

General Elections and bye-elections 2026: Seizures surpass Rs. 400 crores

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1. Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the schedule for the General Election to Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal and bye-elections in 6 states on March 15, 2026. The Commission has directed the State/UT governments to ensure strict compliance with the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).
2. It may be recalled that the Commission held a review meeting with the Chief Secretaries, CEOs, DGPs, and senior officers from the 5 poll-going states/UTs and their 12 bordering states/UTs along with the Heads of Enforcement Agencies to review readiness, enhance coordination, and directed them to ensure **violence-free, intimidation-free and inducement-free elections** on 24th March, 2026.
3. To ensure this, over **5,173 Flying squads** have been deployed across the States/UT to ensure that the complaints are attended to **within 100 minutes**. Besides this, over **5,200 Static Surveillance Teams (SSTs)** have also been deployed for setting up surprise *Nakas* at different locations.
4. Since the activation of the Electronic Seizure Management System (ESMS) on the 26th of February, till 25th March, 2026, over **Rs. 408.82 crores worth of illicit inducements** including, **Rs 17.44 crores in cash, liquor worth Rs. 37.68 crores (16.3 lakh litres), drugs worth Rs. 167.38 crores, precious metals worth Rs. 23 crores and other freebies worth over Rs. 163.30 crores** have been seized through a coordinated approach involving multi-enforcement agencies across different States/UTs.
5. The Commission has also stressed that the enforcement authorities should ensure that **ordinary citizens are not inconvenienced or harassed** during the checking and inspection for the enforcement of these directives. District Grievance Committees have also been setup to address any grievances in this regard.
6. Citizens/political parties can report MCC violations using the **C-Vigil Module** on

ECINET.

7. From 15th March till 25th March, **70,944 complaints have been lodged** using the C-Vigil App in the General elections and the bye-elections bound States/UTs. Of these, **70,831 have been disposed of** and **67,899 complaints i.e., 95.8%** of the complaints were resolved within 100 minutes.
8. A complaint redressal system has been set up including a **Call Centre number 1950** in which complaint can be lodged by any member of the public or political party, with the DEO/RO concerned.

PK/GDH/RP

