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**NEARBY**



**Shoe hurled at BJP spokesman at press meet**  
 NEW DELHI  
 BJP MP and spokesperson G.V.L. Narasimha Rao was at the receiving end of a shoe thrown at him by a man identified as Shakti Bhargava, while he was addressing a press conference at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Thursday.

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## 67% turnout in second phase of LS poll

Highest polling of 78% recorded in Puducherry; 71% exercise franchise in T.N. Assembly bypolls

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
 NEW DELHI  
 The second phase of the Lok Sabha election on Thursday for 95 constituencies registered a tentative voter turnout of 67.6% across 11 States and one Union Territory, with sporadic incidents of violence. The overall figure was 69.62% in 2014. The highest turnout of 78% was reported from Puducherry, followed by Manipur with 77.86% and West Bengal with 76.42%.

Tamil Nadu, which voted in the first general election without Dravidian stalwarts Jayalalithaa and M. Karunanidhi, recorded an average turnout of 71.11% in the 38 constituencies. Polling in Vellore was earlier cancelled due to the alleged use of money to influence voters.

### Getting Inked

West Bengal, Assam, Manipur and Puducherry recorded the highest polling percentage on Thursday, while Jammu & Kashmir registered the lowest



**Woman power:** Voters awaiting their turn outside a booth in the Karur Lok Sabha constituency on Thursday. • M.SRINATH

Besides, an average of 71.62% voters turned out to exercise their franchise in the 18 Assembly seats, where by-elections were held simultaneously in the State. The

State	Seats	Vote %
Assam	5	76.22
Bihar	5	62.52
Chhattisgarh	3	73.05
J&K	2	45.64
Karnataka	14	67.96
Maharashtra	10	61.76
Manipur	1	77.86
Odisha	5	58.38
Puducherry	1	78
Tamil Nadu	38 <sup>#</sup>	71.11
U.P.	8	62.06
West Bengal	3	76.42

Turnout as of 10 p.m.  
<sup>#</sup> Voting was rescinded in Vellore and postponed in Tripura

surviving on a thin majority. Prominent candidates in Tamil Nadu who were in the fray included Union Minister of State Pon Radhakrishnan (BJP); Lok Sabha Deputy

Speaker M. Thambi Durai (AIADMK); former Union Ministers A. Raja, T.R. Baalu, Dayanidhi Maran and S. Jagathrakshakan (all DMK); Anbumani Ramadoss (PMK); and E.V.K.S. Elangovan (Congress).

Election to the Tripura (East) seat was postponed to April 23 because of security concerns.

There was an increase in voting percentage in the five Lok Sabha constituencies of Bihar from 61.93% in 2014 to 62.52%. In the eight constituencies of Uttar Pradesh, the figure stood at 62.06% till 6 p.m., compared to 61.87% the last time.

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## Govt. suspends cross-LoC trade after 'misuse by arms, drugs smugglers'

'Routes being used to move fake currency'



The decision will impact 300 traders and more than 1,200 people.

**PEERZADA ASHIQ**  
 SRINAGAR

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Thursday suspended the cross-Line of Control (LoC) trade in Jammu and Kashmir, citing "funnelling of illegal weapons, narcotics and fake currency" as reasons. The decision will immediately impact around 300 traders, and more than 1,200 people who are directly and indirectly associated with the trade on this side.

"The action has been taken after reports that the cross-LoC trade routes are being misused by Pakistan-based elements for funnelling illegal weapons, narcotics and fake currency," said a MHA spokesman.

"The trade has changed its character to mostly third-party trade, and products from other regions, including foreign countries, are finding their way through this route. Unscrupulous and anti-national elements are using the route as a conduit for hawala money, drugs and weapons, under the garb of this trade," the MHA order said. A probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the MHA said, suggested that a significant number of

concerns engaged in the trade are being operated by persons closely associated with banned terrorist organisations.

It also pointed out that the government of India after the Pulwama attack withdrew the Most Favoured Nation status to Pakistan and "inputs suggested that in order to evade the consequent higher duty, the LoC trade was likely to be misused to a much larger extent."

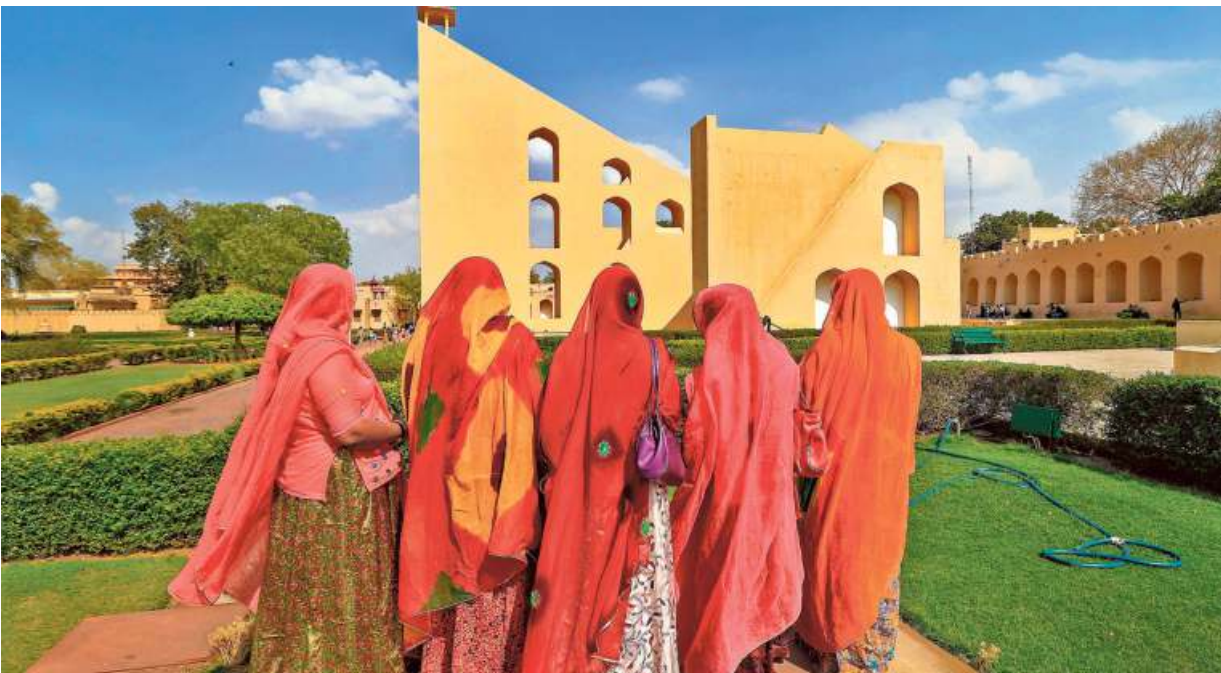
### Barter system

In a major confidence building measure, cross-LoC trade was started in 2008 by setting up two Trade Facilitation Centres located at Uri's Salamabad in Baramulla, and Chakkan-da-Bagh in Poonch. The trade took place four days a week. It was based on barter system and zero duty basis.

"The move was made without any intimation to the traders. Around 300 traders, 1,000 truck drivers and 200 labourers are directly involved. They will lose their livelihood immediately," Samiullah Bhat, vice-president, Cross LoC Traders Association, told *The Hindu*.

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## A day for monuments



Tourists visiting the historical Jantar Mantar in Jaipur, on the occasion of International Day For Monuments and Sites, on Thursday. The day is meant to highlight the diversity of cultural heritage of humanity and the efforts required to protect it. • PTI

## Plea to bar Pragya Singh from Lok Sabha poll

Blast victim's father moves NIA court

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
 MUMBAI

A day after the prime accused in the 2008 Malegaon blasts case, Pragya Singh Thakur, was named as the BJP candidate for the Bhopal Lok Sabha seat, a man who lost his son in the terror attack filed an application before the special NIA court, seeking a direction to stop her from contesting.

Nisar Ahmed Sayyed Bilal, 59, father of Sayyed Azhar Nisar Ahmed, who died in the blast on September 29, 2008, said on Thursday, "Pragya should be restricted from contesting in the parliamentary election as she is facing trial for a terrorist act and a petition challenging her bail is pending before

the Supreme Court."

Special NIA cases judge V.S. Padalkar sought replies from both the NIA and Pragya and posted the matter for Monday.

Mr. Bilal had earlier also filed a petition before the Bombay High Court as an intervenor opposing Pragya's bail. In his plea before the NIA court, he said, "She was enlarged on conditional bail and she is not attending hearing of this court on the pretext that she is unwell and has 'breast cancer' but on the contrary she has been seen participating in various programmes and giving objectionable and instigating speeches since her release from jail."

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## Voters split over issues in Mathura

While some rue lack of development, others swear by Prime Minister Modi

**DAMINI NATH**  
 MATHURA

From unemployment among the youth and lack of development on one side to nationalism and making sure Prime Minister Narendra Modi retains his post on the other, Mathura voters were split on issues that were foremost on their minds as they cast their votes in the Lok Sabha election on Thursday.

Part of phase two of the poll process, Mathura saw a fight between incumbent actor-turned-BJP leader Hema Malini and Rashtriya Lok Dal-Bahujan Samaj Party-Sa-



Voters at a booth at Diwana Kalan village of the Mathura constituency on Thursday. • R.V. MOORTHY

majwadi Party alliance candidate Kunwar Narendra Singh. The Congress' Mahesh Pathak was also in the fray. Ms. Malini had defeated

RLD's Jayant Chaudhary, the sitting MP at that time, by a margin of 3,30,743 votes in 2014.

At the end of the day, the Election Commission tentatively put the turnout at 59.88%, down from 64.10% in 2014.

### False promises

Among those lined up to cast their votes early in the morning in Diwana Kalan village in Mathura was Jitennder Chauhan, a farmer. "I've never seen Hema Malini in Mathura. She just drove past our villages, we heard. As for the BJP, their promises have

turned out to be lies," he said, questioning her track record over the past five years.

Another voter in the village, Anita, a self-employed tailor, said the benefits of many of the BJP government's schemes had not reached people like her. "We haven't got money to build toilets or homes. Forget about latrines, we did not even get the cooking gas cylinders promised," she said.

For many young voters in the constituency, the problem of unemployment is serious.

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## Poll panel warns Naqvi on remark

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
 NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Thursday warned Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi for using defence forces for political propaganda.

The warning follows his "Modiji ki sena" remark in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur on April 3. The EC asked him to be careful in future.

At a rally, Mr. Naqvi made the statement, following which State poll officials served notice on him. He admitted to having made the comments.

## Congress-AAP talks on alliance fail

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
 NEW DELHI/GURUGRAM

Talks between the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party for an alliance ended on Thursday with senior lead-

ers from both parties confirming that there was no further scope for it.

Congress leader P.C. Chacko said AAP had backtracked on the issue of forg-

ing an alliance with Congress after a final understanding over the seat sharing in Delhi was reached between both the parties.

**DETAILS** ▶ DELHI METRO PAGE 1

## CSIR plans genome sequencing to map population diversity

### CSIR effort set to probe link with disease

**JACOB KOSHY**  
 NEW DELHI

In an indigenous genetic mapping effort, nearly 1,000 rural youth from the length and breadth of India will have their genomes sequenced by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The project aims at educating a generation of students on the "usefulness" of genomics.

Globally, many countries have undertaken genome sequencing of a sample of their citizens to determine unique genetic traits, susceptibility (and resilience) to disease. This is the first time



Many countries have studied genetic traits of citizens using sequencing. • REUTERS

that such a large sample of Indians will be recruited for a detailed study.

The project is an adjunct to a much larger government-led programme, still in the works, to sequence at least 10,000 Indian genomes.

Typically, those recruited as part of genome-sample collections are representative of the country's population diversity. In this case, the bulk of them will be college students, both men and women, and pursuing degrees in the life sciences or biology.

"This will not be an exercise to merely collect samples from people," said Vinod Scaria, a scientist at the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), a CSIR laboratory.

"We will be reaching out to a lot of collegians, educating them about genomics and putting a system in place that allows them to access information revealed by their genome," he said. Because genomics is largely confined to a rich urban de-

mographic in India, this exercise, according to Dr. Scaria, would make such information ubiquitous even to villages. "Just as CT scans are now known across the country, we hope to do the same for genomes," he said.

### Methodology

Genomes will be sequenced based on a blood sample and the scientists plan to hold at least 30 camps covering most States.

Every person whose genomes are sequenced will be given a report. The participants would be told if they carry gene variants that make them less responsive to certain classes of medicines. For instance, having a certain gene makes some people less responsive to clopidogrel, a key drug that pre-

vents strokes and heart attack.

"We wouldn't be sharing such information in the report. In some cases the correlation between disease and genes is weak. A person can request such information through their clinician because many disorders have single-gene causes but no cure or even a line of treatment. Ethics require such information to be shared only after appropriate counselling," said Dr. Scaria.

The project would involve the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and cost ₹18 crore, with the sequencing to be done at the IGIB and the CCMB.

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