

# Office of the Chief Electoral Officer West Bengal

13, Strand Road, Kolkata 700001

No. 20/CEO/PN/2026

Dated: 31.03.2026

## 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.

### Ban on exit poll

Election commission of India has issued a notification (No. 576/EXIT/2026/SDR/Vol.I Dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026) regarding Ban on Exit Poll.

In exercise of powers under subsection (1) of section 126 A of the RP Act 1951, the ECI, having regard to the provision of subsection (2) of the said section has notified the period between 7:00 AM on 09<sup>th</sup> April 2026 (Thursday) and 6:30 PM on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026 (Wednesday) as the period between which conducting and publishing and publicizing exit poll by means of the print or electronic media or dissemination in any other manner or whatsoever the result of any exit poll in connection with the general election of by election in different states shall be prohibited.

### Enforcement and Seizure

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 of Cash, Liquor, Drugs/Narcotics, Precious Metals & Freebies (As on 31.03.2026)**

Sl. No.	Item	Cumulative Seizure (Since 26.02.2026)
1	Cash	₹ 656.39 Lakhs
2	Liquor	1689827.14 Liters / ₹ 4337.37 Lakhs
3	Drugs / Narcotics	3860627.45 gm / ₹ 5813.70 Lakhs
4	Precious Metals	149161.06 gm / ₹ 2546.66 Lakhs
5	Freebies / Other Items	72807154.90 quantity / ₹ 14058.28 Lakhs
	<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>₹ 27412.40 Lakhs</b>

## **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 28/03/2026)**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Cumulative from 15/03/2026</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>No of unlicensed arms/ explosives seized</b>		
	<b>a) Arms / Weapons</b>	<b>Arms / Weapons</b>	<b>166</b>
	<b>b) Cartridges / Explosives / Bombs (In Numbers)</b>	<b>Cartridges</b>	<b>284</b>
		<b>Explosives</b>	<b>2.2 KGs &amp; 10364 PCs</b>
<b>Bombs</b>		<b>726</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Licensed Arms</b>	<b>a) Total Licensed Arms</b>	<b>52869</b>
		<b>b) Deposited</b>	<b>40878</b>

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