

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer West Bengal

13, Strand Road, Kolkata 700001

No. 18/CEO/PN/2026

Dated: 29.03.2026

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.

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.

Seizure by Excise Department, West Bengal

A major seizure of O P Spirit and other incriminating articles used for making fake liquor on large scale was done on 27.3.2026 morning at Pradhan Nagar, Siliguri

Total seizure:

1. OP Spirit - 1560 ltrs
2. Fake Labels of Mc Dowell's No 1 Luxury Blended Whisky -13,884 pcs
3. Fake labels of Himalayan Gold 60° UP IML - 3286 pcs
4. Fake Holograms - 984 pcs
5. Fake bottle caps of Himalayan Gold 60° UP IML.- 440 pcs
6. Empty plastic bottles - 35 pcs

Total Value of Seized incriminating articles: Rs. 62,40,000/- (Rupees sixty two lakh forty thousand only).

Major seizure (More than one crore) at NSCBI Airport, Kolkata by the CISF, Aviation Security Group

On 28.03.2026 at about 13:30 hrs, two domestic departure passengers, were travelling together from Kolkata Airport to Surat airport. During the process of Security Check 8561 carat Diamond Ornaments (approximate value ₹3,41,13,475), were

recovered from their cabin baggage. CISF handed over the said passengers to Income Tax officials. After necessary verification by Income tax officials, the passengers were allowed to proceed for boarding the flight by the Income Tax team. However, the Income Tax officials directed them to remain available for any further questioning or inquiry as and when required.

Other incidents of seizure

CRPF on duty officials in coordination with the district Police seized cash in different location of West Bengal. Details are as follows -

Sl	Location & date	Under PS & District	Items / Amount recovered
1.	Barakar Naka Post, NH 19, on 27/03/2026	PS Kulti, Dist Paschim Bardhaman.	Rs. 3,16,000/-
2.	Duburdih Naka Post, NH 19, on 28/03/2026	PS Kulti, Dist Paschim Bardhaman.	39 unauthorized liquor bottles
3.	Bamanidih on 29/03/2026	PS Barabazar, Dist Purulia	Rs. 3,05,850/-

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 29.03.2026)

Sl. No.	Item	Cumulative Seizure (Since 26.02.2026)
1	Cash	₹ 511.14 Lakhs
2	Liquor	1595033.65 Liters / ₹ 4086.54 Lakhs
3	Drugs / Narcotics	3737585.18 gm / ₹ 4426.18 Lakhs
4	Precious Metals	144278.43 gm / ₹ 2402.69 Lakhs
5	Freebies / Other Items	72564440.90 quantity / ₹ 13634.92 Lakhs
	TOTAL VALUE	₹ 25061.47 Lakhs

Transfer and posting of BDOs and AROs

Election Commission of India has approved the proposal of transfer and posting of 83 Block development Officers and Assistant Returning Officers across 18 districts of West Bengal in connection with ensuing Assembly Election 2026.

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	38273	7763	46036
2.	Alipurduar	8747	3466	12213
3.	Jalpaiguri	12519	1380	13899
4.	Kalimpong	767	21	788
5.	Darjeeling	13042	2707	15749
6.	Uttar Dinajpur	20244	1430	21674
7.	Dakshin Dinajpur	20194	3772	25086
8.	Malda	6534	482	7016
9.	Murshidabad	32286	2036	34322
10.	Nadia	14487	330	14817
11.	North 24 Parganas	60610	108	60730
12.	South 24 Parganas	44188	652	44830
13.	Kolkata South	16053	0	16053
14.	Kolkata North	50595	0	44830
15.	Howrah	23711	443	24155
16.	Hooghly	56954	39	64856
17.	Purba Medinipur	58948	1359	60307
18.	Paschim Medinipur	44313	3594	47906
19.	Jhargram	7879	50	7929
20.	Purulia	17847	1821	19927
21.	Purba Bardhaman	28073	917	31852
22.	Paschim Bardhaman	109742	19287	139057
23.	Bankura	14907	713	15620
24.	Birbhum	19018	10823	43256
State total		719931	63193	812908

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