

PRESS NOTE ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ASSEMBLY GENERAL ELECTIONS 2016

**Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal
7 March 2016**

Ensuring effective Security is integral to the conduct of peaceful and impartial elections and deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (Central Armed Police Forces) is a major component to ensure free and fair election as they are considered to be free from local influences. While assessing the requirement of CAPF in the State, the ECI undertakes an elaborate exercise by taking into consideration the prevailing law and order situation, criticality and vulnerability. The role of the security forces starts much before poll day and ends only after the declaration of the results with counting of votes. Some of the significant pre-poll, poll day and post-poll CAPF activities are summarized below:

- Pre-poll CAPF activities are associated with area domination, flag marches as well as extensive patrolling, interaction with local population and other confidence building measures. Besides FST, SST, QRT are deployed to ensure MCC implementation.
- Poll day activities include guarding polling stations, polling material, poll personnel and the poll process, patrolling duty as "flying squads", escort duty of polled EVMs, to monitor law and order situation.
- Post-poll day activity associated with guarding duty of polled EVMs at strong rooms

In recent times, the deployment of CAPF for the entire period of election process i.e., for pre-poll day, poll day and post poll day is essential to ensure free and fair elections and to assure all citizens that elections will be conducted in a peaceful manner so that voters exercise their right to vote in a free, fair and conducive atmosphere.