

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer West Bengal

13, Strand Road, Kolkata 700001

No. 16/CEO/PN/2026

Dated: 28.03.2026

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.

Multi-Layered Monitoring System to Ensure Free, Fair, and Transparent Elections

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal, Shri Manoj Kumar Agarwal, detailed a comprehensive suite of "Special Measures" aimed at maintaining the highest standards of electoral integrity for the upcoming polls. Emphasizing the Election Commission's commitment to a "violence-free and inducement-free" voting process, the CEO unveiled a robust technological and manual oversight framework. To ensure 100% transparency at the grassroots level, the CEO announced the following strategic deployments:

- **Unprecedented Digital Surveillance:** Around 2 lakh video cameras will be installed across the state. This includes high-definition webcasting from inside and outside polling booths, ensuring real-time monitoring of every movement to prevent booth jamming or intimidation.
- **Centralized Monitoring Hubs:** 660 TV sets are being set up at dedicated control rooms at the District and State levels. These units will allow senior officials to monitor live feeds simultaneously, enabling rapid response to any reported irregularity.
- **Enhanced Human Oversight:** To augment on-ground vigilance, the Commission is deploying 2,352 Micro Observers. These officials will be stationed directly at sensitive booths to provide independent reports on the conduct of the poll.

- **Administrative Support:** 965 Assistant Observers have been appointed to assist General and Police Observers in coordinating logistics and ensuring strict adherence to the Model Code of Conduct.

Suspension

- Election Commission of India has issued the suspension order of Insp. Avijit Paul, the In-Charge (I/C) of Basanti Police Station. He is suspended immediately following violent incidents in Basanti Bazar on March 26, 2026.
- Insp. Sh. Prabir Ghosh from the Enforcement Branch (EB), West Bengal, has been appointed to replace him.
- The Commission remains committed to strict compliance to the implementation of MCC in letter and spirit for ensuring a free & fair election.

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 28.03.2026)

Sl. No.	Item	Cumulative Seizure (Since 26.02.2026)
1	Cash	₹ 496.40 Lakhs
2	Liquor	1529809.35 Liters / ₹ 3925.94 Lakhs
3	Drugs / Narcotics	3630869.40 gm / ₹ 4401.44 Lakhs
4	Precious Metals	138582.80 gm / ₹ 1806.65 Lakhs
5	Freebies / Other Items	72559147.90 quantity / ₹ 13592.56 Lakhs
	TOTAL VALUE	₹ 24223.01 Lakhs

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 26.03.2026)**

Sl. no	Name of District	Public Property Defacement Removed	Private Property Defacement Removed	Total Cases
1.	Cooch Behar	37096	6986	44082
2.	Alipurduar	8717	3466	12183
3.	Jalpaiguri	10196	1130	11326
4.	Kalimpong	738	13	751
5.	Darjeeling	11191	1827	13018
6.	Uttar Dinajpur	19943	1305	21248
7.	Dakshin Dinajpur	19388	3213	23564
8.	Malda	5950	481	6431
9.	Murshidabad	20828	906	26505
10.	Nadia	13796	325	14121
11.	North 24 Parganas	58063	108	58180
12.	South 24 Parganas	41679	624	42477
13.	Kolkata South	14123	0	14123
14.	Kolkata North	31929	0	31966
15.	Howrah	22252	443	22702
16.	Hooghly	53844	1	60294
17.	Purba Medinipur	55326	1216	56542
18.	Paschim Medinipur	38302	3469	42190
19.	Jhargram	7364	50	7414
20.	Purulia	14747	1746	16701
21.	Purba Bardhaman	26968	883	30905
22.	Paschim Bardhaman	79244	11001	93994
23.	Bankura	14380	656	15036
24.	Birbhum	8426	4019	22136
State total		614490	43868	687889

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 25/03/2026)

Sl. No.	Items		Cumulative from 15/03/2026
1	No of unlicensed arms/ explosives seized		
	a) Arms / Weapons	Arms / Weapons	118
	b) Cartridges / Explosives / Bombs (In Numbers)	Cartridges	160
		Explosives	0 & 10360 PCs
	Bombs	590	
2	Licensed Arms	a) Total Licensed Arms	52864
		b) Deposited	37378

Sd/-

(Arindam Niyogi)
Additional Chief Electoral Officer
West Bengal