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# West Bengal Phase 2 Votes — 142 Seats, Exit Polls at 6:30 PM, Results May 4

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CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

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# West Bengal Phase 2 Votes — 142 Seats, Exit Polls at 6:30 PM, Results May 4

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## WHY IN NEWS

West Bengal's **second and final phase** of assembly elections is underway on **April 29, 2026**, covering **142 constituencies** across Kolkata and its suburban belt — the densest electoral battleground in the state. Turnout at 3 PM: **78.68%**. Phase 1 (April 23, 152 constituencies) had recorded a historic **93.19% voter turnout** — the highest in West Bengal since Independence. After Phase 2 voting concludes, the **Election Commission lifts the exit poll ban at 6:30 PM**, when exit poll predictions for all five 2026 state elections will be simultaneously broadcast.

## PHASE 2 — KEY CONSTITUENCIES

CONSTITUENCY	CANDIDATE	PARTY	SIGNIFICANCE
<b>Bhawanipur (Kolkata)</b>	Mamata Banerjee	TMC	CM's home seat; symbolic TMC stronghold
<b>Nandigram</b>	Suvendu Adhikari	BJP	LoP's seat; defeated Mamata here in 2021
<b>Jadavpur</b>	TMC candidate	TMC	South Kolkata bastion; intellectual community
<b>Dum Dum</b>	Contest	TMC vs BJP	North Kolkata industrial suburbs
<b>Howrah</b>	Contest	TMC vs BJP+Left	Major industrial district; bridge city
<b>Diamond Harbour</b>	TMC — Abhishek Banerjee	TMC	Mamata's nephew; Lok Sabha MP contesting

## PHASE STRUCTURE — CORRECTED

PHASE	DATE	CONSTITUENCIES	REGIONS
Phase 1	April 23	<b>152</b>	North Bengal, Jhargram, West Midnapore, tribal districts
Phase 2	April 29	<b>142</b>	Kolkata, Howrah, North & South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Hooghly, Purba Bardhaman
<b>Total</b>		<b>294</b>	
Phase 1 turnout		<b>93.19%</b>	Historic — highest in WB since Independence
Phase 2 live (3 PM)		<b>78.68%</b>	Still active

## TURNOUT ACROSS ALL 2026 STATE ELECTIONS

STATE/UT	POLL DATE	PHASE	TURNOUT
<b>West Bengal (Phase 1)</b>	April 23	152 seats	<b>93.19%</b> — highest
<b>Puducherry</b>	April 9	Single	<b>89.83%</b>
<b>Assam</b>	April 9	Single	<b>85.38%</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	April 23	Single	<b>85.15%</b>
<b>Kerala</b>	April 9	Single	<b>78.03%</b>
WB Phase 2	April 29	142 seats	78.68% (live, 3 PM)

West Bengal's Phase 1 turnout of 93.19% is historically extraordinary — significantly above Tamil Nadu's much-celebrated 85.15%. High turnout in West Bengal is driven by TMC's comprehensive booth management, community polling traditions, and the competitive multi-party dynamics.

## VIOLENCE AND SECURITY

Phase 2 saw scattered incidents:

- **Howrah:** EVM glitch complaints; two individuals detained by CRPF

- **South 24 Parganas:** Minor clashes between party workers in early morning
- **Kolkata:** Minor protests but largely peaceful polling

Security deployment: **350,000+ personnel statewide**; 2,550 CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces) companies. The Election Commission had earlier rejected the BJP's demand for Army deployment, affirming CAPF coverage is sufficient.

## EXIT POLLS — WHAT TO EXPECT AT 6:30 PM

The Election Commission of India prohibits exit poll publication until all phases of all ongoing elections are complete. West Bengal's Phase 2 is the **last polling event of the 2026 state election cycle** — after its conclusion, the ban lifts at **6:30 PM on April 29**.

Exit poll predictions for all five states will be released simultaneously:

STATE	SEATS	KEY CONTEST
West Bengal	294	TMC vs BJP vs Left-Congress-ISF
Tamil Nadu	234	DMK vs AIADMK-NDA vs TVK
Kerala	140	LDF vs UDF; BJP for first seat
Assam	126	BJP vs Congress-regional
Puducherry	30	Congress vs NDA-AINRC

**Exit poll caveats for UPSC context:** Exit polls are not election results. The 2004 general elections famously saw exit polls predict NDA victory (actual: Congress-led UPA won). For close contests, exit poll margins of error ( $\pm 2-3\%$ ) can reverse apparent leads.

## THE BHAWANIPUR-NANDIGRAM DYNAMIC

**Bhawanipur vs Nandigram** is the symbolic axis of Bengal 2026 politics:

- In **2021**, Mamata lost Nandigram to Suwendu by 1,956 votes — won CMship from Bhawanipur (by-election, Sept 2021, 58,000+ margin)
- In **2026**, Mamata contests from Bhawanipur again; Suwendu contests from Nandigram again
- If Mamata loses Bhawanipur, she cannot remain CM under constitutional convention (Article 164 — must win within 6 months)
- If Suwendu loses Nandigram, BJP faces a major morale blow in its Bengal leader

## UPSC RELEVANCE

PAPER	ANGLE
GS2 — Polity	State elections; election process; exit polls vs actual results; FPTP
GS2 — Governance	ECI role; CAPF deployment; Model Code of Conduct; polling irregularities
GS1 — Indian Society	Bengal political culture; voter mobilisation; TMC-BJP dynamics

**Mains Keywords:** West Bengal Phase 2, exit polls, Mamata Banerjee, Suwendu Adhikari, Nandigram, Bhawanipur, TMC, BJP, CAPF, Election Commission, voter turnout, 93.19% Phase 1

### Facts Corner

ITEM	FACT
WB Phase 2 date	April 29, 2026
Phase 2 constituencies	142
Phase 1 constituencies	152
Phase 1 turnout	93.19% (historic)
Phase 2 live turnout (3 PM)	78.68%
Exit poll release	6:30 PM, April 29
Results date	May 4, 2026
Total WB seats	294 (68 SC + 16 ST reserved)
CAPF deployed	2,550 companies; 350,000+ personnel
WB Governor	C.V. Ananda Bose
Mamata constituency	Bhawanipur, Kolkata
Suwendu constituency	Nandigram, Purba Medinipur

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