

ADGP Jammu conducts...

senior Police officers of district Reasi. During the meeting the ADGP Jammu, Anand Jain, IPS, advised the officers to continue their efforts, to work with dedication and strict adherence to duties ensuring free and fair polling process and urged the officers to be vigilant in addressing any concerns that may arise.

SSP Reasi gave a detailed presentation on the election preparedness, deployment plan and the induction plan. The ADGP Jammu regarding the election preparedness including security plan, transport and communication plan and the functioning of SSTs and FSTs and coordination efforts to ensure a successful election process. Meanwhile, the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, IPS, convened a briefing session with all Zonal Officers (ZO) currently deployed for election duties in Reasi. Among others, Addl. SP Reasi Iftikhar Ahmed, Addl. SP Katrina Vipran Chandran, Dy. SP hrs. Reasi Neeraj Padyar besides other Police officers attended the meeting.

67 suspects detained...

During investigations, credible evidence was obtained and the police identified one of the two terrorists involved in committing this act as a "foreign terrorist" with code name Abu Hamza, the officials said. Police further released the pictures of Hamza and announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh on him, they said.

"A case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Thanamandi. Till now, 67 suspected persons have been detained for questioning post this incident," police said in a statement. Mohammad Razaq (40) was killed on Monday in the Kunda Top village of the Thanamandi area. Razaq worked in the government's Social Welfare department while his brother Mohammad Tahir Choudhary is a soldier in the Territorial Army, who escaped unhurt. Police along with security forces deployed in the twin districts of Rajouri-Poonch range are working in close synergy to neutralise this group and dismantle their support ecosystem, they said. Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Anand Jain, on Tuesday, visited Rajouri to oversee and reinforce security measures in the border district.

Sajad Lone seeks...

Baramulla, at their residence here on Tuesday. "It was a pleasure to call on @Muzaffar_Baig sahib and @SafinaMBAig ji. As the conversation predictably veered towards elections, I stressed that I have a right. And seeking their support is my right," Lone said on X on Wednesday. Muzaffar Hussain Baig was the deputy chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir from 2005 to 2008 when Ghulam Nabi Azad was the chief minister and the Congress and PDP shared power.

Muzaffar Hussain Baig, a Padma Bhushan awardee and co-founder of the PDP, was made the party's patron following Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's death in 2016. However, he quit the party in 2020 and was tipped to join the People's Conference. While his wife Safina joined Lone's party, the former Lok Sabha member from Baramulla did not make any official announcement about his status.

Although he attended a function organised by the PDP to commemorate the eighth death anniversary of Sayeed in the Anantnag district on January 7, it is not clear whether he is still in the PDP or not. Meanwhile, Safina said Muzaffar Hussain Baig shares a decade-long relationship with Lone. "Whenever Beigh sahib and I host Sajad sahib at our residence, it inevitably reminds all of us of the decades long we share. Beigh sahib has seen him grow and evolve. And yes @sajadlone sahib is correct when he says he is here by virtue of a right," she posted on X.

INDIA bloc considering...

he asked the gathering. "There have been media reports that a discussion is going on among INDI alliance people over 'one year, one PM' formula. That means one PM in one year, second PM in the second year, third PM in the third year, fourth PM in the fourth year, fifth PM in the fifth year... They are busy auctioning the PM's chair," he said, lashing out at the opposition bloc. Modi advised people to be alert about these leaders, who he maintained, are daydreaming like 'Mungerial Ke Sapne'. He noted the Congress can go to any extent to please its vote-bank, and spoke about "wealth redistribution and inheritance tax" issues to lash out at the main opposition party. "If anyone has more than one car, motorcycle or house, it will be confiscated if a Congress-led government assumes office," Modi opined. Asking people to vote for the BJP, Modi said their one vote has ensured that Indian economy jumped from the 11th spot to the 5th place in ten years and a grand Ram temple was built in Ayodhya after a wait of 500 years. The PM maintained the Congress manifesto talks about religion-based reservation in jobs and education. "The Congress Chief Minister of Telangana has just said that he will ensure reservation for Muslims," he said. The PM emphasised that when a Congress-led government was formed at the Centre, they first introduced religion-based quota in Andhra Pradesh. "Then the Congress was not completely successful in its plan. But the Congress still wants to play that game," he stated.

Modi said to dilute reservation for OBCs in Karnataka, the ruling Congress in the southern state has included Muslims under that category. "This action of the Congress is an alarm bell for the OBC communities of the entire country," he cautioned. Modi pointed out that the Constitution makers had clearly decided that reservation cannot be given on the basis of religion. "This was the basic spirit of our Constitution, but the actions of the Congress are against the basic spirit of the Constitution," he said while accusing the grand old party of constantly trying to erase B R Ambedkar's statute book and snatch reservation from SCs/STs/OBCs. "The Congress wants to snatch reservation from SCs/STs/OBCs and give it to its special vote-bank," he said.

After independence, the biggest opposition to the Congress came from Ambedkar, the chief Constitution maker who was farsighted, the PM stated. "Baba Saheb had seen at that time how the Congress was taking the country on the path of decline," he said. The BJP stalwart accused the Congress of doing vote-bank politics in the name of secularism and "killing" the idea of social justice. Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the BJP candidate from Vidisha, was also present on the occasion.

The saffron party has fielded Durgadas Uikey from Betul which along with Vidisha and seven other Lok Sabha seats will vote in the third phase on May 7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday seized on Congress leader Sam Pitroda's remarks on inheritance tax to step up the ruling BJP's blistering attack on the issue of "wealth redistribution", saying "zindagi ke saath bhi, zindagi ke baad bhi" is the opposition party's mantra to "loot" people.

In his poll rallies, Modi framed Pitroda's comments in his wider onslaught against the Congress, asserting that they have exposed its hidden agenda and that the party has become so removed from the country's social and family values that it wants to legally rob people of their assets and lifelong savings they want to bequeath to their children. The Congress swung into damage control, distancing itself from the comments of the US-based president of its overseas wing and asserting that it has no plan to introduce such a tax.

"I would like to categorically state that Congress has no plan on the inheritance tax. (Sam) Pitroda is a very distinguished professional.. He has expressed his views in the American context, which has no relevance for us. He does not speak on behalf of the Congress," Congress general secretary and communication department head Jairam Ramesh said. "Sensationalising his comments now and tearing them out of context are deliberate and desperate attempts at diverting attention away from Mr. Narendra Modi's malicious and mischievous election campaign;

that is anchored only in lies and more lies," he said on X.

Pitroda had spoken about inheritance tax in the US while delving into the issue of redistribution of wealth. At an election rally in Chhattisgarh's Ambikapur, Modi said the dangerous intentions of the Congress are coming to the fore one by one and now "it says it will impose inheritance tax". "The advisor of 'shehzada' of the 'shahi parivar', who was also the advisor to the shehzada's father, said that more tax should be imposed on the middle class and those who earn by toiling hard," Modi said, apparently referring to Rahul Gandhi and Pitroda.

The Congress will impose a tax on the assets inherited by people from their parents, he said, claiming that the "panja" (Congress' poll symbol) will snatch the assets from their children. "Congress ka mantra hei Congress ki loot 'zindagi ke saath bhi, zindagi ke baad bhi' (Congress) mantra is looting people when they are alive and afterwards too," he said improvising on the iconic tagline of state-run Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). "Till you are alive, the Congress will impose more tax and after your life ends, it will impose the burden of inheritance tax on you. They (Congress) want to snatch your assets and rights of your children," the prime minister alleged. He spoke on similar lines in his rallies in Madhya Pradesh.

Pitroda, however, sought to clear the air saying it is unfortunate that what he said as an individual on inheritance tax in the US is twisted by "godi media" to divert attention from the "lies" Modi is spreading about the Congress manifesto. Modi's comments on Mangal Sutra and gold snatching are simply unreal, he added. "I mentioned US inheritance tax in the US only as an example in my normal conversation on TV. Can I not mention facts? I said these are the kinds of issues people will have to discuss and debate. This has nothing to do with the policy of any party including Congress," he said on X.

Amid the fierce attack from the BJP, the Congress has been insisting that its manifesto does not talk about "redistribution" and that it favours a "comprehensive socio-economic caste census". As Pitroda's comments provided fresh fodder to the BJP, its leaders latched onto them to target the principal opposition party ahead of the second phase of Lok Sabha elections on April 26. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on X, "So, the Congress' plan is "While living-Tax. On death - Tax (Inheritance)

"Aims to hit the middle and aspirational classes. Their savings or small holdings shall not go to their children. Dr MMS' 'Organised loot and legalised plunder' will be seen in action. Congress' Tax terrorism." The Congress also marshalled a counter-offensive as its functionaries shared past comments of BJP leaders, including former Union minister and MP in the outgoing Lok Sabha Jayant Sinha, in "favour" of such a tax. Sinha, then a junior finance minister, had publicly said in 2014 that he wanted to introduce inheritance tax while the then finance minister Arun Jaitley had praised the concept in 2018, saying it is a source of big endowment to hospitals and educational institutions in the western countries, Ramesh claimed, sharing screenshots of related reports.

Addressing a press conference, BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said, "Sam Pitroda has elaborated the nefarious design of the Congress. We are a saving-based economy. In India, one generation (of a family) earns by doing hard work. The second generation builds on that and then the third generation gets some comfort." "And, the Congress wants to snatch away that happiness and peace from people with Sam Pitroda talking about imposing a tax on gold," he charged. Home Minister Amit Shah also flayed Pitroda's remarks, saying "The appeasement politics of the Congress stands exposed today with Sam Pitroda's statement on wealth redistribution. He reaffirmed the party's intention to seize the property of the majority and distribute it among the minority."

"It yet again brings to the fore that the empowerment of India's poor, Dalits, youth, tribes, and backward classes was never on Congress's agenda," he said on X. Taking a swipe at the Congress over its reaction to Pitroda's comments, BJP ally and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan said the opposition party has to distance itself because it will harm them. "There is no coherence in speeches of Congress leaders. There is no clarity. It is affecting them. The Congress will be at an all-time low on June 4 (Vote counting day)," he said.

Amidst persistent thundershowers,...

department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the afternoon thundershowers are expected to continue for tomorrow as well, but a three-day wet spell is expected in Jammu & Kashmir from April 27. "As per the forecast, moderate to heavy rainfall is expected in J&K areas especially in Srinagar, South Kashmir areas, Ramban and Doda from April 27 to April 29," he said, adding that the major activity is expected on April 29.

About the fall in the maximum temperature, he said that the maximum temperature will continue to witness a fall in the next few days and is expected to improve from May 01, 2024. Moreover, as per the data, Jammu & Kashmir has recorded normal precipitation from March 01, 2024 to April 24, 2024. Samba is the only station where the deficient rainfall of 22 per cent has been recorded during the period. As per the data, against the normal precipitation of 187.5 mm, Srinagar has recorded 275.5 mm rainfall during the period.

So far since March 01 till April 24, Anantnag, Budgam, Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Kupwara, Pulwama and Shopian stations have recorded normal precipitation. However, Shopian district in South Kashmir despite witnessing hailstorm and moderate rainfall from the last couple of days, has recorded large deficient rainfall, where against the normal precipitation of 194.4 mm, only 70.8 mm rainfall was recorded during the period.

SC Collegium recommends...

Kashmir and Ladakh High Court for a year. In February, the Collegium of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh made the recommendation for the appointment of Justice Nargal as an Additional Judge for a fresh term as no vacancy of a Permanent Judge was available. The SC Collegium said that the committee of two judges of the Supreme Court constituted by the Chief Justice of India assessed the judgments of Justice Nargal and rated the quality of his judgments as "good". It added that the SC Collegium scrutinised and evaluated the material placed on record including the opinion of the consultee-judges who are conversant with the affairs of the J&K and Ladakh HC. Having regard to all the relevant factors, the SC Collegium recommended that Justice Nargal be appointed as an Additional Judge for a fresh term of one year with effect from June 3, 2024.

Inheritance tax alien...

unfinished agendas of the previous Congress governments, he said.

The Minister while speaking on the development of Jammu & Kashmir said the region has witnessed unprecedented development in various sectors in the past ten years. Several constitutional barriers had been removed by the Modi government to bring J&K to the mainstream of development, he added. Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted various infrastructure projects completed in the past ten years in his constituency such as Asia's longest road tunnel, world's highest railway bridge, opening of three government funded medical colleges, first industrial biotech park in North India, first homeopathic hospital in North India, two Passport offices in the constituency, dozens of rural roads and bridges increasing last mile connectivity and bringing the remotest parts of the country in the mainstream. In terms of education, Dr Jitendra Singh said, this government brought IITs, IIMs, AIIMS and various central Universities in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, development under Prime Minister Modi is inclusive in all parts of the country and his leadership

has given a change to the mindset of people. Now policies are made by keeping in mind 'Antodaya' that is to reach those who need it the most and not on the basis of caste, creed or religion. The Minister also highlighted the normalcy in Kashmir under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. He said that more than two crores tourists visiting Kashmir is the testimony of peace in the Valley. He also highlighted that common people have benefited from the national level schemes such as 'Swachha Bharat Mission and the toilets in each household made under it. LPG cylinders under Ujjwala Scheme empowered women and people got Pucca houses under PM Awas Scheme. All these developments have forced people to change their mindset and vote for the Bharatiya Janata Party who have not been traditional voters of the party but development and pan India popularity of Prime Minister Modi due to adoption of an honest approach in the last ten years, he added.

He also highlighted that people in the illegally occupied part of Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) aspire to be a part of India seeing the development in this region. More and more people are optimistic towards the leadership of Prime Minister Modi seeing the harmonious and uniform development even in the North East part of India, he said. Speaking on the local self-governance under 73rd and 74th Amendment of the Constitution, Dr Jitendra Singh said, this government operationalized district councils and empowered Panchayats earmarking true sense of democracy in J&K.

The Union Minister for Science & Technology said, there was no dearth of scientific acumen in the country but was lacking enabling milieu by policy makers and leadership. He highlighted that India has taken tremendous leap in progress of Science & Technology specially in the Space Sector. India is the first country to reach the Southern Pole of the Moon. In terms of quantum technology we are not only equal but ahead of many countries. Lavender cultivation has empowered farmers to become entrepreneurs. Anushandhan National Research Foundation will open a large field for research and development in the country, he said. Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Indian Institute of Astro-physics Bengaluru under his Ministry had played a key role in contributing the Surya-Tilak of Lord Ram in Ayodhya on the occasion of Ram Navmi.

238 militants killed...

RTI filed by M M Shujha. In Anantnag district, the figures reveal that 12 militants were killed in 2019, 18 in 2020, 17 in 2021, 19 in 2022, and 2 in 2023. One militant each was arrested in 2019 and 2020, 3 in 2021, and 2 in 2022. Two youths joined militant groups in 2019, 3 in 2020, 2 in 2021, and 1 in 2022.

Regarding recruitment in the Jammu & Kashmir Police in Anantnag, 81 new recruits were reported in 2019, 21 in 2020, 48 in 2021, 62 in 2022, and 16 in 2023. The number of police personnel retiring in Anantnag during the same period was 32 in 2019, 20 in 2020, 23 in 2021, 41 in 2022, and 41 in 2023. In Awantipora, the data indicates that 23 militants were killed in 2019, 32 in 2020, and 18 in 2021. During these years, 5 militants were arrested in 2019, 11 in 2020, and 23 in 2021. Additionally, 14 youths joined militancy in 2019, 21 in 2020, and 17 in 2021.

However, in 2023 and so far this year, no militants have been killed or arrested, and no youths have joined militancy in Awantipora. In Pulwama, 21 militants were killed in 2019, 19 in 2020, 17 in 2021, 24 in 2022, and 1 in 2023. Since 2019, a total of 82 militants have been killed in Pulwama, 68 in Anantnag, and 88 in Awantipora. A total of 60 militants have been arrested in Awantipora, 7 in Anantnag, while 58 youths joined militancy in Awantipora and 8 in Anantnag, the data reveals.

Health Secretary reviews...

necessary arrangements before the Yatra begins. He highlighted the importance of having both portable and fixed oxygen supplies at all health centers established along the Yatra route. Further, he instructed Director Health Services, Kashmir, to expedite establishment of a 100-bedded hospital by ONGC and arrange the required human resources for the hospital. He also stressed the need to make sure that all essential medicines and medical equipment are readily available for the pilgrims.

The Secretary emphasized the importance of facilitating a seamless and hassle-free Yatra experience for the pilgrims. He directed for ensuring that requisite healthcare staff should be readily available at all healthcare institutions, especially on highways and critical points along the Yatra route. He called for implementation of a quick and reliable emergency response system at all levels and instructed the officials to ensure deployment of ambulances along the Yatra route. He asked for keeping the 102 and 108 Ambulance systems on alert during the Yatra.

The Director Health Services Kashmir provided an overview of the planned healthcare arrangements for the Yatra. He informed that a total of 55 medical centers will be set up, including 06 base hospitals with 100 bedded hospital each at Baltal & Chandanwari, 11 medical aid centers, 12 emergency aid centers, 26 oxygen booths, and 15 on-route facilities. He further stated that 17 on-route facilities will be kept on standby to address any emergencies. The Director also shared that they have planned to deploy a total of 1415 healthcare staff for the Yatra, including 173 specialists, 244 medical officers, and 998 paramedics. Out of these, 754 will be sourced from J&K, and 661 will be requested from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

The Deputy Director Health Services, Jammu (Nodal Officer for Amarnath Yatra Jammu Division) provided the details of medical arrangement on Yatra routes from Lakhampur to Banihal. He informed that 15 emergency rooms will be made operational to tackle any emergency during the Yatra, 53 health centres will be ready for providing medical care facilities to Yatries from Lakhampur to Lamber ground Banihal. More than 60 ambulances including 20 ALS ambulances shall be utilized during Yatra. Apart from this, the services of 15 Doctors and 60 Paramedics of Jammu Division will be placed at the disposal of Director Health Services, Kashmir for Amarnath Yatra-2024. The medical teams will also be deployed at Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar Jammu and Yayri Niwas Chanderkote, Ramban to provide 24x7 medical care facilities to Amarnath Yatries. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Health & Medical Education Department, Director Health Services Kashmir and Deputy Director Health Services, Jammu, Chief Engineer, R&B, South Kashmir, and Chief Medical Officers of J&K.

Lt Governor attends...

humanism. Sanatan culture emphasizes on virtuous living and equality, equanimity, brotherhood and compassion for all, the Lt Governor said. He said, India is on the path to become Vishwa Guru and the cultural awakening today is inspiring one and all to serve humanity with dedication and devotion. The Lt Governor said, today India is shedding the vestiges of colonial past and people are taking pride in the glorious heritage. The Lt Governor recalled the teachings of service of Sanatan Culture and urged people to create a caring society based on equality and justice and contribute in the development journey of the country. This is a golden opportunity for all of us to work together for all-inclusive development. Every individual must contribute to build progressive and prosperous nation, the Lt Governor further added.

Lok Sabha elections...

networks (VPNs) was taken as a preventive measure to protect information on the Lok Sabha elections and other sensitive data from cyber attacks, Additional District Magistrate (Rajouri) Rajeev Kumar Khajuria said in an order.

"Whereas, a communication has been received from the office of the Senior Superintendent of Police (Rajouri) regarding unprecedented high usage of VPNs during the past few days in different parts of this district by scores of suspicious Internet users," the order mentioned. "Whereas, VPN transmits get encrypted and creates point to point tunnel, masks IP address and lets sidestep website blocks and firewall on Internet thus making data related to forthcoming Lok Sabha elections and other sensitive data vulnerable to cyber attacks," it added while announcing the suspension of all VPN services in mobile phones in the district till the end of the election process. Rajouri is part of Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency, which goes to the polls on May 7.

Campaigning ends for...

announcement of the election, he added. "Campaigning by political parties and contesting candidates for the Jammu Lok Sabha seat ended this evening (6 pm). We have a 48-hour silence period till the conclusion of the elections (on Friday evening)," Pole told here.

He said Jammu recorded a turnout of 74 per cent in the 2019 parliamentary election and a similar situation is expected this time as well. Twenty-two candidates are in the fray from the constituency spread across 17 Assembly segments of Jammu, Sabma and Reasi districts and one assembly constituency in Rajouri district. A direct contest is on the cards between sitting BJP MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and INDIA bloc candidate Ramban Bhalla, the working president of the J-K Congress unit. Jagdish Raj of the Bahujan Samaj Party and advocate Ankur Sharma of the Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal are two other prominent faces contesting the seat.

On the last day of campaigning, Bhalla, accompanied by senior leaders, including state Congress president Vikar Rasool Wani, AICC in-charge for J-K Bharat Singh Solanki and the party's Udhampur nominee Choudhary Lal Singh held a mega roadshow in the city, starting from Satwari near the Jammu airport to the party headquarters on Residency Road. Solanki and a couple of other leaders were on horseback, making a last-minute effort to garner votes. J-K BJP leaders, led by president Ravinder Raina, also toured different parts of the city and held corner meetings and public rallies to push for a third term for sitting MP Sharma.

The BJP's candidate had defeated Bhalla by a margin of over three lakh votes in 2019. He had won the seat in 2014 as well. Sharma, who is also a former MLA, is banking on what he calls "historic decisions" taken by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government and the massive developmental push in the last 10 years. "The Modi government has taken several historic initiatives with the abrogation of Article 370, thus giving acceleration to the ongoing mega projects of development. Jammu and Kashmir has got a very fair deal in all matters at all levels under the Modi government," he said.

Bhalla, on the other hand, having regional heavyweights National Conference and PDP backing him, is confident of wresting the seat from the BJP. There is "resentment" among the people over the wrong policies of the BJP-led government, he alleged. The Congress' star campaigner and former deputy chief minister of Rajasthan Sachin Pilot and Mahila Congress president Alka Lamba have addressed election campaign rallies in support of Bhalla.

The opposition parties have upped the ante over the downgrading of the erstwhile state into a Union territory, the removal of special status under Article 370 and the failure of the BJP to hold Assembly, panchayat and urban local bodies elections. Union ministers Amit Shah, Anurag Thakur and Jitendra Singh have campaigned in support of Sharma. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a rally in Udhampur on April 12. The CEO said 2,416 polling stations, including 158 along the International Border and Line of Control (LoC), have been set up in the constituency.

"Security and other related arrangements are in place to ensure free, fair and peaceful voting. A contingency plan has been also worked out to ensure no disruption in polling along the borders," he said, adding polling is expected to remain peaceful. In addition to the 11 Assembly constituencies of Jammu district, the Jammu Lok Sabha seat includes the Kalakote-Sunderbani constituency of Rajouri, Gulabgarh, Reasi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi segments of Reasi district and Ramgarh, Samba and Vijaypur segments of Samba district.

Lok Sabha Elections...

Constituencies, including Gulabgarh (ST), Reasi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, has 23,52,62 voters including 12,33,23 male, 11,19,36 female and three transgender voters. Among these 1,393 are service voters (1,364 male, 29 female). The ECI has set up 425 polling stations across the district including 97 vulnerable and 16 critical.

Samba district, comprising three Assembly Constituencies including Ramgrah (SC), Samba and Vijaypur has 2,59,198 voters, including 1,32,861 male, 1,26,336 female and one transgender voter. Among these 10,269 (10,073 male, 196 female) are service voters. The ECI has set up 365 polling stations in the district, including 72 critical. Similarly, Jammu district, comprising 11 Assembly Constituencies including Bishnah (SC), Suchetgarh (SC), R S Pura-Jammu South, Bahu, Jammu East, Nagrota, Jammu West, Jammu North, Marh (SC), Akhnoor (SC) and Chhamb has 11,89,389 electors, including 6,13,988 male, 5,75,378 female and 23 transgender voters. Among these are also 24,315 service voters (23,768 male, 547 female). The ECI has set up 1,488 polling stations across the district, including 38 vulnerable and 15 critical.

Likewise, Rajouri district with only Kalakote-Sunderbani Assembly Constituency falling in Jammu PC, has 96,986 voters (50,923 male, 46,062 female) and one transgender voter. Among these 1845 (1820 male, 25 female) are service voters. The ECI has set up 138 polling stations in the Assembly Constituency, including 88 vulnerable and 14 critical. The R S Pura-Jammu South Assembly Constituency has the highest number of 1,24,744 voters (64,687 male, 60,054 female), three transgender voters including 1,592 service. The EC has set up 147 polling stations across this AC. Similarly, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Assembly segment of Reasi district has the lowest number of 55,737 voters (29,340 male, 26,397 female including 271 service voters) and the election authorities have set up 91 polling stations across the segment.

People of J-K...

teams are. Abdullah had earlier claimed that Azad's Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) and the Altaf Bukhari-led Apni Party as well as Sajad Lone's People's Conference were the BJP's B and C teams. "Omar (Abdullah) was a minister in the BJP government. (PDP chief) Mehbooba (Mufti) was chief minister. I respect both. I have never been a minister or MP or chief minister or Union minister of the BJP," Azad told reporters during an election campaign in the Anantnag-Rajouri seat.

"The people have to decide who has been a part of the BJP and who the A or B or C team of the BJP is," he added. The former Congress leader also said he is a free man. "Azad was 'azad (free)', is 'azad' and will be 'azad'. Ghulam Nabi Azad is a 'Ghulam-e-Nabi (slave of Prophet Mohammad)' and no one else's," he added. Mohammad Saleem Parray is contesting from the seat for the DPAP against Mehbooba Mufti of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the National Conference's Mian Altaf Ahmad. The Anantnag-Rajouri constituency goes to the polls on May 7.