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# STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

RNI No. : 66908/96

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

Vol. 29 Issue 109 • Jammu • Saturday • April 20, 2024 • Pages 12 • ₹ 5.00

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## 68.27 pc polling recorded in Udhampur LS seat amid rains



Glimpses of polling at various polling stations for first phase of elections in Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Undeterred by the weather vagaries across the expansive canvas of the five districts of Doda, Kathua, Kishtwar, Ramban, and Udhampur underwent polling as the voters embraced their civic duty with fervor and exhibited unwavering determination. Undaunted by the challenges, the polling parties, ensured the first phase of polls in Jammu and Kashmir were held with grace and resolve.

Udhampur has concluded peacefully. Till releasing this press brief, the voting percentage was around 68.27%. It is especially highlighted that due to weather latest updated reports are awaited from some of the Polling Stations, specially located in remote hilly areas of Kishtwar, Gandoh, Ramban, Dudu-Basantgarh etc, the polling percentage is likely to increase slightly. Once all Polling parties, especially of remote areas reaches respective District Head quarters, the firm poll percentage will be known and the same will be shared separately with media.

PC No & Name	AC No & Name	Round1 % (Poll Start to 9:00 AM)	Round2 % (Poll Start to 1:00 AM)	Round3 % (Poll Start to 1:00 PM)	Round4 % (Poll Start to 3:00 PM)	Round5 % (Poll Start to 5:00 PM)	Round6 % (Close Of poll)	Latest Updated Poll%
4-UDHAMPUR	48-INDERWAL	13.73	28.56	48.87	61.1	66.9	0	66.9
4-UDHAMPUR	49-KISHTWAR	11.88	31.27	34.24	49.34	62.51	0	62.51
4-UDHAMPUR	50-PADDER-NAGSENI	13.84	25.21	48.56	56.62	60.81	0	60.81
4-UDHAMPUR	51-BHADARWAH	9.6	26.34	43.01	53.78	60.85	0	60.85
4-UDHAMPUR	52-DODA	9.97	28.97	46.87	58.06	65.78	0	65.78
4-UDHAMPUR	53-DODAWEST	10.75	25.42	48.82	59.05	66.62	0	66.62
4-UDHAMPUR	54-RAMBAN	9.71	23.03	45.75	57.98	64.76	0	64.76
4-UDHAMPUR	55-BANIHAL	6.71	15.66	30.41	48.03	56.62	0	56.62
4-UDHAMPUR	59-UDHAMPUR WEST	9.08	14.05	36.31	58.82	67.33	0	67.33
4-UDHAMPUR	60-UDHAMPUR EAST	11.93	18.96	48.3	61.3	69.96	0	69.96
4-UDHAMPUR	61-CHENANI	9.87	16.31	43.39	58.03	66.33	0	66.33
4-UDHAMPUR	62-RAMNACAR(SC)	11.31	15.31	42.17	56.63	64.79	0	64.79
4-UDHAMPUR	63-BANI	8.79	25.18	41.98	54.71	60.65	0	60.65
4-UDHAMPUR	64-BILLAWAR	11.04	28.51	43.64	58.21	64.51	0	64.51
4-UDHAMPUR	65-BASOHLI	9.86	19.21	44.82	56.56	63.57	0	63.57
4-UDHAMPUR	66-JASROTA	10.67	26.62	48.94	62.03	68.65	0	68.65
4-UDHAMPUR	67-KATHUA(SC)	12.33	22.15	45.25	59.27	70.8	0	70.8
4-UDHAMPUR	68-HIRANAGAR	10.7	26.45	43.3	57.62	68.06	0	68.06

After two hours of polling, 8.44 per cent polling was recorded in the constituency

at 09:00 pm. By 11:00 am, 22.60 per cent voters had cast their votes, while by 01:00 pm, 43.11 per cent votes were cast. By 3:00 pm, 57.09 per cent voting was recorded. By 5:00 pm, 65.08 per cent polling was recorded in the constituency.

District wise breakup is 67.75 per cent for Kishtwar; 66.42 per cent for Doda, 62.42 per cent for Ramban, 70.76 per cent in Udhampur and 70.06 per cent in Kathua District.

There were 2,637 Polling stations set up for 16.23 lakh electors of 5 Districts. More than 11,000 polling

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### 114 special polling stations established in Udhampur PC

JAMMU: In a first of its kind move towards inclusivity and environmental consciousness, the Election Commission of India (ECI) established 114 remarkable polling stations of different categories for voters in Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency (PC) which went for polling today in the first phase of General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024.

These innovative polling stations viz; women manned, youth manned, PwD manned, Green Polling Stations, Border Polling Stations and Unique Polling Stations were designed to cater specifically to women, youth, Persons with Disabilities (PWD), promote eco-friendly practices and cater to voters of different kind in the region.

The polling stations were established under specific themes in all five districts of Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency which went for polls today.

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### RO stands in queue to cast his vote in Kathua



JAMMU: In an unusual scene, the returning officer of the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency on Friday exercised his franchise after standing in a queue and waiting for his turn at a polling station in the Kathua district

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### 'BJP indebted to public for huge poll turnout'

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: First phase of polling in Jammu and Kashmir on 19th April saw huge turnout of voters and at the last count 70 % of voters casted their votes. Terming this is dance of Democracy and blessings from the public which is very encouraging and demonstrates strong foothold of democracy in India said Bhartiya Janata Party Chief Spokesperson and Prabhari of Udhampur Doda Kathua Parliamentary Constituency Sunil Sethi.

to show solidarity and support to Modi ji was very apparent as was gatherable from reports from polling stations. Sunil Sethi especially thanked Women and Youth who came in large numbers despite bad weather and casted their votes in the elections which will be changing destiny and development of the country. He noted that number of places people had to face not only bad weather but difficulties because of power disruption etc but that didn't deter them to wait patiently for casting their votes. Long queues of voters

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## World's biggest electoral exercise begins in India, over 60 pc turnout in phase 1

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: A voter turnout of over 60 per cent was recorded in the first phase of Lok Sabha elections covering 102 seats across 21 states and Union territories amid sporadic incidents of violence at some places and an accidental explosion of a grenade launcher shell in Chhattisgarh that left a CRPF jawan dead. The Election Commission said polling for the first and biggest phase of the seven-phase elections remained largely peaceful. Voters braved the heat in most parts while at some places, they waited patiently

Sl. No.	State	Latest Updated Poll %
1	Andaman Nicobar	56.87
2	Arunachal Pradesh	65.46
3	Assam	71.38
4	Bihar	47.49
5	Chattisgarh	63.41
6	Jammu Kashmir	68.27
7	Lakshadweep	59.02
8	Madhya Pradesh	63.33
9	Maharashtra	55.29
10	Manipur	68.62
11	Meghalaya	70.26
12	Mizoram	54.18
13	Nagaland	56.77
14	Puducherry	73.25
15	Rajasthan	50.95
16	Sikkim	68.06
17	Tamil Nadu	62.19
18	Tripura	79.90
19	Uttar Pradesh	57.61
20	Uttarakhand	53.64
21	West Bengal	77.57

in pouring rain as the world's largest poll exercise got underway at 7 am.

The National Democratic alliance (NDA) under Prime Minister Modi is seeking a stronger majority for a third consecutive term, while the constituents of the opposition INDIA bloc are hoping for a rebound after facing reverses in the 2014 and 2019 elections.

Tripura recorded the highest turnout of 79.90 per cent, followed by West Bengal at 77.57, Puducherry 73.25 per cent, Assam 71.38 and Meghalaya 70.26 per cent. Voters in six districts of

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### Congress has not shed its mindset of imposing Emergency: Modi

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
W A R D H A (MAHARASHTRA): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Congress' mindset of "shackling the Constitution" and imposing Emergency had not changed, and the opposition's INDIA grouping did not have any pro-development ideas. Speaking at a campaign rally here for BJP candidates from Wardha and Amravati Lok Sabha constituencies in eastern Maharashtra, he also said

the Congress knows it cannot win the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, and therefore its "yuvraj" (apparently referring to Rahul Gandhi) was threatening that the country will be on fire if the BJP won. Against the BJP's development agenda, the Congress and INDIA bloc are bereft of any ideas, the prime minister said, adding that polling for the first phase of the elections, which began earlier in the morning, showed

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### Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi to take charge as new Navy Chief

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, who is a communication and electronic warfare specialist, will take charge as the new Navy Chief on April 30 when incumbent Admiral R Hari Kumar retires. An alumnus of the Sainik School Rewa, Vice Admiral Tripathi is currently serving as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff and he will be the senior-most officer in the Navy when Admiral Kumar

## LG calls for upskilling, reskilling youth as per evolving skill dev landscape

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday laid special emphasis on vital need for upskilling and reskilling of youth and labour workforce as per the evolving skill development landscape to meet the requirements of industries. Chairing a high-level meeting to review skill development, entrepreneurship and labour welfare, the Lieutenant Governor called for a whole of government approach towards skill development and providing oppor-



LG Manoj Sinha chairing a meeting to review skill development & entrepreneurship in Jammu on Friday.

tunities for budding entrepreneurs. Senior officials of the Department of Skill Development, Department of Labour & Employment and Mission Youth attended the meeting. The Lt Governor discussed various issues such as creating convergence of skill development schemes, opportunities and strategy for employment generation across the

sectors through entrepreneurship, skill gap analysis and skill mapping for upskilling, reskilling of labour force and youth, and effective, efficient implementation of Healthcare, Social Security schemes for labour welfare and Livelihood Generation Schemes for youth and women.

He also called for strengthening the measures for protection of workers, including unorganized workers in terms of statutory minimum wage, social security

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## Modi govt will never touch reservation policy: Amit Shah

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday made it clear that the Narendra Modi government will never touch the reservation policy or let anyone else do it. Shah also said that the government will do its best to eradicate Naxalism from the country. "We will never touch the policy of reservation or let anyone else do it," he told NDTV in an interview. The home minister also dis-

missed speculations regarding the government planning to amend the Constitution.



"If we had to change the Constitution, we could have done it earlier," he said. Shah said the BJP-led NDA government has not

misused the majority it has in Parliament. "We have not misused the majority we have had for ten years. The Congress has the habit of misusing majority, not us," he said. Shah said there has been no change in the BJP's commitments and highlighted that the Women's Reservation Act and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) were brought by the Modi government.

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**WEATHER**  
Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 31.8°C Min: 17.9°C  
Humidity  
Max: 90 Min: 71  
Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 15.5°C Min: 9.2°C  
Humidity  
Max: 84 Min: 77  
Sunset: 19:03 Hours  
Sunrise: 05:56 Hours

## WELL BEGUN IS HALF DONE CEO's inspiring leadership manifests in peaceful polling in sensitive Udhampur LS Constituency

**ANCHOR SPECIAL REPORT**  
Well begun is half done. The adage fits well to the conduct of the first leg of the seven-phased election to the Lok Sabha on Udhampur-Kathua-Doda seat with the electors exercising their franchise in a peaceful and smooth way. The first phase remains a pivotal endeavour for upholding democratic values and ensuring representation for all citizens. In light of the unique challenges and sensitivities in the region, meticulous planning, stringent security measures, and robust electoral processes have been implemented to facilitate a fair and transparent election. Collaborative efforts between the government, security forces, UT Election Office, and local stakeholders have

been paramount to ensure the safety of voters, candidates, and election officials while upholding the integrity of the electoral process. Credit for all this goes to Chief Electoral Officer Pandurang K Pole. The Chief Electoral Officer deserves commendation for his exceptional management and smooth conduct of elections in one of the sensitive regions. His leadership, along with the dedication of election officials and security personnel, has ensured the integrity and fairness of the electoral process. The successful polling in Udhampur showcases the efficacy of collaborative efforts, meticulous planning, and stringent implementation of electoral protocols. Pandurang Pole's commitment to upholding

democratic values and ensuring the participation of all eligible voters is commendable and sets a positive precedent for the next six phases in this poll season. Such was the ambience of the democratic festivity that an estimated 65 per cent of voters exercised their right to vote till 5:00 PM despite incessant rains. This figure is likely going to be slightly higher when the latest data is compiled by the Election Office. Incident free polling in the constituency, dominated by sensitive and hyper sensitive polling booths, is a good omen for successful accomplishment of elections in all the upcoming phases across the Union Territory. The smooth and successful conduct of polls in

Udhampur is also a testament to the commitment of Pole, underscoring his strategic guidance and effective management beyond any iota of doubt. Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency has a total of 16.23 lakh voters including 8.45 lakh male and 7.77 lakh female electors. The total electorates includes around 23637 persons with disability besides 403 persons above 100 years of age who have been enrolled to participate in the electoral process. A day ahead of the polling, the CEO had given an overview of the Constituency saying around 2,637 polling stations had been put in place to provide voters opportunity to exercise their democratic rights. Every polling station was provided with Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) besides wheel chairs for the needy. About 19 polling booths were manned by women, 14 by specially abled persons and 17 looked after by youths.

### 25 candidates file nomination papers from Anantnag-Rajouri LS segment

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: A total of 25 candidates have submitted nomination papers from Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency, which will go to polls on May 7, officials said on Friday. "A total of 28 nomination papers have been received. Three candidates have submitted two nomination papers each, so we have 25 candidates," Anantnag Deputy Commissioner Syed Fakhruddin, who is the returning officer of the constituency, said. He said the scrutiny of the nomination papers will be done on Saturday.

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