

Chhattisgarh: 42.57 pc turnout recorded till 1 pm in Bastar LS seat; CRPF officer hurt in IED blast

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAIPUR/JAGDALPUR: A voter turnout of more than 42 per cent was recorded till 1 pm on Friday in the Naxal-hit Bastar Lok Sabha constituency of Chhattisgarh, which saw a CRPF officer getting injured in an explosion of a pressure IED planted by Naxalites, officials said.

"Amid tight security, polling in the Bastar seat started at 7 am and is underway smoothly. At least 42.57 per cent polling was registered till 1 pm," an election official said.

An assistant commandant of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was injured when a pressure improvised explosive device (IED), planted by Naxalites, exploded in Bhairamgarh police station area of Bijapur district, police said. The incident occurred near Chihka polling booth under Bhairamgarh police station limits when a team of security personnel was out on an area domination operation in the area in view of polling.

During the exercise, Manu



HIC, assistant commandant belonging to CRPF's 62nd battalion, came in contact with the pressure IED triggering the blast that left him injured on his left leg and hand, he said.

In another incident, a CRPF jawan deployed on poll security duty was injured when a shell of an under-barrel grenade launcher (UBGL) accidentally exploded in Bijapur district.

In a post on 'X', Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said, "Received sad news that a soldier engaged in the security of a polling station suffered injuries in UBGL shell blast in Bijapur amid the ongoing voting in Bastar Lok Sabha.

Instructions have been given to ensure proper treatment for the injured. His condition stated to be out of danger. I wish for his speedy recovery".

Long queues of voters were witnessed at several polling stations in Dantewada, Bijapur and Bastar districts. Elderly voters, some in wheelchairs, also arrived at the polling booths to cast their vote.

Among the initial voters were Congress candidate Kawasi Lakhma, who cast his vote at the Nagaras polling booth (Sukma), BJP's Mahesh Kashyap in Kalcha (Bastar), state BJP chief Kiran Deo in Shanti Nagar (Jagdalpur-

Bastar) and state Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap in Farsaguda (Bastar).

Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P and Commissioner of Bastar Division (Revenue) Shyam Dhawade cast their votes in Haatkachora polling booth in Bastar district.

Sundarraj said that in this battle of "Ballot versus Bullet", ultimately the ballot would emerge successful, meaningful and powerful.

"Despite repeated boycott and threat calls by Maoists, there is lot of enthusiasm and commitment among the people of Bastar, who are turning out in huge numbers to the polling stations," he said.

The IG appealed to the voters of Bastar to come out to polling stations and exercise their franchise in order to strengthen the democratic values. Defying a call for a poll boycott by Naxalites in a remote village Chandameta in Bastar district, villagers were seen queuing up to cast their votes in the polling booth there. The Bahud polling booth in Dantewada district sported the theme of environment conservation, with officials giving away saplings to voters to create awareness

about conservation. At least 60,000 state and paramilitary personnel have been deployed across the constituency to ensure peaceful polling.

Polling in booths of Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Chitrakot, Dantewada, Bijapur and Konta assembly constituencies in the Bastar Lok Sabha seat is being held from 7 am to 3 pm.

In the Bastar assembly constituency, polling is being held from 7 am to 5 pm, while in Jagdalpur, 175 booths are seeing voting from 7 am to 5 pm, and in 72 booths, it is being held from 7 am to 3 pm, she said.

Altogether 14,72,207 voters, including 7,71,679 women, 7,00,476 men and 52 transgenders, are eligible to exercise their franchise in the seat with 11 candidates in the fray, the official said.

As many as 1,961 polling booths have been set up in the constituency, of which 61 were categorised as vulnerable and 196 as critical.

The straight fight is between the Congress's firebrand leader Kawasi Lakhma and BJP's Mahesh Kashyap, a fresh face, in Bastar, which the saffron party lost in 2019.

First phase of LS polls: 53.40 pc voter turnout recorded across six seats in MP till 3 pm

STATE TIMES NEWS
BHOPAL: A voter turnout of 53.40 per cent was recorded till 3 pm in six Lok Sabha constituencies in Madhya Pradesh, where elections are underway in the first phase on Friday, an official said.

The constituency-wise polling percentage is: Balaghat 63.69 per cent, Chhindwara 62.57, Jabalpur 48.05, Mandla 58.28, Shahdol 48.64 and Sidhi 40.60, the official said.

Voting in Baihar and Paraswada assembly constituencies under the Balaghat Lok Sabha seat was held from 7 am to 4 pm for security reasons due to Naxal influence, he said, adding that a centre in Dublari area in Baihar constituency saw 100 per cent voting, with all 80 voters there exercising their franchise.

The early voters in the state included former chief minister Kamal Nath, his son Nakul Nath, who is contesting from the Chhindwara Lok Sabha seat, and their spouses.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had failed to

win the Chhindwara constituency in the 2019 elections. It was the only Lok Sabha seat, out of the total 29 in the state, that the ruling party could not win.

Besides Chhindwara, the other key seat in the first phase is Mandla (ST), from where the sitting MP and Union minister Paggan Singh Kulaste is contesting again.

These six constituencies - Shahdol, Mandla (both reserved for Scheduled Tribes), Jabalpur, Balaghat, Chhindwara and Sidhi - where polling is underway in the first phase, cover 13 districts and 47 assembly segments.

Polling began at 7 am and will end at 6 pm in most places, the official said.

Due to security reasons, polling was held from 7 am to 4 pm in Baihar, Lanji and Paraswada assembly segments of the Naxal-affected Balaghat constituency, he added.

As many as 88 candidates, including 81 men and seven women, are in the fray across the six constituencies. Jabalpur has the highest number of 19

candidates, while Shahdol has the lowest with 10 candidates in the fray.

Of the 13,588 booths where the polling is being held, women officials are in charge of 1,118 booths.

The total number of registered voters in the six constituencies is 1,13,09,636 (57,20,780 male, 55,88,669 female and 187 transgender).

Arrangements for shelter, water and ORS (oral rehydration solution) have been made at polling booths suffering the hot weather. A helicopter and an air ambulance were stationed in the Naxal-hit Balaghat district and Jabalpur to meet any eventuality, the official said.

In the November 2023 assembly elections in the state, 77.82 per cent voting was recorded. The state registered 61.57 per cent voting in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, which increased to 71.16 per cent in 2019.

Polling for three more phases of the Lok Sabha elections in the state will take place on April 26, May 7 and May 13 for the remaining 23 seats.

Abhishek to represent India in World Cup Qualifying event

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Abhishek Jamwal, National Games Gold medalist, has been selected in the Indian squad for the participation in the World Cup Qualifying event in Jiangsu (China) from April 21 to 26, 2024.

Wushu Association of India conducted selection trial for the finalisation of the Indian Wushu team for the event at Haridwar, in which he defeated all his counter mates and impressed the selection committee for his selection in the Indian squad for the World Cup Qualifying event to be held in China. The sports authority of India has cleared the Indian Wushu team for the said event at Cost to the government.

Abhishek Jamwal has a



Kuldeep Handoo (Dronacharya Awardee) with Abhishek Jamwal.

Kuldeep Handoo (Dronacharya Awardee) congratulated Abhishek and Indian Squad for the event and wished all the very best to him and the Indian Wushu team for the World Cup Qualifying event. He thanked J&K Sports Council for providing all facilities at both province of international standard, with the result J&K Wushu team at all levels is excelling at both National and international level.

The Wushu Association of J&K office bearers along with Vijay Saraf (President) and Bhavneet (General Secretary) congratulated Abhishek Jamwal for selection in the World Cup qualifying event in the china and wished him all the very best for the championship to be held at Macau in the month of September 2024.

number of medals at National and International event. The Wushu Association of India will conduct selection trial in the month of May for the BRICS Games scheduled to be held in Kazan (Russia) and 10th Asian Wushu championship to be held at Macau in the month of September 2024.

Sporadic incidents mar first phase of polling in Bengal

STATE TIMES NEWS
COOCH BEHAR/KOLKATA: Sporadic incidents of violence marred the first phase of Lok Sabha polls in the three parliamentary constituencies in Bengal, as TMC and the BJP workers clashed with each other in various parts of violence-prone Cooch Behar seat.

Both the TMC and the BJP lodged 80 and 39 complaints, respectively, related to poll violence, voter intimidation, and assaults on poll agents in the first few hours of polling, sources from both parties said. Most of the complaints were from Cooch Behar and Alipurduars constituencies.

"We have received a few complaints, but we have no reports of violence so far," a senior officer of the CEO office said.

According to officials, Cooch Behar recorded 33.68 per cent, while Alipurduars and Jalpaiguri recorded 35.20 and 31.94 per cent polling, respectively, by 11 am.

"By 11 am, the average polling was around 33.56 per cent," an official said.

All three seats are reserved, with Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri for SCs and Alipurduars for STs.

A total of 37 candidates, including Union Minister



and BJP leader Nisith Pramanik (Cooch Behar), are in the fray in the three constituencies.

The TMC alleged that BJP workers had thrashed polling agents in Sitalkuchi area of Cooch Behar constituency and voters were stopped from entering few booths.

The saffron camp denied the allegations and accused the TMC of intimidating voters.

Sitalkuchi, one of the most violence-prone areas of the state, witnessed widespread violence during the last assembly polls, leading to the death of four people in firing by central forces.

Television footage showed that in Mathabhanga area of the district, TMC and BJP workers clashed, resulting in injuries on both sides.

Workers from both parties confronted each other following allegations of voter intimidation.

In another area of Mathabhanga, TMC workers staged a protest following allegations that central forces were assisting BJP workers in rigging votes at some booths in the area. The TMC block president from Bethguri, Anant Barman, was hospitalised after allegedly being beaten up by BJP members.

"The BJP, along with central forces, has unleashed a reign of terror to rig the elections. Our workers are being harassed and beaten," North Bengal Development Minister Udayan Guha said.

The district BJP unit denied the allegations and claimed that in many areas, they have been at the receiving

end of violence.

"The TMC, sensing defeat, is trying to intimidate voters. BJP workers have been assaulted in various areas. Wherever Udayan Guha goes, he provokes people to indulge in violence. In many places, even media persons have been assaulted," Pramanik told reporters.

The BJP said that in the Cooch Behar South area, party members were kidnapped by TMC members, and polling agents were prevented from entering booths. In Mathabhanga area, five BJP workers were injured and hospitalised after being attacked by TMC members, a district BJP leader said.

In the same area, the saffron camp also alleged that TMC workers visited households to intimidate voters.

In the Chandmari area, BJP workers alleged that voters were not allowed to enter booths, and TMC members had taken control of polling stations to rig the elections.

In the neighbouring Alipurduars constituency, the TMC alleged that CRPF personnel and BJP leaders were threatening and harassing voters, forcing them to vote for the saffron

camp. The BJP denied the allegations. In a post on social media in Bengali, Union Home Minister Amit Shah urged voters to vote to prevent infiltration and corruption.

"Voting for the first phase of the Lok Sabha elections is ongoing in West Bengal today. I appeal to the people to vote for a government that will ensure poverty alleviation schemes at the grassroots level, prevent infiltration and corruption, and provide justice and security for women," he posted on X. Reacting to his post, TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said it is the job of the Union Home Minister's office and the BSF to stop infiltration. "People of Bengal are voting for @AITCofficial because 1) Projects of @MamataOfficial are the best in poverty alleviation. The Center is not paying the dues. 2) It is the job of Amit Shah's office and BSF to prevent infiltration. 3) When it comes to corruption, BJP is the best. 4) TMC respects women, unlike BJP-ruled states where incidents such as Unnao, Hathras, and Prayagraj have occurred," he posted. Voting began at 7 am and will continue until 6 pm.

Sports, drill competitions organised on 6th day of ongoing Fire Service Week

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In the ongoing Fire Service Week, 2024, several competitions in different categories like Volley Ball, Tug of War, Fire Tender drill and Ladder Drills at Range Level were held on 6th day today.

In sports category, Kashmir Range team won the volleyball match while as Tug of war was won by Jammu Range team. In drill category, Kashmir Range teams claimed both Ladder as well as Fire Tender drills. The sports event was conducted by



Firemen conducting Drill during Fire Service Week 2024.

Rajesh Kumar SGFM and Sahil Thapa Fireman while as the Drill event was conducted by Noor Mohammad, Darshan Singh and Jog Raj Singh,

Leading Firemen. The performance and drills were judged by Deputy Director, RK Raina and Assistant Director, Sahil Bhandral.

LS polls: Over 25 pc turnout recorded in 8 LS seats in Uttar Pradesh till 11 am

STATE TIMES NEWS
LUCKNOW: A average voter turnout of 25.20 per cent was recorded in the first four hours of polling on Friday in eight parliamentary constituencies of western Uttar Pradesh where voting is underway in the first phase of the Lok Sabha election.

Polling began at 7 am and according to the Election Commission, till 11 am, 29.84 per cent voting was reported in Saharanpur, 23.35 per cent in Moradabad, 25.89

per cent in Kairana, 26.89 per cent in Nagina, 26.94 per cent in Pilibhit, 25.50 per cent in Bijnor, 20.71 per cent in Rampur and 22.62 per cent in Muzaffarnagar.

These seats fall in the Jat and sugarcane belt of the state.

Among the prominent candidates in the fray in this phase are the BJP's Jitin Prasada from Pilibhit, Union minister Sanjeev Balyan from Muzaffarnagar and Azad Samaj Party chief

Chandra Shekhar Azad from Nagina.

The ruling BJP has joined hands with the Rashtriya Lok Dal, while the Samajwadi Party has allied with the Congress for the election. The Bahujan Samaj Party has decided to go solo.

A total of 80 candidates - 73 men and seven women -- are in the fray in the first phase.

The Election Commission (EC) said 1.43 crore people are eligible to cast their votes in

the first phase.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa said polling was underway at 14,849 polling booths.

To ensure security, 6,018 inspectors and sub-inspectors, 35,750 constables and 24,992 home guard personnel, along with 60 companies of the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) and 220 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) have been deployed.

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh Friday reiterated his party's allegation that a deep conspiracy is being hatched against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and anything can happen with him in prison.

At a press conference here, Singh charged that the BJP's "modus operandi" can stoop to the level of even killing someone.

No immediate reaction was available from the BJP over Singh's accusations.

The MP also slammed BJP leaders for "making fun" of an ailment suffered by Kejriwal and added that "misleading" news about the Delhi chief minister was being spread through the media.

"If the rules of jail do not allow health-related information of an inmate to be shared with anyone, then why did the ED publicise a fake diet chart of Kejriwal in the media on Thursday," he asked.

There was no reaction from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to the AAP Rajya Sabha MP's allegation.

Singh, however, asserted that Kejriwal will not break or bow down.

Delhi Cabinet minister Atishi Thursday alleged that there was a plot to kill Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, arrested by the ED in the exercise policy case, by denying him home-cooked food and insulin in jail, a charge rejected by the prison authorities.

Conspiracy being hatched against Kejriwal, anything can happen with him in jail: Sanjay Singh

Her allegations came hours after the ED claimed before a court that Kejriwal is eating

high-sugar foods like mangoes, bananas and sweets every day despite having type

2 diabetes to create grounds for medical bail or shift to a hospital.

Senior IPS officer Nalin Prabhat to head India's counter-terrorism force NSG

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Senior IPS officer Nalin Prabhat has been appointed as the chief of National Security Guard (NSG), the country's counter-terrorism force, according to a Personnel Ministry order.

Prabhat, a 1992 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, is presently working as Additional Director General in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved his appointment as the Director



General, NSG for a period up to August 31, 2028 i.e. the date of his superannuation, the order said. Popularly known as the

"black cats", the federal contingency force NSG was raised in 1984. Sashtra Seema Bal (SSB) chief Daljit Singh

Chawdhary was holding the additional charge of the NSG.

The ACC has also approved appointment of Sapna Tewari as the Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau (IB).

Tewari, a 1992 batch IPS officer of Odisha cadre, is currently working as Additional Director in the IB.

She has been appointed as the Special Director, IB for a tenure of two years from the date of assumption of charge of the post or up to the date of her superannuation i.e. April 30, 2026, the order said.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE
DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU
0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F), email: sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

LOOK OUT NOTICE

SHO P/S R.S. Pura intimated that accused namely **Roshan Lal S/O Hans Raj R/O Chak Bhaktwar, Tehsil Suchetgarh, District Jammu** had gone missing, since 13.11.2023. Accordingly, his missing report was entered at P/S R.S. Pura, Jammu vide DDR No. 17 dated 13.11.2023. Despite thorough search his whereabouts are still unknown.

As such photograph of above named missing is being published for the information of Police establishments/public in general and if anybody having any clue related to his whereabouts / present location, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers.

Description Roll :-	
Name	: Roshan Lal
S/O	: Hans Raj
Address	: Chak Bhaktwar, Tehsil Suchetgarh, District Jammu
Height	: 5'3"
Age	: 28 years
Complexion	: Wheatish
Built	: Normal
Face	: Oval
Eyes	: Black
Dress	: Pajama, T-shirt

Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-

1. DPO, Jammu	: 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D	: sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu	: 0191-2542000
4. SP Hqrs, Jammu :-	: 0191-2439919
5. SDPO R.S. Pura	: 01923-250240
6. SHO P/S R.S. Pura	: 01923-250221

No. _____ Date: _____

DIP/J-184/24 Dt. 19-04-24

For Sr. Superintendent of Police
Jammu