

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/084/2026

07.05.2026

PRESS NOTE

General Elections to Legislative Assemblies and bye-elections 2026 Over Rs. 1400 crores worth of illicit inducements seized

1. Election Commission of India (ECI) had taken several measures to ensure strict compliance with the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during the General Elections to Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal and bye-elections in 7 ACs of 5 states. **MCC ceases to be in operation** in these States/UTs except the Assembly Constituency of 144-Falta in West Bengal.
2. During the conduct of elections, the Commission held **multiple review meetings** with the Chief Secretaries, CEOs, DGPs, and senior officers from the poll-going States/UT and their bordering States/UTs along with the Heads of Enforcement Agencies.
3. **376 Expenditure Observers** drawn from IRS (IT), IRS (C&IT), IA&AS, IRAS, IDAS, IP&TAFS and ICAS, 7,470 Flying Squad Teams (FSTs) and 7,470 Static Surveillance Teams (SSTs) were also deployed to **ensure violence-free, intimidation-free and inducement-free elections**.
4. The seizures were facilitated by the IT platform - **Election Seizure Management System (ESMS)** - which enhanced inter-agency coordination and streamlined communication between them for sharing actionable input. Since the activation of ESMS on February 26, 2026, the total amount of seizures up to May 6, 2026, is as below:

S.N	State	Cash (Rs. Crores)	Liquor Qty (Litres)	Liquor Value (Rs. Crores)	Drugs Value (Rs. Crores)	Precious Metal Value (Rs. Crores)	Freebies /Other (Rs. Crores)	Total (Rs. Crores)
1.	Tamil Nadu	105.22	137248.53	4.94	78.61	165.86	307.65	662.28
2.	West Bengal	31.14	5858648.98	151.86	130.28	69.36	190.77	573.41
3.	Assam	6.07	828248.33	22.71	70.08	3.68	14.7	117.24
4.	Kerala	12.12	78215.3	2.51	58.47	2.25	5.33	80.67
5.	Puducherry	0.33	18340.35	0.39	0	8.99	0.02	9.72
TOTAL		154.89	6988793.38	183.33	337.88	250.14	518.73	1444.96

5. The figures represent a **40.14% increase** in seizures as compared to 2021 General Elections in these States/UT when the seizures had amounted to **Rs. 1029.93 crores**. West Bengal saw the **highest increase** in the seizures of **68.92%** and **Tamil Nadu** saw an increase in seizures of **48.40%** in 2026 compared to the corresponding over the corresponding figures during the LA elections of 2021.


P. Pawan

Deputy Director
