

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/46/2021

Dated: 10th April, 2021

PRESS NOTE

Polling in Phase 4 Assembly Constituencies in West Bengal conducted today;

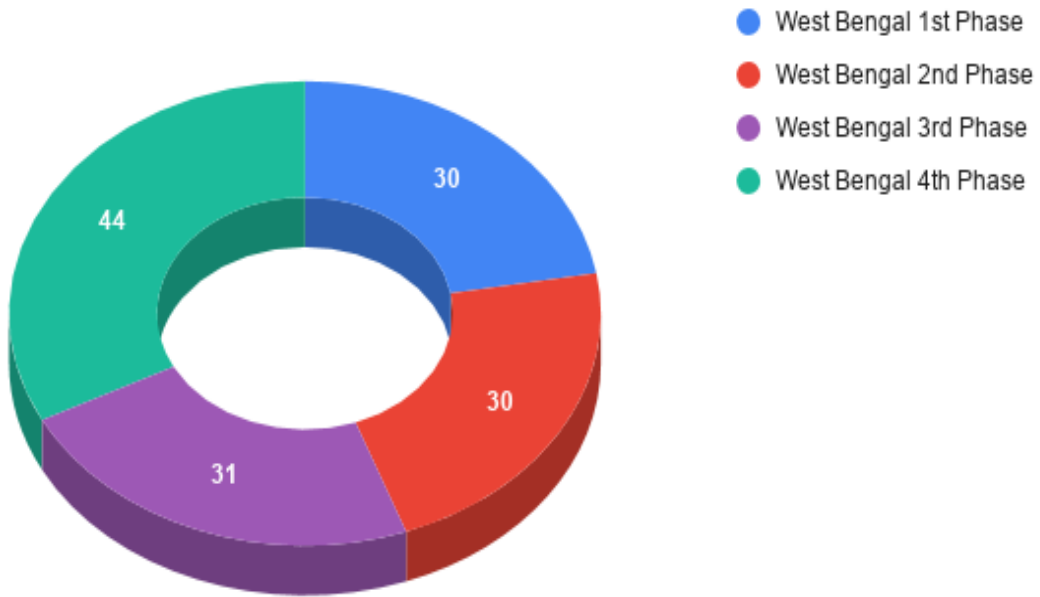
ECI adjourns polling in PS 126 of 5-Sitalkuchi (SC) Assembly Constituency, Cooch Behar

Polling was conducted in **15,940 Polling Stations** spread across **44 Assembly Constituencies** today, in the fourth phase of elections in the state of West Bengal. However, based on report received from Special Observers on the reported incident of violence at one PS No. 126 under 5- Sitalkuchi(SC) Assembly Constituency, Cooch Behar, ECI has adjourned the Poll. Detailed report is awaited .

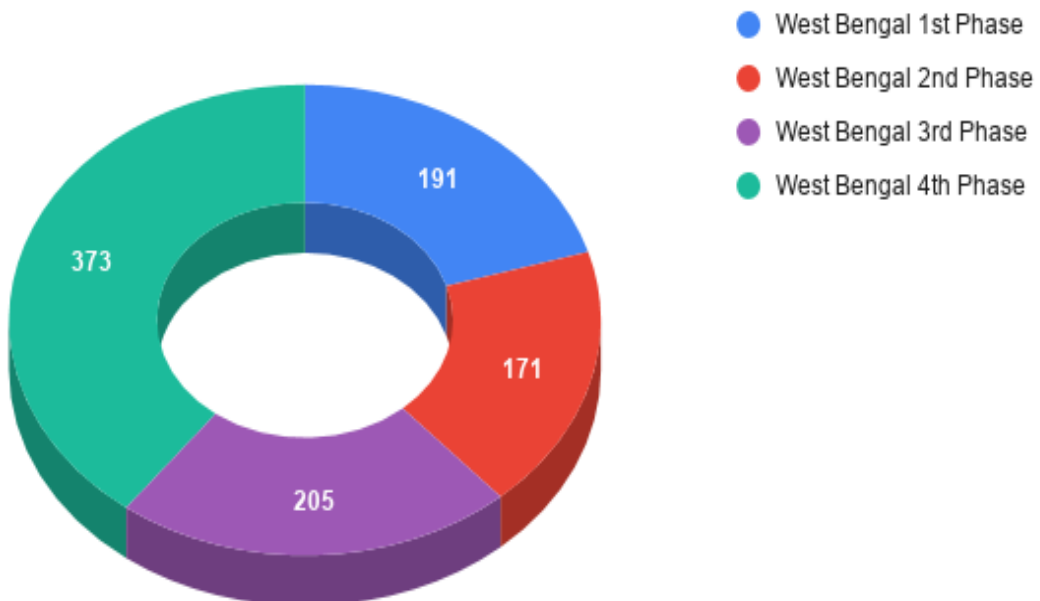
Details of Electors, Polling Stations & Observers in the poll are as follows:

Table 1 : Factsheet for West Bengal					
State	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Total upto Phase 4
Assembly Constituencies	30	30	31	44	135
No of Polling Stations	10,288	10,620	10,871	15,940	47,719
Registered Electors	73,80,942	75,94,549	78,52,425	1,15,81,022	3,44,08,938
Total number of contesting candidates	191	171	205	373	940
No of General observers deployed	20	23	22	35	100
No of Police observers deployed	7	6	9	9	31
No of Expenditure observers deployed	9	9	7	10	35
% of voting till 5 PM	84.63 (Final VTR)	86.11 (Final VTR)	84.61 (Final VTR)	76.16%	

Total Number of Assembly Constituencies = 135



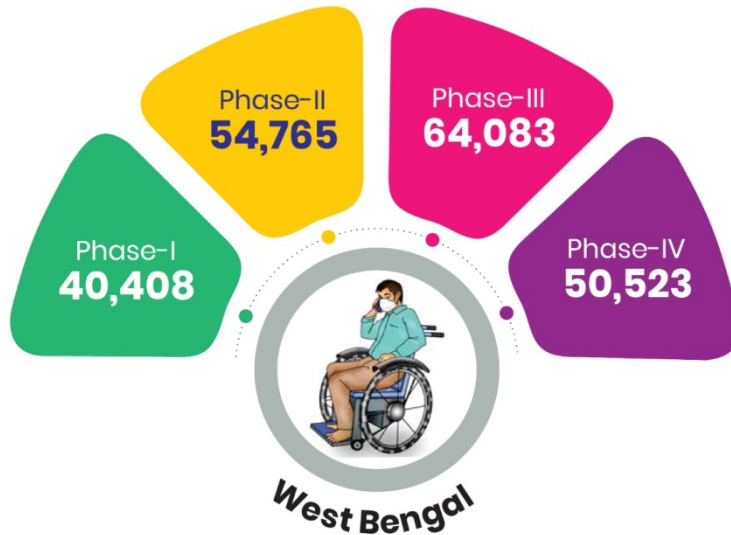
Total Number of Contesting Candidates = 940



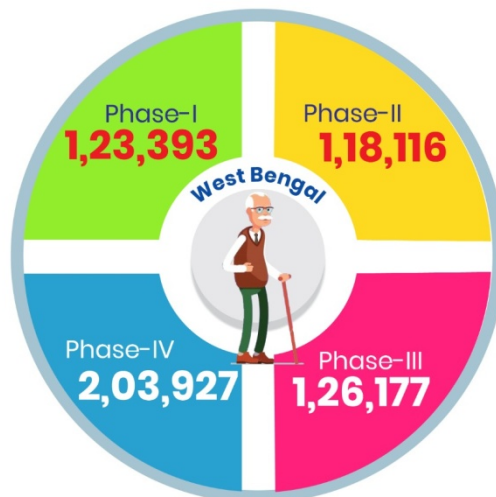
To ensure inclusive and accessible elections, ECI has extended the option of postal ballot facility to PwDs, Senior Citizens above the age of 80 years, COVID-19 suspect or affected persons and persons employed in essential services. The Observers at the ground level oversaw that proper arrangements for facilitation were made available for these voters.

Table 2 : Number of PwD & 80+ electors					
State	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Total upto Phase 4
Number of PwD electors	40,408	54,765	64,083	50,523	2,09,779
Total number of 80+ electors	1,23,393	1,18,116	1,26,177	2,03,927	5,71,613

Total Number of PwD Electors = 50,523



Total Number of 80+ Electors = 2,03,927





Aged voter on the way to cast her vote
PS 55 AC 156 Budge
Budge



A total of 15,940 Ballot Units (BUs), 15,940 Control Units(CUs) and 15,940 VVPATs were used in West Bengal during this phase. As per standard procedure all these EVMs and VVPATs had already undergone First Level Checking, Randomisation, and Commissioning in the presence of Political Parties/Candidates agents. During FLC and during commissioning each of these EVMs and VVPATs had undergone mock polls. Today before the start of the poll each of the EVMs and VVPATs again underwent a mock poll in the presence of polling agents of the candidates with minimum 50 votes cast on each, as per standard procedure. At the end of the mock poll the results of EVM were matched with the result of VVPAT slips and shown to the polling agents. Nonfunctioning rate during the poll is comparable to what was experienced in the last few polls.



As a major push for conducting free and fair elections, live monitoring and webcasting of more than 50% of Polling Stations including critical and vulnerable polling booths has been put in place as per ECI norms, to ensure a safe and secure atmosphere in polling areas. Commission, CEOs, DEOs, Observers could watch live streaming and keep a close watch on these polling booths.

Polling stations
8304 out of **15,940**
(52.1%) *monitored live*
through webcasting

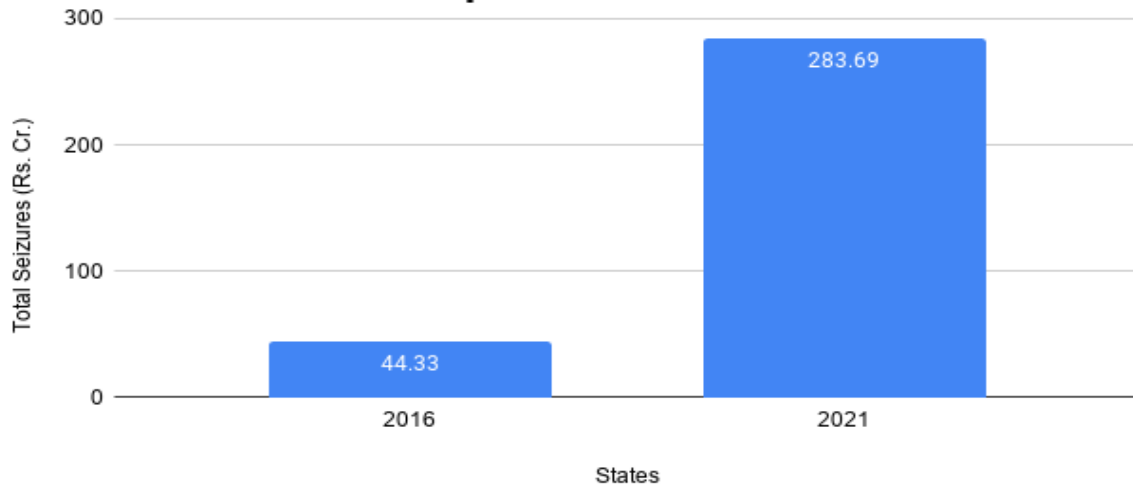
As per Commission's instruction police officials including CAPF personnel will not go inside the polling booth unless required by the Presiding Officer due to law and order problem. It is the standing instruction of the Commission that outsiders will not be allowed in the areas of poll going assembly constituencies during the silence period i.e. 48 hours before the end of polling hours. The Commission had reiterated this instruction in a briefing of DEOs and police officials. These guidelines were strictly and rigorously followed.



During the ongoing elections till this phase in West Bengal, a record seizure of Rs.283.70 Crore has already been reported on April 10, 2021. The seizure figure, which includes seizure of cash, liquor, narcotics, freebies etc., is more than 6.4 times of the total seizure of Rs. 44.33 Crore in GE LA 2016. The Commission has been laying specific emphasis on inducement free elections and curbing the malaise of undue money power, liquor, freebies. For effective monitoring a total 1137 Flying Squads (FS) and 1012 Static Surveillance Teams (SST) were operationalised to check movement of cash, liquor, drugs & freebies in these states/UT closely supervised by DEOs, Expenditure Observers in Districts and Special observers. A total 3 Air Intelligence Units (AIU) of IT Department are also set at different stations in Kolkata, Andal in Durgapur and Bagdogra in West Bengal..

The progressive seizure of all five States/UT where assembly elections have been/are being held, as on 10.04.2021 is Rs. 973.7 Crore (this includes seizures of Rs. 4.46 Crore in bye-elections also.)

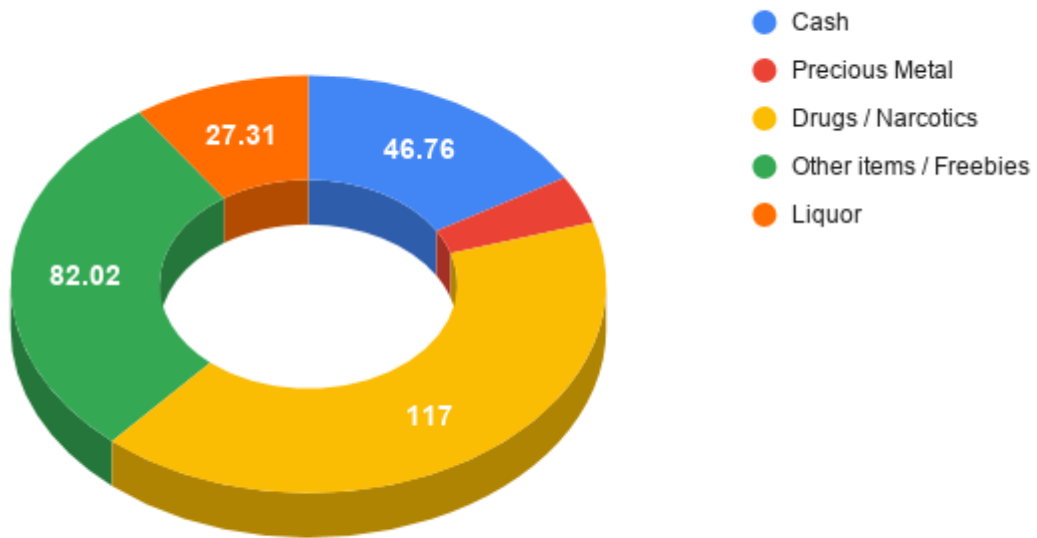
640% increase in Total Seizure in LA 2021 compared to LA 2016



Item wise break up of seizure report as till 10.04.2021 Forenoon

States	Cash (in Rs. Cr.)	Precious Metal (in Rs. Cr.)	Drugs/ Narcotics		Other items/ freebies	Liquor		Total (in Rs. Cr.)	Total Seizure in LA 2016 (in Rs. Cr.)	% of LA 2016
			Quantity (in Kg)	Worth (in Rs. Cr.)	Worth (in Rs. Cr.)	Quantity (in Ltrs.)	Worth (in Rs. Cr.)			
Till West Bengal 4th Phase	46.76	10.60	2886.5	117	82.02	2260441	27.31	283.70	44.33	+640%

Total Seizure in LA 2021 = Rs 283.69 Crore



Election Commission of India's cVIGIL App is a citizen centric mobile application which empowers people to report cases of MCC violations in real time basis, with auto populated details of location and responded within 100 minutes after verification at field level. A total number of about 21217 **cases** of Model Code of Conduct violations were reported through the cVIGIL app out of which 20987 cases were disposed as of today (3:00 PM)

On all polling stations, assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) like drinking water, waiting shed, toilet with water facility, adequate arrangements for lighting, ramp of appropriate gradient for wheelchair for PwD electors and a standard voting compartment etc. were made available at all the Polling Stations. Arrangements like transport facility, volunteers assisting Persons with Disability and senior citizens were present at the Polling Stations.

All the Polling Stations followed COVID-19 Safety protocols. For the safety of the voters and the election officials it was ensured that the Polling Stations were sanitized one day prior to poll and facility of thermal scanning, hand sanitisers, face masks were also made available at the Polling Stations. Proper arrangements for social distancing were put in place. BLOs and volunteers monitored and regulated strict compliance of social distancing norms at the Polling Stations. At the last hour of the poll, polling was conducted in full COVID-19 protective gear, with proper COVID-19 protocols and supervision of health authorities. The Commission has laid great emphasis on ensuring a transparent and vigilant mechanism for COVID safe, intimidation free and inducement free elections amidst tight security arrangements. Polling across ACs was conducted under strict security arrangements.



Social Distance at the time of poll PS 158 AC 157 Metiaburuz



The Election Commission has laid out an elaborate security plan to ensure smooth and safe conduct of elections. Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) along with the local police force have been deployed to ensure peaceful, intimidation free and conducive atmosphere for the smooth conduct of elections in a free, fair, inclusive and accessible manner. Route marches in vulnerable pockets, regular point patrolling and other Confidence Building Measures were carried out to reassure voters, especially those belonging to the weaker sections of society. **Peaceful and orderly voting took place on 15,939 booths except 1 at PS No. 126 of Sitalkurchi Assembly Constituency of Cooch Behar where re-polling has been ordered.**

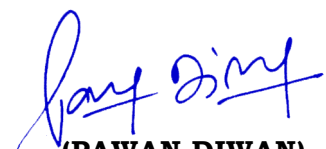




Election Commission of India expresses gratitude to all stakeholders specially the voters for their enthusiastic and fearless participation in the election process today. Commission particularly thanks PwD electors, senior citizens, service voters for taking part in elections honoring COVID protocol norms. ECI also recognizes the services of the entire electoral machinery including polling staff on duty, security personnel, supervisory staff, Observers, Special Observers railway authorities, enforcement agencies as also the Health authorities for making comprehensive arrangements and dedicatedly working towards successful conduct of free, fair, transparent and safe elections despite pandemic. The Commission solicits active cooperation, close collaboration and constructive partnership from all stakeholders including media for delivering smooth and peaceful elections.

For election related updates, photographs and other details please visit our website eci.gov.in and Twitter handles [@SpokespersonECI](https://twitter.com/SpokespersonECI) & [@ECISVEEP](https://twitter.com/ECISVEEP).

For high resolution photographs kindly visit <https://pib.gov.in>


(PAWAN DIWAN)
UNDER SECRETARY