



Assembly elections 2026

Two-phase elections in West Bengal; Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry to vote in one phase

New Delhi(GNS): The Election Commission on Sunday announced assembly elections for Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal. Voting in Tamil Nadu will take place in a single phase on April 23.

Meanwhile, Bengal will have two phases of voting on April 23 and 29. Three states: Kerala, Assam, and Puducherry will have a single phase of voting

on April 9. Results for all five states will be declared on May 4.

With this, the code of conduct has come into effect in these states. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said that the five states and union territories have 174 million voters and 824 seats.

The 2021 elections for all five states were announced on February 26. The previous election in Bengal was held

in eight phases. Voting took place in three phases in Assam and in single phases in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry. The terms of all five legislative assemblies expire in May-June.

SIR in 4 states, maximum names deleted in Tamil Nadu

Of the five states going to polls, Tamil Nadu has seen the highest number of voter deletions after the SIR. The Election



Commission stated that when the SIR process began on October 27, 2025, there were a total of 64,114,587 voters in the state. The SIR, which lasted nearly four months, removed

7,407,207 voters. The state now has 56,707,380 registered voters. West Bengal ranks second, with nearly 5.8 million people removed from the voter list. Kerala fol-

lowed with 800,000, Assam with 200,000, and Puducherry with the lowest number of 77,000 people removed from the voter list following the SIR process. A special revision (SR) was conducted in Assam.

Election Commissioner said - political violence will not be tolerated. After announcing the dates, the Chief Election Commissioner stated that Article 326 of the Constitution of

India mandates the Election Commission to enroll eligible voters. Voters who are 18 years old are citizens of India. No state can announce new dates after the model code of conduct comes into effect.

The Election Commission will not tolerate violence. The incidents that have occurred so far occurred before the code of conduct was implemented. Action

will be taken. Election Commission announces 100% web-casting for polling stations

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said the Commission will facilitate 100% web-casting at all polling stations during the 2026 Assembly elections in four states and one Union Territory to strengthen transparency and monitoring of the polling process.

CBSE Class 12 exams cancelled in seven West Asian countries



New Delhi(GNS):The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to cancel the Class 12 board exams in view of the current situation in West Asia. The board said that this decision has been taken keeping in mind the safety of the students and the current circumstances.

CBSE issued a circular in this regard on Saturday, according to which all Class 12 exams scheduled

from March 16 to April 10 for students of affiliated schools in Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have been cancelled. According to the board, the feasibility of conducting exams in these countries was reviewed based on suggestions received from the respective schools and local authorities.

After the review, it was decided that conducting

the exams is not possible under the current circumstances. CBSE has also clarified that the examinations previously postponed through circulars dated March 1, March 3, March 5, March 7, and March 9, 2026, will now also be considered cancelled. The board has said that the process and manner of declaring the results of Class 12 students from these countries will be communicated separately.

Every single infiltrator will be thrown out under the BJP government: Amit Shah

Guwahati(GNS): At the 'Yuva Shakti Samaroh' organized by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), Assam Pradesh, at the sports ground of the Veterinary College in Khanapara, Guwahati, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the Congress, accusing it of protecting infiltrators in the state and appealed to vote for the BJP for the collective development of the state. The Home Minister made the above appeal while addressing over 1.5 lakh youth of the state on Sunday.

BJYM National President Tejasvi Surya was also present at the event. Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, State BJP President and MP from Darrang-Udalguri constituency Dilip Saikia, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister Pavitra Margherita, and several other senior state BJP leaders, ministers,

MPs, and MLAs were also present at the event.

Through this BJYM program, young voters from every district in the state sounded the BJP's electoral bugle. This Yuva Shakti Samaroh was organized to strengthen the youth power's resolve in Assam's journey of development and upliftment. Addressing the event, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that this grand gathering of Assam's youth power presented a strong picture of the BJP's public support in the state.

He mentioned that a few days ago, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma had called him and invited him to attend the youth conference. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that no political party in India has been able to organize such a massive youth conference. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the youth of Assam.

Amit Shah stated that under the leadership of



Himanta Biswa Sarma, the process of development is ongoing in Assam. Shah claimed that the Assam government has provided approximately 165,000 jobs without any discrimination, a remarkable step in the state's history.

Speaking at the event, he sharply criticized the Congress party. He said that during the Congress regime, the wages of tea garden workers were ₹94. During the BJP regime, the Himanta Biswa Sarma government increased it to ₹280. Congress thinks about its people, while the BJP thinks about Assam. According to the Home Minister, during the

Congress regime, Assam's language and culture (jati, mati, bheti) were not respected. Meanwhile, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the glory of the historic hero Lachit Barphukan has been presented to the world in a bright light.

Amit Shah stated that approximately 10,800 armed individuals have surrendered during the BJP government, resulting in a strengthening of peace and discipline in the state. He claimed that a large area of land occupied by infiltrators has been liberated, and this campaign will continue in the future.

The Union Home Minister launched a scathing attack on the Congress party over illegal infiltration in the state, stating that the next BJP government will single out every infiltrator. He also labeled the Congress party as a protector of infiltrators.

He said that Rahul Gandhi cannot speak in Parliament, he runs away, and protests where people from around the world come to witness India's strength. Congress opposed India's AI summit, which was praised worldwide. While opposing Modi and the BJP, Rahul Gandhi has now begun to oppose India. Amit Shah condemned this action of Rahul Gandhi. He said that while opposing the BJP, Rahul Gandhi has begun to criticize the country.

At the end of his address, he appealed to the people of Assam to form the BJP government once again and said that this government will remain steadfast on its

Cylinder jams in Rajasthan and Bihar: Lines formed across the country since morning



● With a 950 domestic gas cylinder being sold in black for 3,500

New Delhi(GNS):The US-Israel war with Iran has exacerbated the LPG crisis in the country. In Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, and Rajasthan, among other states, lines have formed at gas agencies and warehouses since morning for cylinders. The

LPG crisis has also led to the black marketing of gas cylinders. Domestic gas cylinders that cost 950 are being sold for 3,500, and commercial cylinders that cost 2,000 are being sold for 5,000 in black market. 88 cylinders seized from resort in Lucknow, FIR: uproar at agency in Kanpur. People in Uttar Pradesh are worried about LPG. Long lines still form outside gas agencies for the sixth day.

West Bengal SIR: Officials caught between language, time, and pressure

Time is short, files are in the millions; 550 state officials and 200 from Odisha and Jharkhand are busy working

Kolkata(GNS):A Special Verification Process (SIR) is underway in West Bengal to investigate "logical discrepancies" in the voter list. Under the Supreme Court's direction, this process involves examining 6 million suspicious documents, and the judicial officers tasked with it are under tremendous pressure.

A judicial officer from Jharkhand involved in the process told news agency "At least 300 cases have to be handled daily. In addition to 550 officers from West Bengal, about 200 officers each from Odisha and Jharkhand are

involved." In Bengali, some surnames are sometimes spelled in two ways. These include Banerjee or Bandhopadhyay, Mukherjee or Mukhopadhyay, and Chatterjee or Chattopadhyay, among dozens of others. Due to Banerjee being translated from English into Bandhopadhyay in Bengali, such names have become a logical discrepancy, but this difference can be made only by one who has proper knowledge of Bengali. Most judicial officers in other states are unaware of this jargon, making it time-consuming to examine documents in such cases.

Bus carrying Indian pilgrims falls into ravine in Nepal 7 killed, 7 injured

Accident occurred while returning from Manakamana Temple

Kathmandu(GNS): Seven people were killed and seven others injured when a bus carrying Indian pilgrims plunged into a ravine in the Gorkha district of Nepal's Gandaki province on Saturday night. The pilgrims were returning from a pilgrimage to the Manakamana Temple.

According to the police, a microbus carrying devotees was returning from



Manakamana temple when it skidded off the road and fell into a 200 feet deep gorge. Seven passengers injured in the accident have been sent to Chitwan Medical College in

Bharatpur for treatment. According to police, more than a dozen passengers were on board the bus.

According to the administration, the bus was traveling from the Manakamana Temple to the Ambukhaireni area of Tanahun district. Rescue operations continued late into the night. Police said other factors leading to the accident were also being investigated.

Seawater will be drinkable, a plant is being built in Lakshadweep

It will bring water from a depth of 1000 meters and make it drinkable; 24-hour electricity will also be available

Kavaratti(GNS): Surrounded by sea, islands face two major challenges: fresh drinking water and affordable energy. In Lakshadweep, the sea itself is poised to provide solutions to both. A plant is being developed in the capital, Kavaratti,

that will generate electricity using ocean temperature differences and, in the same process, convert seawater into drinking water. The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences has started work on such a revolutionary technology, which will become an example for the world by the end of this year. This will be the first such hybrid plant in the world which will generate pure water from sea waves and also electricity round the clock. The new plant is based



on Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) technology. It will use warm ocean surface water and cold deep sea water. The hot water will be vacuumed to create steam, which will then spin turbines to generate electricity.

Why didn't we become self-reliant during the oil and gas crisis?

Saurabh Varshney

Whenever tensions or war erupt in the Middle East, oil and gas prices are among the first to be affected. Countries like India, which meet a significant portion of their energy needs through imports, are particularly affected during such times. The question arises: why, even after so many years, has India not become completely self-sufficient in oil and gas?

The biggest reason is that India has limited natural oil and gas reserves. While oil and gas are available in some areas of the country—such as the coastal areas and the northeastern states—the reserves are far less than our growing needs. Even today, India imports approximately 80-85 percent of its crude oil needs from abroad. Another reason

is that energy demand is constantly increasing. Due to industrial development, a growing population, and a rapid increase in the number of vehicles, oil and gas consumption is constantly rising. Domestic production has not been able to increase at this pace. A third reason has been policy and technological challenges. Many times, adequate investment, modern technology, and private sector participation in oil and gas exploration and production have not been able to be timely, resulting in potential reserves not being fully utilized.

However, in recent years, the government has taken some significant steps toward energy self-reliance. Promoting solar and wind energy, increasing the use of biofuels (ethanol), encouraging electric

vehicles, and exploring new oil and gas fields are efforts in this direction. Clearly, achieving complete self-sufficiency in oil and gas is not easy, but India can certainly reduce its dependence by developing alternative energy sources and increasing domestic production. This is also the path to future energy security.

Alternative sources of energy and how to increase domestic production

The recurring oil and gas crises in the country indicate that relying solely on imported energy is not a safe strategy in the long run. India imports a large portion of its energy needs from abroad, which immediately impacts the country's economy when prices rise in the international market or geopolitical tensions

arise. Therefore, promoting alternative energy sources and strengthening domestic production has become a pressing need. First, renewable sources like solar and wind energy must be rapidly expanded. India is geographically highly suited to solar energy. If rooftop solar plants and large solar parks are installed in every village, a significant portion of electricity generation can be derived from indigenous and clean sources. Similarly, coastal areas and open fields hold immense potential for wind energy. Another important step is to increase domestic oil and gas production. This requires encouraging new discoveries, modern technologies, and private investment. The government must formulate clear policies and simplify regulations to

explore energy resources in marine areas and difficult geographical terrains, thereby boosting domestic production. Biofuels, green hydrogen, and electric vehicles must also be made an important part of energy policy. Initiatives such as ethanol blending, biogas plants, and energy production from agricultural waste will not only mitigate the energy crisis but also help increase farmers' incomes. Ultimately, energy self-sufficiency is possible not only through government policies but also through public participation. The role of ordinary citizens in energy conservation, adoption of solar energy, and the use of clean technologies is equally important. If the government, industry, and society work together, India can not only overcome the energy crisis but also take strong steps towards energy self-sufficiency in the coming years.

Editorial

On new series of Consumer Price Index, inflation

The new series of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the second data release of which was issued on Thursday, does not yet have enough historical data for robust comparisons, but does include enough information to provide clues about the future. Retail inflation in India quickened to a 10-month high of 3.2% in February 2026, largely driven by food inflation and precious metal prices. This rise is something that the government should take note of early, avoiding any complacency that might have crept in due to the low inflation levels of the last year or so. Food has a lower weight in the new series as compared to the old one, but is nevertheless a major driver of inflation with a 36.75% weight in the overall CPI. Inflation in food and beverages rose to 3.35% in February from 2.1% in the previous month, driven by quickening price levels in the meat, oils, and fruits and nuts categories. Notably, inflation in tomato prices stood at more than 45%. Thankfully, this was accompanied by a contraction in prices of the two other staples — onions and potatoes — by 28% and 18%, respectively. A large part of the low inflation last year was due to a statistical base effect that is now gone. Looking ahead, there are various factors that could result in rapidly rising food inflation. The first is that climate scientists are predicting the return of the El Niño effect in the middle of the monsoon this year. A weak monsoon will naturally raise food prices. The second impact will depend on how long the conflict in West Asia continues. Sustained natural gas supply constraints will hurt fertilizer production, affecting food output and, eventually, prices. The other factor that has driven inflation up, and which will likely remain a major driver in the near future, is the price of gold and silver. Gold jewellery saw inflation rise to 48.2% in February from an already-blistering 46.8% in January. Inflation in silver jewellery stood at more than 160% in both January and February. With global uncertainty and anxiety skyrocketing, the demand for safe-haven precious metals is not going to let up any time soon. Rising oil prices and LPG and LNG shortages are already raising input prices for industry, which will eventually be passed on to consumers.



The politics of global trade are often not limited to economic interests alone, but also involve complex geopolitical strategies and power dynamics. The recent US initiative to investigate alleged unfair trade practices against 16 major trading partners, including India and China, is seen as part of this broader strategy. This policy pursued by US President Donald Trump and his administration is not merely a matter of trade rules but also an attempt to control countries rising in global economic competition.



Trump's tariff politics and new strategy of economic pressure against India

Kantilal Mandot

Last month, the US Supreme Court declared the tariffs imposed by Trump illegal. This decision was considered a major blow to the administration's trade strategy. Following this, the Trump administration sought a new legal avenue and initiated an investigation under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. This provision gives the US the authority to impose unilateral tariffs or other trade sanctions against a country if allegations of unfair trade practices are proven.

The United States alleges that some countries produce more than their domestic needs and sell the excess goods at cheap prices in the global market. This is called dumping. The United States also claims that many countries artificially make their products cheaper through government subsidies to remain competitive in the international market. The United States also says that some countries keep their currencies weak, which boosts their exports and harms American companies.

However, it is not sufficient to understand this entire matter solely on the basis of economic arguments. Global analysts believe that this move comes at a time when emerging economies like India are rapidly becoming centers of global trade and production. India has made significant progress in the manufacturing sector in recent years, and many international companies are turning to India as an alternative to China. At such a time, the US initiating such an investigation appears to many experts to be a policy of strategic pressure.



This policy of the Trump administration is fundamental to the America First principle that Trump made the cornerstone of his political campaign. He believes that the global trade system has harmed American industries and workers. Based on this thinking, he has previously imposed tariffs on several countries and forced the renegotiation of trade agreements.

But critics say this policy creates instability for global trade. If the US continues to use tariffs against its major trading partners, it will disrupt global supply chains and increase tensions in international trade. This will impact not only the countries involved but the entire global economy.

This issue assumes even greater significance in India's context, as it aims to become the world's third-largest economy in the coming years. The Indian government has ambitious plans to establish the country as a global economic power by 2029. At this juncture, if major markets begin imposing tariffs on Indian exports, it could pose new challenges for Indian

industries.

However, it is also true that India has strengthened its trade diplomacy in recent years. India is rapidly moving towards becoming not just a consumer market but also a major manufacturing hub. Policies like Make in India and production-based incentive schemes have attracted global companies to invest in India. Furthermore, India has signed free trade agreements with several countries, opening up new avenues for its exports.

The US-initiated investigation includes countries such as China, the European Union, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Singapore, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Switzerland, and Norway, in addition to India. This makes it clear that this move is not directed against any single country but is part of a broader global trade strategy.

In the coming days, various countries and companies will present their arguments as part of this investigation. This process will begin in March, and the US could make a decision after a

hearing in May. If the US finds sufficient evidence to support its allegations, it could impose new tariffs on these countries.

Yet many economists believe this entire process may actually be a pressure tactic aimed at securing better terms in trade negotiations. The US has often used such investigations and the threat of tariffs to force its trading partners to the negotiating table.

The most important thing for India to do in this situation is to adopt a strong diplomatic and economic strategy to protect its trade interests. India will need to diversify its export markets and strengthen the competitiveness of domestic industries. It will also be necessary to protect its rights under global trade rules.

Ultimately, it is clear that the global trade landscape is rapidly changing. Major countries are using new tools to protect their economic interests. Therefore, the challenge for emerging economies like India is to continue their growth journey amid these pressures and establish a strong position in the global economy.

Machine breathing and human dignity: The moral dilemma between life and death

Dilip Kumar Pathak

The definition of life is not limited to the heartbeat, but also requires consciousness and human dignity. The recent Supreme Court decision permitting passive euthanasia in the case of Harish Rana is a courageous and historic decision, transcending the dry pages of law and grounded in human sensibilities. Harish Rana's case, in a coma for the past 13 years, forces us to consider whether we are keeping a person alive with the help of science or are we insulting their dignity by not allowing them to die? At the heart of this entire debate is the horrific condition of brain death, a condition that has become essential for everyone to understand in today's times. Medical science clearly states that when the part of the

brain that controls consciousness and respiration is completely destroyed, a person is reduced to a mere physical body. In such a state, the patient can neither feel touch, hear sound, nor experience any pain. He remains only a part of an artificial respiration process amidst the mechanical sounds of ventilator and life support, which would perhaps be an insult to the word life.

One such juxtaposition of emotions and scientific limitations was recently witnessed when a tragic incident occurred in a family I knew. A woman suddenly lost her balance in her room and fell, striking the back of her head against the corner of the bed, leaving her brain permanently paralyzed. For two days, she remained in the hospital, receiving intensive care and breathing aid from heavy machines.

However, after tests, a team of doctors confirmed that she was brain dead. The dilemma facing the family at this time was as dire as a mountain. On one hand, there was the unbearable grief of losing a loved one, and on the other, a lifeless body chained to machines. Ultimately, with the clear advice of the doctors and the mutual consent of the family, the extremely difficult and heart-breaking decision to remove life support systems was made. This decision was not an attempt to take anyone's life, but rather the ultimate compassion to free the woman from a mechanical and painful life. It was a respect for the soul that nature had already called, but science had shackled to machines.

The Supreme Court's view is justified in holding that a dignified death is an essential extension of

the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. When all medical efforts have failed and there is no hope for improvement, forcibly keeping someone's heart alive through mechanical plugs is detrimental to that person's dignity. Caring for a lifeless body on a bed for years not only devastates a family financially but also psychologically shatters the lives of other family members.

The stringent regulations surrounding passive euthanasia in India ensure that this legal provision is never misused. Such a step is only taken after a medical board oversees and follows legal procedures that certify that the patient is beyond recovery. The true purpose of passive euthanasia is not to prematurely end a person's life, but to remove artificial barriers that

obstruct the natural and natural path of death. It is often argued in society that miracles can happen at any time, but even science has no answers in the case of brain death. In such a situation, compassion demands that we allow the person to pass away peacefully. In cases like Harish Rana's, legal permission is not merely a court order, but the end of years of silent struggle and unbearable pain that cannot be described in words. We must accept that the meaning of life lies in its quality and consciousness, not merely in longevity. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Harish's long and silent journey has finally found final peace and solace. His dignified departure has forever severed the shackles of unbearable pain that had bound him for more than a decade.

Palam robbery case: Fugitive accused arrested

New Delhi(GNS): The Delhi Police Crime Branch (NDR) team has arrested an absconding accused in connection with the robbery and vandalism at a hotel in Palam Village. The accused has been identified as Mahesh alias Ganja (26), a resident of the Rajnagar area of Palam. Police arrested him on March 13.

Pankaj Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch, said on Sunday that the case was registered at the Palam Village police station on September 29, 2025. The complainant stated that on the night of September 28, around five to six masked miscreants armed with iron rods entered his hotel. They broke the glass windows, vandalized furniture and other items, and assaulted the staff. The miscreants then looted approximately two lakh rupees from the hotel counter and fled. Hotel employee Priyanshu was injured during the incident and had to be hospitalized for treatment. The criminals also took the



DVR from the hotel's CCTV cameras. During the investigation, local police had already arrested five accused: Hrithik, Mohammad Ladka, Prakash alias Chinu, Rakesh, and Mohammad Ibrar. Mahesh alias Ganja had

been absconding since the incident.

According to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, the Crime Branch team was continuously searching for him. A team was formed under the supervi-

sion of ACP Umesh Barthwal. The accused's movements were monitored using technical surveillance and informants. Meanwhile, on March 13, information was received that the accused would be arriving in the Sarojini Nagar area. The police team laid a trap there, but he did not arrive. Later, information was received that he might be visiting his parents in Palam village. Following this, the team increased surveillance and finally apprehended him in the Palam area.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to his involvement in the robbery. Police have arrested him under Section 35(3) of the BNSS and have initiated further investigation. According to police, the accused has studied up to eighth grade and previously worked for a private company. He later became a Rapido bike rider and during this time came into contact with local criminals and became involved in criminal activities.

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Delhi Metro recorded 235.8 crore journeys in 2025

New Delhi(GNS): The Delhi Metro, considered the lifeline of Delhi-NCR, has set a new record for ridership in 2025. According to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), approximately 235.8 crore passenger journeys were recorded throughout the year, an increase from 2024. On average, approximately 64.60 lakh passengers traveled by metro daily in 2025. With the recent inauguration of two new sections of the Pink Line and Magenta Line, the Delhi Metro remains India's largest operational metro system. A total of 1143 km of metro network now operates in 26 cities across the country, with approximately 1.15 crore journeys daily. More than 55 percent of these journeys are on the Delhi Metro network alone.

DMRC Principal Executive Director Anuj Dayal said on Sunday that the Delhi Metro has redefined urban transportation in the capital, reducing travel time, reducing traffic congestion, and promoting environmentally friendly public transport.

The total length of the Delhi-NCR metro network is approximately 416 kilometers, with 303 stations. This includes the approximately 29-kilometer Noida-Greater Noida Metro line and the approximately 13-kilometer Gurugram Rapid Metro line, which connect Delhi to major cities in the NCR.

According to the DMRC, the Delhi Metro currently operates 343 trains (2,368 coaches). Approximately 4,508 train trips are made daily, covering a distance of approximately 140,000 train kilometers. The metro's punctuality is also approximately 99.9 percent, making it one of the most reliable metro systems in the world. Over the past two years, the number of metro passengers has seen a steady increase. A total of 2.235 million journeys were recorded in 2024, while this figure will rise to 2.358 million in 2025. During this period, daily passenger numbers have been broken several times. On November 18, 2024, 7.867 million passengers traveled by metro, while on August 8, 2025, a new record was set with 8.187 million passengers in a single day.

The Delhi Metro also operates the country's largest driverless metro network. Currently, driverless trains are operating on approximately 121 kilometers of the Pink Line and Magenta Line, with a total of 80 driverless trains operating on these lines.

According to the DMRC, construction of several new corridors is also underway under Phase 4. To meet future needs, 52 new trains are being purchased, of which 18 have already been received.

Gurugram, Panchkula top realty picks for Haryana IAS officers

Gurugram(GNS): New Chandigarh and Panchkula remain the preferred property hunting ground for Haryana-cadre IAS officers with several owning plots or flats there, suggest the annual immovable asset details filed by 186 bureaucrats for 2025.

In their filings with the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), several officers have, however, not disclosed the present value of the immovable assets or have under-reported their current value. Among the most senior of them, Vivek Joshi, a 1989-batch officer who took voluntary retirement and joined as Election Commissioner in February 2025, owns a 1,623.96 sq ft flat in Noida, which he bought in 2019, and is now worth Rs 55 lakh. He earns Rs 1 lakh annually from it.

ACS Home Sudhir Rajpal, a 1990-batch officer, owns a 420 sq m house in Gurugram,

which he purchased in the 1980s, before he became an IAS officer. Its present value is Rs 7.5 crore, and its annual income is Rs 18 lakh. He also has a two-bedroom flat in Delhi, worth Rs 1.5 crore, and earns Rs 3 lakh per annum from it. Besides, he has a three-bedroom flat in Kolkata, with a present value of Rs 50 lakh, and earns Rs 3 lakh per annum from it. His returns suggest that he earns Rs 6 lakh per annum from a three-bedroom flat on Golf Course Extension Road in Gurugram worth Rs 2 crore. In Hisar, Rajpal owns a 92.25 sq m plot with a present value of Rs 15.87 lakh. He has a flat in the Highlands Cooperative Group Housing Society, Panchkula, with a deposit of Rs 1.15 crore towards land cost paid to Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP). As many as 43 IAS, IPS, and IFS officers of the Haryana cadre are members of the society.

In all, Rajpal has owns immovable properties with a present value of Rs 12.81 crore and earns Rs 30 lakh per annum from these.

Financial Commissioner, Revenue & Disaster Management Department Sumita Misra, also a 1990-batch officer, has a 411 sq yd plot in the Punjab IAS/PCS Officer Cooperative Group Housing Society, Mohali, worth Rs 2.5 crore. She has three parcels of land in Lucknow, measuring 7,200 sq ft, 300 sq m, and 4,100 sq ft, which she acquired from her mother in February 2020.

Besides, Misra has a 250 sq yd plot in New Chandigarh, valued at Rs 1.25 crore, and a builder floor in Haus Khas, Delhi, worth Rs 3.5 crore, which she bought in 2024 from savings, sale of mutual funds and shares, overdraft from her salary account, besides an interest-free loan from her family, as per her

property filing. She earns Rs 29.60 lakh per annum from these properties.

ACS Food and Civil Supplies Raja Sekhar Vundru owns a 260 sq m plot in Himayatnagar, Hyderabad, now worth Rs 25 lakh (purchased by his parents), and a 200 sq m plot in Noida, which he acquired in 2003, worth Rs 1 crore. Among the 1991-batch officers, ACS, Town and Country Planning AK Singh owns 28 bighas in Baghpat worth Rs 90-95 lakh in joint ownership with brother and mother. He has a membership in a CGHS HEWO-II property in Faridabad worth Rs 64.42 lakh; and owns a 411.28 sq yard plot and a proportionate commercial space in New Chandigarh worth Rs 1.03 crore. Another 1991-batch IAS, ACS Higher Education Vineet Garg, owns a flat in Gurugram; a house in Sector 7, Panchkula; a flat in Delhi (inherited from mother); an 8-acre agricultur-

al land in joint ownership with family in Sonapat; and a house in Sector 6, Panchkula (Hindu Undivided Family property). He has also made a contribution of Rs 3.2 crore towards Highlands Society and earns Rs 24.50 lakh per annum from the six properties he owns.

Principal Secretary to CM Arun Kumar Gupta, a 1992-batch IAS officer, has a 250 sq yard plot in Hisar (in his father's name) worth Rs 3 crore; a plot in IAS-PCS Cooperative Society, Mullanpur, worth Rs 7 crore; a flat in Gurugram worth Rs 3.5 crore; and another in Highland Society in Panchkula worth Rs 2.75 crore. He earns Rs 56,000 per month from the Gurugram flat. Deepthi Umashankar, a 1993-batch officer, owns 17 acres of agricultural land in Karnal, with a present value of Rs 32 lakh per acre. The property was acquired in 1989, before she joined the civil services.

CAQM allows temporary use of alternative fuels in NCR

New Delhi(GNS): The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has permitted the temporary use of alternative fuels for industries and commercial establishments across the National Capital Region, including Delhi, following disruptions in global energy supply and constraints in natural gas availability. In an order issued on March 13, the commission granted a limited relaxation in the standard list of approved fuels notified under its earlier Direction No. 65 issued in June 2022. The decision comes in view of the extraordinary situation arising from global energy supply disruptions and the issuance of the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026 by the Central Government to ensure equitable distribution and availability of natural gas for priority sectors.

The commission said it



reviewed the situation after consultations with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, city gas distribution agencies in the NCR and other stakeholders. The move also follows an advisory issued on March 12 by the Central Pollution Control Board to state pollution control boards and pollution control committees regarding the use of alternative fuels.

Under the order, industries, hotels, restaurants and other enterprises in the NCR will be

allowed to temporarily use fuels such as High Speed Diesel (HSD), biomass and Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF) pellets in place of natural gas. The relaxation will remain in force for a period of one month from the date of the order or until further directions are issued, whichever is earlier.

The commission further stated that if these alternative fuels are also in short supply, the temporary use of coal and kerosene would be permitted during the same period.

MP Yogendra Chandolia pays tribute to Dr. Sahib Verma on his birth anniversary

New Delhi(GNS): On the occasion of the birth anniversary of former Delhi Chief Minister Dr. Sahib Singh Verma, North-West Delhi BJP MP Yogendra Chandolia paid a heartfelt tribute to him on Sunday. During this, he made several important announcements while remembering Sahib Singh Verma's contribution to the development of Delhi and the betterment of 'Delhi Rural'.

Describing Dr. Sahib Singh Verma as 'son of the soil' and 'development man', Yogendra Chandolia said that as the Labour Minister in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government, he had raised the voice of the poor, laborers and farmers. He said, "During his five-year tenure as Chief Minister, he had taken Delhi to new heights, but after him, the



development work of Delhi came to a halt."

Referring to Dr. Verma's unfulfilled dream, MP Chandolia said that there was a plan to build a sports university near Ghevara, for which land had been acquired. Due to the negligence of previous governments, this project remained stalled. Chandolia reiterated his demand that construction of this sports university begin soon and that it be named after Dr. Sahib Singh Verma.



New Delhi(GNS): The ongoing concerns over the LPG cylinder availability in the Capital are beginning to affect meals served in paying guest accommodations across Delhi, with several residents reporting reduced food menus despite no change in rent. Residents in multiple localities said the PG kitchens had started limiting dishes, replacing full meals with

simpler options such as dal-rice or roti-sabzi, while in some cases chapatis had been discontinued due to difficulties in cooking amid the LPG crunch. At a PG in Laxmi Nagar, the management has shifted from LPG cylinders to using a traditional tandoor to prepare food. Rohit, the chef at the facility, said the alternative arrangement comes with several challenges. "Since there is a

LPG crunch hits meals in Delhi PGs

shortage of LPG cylinders and there is panic around it, the owner installed a tandoor on the terrace where the kitchen is. But the problem with the tandoor is that it becomes difficult to cook in large quantities and weather conditions also affect the process. If there is strong heat in the afternoon, cooking becomes difficult. And if it rains, as predicted on Sunday, it will be even harder to prepare meals," he said. Residents say the change has already altered their daily meals. Parul Priya, who lives at the same PG, said the dinner menu had been cut down in recent days.

"Earlier we used to have one dal and one vegetable at night along with rice and chapati. But just last night, the meal was only

kadhi with rice and roti. There was no other vegetable, so it is clear the gas shortage is affecting the menu," she said.

Similar complaints have emerged from other parts of the city. In Malviya Nagar, PG resident Anshika Saxena said the facility had stopped serving rotis altogether. "My PG has stopped giving rotis, so now we are basically eating rice for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Initially I thought the cook might have forgotten to make rotis, but since it keeps happening, it no longer seems like a mistake," she said, adding that many people assume gas supply issues only affect prices, but they are also influencing what food is being prepared.

In Saket, residents say full meals have been replaced with

simpler combinations. Sahil, who lives in a boys' PG, said meals earlier included roti, sabzi, dal, rice and salad.

"Now they are only cooking either roti-sabzi or dal-rice, while the rent remains the same," he said, adding that if services are reduced, the cost should also reflect the change.

Students are also expressing concern. Tanisha, a student studying at University of Delhi who currently stays in a PG in the Lajpat Nagar area, said the management had already warned residents that the situation could worsen.

"They told us they will avoid cooking items that consume more gas. If the shortage continues, they might stop providing food altogether. But the full

monthly fee has already been collected," she said. Working professionals living in PG accommodations are also reporting disruptions. Mohit Malhotra, an IT professional staying in Rajouri Garden, said his mess manager recently informed residents that lunch could not be served because a cylinder was not available. The situation comes even as the authorities have said that the LPG supply remains adequate, though ground-level concerns and precautionary measures have led to heightened anxiety in several parts of the city. Residents say if the disruption continues, it could significantly affect thousands of students and working professionals who rely on the PG kitchens for their daily meals.

Delhi Police conducts training session to strengthen action against drug abuse

New Delhi(GNS): To further strengthen the campaign against drug abuse, the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) of the Delhi Police Crime Branch organized a special joint training session for investigating officers. The training was conducted in hybrid mode on March 14 at the Adarsh Auditorium at Police Headquarters. A total of 611 officers participated.

209 officers were present in the auditorium, while 402 joined virtually. Participants included officers ranging from Sub-Inspector to Assistant Commissioner of Police, duty officers, and MHC (M).

According to information received from Police Headquarters, the Delhi Police, especially the Crime Branch and ANTF, are taking strict action against drug abuse under a "zero



tolerance policy." Additionally, aspects such as awareness, rehabilitation, and community engagement are also being addressed as part of a multi-pronged strategy. A senior police officer stated that during the training, officers were briefed on the importance of

robust investigations and solid evidence in cases under the NDPS Act. Emphasis was placed on financial investigations, particularly in cases involving commercial quantities, to effectively disrupt the economic activities of drug traffickers. The session also emphasized the need to

take maximum preventive action against drug traffickers under the special act. Information was also provided about the NCB-operated helpline number 1933, through which citizens can confidentially report drug-related information and receive assistance.

Massive fire at Nature Bazaar over 40 shops gutted

New Delhi(GNS): A massive fire broke out at Nature Bazaar in Delhi's Vasant Kunj area on Sunday morning. The fire quickly engulfed several small shops in the market. According to the fire department, approximately 40 to 50 small shops were reduced to ashes. However, there were no reports of casualties.



According to Delhi Fire Department Public Relations Officer Rajinder Atwal, the control room received a call about the fire at around 7:37 a.m. on Sunday. The incident site was identified as Nature Bazaar in Ambedkar Colony, near Delhi Haat Andheriya Mor, near the Chhattarpur Metro Station. Upon receiving the call, the fire department immediately responded, initially dispatching two water tenders, two water bowsers, one breathing fire tender, and one quick response vehicle to the scene. Upon arriv-

ing at the scene, fire officials issued a "Make-4" call at around 8 a.m., following the severity of the fire. Additional fire engines were dispatched to the scene. Three more were later dispatched. Firefighters brought the fire under control after considerable effort. According to fire officials, the fire engulfed approximately 40 small shops in the market, completely destroying their goods and causing significant financial losses to the shopkeepers. The cause of the fire is currently unknown. Initial suspicions are a short circuit.

Minister Vipul Goel inaugurates Faridabad Flower Festival 2026

New Delhi(GNS): Haryana Revenue and Urban Local Bodies Minister Vipul Goel on Saturday inaugurated the Faridabad Flower Festival-2026. Goel, attending the festival as the chief guest, appreciated the efforts of MC Faridabad officers and public representatives in reviving the town flower park.

He said that the successful organisation of the programme was made possible due to the collective efforts of the MC team, elected representatives and various sections of society.

The Minister said that the people of Faridabad are committed to the development of the city. Referring to earlier tree plantation drives, development of Town Park, Eco-Van, Namu-Van, and beautification of parks, he said that the development works approved for Town Park will bring about even more visible changes in the coming years. He also informed that there are plans to introduce facilities such as a water canal and boating for children.



Highlighting improvements in sanitation arrangements, systems such as door-to-door waste collection, mechanised and manual cleaning, and night sweeping are being further strengthened and the city will witness significant improvements in the coming months.

Sharing the details about the proposed visit of the Chief Minister, Goel said that a programme has been scheduled at Sector-12 on April 4 at 11:00 am.

Uttam Nagar killing: Hindu body, kin seek CBI/SIT probe in Delhi

New Delhi(GNS): Members of Sarva Hindu Samaj along with the family of 26-year-old Tarun, who was killed in a clash in west Delhi earlier this month, on Saturday demanded that the investigation into the case be handed over to an independent agency such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or a Special Investigation Team (SIT). The demand was raised during a press conference where the victim's family and area residents called for strict punishment for all those involved in the killing. Tarun's mother alleged that her son was attacked by a large group of people, and appealed for justice.

"So many people came and beat my son mercilessly for such a small matter. We want strict action against all of them and justice for my child," she said. Representatives of the organisation alleged that the deceased was surrounded by around 30-40 people and attacked with sticks, iron rods, swords and stones, which led to his death. They urged authorities to transfer



the probe to the CBI, an SIT or the Delhi Police's Crime Branch to ensure a fair and transparent investigation.

The organisation also demanded that CCTV footage and DVR recordings from the area, including nearby religious premises, be seized and examined.

It further called for the formation of a special inquiry committee to monitor

the investigation and ensure impartiality. According to the Delhi Police, the clash took place in the JJ Colony area of Uttam Nagar on March 4 after water from a balloon thrown by a girl from the deceased's family during Holi celebrations splashed on a woman from a neighbouring family, leading to an argument that escalated into violence.

MCD specially-abled students perform at Rashtrapati Bhavan

New Delhi(GNS): Specially-abled students from schools run by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi participated in the annual Purple Fest held at Amrit Udyan within the premises of Rashtrapati Bhavan. It marks the first time that students from MCD schools took part in the event.

According to officials, the participation was part of the civic body's efforts to promote inclusive education and ensure the holistic development of students studying in its schools. The festival brought together persons with disabilities and students from across the country, providing them a platform to showcase their talents.

At the event, two students from MCD schools presented a dance performance, while nine students took part in a fancy dress competition. A total of 11 students from MCD schools participated in the programme.

During the visit, the students also toured Amrit Udyan, which is known for its landscaped gardens and seasonal flower displays inside



the Rashtrapati Bhavan complex.

International para-athlete Vikas Dagar, who is also a principal at an MCD school, attended the event along with officials from the MCD Education Department and teachers accompanying the students.

Officials said the Purple Fest is organised annually at Amrit Udyan and serves as a platform for persons with disabilities from across the country to present cultural performances and participate in various activities.

Government bans PNG users from possessing LPG cylinders

New Delhi(GNS): Amid the West Asia crisis, the Central Government has prohibited households holding Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections from possessing or obtaining subsidized Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) connections.

In a notification issued on March 14, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas amended the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 under the Essential Commodities Act. Under this, consumers with PNG connections are now required to surrender their domestic LPG connections. Under the amended order, public sector petroleum companies will no longer exchange filled LPG cylinders for empty LPG cylinders to consumers holding PNG connections. This is intended to prioritize LPG supply for households that do not have access to piped gas.

Meanwhile, due to the global energy supply crisis, the sector regulator has asked city gas distribution companies to rapidly expand their PNG infrastructure to ease pressure on cooking gas supplies. The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has asked city gas distribution companies to expe-



dite the provision of domestic PNG connections to households and prioritize consumers in areas where pipeline infrastructure has already been laid.

India meets approximately 88 percent of its crude oil, 50 percent of natural gas, and 60 percent of LPG needs through imports. Before the US-Israeli attack on Iran on February 28 and the Iranian retaliatory actions, more than half of India's crude oil imports, about 30 percent of gas, and 85-90 percent of LPG imports came from West Asian countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Fusion flavours take centre stage at Culinary Art India

New Delhi(GNS): Innovation and creativity took centre stage at the culinary competitions held during AAHAR - The International Food & Hospitality Fair, where chefs experimented with global techniques and Indian flavours at Culinary Art India organised by the Indian Culinary Forum.

From sushi inspired by street food to chocolates infused with traditional spices, the competitions reflected a growing trend of fusion cuisine aimed at appealing to Indian palates.

One of the most talked-about entries came from chef Narendra Singh, who experimented with chocolates infused with distinctly Indian ingredients. His creations included Cardamom and Black Pepper Bon Bon.



Drumstick Bon Bon, Kevda Bon Bon and Pineapple Kurkand Roulade. The Cardamom and Black Pepper Bon Bon particularly stood out for its blend of

Indian spices with European confectionery techniques. Cardamom, widely used in Indian sweets such as kheer and gulab jamun, was paired with the warmth of black pepper to create a bon bon that balanced traditional flavours with a Western dessert style.

Fusion was also visible in the sushi category, where chef Rohit Singh Rawat from Uttarakhand presented a range of innovative sushi varieties inspired by Indian dishes. Rawat, who has been in the culinary industry for about a decade, said the idea behind the concept was to make sushi more appealing to Indian taste buds.

"Most sushi has rice, seafood and vegetables, but many Indian diners do not enjoy the taste of traditional sushi. So I tried to

add Indian spices and flavours," he said. Among his creations were Vada Pav sushi, Chicken 65 sushi, Lime Spice Prawn sushi, Achari Nigiri and Kerala Spiced Mutton sushi. Rawat said the Vada Pav sushi was an attempt to reinterpret the popular Mumbai street food in a Japanese format.

"People should feel that they are eating something familiar even when they try sushi," he said. While chefs showcased creative interpretations, culinary experts emphasised the importance of balance in fusion cooking. Chef Davinder Kumar, president of the Indian Culinary Forum, said fusion cuisine offers a platform for creativity, but should not compromise the identity of the original dish.

"Fusion helps in creativity and

innovation because it allows the amalgamation of different flavours. But one must ensure that the originality of the cuisine is not lost," he said. Kumar added that Indian chefs increasingly experiment by blending spices and techniques from different regions of India rather than relying only on foreign ingredients.

"For instance, incorporating panch phoron or kasundi mustard into other dishes can create new flavours while still retaining Indian culinary roots," he said.

Student chefs also joined the experimentation during mocktail competitions. Ashwin Walia, a sixth-semester student of Le Cordon Bleu at GD Goenka University, presented two drinks - "Midnight" and "Amla Breeze".

His drinks combined ingredients such as amla, toasted black salt, ginger syrup and mulberry with spices, including clove and vanilla. Walia said the idea behind the drinks was to evoke memories of traditional amla candy while blending these with contemporary mixology techniques.

"Fusion, to me, means taking two ingredients that may or may not naturally go together and turning them into something completely new," he said.

Another student participant, Divyansh Sahni from the same university, drew inspiration from temple cuisines and regional beverages. One of his drinks, Temple Mist, was inspired by traditional temple offerings and used jaggery and ginger for a refreshing flavour.