

# 2nd phase of SIR in 12 States, UTs from Nov

## Phase two will cover 51 crore voters

NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (PTI)

**THE** Election Commission will conduct phase two of the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in 12 States and Union Territories between November and February, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar announced on Monday.

The States and Union Territories are: the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Among these, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, and West Bengal will go to the polls in 2026. Kumar clarified that in



Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar addresses a press conference, in New Delhi, on Monday. (PTI)

Assam, where polls are also due in 2026, the revision of electoral rolls will be announced separately.

Phase two of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise will begin on November 4 with the enumeration state and contin-

ue till December 4. The EC will release the draft electoral rolls on December 9, and the final electoral rolls will be published on February 7.

Kumar said a separate provision of the Citizenship Act was applicable to Assam.

"Under the Citizenship Act, there are separate provisions for citizenship in Assam. Under the supervision of the Supreme Court, the exercise of checking citizenship is about to be completed. The June 24 SIR order was for the entire country. Under such circumstances, this would not have applied to Assam," Kumar said.

"So there will be separate revision orders issued for Assam, and

*(Contd on page 5)*

# Land Forces' Commander of UAE on 2-day India visit

NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (PTI)

MAJOR GENERAL Yousef Maayouf Saeed Al Hallami, Commander, United Arab Emirates Land Forces, is currently visiting India aiming to boost bilateral military cooperation and explore new avenues for collaboration, particularly in areas of training and capability enhancement.

He was accorded a ceremonial welcome and received a detailed briefing on Operation Sindoor, the Defence Ministry said on Monday.

The Commander of the United Arab Emirates Land Forces is undertaking an official visit to India from October 27-28, it said in a statement.

"This high-level visit is set to enhance bilateral military cooperation and explore new avenues for collaboration, particularly in the areas of training and capability enhancement," it said.

It underscores the continued efforts of both nations to "further strengthen and deepen" their longstanding defence partnership, the Ministry said.

During the visit, he was also briefed by the Director General, information system and the Army Design Bureau on India's defence capabilities and artificial intelligence roadmap for the Indian Army, it said.

On Tuesday, the visiting military leader will lay wreath at the National War Memorial. Later in the day, he would visit the DRDO and receive detailed briefing on various indigenous weapon and equipment platforms, officials said.

He will also interact with Samir V Kamat, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and chairman of DRDO.

The Commander will also interact with representatives of Indian defence industries to discuss issues of mutual interest.

## East Asia Summit

# India flags concerns over 'constricted' energy trade, market access issues

NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (PTI)

INDIA on Monday flagged serious concerns over increasingly "constricted" energy trade, selective application of norms and market access issues, in remarks that came against the backdrop of its frosty ties with the US over its procurement of Russian crude oil.

In an address at the East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also said that the world must adopt a policy of "zero tolerance" towards terrorism as the right of defence against the menace can never be compromised.

However, what drew attention was his comments relating to energy trade, market access and supply chains.

"There are growing concerns about the reliability of supply chains and access to markets.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar delivers national statement at the 20th East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur on Monday. (ANI)

Technology advancement has become very competitive; the quest for natural resources even more so," he said.

"Energy trade is increasingly constricted, with resulting market distortions. Principles are applied selectively and what is preached is not necessarily prac-

tised," he said.

Jaishankar's remarks came amid a sharp downturn in

India-US ties over the Trump administration's slapping of 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods, including a 25 per cent levies for New Delhi's procurement of Russian oil.

## Jaishankar meets Australian, NZ PMs, Japanese, Malaysian counterparts

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 27 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday held separate meetings with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon for wide-ranging discussions on bilateral ties.

Jaishankar also met Japanese Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu and his counterpart from Malaysia Mohamad Haji Hasan to discuss regional issues.

Jaishankar said it was "nice to meet" Albanese on the sidelines of 20th East Asia Summit while he said he was "delighted" to meet Japanese FM Motegi Toshimitsu, with whom he held "wide-ranging discussions on our bilateral ties."

Earlier, during his meeting with Luxon, the External Affairs Minister extended "warm greetings" from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Welcome his (Luxon's) commitment to advance our bilateral cooperation and nurture a free and open Indo-Pacific," the EAM said in another post on X.

Jaishankar described his meeting with his Malaysian counterpart Hasan as "warm" and said the two foreign ministers discussed the "progress in our bilateral cooperation."

# Jaishankar meets US State Secy Rubio; appreciates discussion on US-India ties

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 27 (PTI)

**EXTERNAL** Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday held talks with his American counterpart Marco Rubio amid efforts by the two sides to reset bilateral ties that have come under severe strain over punitive US tariffs on Indian goods.

Jaishankar and Rubio met in Kuala Lumpur on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"Glad to meet @SecRubio this morning in Kuala Lumpur. Appreciated the discussion on our bilateral ties as well as regional and global issues," the External



EAM S Jaishankar exchanges handshake with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, in Kuala Lumpur on Monday. (ANI)

Read Editorial  
**CULTURAL CONNECT**  
on page 8

Affairs Minister said on social media.

The relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe strain after Trump imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India, including an additional 25 per cent levies for its procurement of Russian crude oil.

India described the US action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable". It is understood that Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Rubio also broadly delved into the proposed trade pact

between the two sides. However, there was no indication that the US side assured India of removing the 25 per cent tariff slapped for its energy ties with Russia.

In the last couple of weeks, US President Donald Trump claimed Prime Minister Narendra Modi told him that India will stop buying Russian crude oil. Following Trump's first claim, India suggested that there was no such conversation.

The Ministry of External Affairs said on October 16 that energy sourcing is being broad-based and diversified, including an expansion in procurement from the United States.

(Contd on page 5)

# Russian oil import: IndianOil says will abide by all applicable sanctions

NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (PTI)

INDIAN Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's biggest oil company, will comply with all applicable sanctions, Chairman Arvinder Singh Sahney said on Monday, steering clear of remarks on purchases from Russia. Indian refiners are likely to scale back on the import of Russian oil to avoid secondary sanctions on shipping and banking after the US imposed fresh sanctions with a view to curbing Moscow's earnings from oil sales.

"We will abide by all sanctions imposed by the international community," he said. He, however, refused to comment on the IOC's purchases of Russian oil. Russian oil made up for 21 per cent of the crude oil IOC imports during April-

September.

IOC's subsidiary Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL) has halved Russian oil imports this month, coinciding with the fresh sanctions the US imposed on Russian oil. US President Donald Trump, late October 22, imposed sanctions on Russia's Rosneft and Lukoil, in a bid to pressure Moscow into ending its war on Ukraine. A day later, the European Union imposed full transaction bans on Rosneft and Russian gas firm Gazprom Neft.

While the Indian Government has not officially responded to the sanctions announced by the US, indus-

try sources said Indian refiners' import strategy would largely depend on how banking systems respond to the latest restrictions.

Reliance Industries Ltd, which has a 25-year term contract with Rosneft to buy up to 5,00,000 barrels per day of crude and is India's largest importer of Russian oil, may be the first company to stop

importing oil from Moscow. Last week, Reliance pledged full compliance with the Western sanctions on Russian crude imports while expressing confidence that its diversified sourcing strategy will maintain operational stability.



# CJI Gavai recommends appointment of Justice Surya Kant as next CJI



Chief Justice of India B R Gavai (R) with Supreme Court judge Justice Surya Kant. CJI Gavai has recommended to the Centre the name of Justice Kant as the next CJI. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (PTI)

**CHIEF** Justice of India Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai has recommended to the Centre the name of Justice Surya Kant as the next CJI.

Justice Surya Kant, the second senior-most Supreme Court judge after the incumbent CJI Gavai, is set to become the 53rd Chief Justice of India on November 24 after CJI Gavai's retirement on November 23.

CJI Gavai, who was sworn in on May 14 this year, recommended to the Union law ministry to appoint Justice Surya Kant as the next CJI.

"Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Mr Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, recommends the name of Hon'ble Mr Justice Surya Kant, the senior most Judge of the Supreme Court, as his successor to be the 53rd Chief Justice of India," a press note from the top court said.

Justice Surya Kant, who was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019, would have a tenure of over 1.2 years as the CJI. He is due to retire on February 9, 2027.

The retirement age of Supreme Court judges is 65 years.

According to the memorandum of procedure, a set of doc-

uments, which guide the appointment, transfer and elevation of Supreme Court and High Court judges, States that appointment to the office of the chief justice of India should be the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office.

The Union Law Minister would, "at the appropriate time", seek the recommendation of the outgoing CJI for the appointment of his successor.

Conventionally, the letter is sent a month before the incumbent CJI retires on attaining the age of 65 years.

Justice Surya Kant, born in a middle-class family on February 10, 1962, in Hisar district of Haryana, became a top court judge on May 24, 2019.

Justice Surya Kant brings to the country's top judicial office a wealth of experience spanning two decades on the bench, marked by landmark verdicts on abrogation of Article 370, free speech, democracy, corruption, environment and gender equality.

Justice Surya Kant was part of the bench that kept the colonial-era sedition law in abeyance, directing that no new FIRs be registered under it until a Government review.

# Cyclone 'Montha' to intensify into severe cyclonic storm

AMARAVATI, Oct 27 (PTI)

**THE** landfall of Cyclone 'Montha', which is expected to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm, has begun, Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) Managing Director Prakhar Jain said on Monday.

Coastal districts are experiencing rain and strong gales, he added.

"Cyclone has begun. Coastal districts are witnessing rainfall accompanied by gales," Jain said in a release, adding that the system will intensify further as it approaches land.

According to him, the weather system moved at a speed of 18 km per hour in the past six hours. It was located about 560 km off Visakhapatnam as of Monday evening and is expected to strengthen into a severe cyclonic storm by Tuesday morning.

Thai word 'Montha' means fragrant flower.

"The cyclone is likely to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast near Kakinada during the evening or night of October 28 as a severe cyclonic storm," Jain said.