cumulative seizures of cash, liquor, narcotics, precious metals, and other freebies have been executed to curb illegal inducements / misuse of money power in elections.

The cumulative State wise enforcement report regarding itemized summary of seizures is provided in following table.

Seizure of Cash, Liquor, Drugs/Narcotics, Precious Metals & Freebies (As on 25.03.2026)

Sl. No.	Item	Cumulative Seizure (Since 26.02.2026)
1	Cash	₹ 350.02 Lakhs
2	Liquor	1240845.99 Liters / ₹ 3141.10 Lakhs
3	Drugs / Narcotics	3039471.85 gm / ₹ 3640.16 Lakhs
4	Precious Metals	121782.90 gm / ₹ 1339.15 Lakhs
5	Freebies / Other Items	72302926.13 quantity / ₹ 12368.88 Lakhs
	TOTAL VALUE	₹ 20839.32 Lakhs

Other incidents of seizure

Sl	Location & date	Under PS & District	Amount recovered	Recovered by
1.	Mankar Anandanayetala Naka Point on 25/03/2026	PS BudBud, Dist Paschim Bardhaman	Rs. 5,09,000/- cash	CRPF on duty officials in coordination with the district Police.
2.	Dantia on 25/03/2026	PS Balrampur (W.B.) Purulia.	Rs. 2,41,500/- cash	
3.	Bulbulchandi on 25/03/2026	PS, Habibpur, District Malda,	Rs. 1,58,320/- cash	
4.	420 More Naka point on 25/03/2026	PS English Bazaar, District Malda,	Rs. 2,05,100/- cash	

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

Extensive drives for removal of unauthorized political advertisements are ongoing. As per the latest reports, widespread public and private property defacements have been cleared across all districts and the District Election Officers have certified removal of defacement from all the public properties under their jurisdiction.

Following is the detail of the district wise defacement removal and total cases registered.

District-wise Status of Enforcement of Model Code of Conduct (As on 24.03.2026)

Sl. no	Name of District	Public Property Defacement Removed	Private Property Defacement Removed	Total Cases
1.	Cooch Behar	34241	5820	40061
2.	Alipurduar	8676	3466	12142
3.	Jalpaiguri	8288	333	8621
4.	Kalimpong	648	09	657
5.	Darjeeling	7928	783	8711
6.	Uttar Dinajpur	19462	1075	20537
7.	Dakshin Dinajpur	17337	2311	19934
8.	Malda	4726	256	4982
9.	Murshidabad	20828	906	26505
10.	Nadia	11045	296	11341
11.	North 24 Parganas	44239	108	44774
12.	South 24 Parganas	34481	582	35148
13.	Kolkata South	10772	0	10772

14.	Kolkata North	23202	0	23239
15.	Howrah	17791	443	18234
16.	Hooghly	26638	1	33752
17.	Purba Medinipur	51665	1008	52673
18.	Paschim Medinipur	30466	2963	33629
19.	Jhargram	7081	50	7143
20.	Purulia	13530	1001	14829
21.	Purba Bardhaman	23709	725	28007
22.	Paschim Bardhaman	65383	8400	76200
23.	Bankura	13133	566	13699
24.	Birbhum	8426	4019	22136
	State total	503695	35121	567726

The Commission remains committed to strict compliance to the implementation of MCC in letter and spirit for ensuring a free & fair election.

Sd/-

(Arindam Niyogi)
Additional Chief Electoral Officer
West Bengal