

General Elections and bye-elections 2026: Seizures surpass Rs 1,000 crores in TN and WB

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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 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 has held multiple review meetings with the Chief Secretaries, CEOs, DGPs, and senior officers from the poll-going states/UTs and their bordering states/UTs along with the Heads of Enforcement Agencies and directed them to **ensure violence-free, intimidation-free and inducement free elections**.
3. To ensure this, over **5,011 (2,728 in WB and 2,283 in TN)** Flying Squad Teams (FSTs) have been deployed across the two States to ensure that the complaints are attended to within 100 minutes. Besides this, over **5,363 (3,142 in WB and 2,221 in TN)** Static Surveillance Teams (SSTs) have also been deployed for setting up surprise Nakas at different locations.
4. Since the activation of the Election Seizure Management System (ESMS) on February 26, 2026, the data up to April 22, 2026 is presented below.

S. No	State	Cash (Rs. Crore)	Liquor Qty (Litres)	Liquor Value (Rs. Crore)	Drugs Value (Rs. Crore)	Precious Metal (Rs. Crore)	Freebies /Other (Rs. Crore)
1.	West Bengal	27.48	39,31,463	102.45	108.11	55.88	178.83
2.	Tamil Nadu	100.19	1,17,713	3.85	76.72	159.31	259.14
	TOTAL	127.67	40,49,176	106.3	184.83	215.19	437.97

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**.

PK/GDH/RP

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