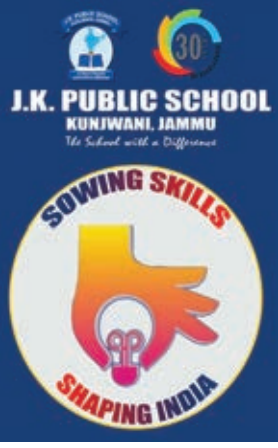




STATE TIMES

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10 J&K Senior Softball teams selected for 15th Federation Cup

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EC to take call on pan-India SIR rollout soon; likely to be held before year-end

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission will soon decide on the date to roll out special intensive revision (SIR) on a pan-India basis and the exercise to clean up the voter list across states may take place before the end of the year, officials said Wednesday.

After a day-long meeting of EC's state chief electoral officers here, officials said that with as many as five assembly polls due next year, the all-India SIR could take place in the coming months in 2025.

At the meeting, the CEOs suggested documents for the purpose of ensuring that no eligible citizen is left out of the electoral roll and no ineligible person is included in it.

It was reiterated that these documents should promote ease of submission for the eligible citizens.

This assumes significance as the Supreme Court has directed the EC to accept the



Aadhaar card as the 12th document, besides 11 others, as proof of identity of the elector.

The CEOs were told to keep the electoral rolls of their states, published after the last SIR, ready. Some state CEOs have already put the voter list published after their last SIR on their websites.

The Commission has said that after Bihar, SIR will be carried out in the entire country.

Assembly elections in

Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are due in 2026.

In a statement, the poll authority said a presentation on the strategies, constraints and best practices adopted was made by the CEO of Bihar so that other CEOs can learn from their experiences.

The CEOs gave detailed presentations on the number of electors, the qualifying date of the last SIR and the electoral roll in their state as per the last completed SIR.

The CEOs also presented the status of digitisation and uploading of the Electoral Roll after the previous SIR on the State/UT CEO website.

They also gave the status of mapping of current electors with the electors as per the last SIR in their state or Union Territory.

In order to ensure that there is a uniform implementation of the Commission's initiative to ensure that no polling station has over 1,200 electors, the status of rationalisation of polling stations was also reviewed, it said.

The primary aim of the intensive revision is to weed out foreign illegal migrants by checking their place of birth.

The move assumes significance in the wake of a crack-down in various states on illegal foreign migrants, including from Bangladesh

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Schools reopen in Jammu after fortnight-long rain-forced closure

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Schools reopened in the Jammu zone on Wednesday after being closed for the last fortnight due to heavy rain, floods, and landslides.

Beginning on August 26, heavy rains pounded the region with such severity that many people lost their lives, and physical infrastructure went through

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Employees opting for Unified Pension Scheme can switch back to NPS, but with riders

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Employees who opt for Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) can switch back to the National Pension System (NPS) one year before retirement or three months before opting for voluntary retirement, the Centre said on Wednesday.

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh on Wednesday released

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Modi speaks to Italian counterpart Meloni; discusses EU-India FTA, Ukraine conflict

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday discussed with his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni the proposed free trade agreement between India and the European Union (EU) and thanked her for the support to it.

In a phone conversation, Modi also discussed with Meloni ways to end the conflict in Ukraine as well as the implementation of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC).

"Had an excellent conversation with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. We reaffirmed our joint commitment to deepen India-Italy Strategic Partnership, and shared interest in bringing an early end to the conflict in Ukraine," Modi said on X.

"Thanked PM Meloni for Italy's proactive support for concluding a mutually ben-



eficial India-EU trade agreement and promoting connectivity through the IMEEC initiative," he said.

India and the EU are looking at firming up the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) by the end of this year. The two sides are holding the 13th round of negotiations in New Delhi this week.

India and the EU relaunched the negotiations for the free trade agree-

ment (FTA) in June 2022 after a gap of over eight years.

The IMEEC initiative was firming up on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Delhi in 2023. Billed as a path-breaking initiative, it envisages a vast road, railroad and shipping networks among Saudi Arabia, India, the US and Europe with an aim to ensure integration among Asia, Middle East and West.

Kashmiri carpets get makeover: Union Textiles Secy rolls out modern looms

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Union Textiles Secretary, Neelam Shami Rao, on Wednesday reiterated the Government's commitment to promoting and reviving the unique craft of hand-knotted carpet weaving. She made these remarks while distributing Modified Modern Steel Carpet Looms to artisans under the Integrated Wool Development Programme (IWDP) at the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT) campus, Srinagar.

The event was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce,

Vikramjit Singh; Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Padmini Singla; Director, Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir, Musarat Islam; Executive Director, Central Wool Development Board, G.S. Bhati; Member Secretary, J&K Sericulture Development Board, P. Shiv Kumar and other senior officers of the Ministry of Textiles and the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir.

In her address, the Union Secretary encouraged the UT Government to submit more proposals to the Ministry of Textiles,

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DB boots out Pak Nationals after 37 years, slams false claims, ordered deportation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has dismissed an appeal filed by an elderly couple from Srinagar, declaring them Pakistani nationals illegally overstaying in India since 1988, and ordered that they must leave the country immediately as their visas expired nearly four decades ago.

The division bench comprising Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal delivered the judgment in LPA No. 170/2025, filed by Mohd. Khalil Qazi (80) and his wife Arifa Qazi

(61). The appellants were represented by senior advocate A.H. Naik, while the government was represented by senior AAG Mohsin Qadiri with Maha Majed for the J&K administration, and DSGI T.M. Shamsi with advocate Rehana Qayoom for the Union of India.

The couple had entered India in July 1988 on 14-day visas and residential permits, later extended till November 1988. Claiming ancestral property and family ties in Srinagar, they argued that they were Indian citizens forced to acquire Pakistani nationality in 1948 and had

applied for Indian citizenship. Their counsel argued that deportation was illegal pending consideration of their representation, relying on earlier case law.

The UT administration, however, pointed out that the couple admitted to holding Pakistani passports and citizenship. Citing Section 9(1) of the Citizenship Act, 1955, it argued that voluntary acquisition of another country's citizenship terminates Indian citizenship. The Union of India stressed that under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, no foreigner can remain in India

without valid visa or documents.

The bench found glaring contradictions in Khalil Qazi's story. Though he claimed to have been stranded in Pakistan since 1948, his own school certificate showed he studied in Srinagar between 1955 and 1957, proving concealment of facts. "The appellants have not approached this Court with clean hands and concocted false stories to prolong their illegal stay," the judges said.

Quoting Supreme Court rulings in Dalip

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IPS Abdul Gani posted to J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Central Government on Wednesday posted senior IPS officer Abdul Gani Mir to Jammu and Kashmir segment of joint AGMUT cadre.

"Consequent upon joining the cadre on repatriation from Central Deputation, Abdul Ghani Mir, IPS (AGMUT: 1994) is posted to Jammu & Kashmir segment of Joint AGMUT cadre

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Centre to conduct digital life certificate campaign in November

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Centre will conduct a digital life certificate (DLC) campaign in November across all districts and sub-divisional headquarters of the country, according to an official statement issued on Wednesday.

The nationwide campaign will be conducted by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) from November 1 to 30, the Personnel

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C P Radhakrishnan likely to take oath as VP on Sep 12

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Vice President-elect C P Radhakrishnan is likely to be administered the oath of office by President Droupadi Murmu on Friday, officials said.

The president is expected to administer the oath of office to Radhakrishnan at a formal ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on September 12, they said.

The 67-year-old Radhakrishnan won the vice presidential election on Tuesday, defeating the joint opposition nominee B Sudershan Reddy by a mar-



gin of 152 votes.

The election was necessitated due to the sudden resigna-

tion of the then incumbent, Jagdeep Dhankhar, on July 21.

Drones by Garuda Aerospace ferried supplies to cut-off areas in J&K during floods



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Drones manufactured by Garuda Aerospace played a key role in ferrying supplies to flood-hit people in cut-off, mountainous areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh during the recent rain fury that began from the end of August.

Himachal Pradesh and

Jammu and Kashmir were badly affected by heavy rainfall, floods and landslides, causing loss of lives and huge damage to public and private infrastructure in the region since August 26.

"Garuda Aerospace has given more than 10 drones to the Indian Army for the ongoing flood-relief

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Former CJ Karki, Kathmandu Mayor under consideration for interim Govt Chief in Nepal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHMANDU: Nepal's former chief justice Sushila Karki, Kathmandu mayor Balendra Shah and former electricity board Kulman Ghising are among the names under consideration by the protesting Gen Z group to lead an interim government in Nepal, source said on Wednesday.

The development comes a day after Nepal plunged into a serious political crisis as Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli resigned on Tuesday in the face of massive student-led protests for a second day, prompting the Nepal Army to take over the law and order situation followed by nationwide restrictive orders and a curfew on Wednesday.

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25 killed, over 600 injured in 'Gen-Z' agitation

KATHMANDU: At least 25 people, including three policemen, were killed during the violent anti-government protests led by the 'Gen Z' group in the last two days in Nepal, police and officials said on Wednesday.

Nineteen people, mostly youths, were killed in firing by the security forces during protests in front of the Parliament building on Monday, they said.

Three policemen were killed by a mob in the Koteshwor area of Kathmandu on Tuesday during the violent demonstrations, a Nepal Police spokesperson said.

Three protesters were killed during clashes with the police at Kalimati Police Station on Tuesday, police said.

According to Home Ministry officials, 633 people were injured during protests. Meanwhile, Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba and his wife, Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba, who were injured during an attack by protesters on their residence in Budhanilkantha, were recovering at a hospital. The Nepal Army on Wednesday imposed nationwide restrictive orders followed by a curfew to quell possible violence under the guise of protests, a day after Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli resigned in the face of massive anti-government demonstrations.

Jammu-Srinagar national highway reopens after nine days

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was reopened for vehicular traffic on Wednesday, after remaining closed for nine days.

The crucial 270-kilometre highway, which is the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, had remained closed since August 26 due to multiple blockages caused by heavy rains, flash floods and landslides. It was briefly reopened on August 30, but closed again. In total, the highway had remained blocked for 14 days.



The Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag and Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri roads were also reopened on Wednesday, an official said.

"Works were affected by heavy intermittent rains. After resuming work on a war-footing from

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Army restores 2 key roads connecting villages in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has restored two vital roads damaged in the recent floods and cloudbursts in the Jammu region, an official said.

The roads restored were the Gulabgarh-Chashoti road in Kishtwar district and the Purna Bahadur-Handi Kassi road along the Line of Control (LoC) - both lifelines for thousands of people, as well as army units stationed in the area.

The 118 Road Construction Company (RCC), led by Major Jyotesh Razora, restored the critical Gulabgarh-Chashoti road after it was severed by torrential rains and landslides during August 26-27, a defence spokesperson said.

It took the BRO team 13 days to clear a 14-km stretch of

debris from the Chashoti side. An on-site BRO official said the initial days were extremely dangerous due to the risk of more landslides. A local expressed his relief at the restoration of road connectivity.

"We were completely cut off for nearly two weeks. BRO's continuous efforts gave us hope. Today, we are connected again," the person said.

The Purna Bahadur-Handi Kassi road, another critical route connecting villages and army posts along the LoC, was severely damaged by the heavy rains.

"The 58 RCC, under Project Sampark Chief Engineer Brig R K Mishra, swiftly constructed a 70-meter diversion, restoring uninterrupted traffic flow within a short time," the spokesperson said.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 33.2°C Min: 23.7°C

Humidity
Max: 90 Min: 72

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 28.8°C Min: 16.2°C

Humidity
Max: 86 Min: 61

Sunset : 18:44 Hours
Sunrise : 06:11 Hours

