

# Office of the Chief Electoral Officer West Bengal

13, Strand Road, Kolkata 700001

No. 23/CEO/PN/2026

Dated: 02.04.2026

## 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.

### Election Commission of India Mandates Zero Tolerance Policy

The Election Commission of India (ECI) conducted a comprehensive high-level review meeting today via video conferencing to assess the preparedness and security blanket for the upcoming elections in West Bengal.

The session was chaired by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Shri Gyanesh Kumar, alongside the other Election Commissioners. The meeting saw the participation of top-tier administration and law enforcement officials, including: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, Chief Secretary, Home Secretary and Director General of Police (DGP) of West Bengal, ADG (Law and Order), all District Election Officers (DEOs), all Commissioners of Police (CPs) and Superintendents of Police (SPs).

During the deliberations, the Commission issued a stern directive to the state machinery, emphasizing a "Zero Tolerance" approach toward any disruptions. Chief Election Commissioner reiterated that the success of this year's election rests on the strict compliance of six core mandates:

- No Violence: Ensuring a peaceful environment for all stakeholders.
- No Intimidation: Protecting the right of voters to exercise their franchise without fear.
- No Inducement: Strict monitoring to prevent the distribution of cash, liquor, or freebies.
- No *Chappa* (False Voting): Implementation of rigorous identity verification to eliminate false voting.
- No Booth Jamming: Maintaining clear access to polling stations for all legitimate voters.
- No Source Jamming: Ensuring that no external influence or logistical hurdles prevent voters from reaching the booths.

### Nomination of Election

In pursuance of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951), notification (*Notification No: 16/Notification(P)/Home (Elec) Dated: 30.03.2026*) has

been issued for 152 (One Hundred Fifty-two) Assembly Constituencies of State of West Bengal to elect members to the Legislative Assembly of the State.

**NOMINATION DETAIL - WEST BENGAL (Phase I) – Report dated 02/04/2026**

No of AC	Total No of Nominations	Total No of Candidates	No. of candidates after scrutiny	No. of candidates after Withdrawal
152	846	484	-	-

**NOMINATION DETAIL - WEST BENGAL (Phase II) – Report dated 02/04/2026**

No of AC	Total No of Nominations	Total No of Candidates	No. of candidates after scrutiny	No. of candidates after Withdrawal
142	132	88	-	-

In pursuance of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951), notification (*Notification No: 19/Notification(P)/Home (Elec) Dated: 02.04.2026*) has also been issued for 142 (One Hundred Forty-two) Assembly Constituencies of the State of West Bengal to elect members to the Legislative Assembly of the State.

The schedule is as follows:

- a) 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 (Thursday): as the last date for making nominations;
- b) 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 (Friday): as the date for scrutiny of nominations;
- c) 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 (Monday): as the last date for withdrawal of candidature;
- d) 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 (Wednesday): as the date on which a poll shall, if necessary, be held;
- e) Hour of poll: 7:00 am to 6:00 pm
- f) 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 (Wednesday): as the date before which the election shall be completed;

**Prohibition of display of Election Matter in Silence Period**

Under section 126 (1)(b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, displaying any election matter by means, inter alia, of television or similar apparatus, in any polling area during the period of forty-eight hours (silence period) ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll for any election in that polling area is prohibited.

Name of State/UT going for general elections	Poll Date	Silence period
West Bengal	23.04.2026 (Phase I)	6:00 PM (21.04.2026) To 6:00 PM (23.04.2026)
	29.04.2026 (Phase II)	6:00 PM (27.04.2026) To 6:00 PM (29.04.2026)

**Enforcement and Seizure**

CRPF on duty officials in coordination with the district Police seized cash at one location of West Bengal. Detail is as follows –

SI	Location & date	Under PS & District	Items / Amount recovered
1.	Misirsole Naka point on 02/04/2026	PS Bankura, Dist Bankura	Rs. 1,50,000/-

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 01.04.2026)**

Sl. No.	Item	Cumulative Seizure (Since 26.02.2026)
1	Cash	₹ 733.98 Lakhs
2	Liquor	1936690.13 Liters / ₹ 4928.26 Lakhs
3	Drugs / Narcotics	3962625.95 gm / ₹ 5860.12 Lakhs
4	Precious Metals	154263.09 gm / ₹ 2784.75 Lakhs
5	Freebies / Other Items	73142586.81 quantity / ₹ 14680.91 Lakhs
	<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>₹ 29056.75 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 31/03/2026)**

Sl. No.	Items	Cumulative from 15/03/2026
1	<b>No of unlicensed arms/ explosives seized</b>	
	a) Arms / Weapons	Arms / Weapons 176
	b) Cartridges / Explosives / Bombs (In Numbers)	Cartridges 297
		Explosives 2.2 KGs & 10364 PCs
2	Licensed Arms	a) Total Licensed Arms 52869
		b) Deposited 40972

**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 31.03.2026)**

<b>Sl. no</b>	<b>Name of District</b>	<b>Public Property Defacement Removed</b>	<b>Private Property Defacement Removed</b>	<b>Total Cases</b>
1.	Cooch Behar	41253	9781	51034
2.	Alipurduar	9073	3520	12593
3.	Jalpaiguri	20413	2860	23273
4.	Kalimpong	844	30	874
5.	Darjeeling	16761	4678	21439
6.	Uttar Dinajpur	21159	2088	23247
7.	Dakshin Dinajpur	23748	6672	32032
8.	Malda	9115	482	9597
9.	Murshidabad	42280	3248	45528
10.	Nadia	16973	378	17351
11.	North 24 Parganas	72601	349	72964
12.	South 24 Parganas	51531	698	52318
13.	Kolkata South	22158	1	22159
14.	Kolkata North	91605	0	91642
15.	Howrah	28903	697	30897
16.	Hooghly	72142	102	72791
17.	Purba Medinipur	71690	2027	73717
18.	Paschim Medinipur	47541	3672	51269
19.	Jhargram	8533	50	8583
20.	Purulia	19922	1892	22022
21.	Purba Bardhaman	31745	1253	35483
22.	Paschim Bardhaman	181261	38105	225742
23.	Bankura	15720	800	16520
24.	Birbhum	28461	17196	62832
<b>State total</b>		<b>945432</b>	<b>100579</b>	<b>1075907</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