

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer West Bengal

13, Strand Road, Kolkata 700001

No. 40/CEO/PN/2026

Dated: 15.04.2026

PRESS NOTE

➤ **High-Level ECI Delegations hold meeting today at Kolkata to review poll Preparedness**

On the final day of their three-day assessment tour, Sri Gyanesh Bharti, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner and Sri S.B. Joshi, Principal Secretary from the Election Commission of India (ECI) chaired high-level review meeting today in Kolkata. The session was held to evaluate the administrative and security readiness for the upcoming assembly elections in North 24 Parganas and Kolkata. Attendees included District Election Officers (DEOs), Senior Police Authorities, ECI Observers, and District Force Coordinators of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

Simultaneously, a second review meeting was chaired by Sri Pawan Kumar Sharma, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner, and Sri Abhinav Agrawal, Deputy Secretary, ECI today also. This meeting addressed the preparedness of South 24 Parganas and Kolkata South. The discussion involved the respective DEOs, Police Authorities, ECI Observers, and CAPF District Force Coordinators.

During both sessions, the ECI delegation scrutinized various critical components of the electoral process, including - Logistical Readiness, ensuring all polling stations are equipped with necessary infrastructure, coordinating between local police and CAPF for optimal force deployment and area domination and assessing sensitive zones to ensure a fearless environment for voters.

The ECI authorities issued strict instructions to the district administrations to maintain the highest standards of transparency and neutrality. All officials were directed to resolve pending issues immediately to ensure the conduct of free, fair, and peaceful elections.

➤ **Key event of Election**

A Video Conference will be held with the District Election Officers and Returning Officers of the State of West Bengal in connection with the ongoing General Election, to review the conduct of elections, including pre-poll preparedness, poll day arrangements and scrutiny as per the following schedule:

16.04.2026 at 03:00 PM – For officers concerned with the 1st Phase.

17.04.2026 at 03:00 PM - For officers concerned with the 2nd Phase.

The meeting will be chaired by Shri Maneesh Garg, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner, ECI.

➤ **Enforcement and Seizure**

**Special seizure report at inter-state boarder check post: Seizure of Cash, Liquor,
Drugs/Narcotics, Precious Metals & Freebies
(Report as received up-to 9 p.m. on 14.04.2026)**

Sl.	Item	Assam	Sikkim	Bihar	Jharkhand	Odissa	Total
1	Cash (Rs. in Crore)	0	0	0.09908	0.0023482	0	0.1014282
2	Liquor (Monetary Value Rs. Cr)	0.001	0.0065826	1.719348	0.01845	0.308618	2.0539986
3	Drugs / Narcotics (Monetary Value Rs. Cr)	0	0.0450593	0.388464	0.04527	0.493029	0.9718223
4	Precious Metals (Monetary Value Rs. Cr)	0	0	0.0005	0	0	0.0005
5	Freebies & Other	0.255	0	1.8172	0	0.04975	2.12195

**MAJOR SEIZURES (single seizure greater than 1 Crore) reported till
14-04-2026 19:15 pm [Other Freebies includes foreign currency seizures]**

S. No.	Agency	Seizure Date	Assembly Const.	Cohort	Quantity (in Kg / Ltrs)	Value (in Crores)	Comments
1	CISF	22-03-2026	Dumdum	Precious Metals	0.805	1.013	Unpolished gold ornaments
2	CISF	24-03-2026	Dumdum	Other Freebies	-	1.190	Foreign currency (Euro) amounting to €1,10,225
3	CISF	25-03-2026	Dumdum	Precious Metals	1.893	2.520	Gold ornaments
4	BSF	28-03-2026	Lalgola	Drugs/Narcotics	3.270	3.270	Mescaline & Amphetamine
5	CISF	28-03-2026	Dumdum	Precious Metals	2.673	2.475	Gold, diamond and Precious stones
6	CISF	28-03-2026	Dumdum	Precious Metals	8561	3.411	carat Diamond Ornaments
7	Police	29-03-2026	Baishnabnagar	Drugs/Narcotics	1.335	2.670	-
8	CISF	31-03-2026	Dumdum	Precious Metals	1.364	1.820	Gold ornaments
9	Income Ta	31-03-2026	Ballygunge	Other Freebies	-	4.548	USD 4,75,000/- and Thai Bhat 3,00,000/-
10	ED	01-04-2026	Jadavpur, Tollygunge	Cash	-	1.245	-
11	RPF	01-04-2026	Howrah North	Other Freebies	14548.00	2.182	258 bags containing poppy seeds (posto)
12	DRI	02-04-2026	Dumdum	Precious Metals	1.260	2.000	Gold and 8 nos. of I-phone 17 Pro 256GB also recovered

13	RPF	02-04-2026	Howrah North	Other Freebies	7040.00	1.184	200 bags of "Signature" brand Pan Masala. Handed over to SGST
	State GST	02-04-2026	Howrah North	Other Freebies			
15	CISF	03-04-2026	Dumdum	Precious Metals	2.000	3.100	2 gold bars
16	BSF	04-04-2026	English bazar	Drugs/Narcotics	605 gm	1.21 Cores	Narcotics / - Handed over to Police
17	Police	04-04-2026	Madhya Howrah	Drugs/Narcotics	0.539	1.078	Narcotics / - Handed over to Police
18	Police	06-04-2026	Baishnabnagar	Drugs/Narcotics	0.605	1.210	Brown Sugar Intercepted by BSF and handed over to police
19	RPF	06-04-2026	Howrah North	Drugs/Narcotics	1.032kg	>2 Cr.	Handed over to NCB
20	NCB	06-04-2026	Howrah North	Drugs/Narcotics	1.032	2.060	Heroin. Intercepted by RPF and handed over to NCB
21	Police	08-04-2026	Sujapur	Drugs/Narcotics	4.205	8.410	Heroin
22	Police	08-04-2026	Siliguri	Drugs/Narcotics	1.050	2.100	Brown Sugar
23	Police	08-04-2026	Dabgram Fulbari	Drugs/Narcotics	0.600	1.200	Brown Sugar Reported by DEO Jalpaiguri
24	CISF	13-04-2026	Dumdum	Precious Metals	2.401	2.300	Gold and Silver ornaments
25	Police	14-04-2026	Baishnabnagar	Drugs/Narcotics	0.518	1.036	Brown Sugar
Total						52.023	

The cumulative enforcement report of the State regarding itemized summary of seizure is provided in the table below –

**Seizure of Cash, Liquor, Drugs/Narcotics, Precious Metals & Freebies
(Report as received up-to 9 p.m. on 14.04.2026)**

Sl. No.	Item	Cumulative Seizure (Since 26.02.2026)
1	Cash	₹ 1973.82 Lakhs
2	Liquor	3092826.88 Liters / ₹ 7840.12 Lakhs
3	Drugs / Narcotics	5403708.21 gm / ₹ 9575.70 Lakhs
4	Precious Metals	436465.24 gm / ₹ 5216.50 Lakhs
5	Freebies and Other Items	78395148.33 / ₹ 17087.54 Lakhs
TOTAL VALUE		₹ 41693.68 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. 13.04.2026)

Sl. No.	Items	Cumulative from 15/03/2026
1	No of unlicensed arms/ explosives seized	
	a) Arms / Weapons	Arms / Weapons (PCs) 327
	b) Cartridges / Explosives / Bombs	Cartridges (PCs) 539
		Explosives 128.8 KGs & 10364 PCs
	Bombs (PCs) 1110	
2	Licensed Arms	a) Total Licensed Arms (PCs) 52869
		b) Deposited (PCs) 41570

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, 14.04.2026)

Sl. no	Name of District	Public Property Defacement Removed	Private Property Defacement Removed	Total no of Cases recorded
1)	Cooch Behar	59292	19771	79063
2)	Alipurduar	10283	3583	13866
3)	Jalpaiguri	54421	10230	64651
4)	Kalimpong	1121	30	1151
5)	Darjeeling	44725	19020	63745
6)	Uttar Dinajpur	25662	4893	30555
7)	Dakshin Dinajpur	41919	27834	76869
8)	Malda	33979	598	34577
9)	Murshidabad	108507	11335	119850
10)	Nadia	35275	498	35781
11)	North 24 Parganas	125378	1855	127417
12)	South 24 Parganas	71996	898	73266
13)	DEO Kolkata South	30193	1	30195
14)	DEO Kolkata North	127451	37	127488
15)	Howrah	44993	1953	48256
16)	Hooghly	96537	256	97506

17)	Purba Medinipur	107128	6790	113919
18)	Paschim Medinipur	75146	5713	80859
19)	Jhargram	13444	63	13507
20)	Purulia	25305	2360	28110
21)	Purba Bardhaman	43182	1954	48433
22)	Paschim Bardhaman	256273	59931	316282
23)	Bankura	24127	1187	25314
24)	Birbhum	69680	33614	121140
State total		1526017	214404	1771800

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