

SIR of electoral rolls begins in 12 States, UTs

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (PTI)

ELECTION Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voters' list commenced in nine States and three Union Territories on Tuesday with the TMC dubbing the exercise as a "con job" by the "compromised" poll body.

The electoral roll cleanup exercise is also being opposed by the ruling DMK and its allies in Tamil Nadu.

The Election Commission (EC) said its booth-level officers (BLOs) have fanned out to hand over semi-filled enumeration forms to electors and will also help them fill the required document. According to the schedule announced by the poll authority, SIR will begin with the enumeration stage and continue 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.

The 12 States and UTs where the second round of SIR will be conducted are the Andaman and

TMC calls exercise a 'con job'



A booth level officer (BLOs) gives enumeration forms to voters as the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls begins in West Bengal, in Bardhaman, West Bengal, on Tuesday. (PTI)

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 polls in 2026. In Assam, another State where polls are due in 2026, the

revision of electoral rolls will be announced separately as a Supreme Court-supervised exercise to verify citizenship is underway in the State. Also, a separate provision of the Citizenship Act was applicable to Assam.

After Bihar, this is the second round of SIR. The State's final voter list with nearly 7.42 crore names was published on September 30. The SIR began in West Bengal amid soaring political temperatures over the exercise in the State. The exercise turned into a political battleground, pitting the BJP's clout and the poll body's push for "transparency" against the Trinamool Congress' grassroots resistance ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls.

While the BJP has welcomed the SIR as a step towards ensuring greater transparency in the electoral rolls, the ruling TMC has questioned its timing and intent, alleging that the EC is acting under pressure from the party to manipulate the voter list ahead of the State elections next year.

(Contd on page 5)

COAS visits Kharga Corps, reviews drone and combat preparedness

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (IANS)

CHIEF of Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi continues to assess the Indian Army's operational readiness across various formations. After recently visiting several border areas, the Army Chief has examined multiple aspects of preparedness, including drone warfare capabilities and innovations in training at Kharga Corps.

According to the Army, General Dwivedi visited the Kharga Corps, where he conducted a detailed review of its operational preparedness. During the visit, he was briefed on initiatives aimed at strengthening combat capabilities, integrating cutting-edge technologies, enhancing inter-agency coordination, and contributing to nation-building. Modern warfare methods and techniques are evolving rapidly, moving far beyond traditional weapons such as guns and cannons. In today's conflicts, drones



Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi during his visit to Kharga Corps to review the formation's operational preparedness.

(PTI)

and artificial intelligence play a pivotal role. Additionally, robotics and data-driven warfare have redefined the operational landscape of infantry forces. A strong example of this transformation can be seen within the Kharga Corps, where drone technology

has been extensively deployed to enhance tactical efficiency and surveillance capabilities.

The Chief of Army Staff reviewed the Kharga Corps' drone preparedness and commended its exceptional performance during Op Sindoor.

Russian PM meets Xi

BEIJING, Nov 4 (ANI)

CHINESE President Xi Jinping met with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin on Tuesday in Beijing, official media of both countries reported.

Mishustin, who is on a two-day visit to China, held a bilateral meeting in the Great Hall of the People in the Chinese capital, Russian state media TASS said. The Russian Prime Minister was accompanied by a large delegation, including Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova, among others, who arrived in Hangzhou on Monday.

The Chinese side was represented by its Foreign Affairs Minister, Wang Yi, and others. Mishustin met with the Chinese



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin shake hands during a meeting in Beijing on Tuesday. (AP)

Premier Li Qiang on Monday and as per China's state media Xinhua, the two sides agreed that the strategic guidance of the two

countries' leaders offers political guarantees to relations and cooperation between Russia and China.

India set to become 3rd-largest economy says FM Sitharaman

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (PTI)

FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said India stands out as a fast-growing economy and will soon be the third-largest in the world.

Delivering the Diamond Jubilee Valedictory Lecture at Delhi School of Economics (DSE) here, she said India is moving fast on so many different parameters, which are largely economic.

“Of course, India and its population, India and its location have strategic significance, but India stands together today and stands tall and stands distinctly on its feet because of the economic strength of India,” she said.

“What is making us literally stand out is the fast movement from the tenth largest economy in 2014 to fifth and the fourth, and now sooner, probably to the third,” she said. She emphasised that Indians should believe in themselves and the coun-



try's economic strength.

“We, as Indians contributing to the economy, must have faith that we are achieving our goals through our own efforts. We

should not be swayed by those who say our economy is not up to the mark. Who can ever tell a nation of 140 crore people that we are a dead economy? It's alright for people from outside to taunt us, but we within the country should never decry the efforts and achievements of our own people,” she said.

Stressing that economic growth has been inclusive, she said, “that is why, as a country, we were able to get 25 million people out of multi-dimensional poverty. It's our own people's contribution. It's all our contribution.”

India, Israel discuss anti-terror, trade

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (PTI)

INDIA and Israel on Tuesday explored ways to build a global approach of "zero tolerance" to combat terrorism and enhance cooperation in areas of trade, infrastructure and connectivity even as New Delhi hoped that the US-brokered Gaza peace plan will bring durable peace to the region.

The issues figured in talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Israeli counterpart Gideon Sa'ar that came as the two sides are looking at the possibility of a visit to India by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the next couple of months.

It is learnt that the implementation of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) came up for discussion in the context of boosting regional connectivity.

In his televised opening remarks at the meeting, Jaishankar said both India and Israel are facing the challenge of terrorism.

"We have stood together in testing times. And we have cre-



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Israel's Foreign Affairs Minister Gideon Sa'ar during a meeting, in New Delhi. (PTI)

ated a relationship with a high degree of trust and of reliability. Our two nations face a particular challenge from terrorism," he said.

"It is essential that we work towards ensuring a global approach of zero-tolerance towards terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations."

On his part Sa'ar, on a three-day trip to India, said Israel is confronting the "radical terror states"

of Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Houthis in Yemen.

"The eradication of Hamas' terrorist state is at the heart of President (Donald) Trump's plan. Hamas must be disarmed, Gaza must be demilitarised. We will not compromise on it," he said.

Sa'ar also recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's support to Israel.

"We remember he was the first world leader to call Prime

Minister Netanyahu after Hamas' October 7 massacre and we won't forget it," he said.

The two Foreign Ministers also deliberated on ways to expand bilateral trade.

INDIA, ISRAEL INK MAJOR DEFENCE PACT: INDIA and Israel on Tuesday signed a defence pact that will facilitate sharing of advanced technologies and promote co-development and co-production of key weapon systems and military hardware, in a major move to further bolster their already robust strategic ties.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in Tel Aviv following a meeting of India-Israel joint working group (JWG) on defence cooperation.

The MoU on defence cooperation was signed to provide a "unified vision and policy direction to deepen the already strong defence cooperation between the two countries," the defence ministry said.

"India-Israel defence partnership is long-standing based on deep mutual trust and shared security interests," it said.

Not opposed to new structure: IAF chief on theaterisation move

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (PTI)

ANY decision on creating a new structure for tri-services synergy will be based on national interest and deliberations on it are underway, Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, said on Tuesday on the proposed theaterisation plan for the military.

In an interactive session, the Air Chief Marshal also pitched for creating a joint structure comprising the three services, paramilitary forces and certain civilian entities to handle issues relating to use of drones.

He also dispelled perceptions in some quarters that the Indian Air Force (IAF) is opposed to the reform initiative and at the same time suggested the new reform measure should be taken forward after careful discussions and analysis.

"I am not saying that we do not need another structure. We may need another joint structure. But my way of looking at it is,

let's not go by some structures that exist somewhere else and say this will fit us," he said at the India Defence Conclave hosted by Bharat Shakti.

Air Chief Marshal Singh was asked about the perception that the IAF is opposed to the theaterisation plan, especially after Operation Sindoor.

"Let's look at what we have today, where did we falter, or did we falter. If we did not then what did we do good. Let's make it a more formalised way," he said.

The IAF chief noted that Operation Sindoor was a reflection of tri-services synergy as all the three services were working as a team. "Maybe this time it was our own personal equation with each other that worked. Tomorrow, it may not be so. Because we all are humans. There will be people with slight differences of opinion. If there is a formalised structure, it will help us," he said.

The Chief of Air Staff indicat-

ed that discussions and deliberations on the reform measure were underway.

"What should be the model (for it), should I go step-by-step or should I go full bore in one go. This is something which is under discussion," he said, expressing confidence that the decision will be based on "nation comes first" approach. "Whatever decision is finally taken will be for the good of the nation," he said.

Under the theaterisation model, the government seeks to integrate the capabilities of the Army, Air Force and Navy, and optimally utilise their resources for wars and operations.

As per the plan, each of the theatre commands will have units of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force and all of them will work as a single entity looking after security challenges in a specified geographical territory.

At present, the Army, Navy and the Air Force have separate commands.

EAM meets Israel minister, seeks zero tolerance for terror

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India and Israel came down heavily on terrorism as foreign minister S Jaishankar sought zero tolerance for the menace at a meeting with his visiting Israeli counterpart Gideon Sa'ar, who asserted that "radical terror states" of Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Houthis in Yemen had to be uprooted for the security and stability of the region.

With Jaishankar backing Gaza peace plan, Sa'ar stressed that eradication of the Hamas terror state is at the heart of President Donald Trump's Plan and that Hamas must be disarmed. "Gaza must be demilitarised. We won't compromise on it," said Sa'ar.

The Gaza peace plan along with terrorism and partnership in defence, trade, connectivity and technology topped the agenda of Jaishankar's meeting with Sa'ar on Tuesday. The talks helped lay the groundwork for a likely visit by Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu later this year. During his visit, Sa'ar has also held talks with NSA Ajit Doval.

Jaishankar welcomed the return of hostages to Israel. "Our two nations face a particular challenge from terrorism. It is essential that we work towards ensuring a

~~India, Israel sign pact to expand def cooperation~~

New Delhi: India and Israel on Tuesday inked a pact to further expand their already extensive defence cooperation, especially in strategic dialogues of mutual interest, military training and defence-industrial cooperation as well as capabilities like science and tech, R&D, innovation, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. The MoU, which "underscores the growing strategic partnership" with both countries seeking to deepen their cooperation in defence and security areas, was inked in a joint working group (JWG) meeting co-chaired by defence secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and his counterpart Maj Gen Amir Baram (retd) at Tel Aviv. TNN

global approach of zero-tolerance towards terrorism," said Jaishankar, while committing to taking forward strong cooperation with Israel in areas like agriculture and innovation.

Sa'ar backed international projects involving India like IMEC and I2U2. Jaishankar also raised issues related to Indian workers in Israel.

UN: Global emissions at new peak, India logs steepest rise

World 'Heading For Serious Escalation Of Climate Risks, Damage'

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New Delhi: The global greenhouse gas (GHG) emission increased by 2.3% in 2024, compared to the previous year, to reach a record high of 57.7 gigatons of CO₂ equivalent, with India reporting the highest absolute increase in emissions followed by China, Russia, Indonesia and the US, showed a UN report released on Tuesday. It warned the world is "heading for a serious escalation of climate risks and damages".

The global average temperature is projected to rise 2.3-2.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century above pre-industrial levels (1850-1900) even if climate actions are fully implemented under the new mitigation goals of countries amid rising carbon emissions. It means the new climate pledges are completely off target and fall short on the warming limit goal.

The absolute increase in emissions excludes the emission caused by change in land use and forest cover due to uncertainties in estimates of net emission from such factors. It primarily calculates emissions of fos-



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The report noted that among the big emitters, the European Union was the only one to decrease emissions in 2024

sil CO₂, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases.

Currently, the six largest emitters in terms of total GHG emissions are China, the US, India, EU, Russia and Indonesia. The report noted that among the big emitters, the European Union was the only one to decrease emissions in 2024.

"The 2.3% increase in total GHG emissions (globally in 2024) from 2023 levels is high compared with the 2022-2023 increase of 1.6%. It is more than four times higher than the annual average growth rate in the 2010s (0.6% per year), and comparable to

the emissions growth in the 2000s (on average 2.2% per year)," said the report.

In terms of growth rate, Indonesia showed the highest increase (4.6%) followed by India (3.6%). Emissions growth in China (0.5% in 2024) was lower than the previous year.

The report underlined that the contributions by current, per capita and historic emissions differ across the high emitters and world regions. Per capita GHG emissions are above the world average of 6.4 tons of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e) in the US, Russia, China and the EU, and remain significantly below it in Indonesia and India.

Flagging how the growing emission and the countries' low mitigation targets put the Paris Agreement threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming at risk in the short-term (within the next decade), the report — UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2025 — noted that the rise will go up to 2.8 degrees Celsius in the business-as-usual scenario under the ongoing policies.

Though the current projected rise of 2.3-2.5 degrees Celsius is an improvement over the previous year's projection of 2.6-2.8 degrees Cel-

sius rise, the report noted that the updated pledges are not adequate to get the desired result of keeping the global warming either within 1.5 degrees Celsius or 2 degrees Celsius. Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement 10 years ago, temperature rise predictions have, however, fallen from 3-3.5 degrees Celsius — a clear sign that the world can keep it further down with more ambitious emission reduction targets.

The report said reductions to annual emissions of 35% and 55%, compared with 2019 levels, are needed by 2035 to align with the Paris Agreement 2 degrees Celsius and 1.5 degrees Celsius pathways, respectively. "While national climate plans have delivered some progress, it is nowhere near fast enough, which is why we still need unprecedented emissions cuts in an increasingly tight window, with an increasingly challenging geopolitical backdrop," said UNEP executive director Inger Andersen.

The report comes as a warning signal to govts ahead of the United Nations climate conference (COP30), scheduled to be held in Belém, Brazil, from Nov 10-21.