

Polling underway with brisk note



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Amid massive security measures 64,10,883 voters are exercising their franchise to decide on the fate 51 candidate in the first phase of Lok Sabha polls in five constituencies on Monday.

Heavily guarded by 321 companies of security forces, the polling began in 8,588 booths in Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur, Tezpur and Koliabor as soon as the clock struck at 7 in the morning.

The authority have deployed 38,463 officials apart from 743 micro observers to ensure free and fair polls.

Long queues of voters are seen in front of the polling booth in some place even before the voting began. All the five constituencies have witnessed triangular contest among Congress, BJP and AGP.

Prominent candidates include BJP state unit president Sorbananda Sonowal, Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Dr Arun Kumar Sarma, Pradip Hazarika, Joseph Toppo, Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi's son Gaurab Gogoi, Union ministers Ranee Narah and Pawan Singh Ghatowar.

Mani Kumar Subba, who is undergoing treatment of cardiac ailment is contesting as an independent candidate after Congress denied him ticket in Tezpur. The counting would take place on May 16.

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