

Lok Sabha polls phase 2: Over 60 per cent turnout till 5 pm; Tripura records highest voting, Uttar Pradesh lowest

NEW DELHI, APR 26: Over 60 per cent polling was reported till 5 pm in the second phase of Lok Sabha elections covering 88 seats across 13 states amid complaints of EVM glitches and bogus voting in some booths in Kerala and West Bengal.

Voters in some villages of Uttar Pradesh's Mathura, Rajasthan's Banswara and Maharashtra's Parbhani boycotted polls over various issues but were persuaded by authorities to cast their franchise.

Polling for the second stage of the seven-phase elections started at 7 am and was to continue till 6 pm. Several states are experiencing intense heat conditions.

Election officials said the highest voting percentage was recorded in Tripura which registered 77.53 per cent polling till 5 pm, while the lowest turnout was in Uttar Pradesh at 52.74 per cent.

Polling is being held in all 20 seats of Kerala, 14 of the 28 seats in Karnataka, 13 seats in Rajasthan, 8 seats each in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, 6 seats in Madhya Pradesh, 5 seats each in Assam and Bihar, 3 seats each in Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, and 1 seat each in Manipur, Tripura and Jammu and Kashmir.

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar and actor-turned-politician Arun Govil, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's brother DK Suresh (Cong), and former Karnataka chief minister HD Kumaraswamy (JDS) are among the key candidates while BJP's Hema Malini, Om Birla and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat seeking a hat-trick of wins from their respective constituencies.

Stressing on the importance of each vote, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi issued impassioned appeals asking people to step out and exercise their franchise in the second phase of the Lok Sabha election.

In Kerala, the turnout was 63.97 per cent. The election process, held amid tight security arrangements, was primarily incident free except for instances of bogus voting and breakdowns of



electronic voting machines (EVMs) being reported in some booths of the state. Such incidents resulted in delaying the polling process in the affected booths.

One person each reportedly died at Palakkad, Alappuzha and Malappuram after casting their vote and a polling agent died after collapsing at a booth in Kozhikode.

Tripura East Lok Sabha constituency recorded a turnout of 77.53 per cent till 5 pm. Election officials said there were some complaints from a few booths but those were "promptly addressed".

A jawan of the Madhya Pradesh Special Armed Force deployed on poll duty allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle at a government school where he was stationed in Garhiaband district under the Mahasamund seat in Chhattisgarh, where a voter turnout of 72.13 per cent was recorded till 5 pm.

A polling booth at Sivni village in Balod district (Kanker seat) was decorated like a wedding 'mandap', with a display of rituals of traditional weddings. Several brides and grooms, dressed in their wedding finery, cast their votes at several polling booths. In neighbouring Madhya Pradesh, there was a turnout of 54.83 per cent till 5 pm.

An estimated 70.66 per cent of the 77,26,668 voters exercised their franchise till 3 pm in the five parliamentary constituencies of Assam. In restive Manipur, where polling is being held under high presence of security personnel, the turnout was a high 76.06

per cent. Till 5 pm, the overall voting percentage in Karnataka was 63.90.

A case was booked against BJP MP and Bangalore South Candidate Tejasvi Surya for allegedly posting a video on a social media platform and soliciting votes on the grounds of religion, the Election Commission said.

Various restaurants in Bangalore were offering free dosas, laddu, coffee and other food items at discounted rates to customers who cast their vote.

A private hospital assisted 41 inpatients cast their vote with the help of city civic body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). Green corridors were created for the ambulances across constituencies to ensure easy, hassle-free voting.

Some EVMs were destroyed at a polling station in Indiganatha village in Chamarajanagara district of Karnataka during a clash between two groups of people over whether to vote or not. Officials said an FIR is being filed the Election Commission will take a call after getting a detailed report.

A voter turnout of 53.51 per cent was recorded till 3 pm in eight constituencies in Maharashtra, while in Rajasthan, the turnout was 59.19 per cent. Incidents of confrontation between the supporters of the Congress candidate and an independent candidate were reported at a couple of places during polling in Barmer-Jaisalmer Lok Sabha constituency of Rajasthan. Police said they were

looking into the complaints besides some about fake voting from some places.

A voter turnout of 52.74 per cent was recorded till 3 pm in the eight parliamentary constituencies of Uttar Pradesh. Senior citizens dominated the early hours of voting in Noida in the Gautam Buddha Nagar constituency. Some residents' welfare associations made arrangements for electric vehicles to ferry voters to and from the polling booths.

In Bihar, the turnout was 53.03 per cent, 71.84 per cent in West Bengal and 67.90 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Lok Sabha polls are the first major electoral battle in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into Union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh -- on August 5, 2019.

The Election Commission registered nearly 300 complaints in West Bengal, mostly related to EVM malfunctioning.

After Friday's phase, polling will be over in Kerala, Rajasthan and Tripura. In the first phase on April 19, polling was completed in all seats of Tamil Nadu (39), Uttarakhand (5), Arunachal Pradesh (2), Meghalaya (2), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (1), Mizoram (1), Nagaland (1), Puducherry (1), Sikkim (1) and Lakshadweep (1).

The third phase of elections for 94 seats across 12 states and Union territories will be held on May 7. Counting will be done on June 4.

DNA test plea of woman claiming to be BJP MP Ravi Kishan's daughter rejected

MUMBAI, APR 26: A civil court in Mumbai on Friday rejected the interim plea of a 25-year-old woman seeking a DNA test on BJP's Gorakhpur MP Ravi Kishan to prove her claim that the actor-politician is her biological father.

Shinova had filed a suit before a civil court here urging it to declare that she is the biological daughter of Kishan born out of his relationship with Aparna Soni. The suit, filed through advocate Ashok Sarogi and Jay Yadav, as an interim measure had also sought DNA test to prove the woman's claim that Kishan is her father.

However, the court on Friday refused to grant any interim relief. It then issued summons to the respondents, seeking their response on the main suit of the woman.

The matter will be next heard on July 23. The woman, in her suit, said Soni came across various people belonging to the film fraternity, including Ravi Kishan, in her capacity as a journalist.

As per the plea, Soni and Kishan entered into a relationship and got married in 1991, though they could not



reside together for long due to some personal problems. Shinova, in the plea, said she was born on October 19, 1998, by which time it had come to light that Kishan was already married.

Considering these facts, it seems Kishan and Soni decided among themselves that their child would call the actor 'uncle', the plea said, adding that the duo took necessary care of her.

However, recently when Shinova and Soni visited the BJP leader to offer best wishes for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, he misbehaved and refused to meet them, the plea alleged.

Following this, they held a press conference to tell the public about the rights of Shinova in her capacity as the biological daughter of Kishan, the plea said.

Nothing incriminating was mentioned in the press conference, despite which Kishan's wife Shukla filed an FIR against them, Shinova said in the plea.

LS polls: Ex-Chhattisgarh CM Baghel says his photos on EVMs small and unclear; alleges 'conspiracy'

RAJNANDGAON, APR 26: Former Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel, who is Congress' candidate in Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha seat in the state, on Friday said he has received complaints that his photos on the Electronic Voting Machines are smaller and unclear as compared to those of his rivals.

Polling in Rajnandgaon is underway along with two other parliamentary seats - Kanker and Mahasamund -

on Friday in the second phase of general elections.

Baghel is pitted against BJP's sitting MP Santosh Pandey. In a post on his 'X' handle, Baghel said, "Voters have been calling and complaining that the photos of other candidates on the EVM are bigger in size and clear but my photo is small and relatively unclear. The photo was given as requested by the Election Commission."

"This exposes @ECISVEEP's claims of impartiality. Has this been

done under a conspiracy? But this is not going to change the result," he added. In another post, Baghel accused the BJP workers of stopping him from entering a polling booth in Tedesara village in Rajnandgaon seat.

"I am a candidate myself and BJP workers are preventing me from going to the polling booth. BJP using goons to intimidate. Sensing people's sentiments against them (in elections), their (BJP) workers and masters

Weeklong SERB Sponsored workshop on 'Fracture and Fatigue Study' concludes at NIT Srinagar

SRINAGAR, APR 26: A weeklong day workshop on 'Fracture and Fatigue Study Using Experimental and Numerical Modelling Techniques,' under the Karyashala scheme concluded at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The workshop, held from 19th to 25th April, 2024, aimed to enhance participants' understanding of fracture and fatigue phenomena in materials.

Students from various parts of India participated in the workshop, which featured lectures delivered by esteemed faculties from renowned institutions such as IITs and NITs. The workshop also included hands-on laboratory sessions to provide participants with practical experience.

The valediction ceremony, held on Thursday marked the conclusion of the workshop. Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Director NIT Srinagar was the chief patron of the organizing committee.

Prof. (HAG) G A Harmain, Dean Faculty Welfare, Prof. (HAG) MF Wani, Prof Atikur Rahman Registrar NIT Srinagar were the patrons and Prof Adnan Qayoum was the chairman of the organizing committee.



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The event was presided over by Prof. G A Harmain, Dean Faculty Welfare, who graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest.

In his message, Prof. Harmain, who has also worked extensively in the area of fracture and fatigue, commended the coordinators for their efforts in organizing a highly informative and engaging workshop.

Prof. Adnan Qayoum, HOD Mechanical Engineering Department, expressed his appreciation for the active participation of all attendees and emphasized the workshop's importance in fostering collaboration and

knowledge exchange. Prof. A Ravinder Nath, Director of NIT Srinagar, congratulated the organizing team and Dr. Ved Prakash for the successful completion of the workshop, underscoring the institute's commitment to promoting excellence in engineering education and research.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rahman congratulated the organizing team for the successful completion of the workshop. He highlighted the workshop's significance in advancing research and education in the field of fracture and fatigue, he said.

Certificates were distributed to participants in recognition of their active participation and engagement.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Ved Prakash Sharma, workshop coordinator, who expressed gratitude to the chief patron, chairman, coordinators, participants, and student volunteers in making the workshop a success.

The workshop's success underscores NIT Srinagar's commitment to promoting excellence in research and education in the field of engineering and technology.

DC Ramban visits damaged houses, sinking area at Pernote

RAMBAN, APRIL 26: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today visited houses damaged due to sinking of land, besides interacting with the affected families at village Pernote in Ramban.

The DC was accompanied by ADC, Varunjeet Singh Charak, Tehsildar, Deep Kumar, Tehsildar S. Harvir Singh and various concerned officers and locals.

Interacting with the families whose houses were damaged due to sinking of land, the DC assured them every possible help from district administration.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Tehsildar to process relief cases of damaged houses on war footing under SDRF to provide assistance to victims in the shortest possible time.



The DC informed that out of the 50 houses at risk, about 30 have been damaged and affected families have been shifted to safer places besides providing tents, blankets, utensils and

other essential items to them. He said experts from the Geological Survey of India will be called to visit at Pernote to ascertain the reasons behind the sinking of land.

The Deputy Commissioner said that restoration of essential services and road connectivity is the priority of District Administration besides ensuring immediate temporary provision of accommodation and ration for affected families.

Responding swiftly to the road blockage on Ramban-Gool route at Pernote, the District Administration has opened the Sumer-Digdole link road for light vehicles. This initiative ensures continued road connectivity and essential/emergency services for Sub Division, Gool, with NH-44.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the District Administration remains vigilant, with a dedicated team stationed at the site to monitor the situation closely.

Delhi court dismisses Brij Bhushan Singh's plea seeking further probe into sexual harassment case

NEW DELHI, APR 26: A Delhi court on Friday dismissed an application filed by former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh seeking further investigation into a sexual harassment case lodged by six female wrestlers against him.

While dismissing the application, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Priyanka Rajpoot fixed May 7 for an order on whether to frame charges against Singh in the case.

Singh had moved the application seeking time to make further submissions on charges and for further investigation, saying that he was not in India on the date of one of the incidents



wherein a complainant has alleged that she was harassed at the WFI office.

Singh's counsel claimed that Delhi Police had re-

corded (CDR) of the coach who had accompanied the complainant and stated that they had gone to the WFI office on September 7, 2022, where she was allegedly molested.

However, the CDR has not been placed on record by police, the counsel claimed.


Delhi Police had filed a charge sheet in the case against Singh, a six-time

CONDOLENCE

We have no words to express our grief and sorrow on the sad and untimely demise of **Sh. HN Langoo** father of Paritaj Langoo Senior Youth leader NCP and Vice president Farmers organization JKUF.

At this critical juncture our sympathies are with the bereaved family. May the departed soul rest in peace.

From:-
 Dr. Rishi Kishan National Spokesperson Youth NCP & National President Youth Farmers organization
 Sh. Tri Kaul Senior Vice President NCP
 Sh. Kamal Guza President NCP JKUF
 RS Bilowaria Senior General Secretary NCP
 Rahul Dwivedi National President Farmers Organization & Brahm Shakti Sangh.


SH. HN LANGOO

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDASS

With profound grief and Sorrow we regret to inform you the sad demise of our Beloved **S. Tarlochan Singh (Retd. Master)** S/O Late S. Sadhu Singh (Girdawar) R/O Khorinar, Ward no. 6, Poonch (J&K) who left us for Heavenly abode on 20th April 2024.

PROGRAMME
Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib at 9:00 AM on 27/04/2024 at our residence.
Bhogh Shri Akhand Path Sahib at 9:00 AM on 29/04/2024 at our residence.
Shabdh Kirtan and Antim Ardass will be performed on 29/04/2024 at 12:00 Noon at Gurudwara Shri Mahant Sahib Poonch.


S. Tarlochan Singh (Retd. Master)

GRIEF STRICKEN

S. Harpreet Singh (Son)
 S. Hoshiyar Singh (Retd. Vety. Surgeon) (Brother)
 S. Jagjit Singh (Retd. CEO) (Brother)
 S. Ragbir Singh Nepal Wale (Brother in Law)
 Sdr & S. Surinder Singh (Retd. Principal) (Brother in Law)
 Sdr & S. Jasbir Singh (Retd. PHE Dept.) (Brother in Law)
 Sdr. & S. Kaka Singh (Brother in Law)
 S. Taranjeet Singh (Contractor) (Nephew)
 S. Satinder Singh Sudan (News Journalist PTC Simran) (Nephew)
 S. Manveer Singh (JK Bank Law Officer) (Nephew)

Mobile no. 9469071960, 94196 75487

NOTICE

I, Navneet Singh S/o Ichpal Singh lost his Diploma under Roll No. 1501-17D6-10060, Session 2015-2018 of Govt. Polytechnic, Jammu. Now I am applying for same Duplicate Diploma. Anybody have any objection may conveyed to Govt Polytechnic Jammu within 7 days.

NOTICE

I, Aaniya Ghose Qadri D/o Noor-ul-Amin Qadri Roll No. 47-ITB-2012 under Registration No. BGSBU/12/1336 Pass out of B-Tech in Information Technology and Engineering (Batch 2012) from BGSBU Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir, lost my marksheet of B-Tech Semester 2nd on 10.01.2024. If anybody found the said document please return to Controller of Examination BGSB University Rajouri J&K within 7 days of publication of this notice or may contact 9622007297.

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