

Vigil keeps trouble at bay

Larger number of Dalits exercised their franchise in LS polls

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Unlike earlier elections, Dalit voters in the state seemed to have felt much safer while voting following adequate security arrangements by the administration in accordance with the advice of the National Dalit Election Watch (NDEW). The NDEW has received only 68 complaints in this election as compared to 181 complaints of harassment of Dalit voters during the Assembly election, ML Mimroth, national convener of the NDEW, said.

Prior to the polling, the NDEW had produced before the Election Commission a list of around 1,086 sensitive areas in the state, where Dalit voters could be harassed by the dominating castes. In its report the organisation pointed out Dausa, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur,



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"There were many areas where 100% voting was reported in favour of a particular candidate during Assembly elections. In these areas, we suspected bogus voting. In most of the sensitive areas, Dalits were denied to exercise their right to vote," Mimroth said.

The EC had taken a serious stand on

the revelations of these facts and had issued an order ensuring the right of franchise to the Dalit voters. Following the instructions, the police and administration in the state had made special security arrangements.

However, there were stray incidents of violence against the Dalit voters in Dausa, Karauli and in Jaipur (Rural). "We have reports and we will coordinate to secure voting rights of all the Dalits in the state," added Mimroth.