



# ALL INDIA TRINAMOOOL CONGRESS

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23 March 2021

**Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal**  
21 NS Road, Fairley Place, BBD Bagh,  
Kolkata – 700 001.

Sub: Absence of a level-playing field vis-à-vis the ongoing General Elections to Legislative Assembly of State of West Bengal, 2021.

Dear Sir,

Part VII of the Model Code of Conduct prohibits the party in power both *at the Centre and in the State* to use their official position for the purpose of election campaign. Shockingly, the same is being violated with impunity by the party in power at the Centre. I would like to draw your urgent attention to the following two instances.

1. Central agencies are deliberately disturbing and/or summoning candidates/leaders/spokespersons of the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) in cases that have been pending at least for the past 5 years. On the contrary, the same central agencies have not summoned any candidates/leaders/spokespersons of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), though equally accused in such alleged crimes. This is clearly a proof of misuse of such central agencies by the party in power at the Centre to an extent that there is a false narrative being created about the AITC that is being used to influence the electorate in the State.

The complete state machinery including police is now under the control of the Election Commission of India (ECI). It is imperative and necessary that the ECI immediately issue necessary directions to central agencies namely, ED, CBI, NIA, IT, etc., working in the State mandating that such central agencies refrain from taking biased/partisan coercive steps/action during the pendency of the ongoing elections.

2. Additionally, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Union Minister for Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah, Union Minister for Road, Transport & Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Textiles Smt. Smriti Irani, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath, other Chief Ministers and Ministers of various States where the BJP is in power and other BJP leaders of various States, being star campaigners for the BJP, have been utilizing and misusing their government office, such as official government transport, official machinery/personnel etc., for the purpose of election campaigning in the ongoing West Bengal Assembly elections, 2021. The same is creating a complete mockery of a level-playing field.

We have always favoured an unbiased administration, state and central, and a resultant free and fair poll. We call upon you to create a level playing field vis-à-vis the State elections, where restrictions, rules and regulations are applied uniformly and such application is not discriminatory.

Thanking You.

Yours sincerely,

For All India Trinamool Congress

Derek O'Brien