

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer West Bengal

13, Strand Road, Kolkata 700001

No. 36/CEO/PN/2026

Dated: 13.04.2026

PRESS NOTE

➤ **High-Level ECI Delegation Arrives in West Bengal for Election Preparedness Review**

A high-level delegation from the Election Commission of India (ECI), led by Sri Gyanesh Bharti, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner has arrived in the state today for a comprehensive three-day visit spanning from April 13 to April 15, 2026.

The delegation includes Sri S.B. Joshi, Principal Secretary of the ECI. The primary objective of this visit is to conduct a rigorous review of poll preparedness across four key districts, Paschim Bardhaman, Purba Bardhaman, Hooghly, North 24 Parganas.

On another visit Sri Pawan Kumar Sharma, Sr. Deputy Election Commissioner along with Sri Abhinav Agrawal, Deputy Secretary of the ECI have also arrived today in the state for a three-day visit covering Birbhum, Murshidabad, Nadia, South 24 Parganas districts.

Over the next 72 hours, the ECI officials will chair a series of strategic meetings to assess the administrative and security readiness of the region. The delegation is scheduled to interact with ECI Observers to gather ground-level insights on the electoral climate, District Election Officers (DEOs) to review logistical arrangements, voter outreach, and polling station readiness. They will also meet with the Commissioners of Police (CPs) & Superintendents of Police (SPs), CAPF District Coordinators to evaluate the law and order situation and security deployment plans and to streamline the coordination and movement of Central Armed Police Forces.

At the same time Sri Apruba Kumar Singh, Deputy Director, ECI and Ranjeet Srivastava (Senior VE) have arrived today at Bagdogra to review SVEEP event and Media activities on a 4-day visit from 13th to 17th April 2026.

During this period, they will attend various SVEEP activities of the 5 districts, viz Cooch Behar, Japlaiguri, Alipurduar, Darjeeling, Kalimpong and will meet with district officials.

Focus of the Review

These visits aim to ensure that all aspects of the upcoming polls—ranging from technical infrastructure and manpower management to security protocols—are aligned with the ECI's mandate for a free, fair, and peaceful election.

The delegation will scrutinize every facet of the electoral process to ensure that voters in these districts can exercise their franchise in a secure and transparent environment.

➤ **Appointment Police Observer**

Sh. Sarvana Vivek M, IPS (OR:2015) has been appointed as Police Observer for the General Elections to Legislative Assembly of West Bengal, 2026 by the ECI on yesterday. He will be stationed at office of Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal at Kolkata.

➤ **Coordination meeting of DEO, Police and CAPF**

Today a joint coordination meeting was held at all the districts of the states attended by all DEOs, CPs, SPs and District Force Coordinator of CAPF. District

Election Officers (DEOs) across the State today jointly addressed the media after the meeting, at their respective districts. The briefings were conducted in presence of the Commissioners of Police of Commissionerate, Superintendent of Police, and District Force Coordinators of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

During the press conferences, the officials collectively conveyed the commitments and objectives of the Election Commission of India for the forthcoming elections in West Bengal.

It was emphasized that the elections in the State shall be conducted in a manner that is: Fear-Free, Violence-Free, Intimidation-Free, Inducement-Free, Free from “Chappa” (false voting), Free from Booth Jamming and Free from Source Jamming.

Further, it was clearly stated that employees of Government departments, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), Autonomous Bodies, and Local Bodies must not engage in any form of political activity.

The administration reiterated its firm commitment to ensuring a level playing field for all stakeholders and safeguarding the democratic process. Adequate security measures and strict monitoring mechanisms will be in place to uphold these principles.

As a result of these efforts, it is ensured that every elector will be able to exercise his or her franchise freely, fairly, and without any fear or intimidation.

➤ **Key Event of Election on 13th April 2024**

- **PHASE - I Election:** Exchange of Postal Ballot at NCH
- **PHASE - II Election:** Last day of withdrawal of nomination papers / allotment of symbol.

➤ **Enforcement and Seizure**

The cumulative enforcement report of the State regarding itemized summary of seizure is provided in following table.

Seizure of Cash, Liquor, Drugs/Narcotics, Precious Metals & Freebies (Report as received up-to 9 p.m. on 12.04.2026)

| Sl. No. | Item | Cumulative Seizure (Since 26.02.2026) |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Cash | ₹ 1802.46 Lakhs |
| 2 | Liquor | 2905143.10 Liters / ₹ 7361.07 Lakhs |
| 3 | Drugs / Narcotics | 5351689.83 gm / ₹ 8621.82 Lakhs |
| 4 | Precious Metals | 432823.44 gm / ₹ 4798.39 Lakhs |
| 5 | Freebies and Other Items | 77060010.33 / ₹ 16916.09 Lakhs |
| TOTAL VALUE | | ₹ 39499.83 Lakhs |

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 (As received upto 1 p.m. 12.04.2026)

| Sl. No. | Items | | Cumulative from 15/03/2026 |
|---------|---|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | No of unlicensed arms/ explosives seized | | |
| | a) Arms / Weapons | Arms / Weapons (PCs) | 312 |
| | b) Cartridges / Explosives / Bombs | Cartridges (PCs) | 519 |
| | | Explosives | 128.8 KGs & 10364 PCs |
| | Bombs (PCs) | 1057 | |

| | | | |
|----------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 2 | Licensed Arms | a) Total Licensed Arms (PCs) | 52869 |
| | | b) Deposited (PCs) | 41573 |

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 per report received up-to 9:00 pm, 12.04.2026)

| Sl. no | Name of District | Public Property Defacement Removed | Private Property Defacement Removed | Total no of Cases recorded |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1) | Cooch Behar | 56344 | 17323 | 73667 |
| 2) | Alipurduar | 9605 | 3579 | 13184 |
| 3) | Jalpaiguri | 49738 | 9221 | 58959 |
| 4) | Kalimpong | 1115 | 30 | 1145 |
| 5) | Darjeeling | 40091 | 15172 | 55263 |
| 6) | Uttar Dinajpur | 24885 | 4452 | 29337 |
| 7) | Dakshin Dinajpur | 40027 | 25062 | 70253 |
| 8) | Malda | 31371 | 595 | 31966 |
| 9) | Murshidabad | 84067 | 10032 | 94107 |
| 10) | Nadia | 33061 | 494 | 33552 |
| 11) | North 24 Parganas | 113833 | 1737 | 115613 |
| 12) | South 24 Parganas | 68555 | 861 | 69773 |
| 13) | DEO Kolkata South | 27231 | 1 | 27233 |
| 14) | DEO Kolkata North | 122999 | 37 | 123036 |
| 15) | Howrah | 42784 | 1811 | 45903 |
| 16) | Hooghly | 92642 | 204 | 93521 |
| 17) | Purba Medinipur | 105185 | 6247 | 111432 |
| 18) | Paschim Medinipur | 71519 | 5439 | 77011 |
| 19) | Jhargram | 12950 | 63 | 13013 |
| 20) | Purulia | 24637 | 2185 | 27252 |
| 21) | Purba Bardhaman | 41050 | 1851 | 46026 |
| 22) | Paschim Bardhaman | 255897 | 59633 | 315609 |
| 23) | Bankura | 22926 | 1129 | 24055 |
| 24) | Birbhum | 62672 | 30788 | 110875 |
| State total | | 1435184 | 197946 | 1661785 |

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