

**Office of the Chief Electoral Officer
West Bengal
21, N. S. Road, Kolkata-700001**

No. CEO/PN-18/2025

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Press Note

**Interaction with Media Officials and Reporters of Print, Electronic & digital Media by the
Chief Electoral Officer West Bengal and Assistant Director (Media) Election Commission of
India at Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Kolkata**



Shri Manoj Kumar Agarwal, IAS, Chief Electoral Officer West Bengal and Shri Apurva Kumar Singh, IIS, Assistant Director (Media), ECI attended two meetings, one with the State Media officials and the other with reporters at Kolkata today. Shri Arindam Niyogi, Additional Chief Electoral Officer West Bengal and Shri Subrata Pal, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer West Bengal were also present in the programme.

The first meeting was attended by Senior Officials of Directorate of Information, Government of West Bengal, Press Information Bureau (PIB), Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), All India Radio (AIR), Doordarshan (DD), Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), SRFTI (Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute of Government of India on 17th of June (Tuesday) 2025 at the conference hall of Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Kolkata.

In the second meeting, the ECI and CEO Office Officials interacted with leading print, electronic and digital media of the State in an interactive conference.

Shri Apurva Kumar Singh, Assistant Director (Media), ECI elaborated various new initiatives of ECI. He stated that as per the instruction and guidance of Chief Election Commissioner of India Shri Gyanesh Kumar, over the past few months the Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched several initiatives to make Electoral process more participative, transparent and accessible to all stakeholders. These initiatives span from procedural reforms, training programmes to stakeholder engagement like -

- Maximum number of voters at a polling station has been restricted to 1200.
- Additional polling booths will be set up in High Rises / Colonies.
- For Electoral Roll updation, data of Death registration to be directly obtained from RGI database; will be updated after verification.
- Voter Information Slips to be made more elector friendly: serial number and part number of the voter will now be displayed more prominently.
- Provision of mobile deposit facility just outside the polling stations.
- Relaxing the distance norms for canvassing – candidates/political parties now permitted to set up booths beyond 100 meters as opposed to 200 meters.
- Introduction of new Integrated Dashboard - ECINET, with aim to provide all services for all stakeholders at a single point (Single App to replace 40 + Apps/Websites).
- Duplicate EPIC Number issue resolved; new mechanism for Unique EPIC numbers in place.
- BLOs to get Standard Photo ID Card.

Shri Manoj Kumar Agarwal, Chief Electoral Officer West Bengal interacted with all the media attendees. As media is one of the most important stakeholders of the electoral democracy, he expressed his desire to maintain a mutually cooperative and strong relationship with media. He also opined that media was a powerful force to increase the electors' awareness about the ECI's new initiatives and programmes.

Sd/-

Additional Chief Electoral Officer
West Bengal