

AUSTERITY APPEAL ROW

Oppn attacks PM on govt’s failures

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Opposition leaders on Monday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging that his government had failed to safeguard people’s interests and dubbed him a “compromised PM” after he made an appeal for judicious use of fuel and defer gold purchases as well as foreign travel to help save foreign exchange in the wake of the West Asia crisis.

The BJP, however, defended Modi saying his appeal for austerity was in the larger national interest and should be followed by everyone.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi went on the offensive and alleged that the “compromised PM” was no longer capable of running the country and asked Modi not to shift the blame for “12 years of failures” onto the shoulders of ordinary Indians.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the PM’s words were “evidence of failure”.

Highlights

- » Rahul Gandhi said the PM’s words were ‘evidence of failure’
- » BJP, however, defended Modi saying his appeal

for austerity was in the larger national interest

- » Akhilesh Yadav alleged that the BJP govt had failed in handling both the economy and foreign policy

“These are not words of counsel; they are evidence of failure,” he said.

“Time and again, they shift the responsibility onto the public to evade their own accountability,” Gandhi said, adding, “The compromised PM is no longer capable of running the country.”

Congress chief Kharge said that at a time when people were struggling under the weight of adversity, the prime minister was busy lecturing the country on the virtues of saving.

He questioned why the Prime Minister was so engrossed in election campaigning and conducting roadshows.

Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the appeal was aimed at guiding and inspiring people to conserve

fuel, a limited resource.

“His suggestions are in the larger national and public interest, and all of us should follow them. This is what visionary leadership means, always thinking about the nation and its people, and guiding the country through every crisis,” Chouhan said.

Seeking to defend the PM’s remarks, BJP leader Sudhanshu Trivedi said what Modi had said was the duty of the government and it was similar to how the government advises caution when there is a possibility of a tsunami or a storm.

“I think the Opposition is once again making the mistake of opposing the government, the BJP and PM Narendra Modi to the extent that it risks crossing into opposing the nation,”

Trivedi said.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav alleged that the BJP government had failed in handling both the economy and foreign policy, calling its appeal an “admission of failure”.

In a post on X, Yadav said, “As soon as elections are over, the government suddenly remembered the ‘crisis’. In reality, there is only one crisis for the country and its name is BJP”

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister questioned how the country would achieve the goal of becoming a “five trillion dollar economy” if the government was forced to impose several restrictions.

“It appears the BJP government has completely lost control,” he said, adding that such statements from the government could create panic in the markets and the public.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi alleged that the austerity measures were a result of election-focused governance and the NCP (SP) said the BJP should “lead by example” before asking the public to

curtail consumption and travel.

CPIM general secretary MA Baby condemned the PM’s call for austerity and said it was ironic that the Prime Minister called upon the people to implement austerity measures.

“The government has utterly failed to safeguard the interests of the people because of its decision to completely align with the US-Israel axis,” he alleged.

“The PM’s statement itself proves that all is not well with the economy,” he said, as he questioned the timing of the remarks.

CPI leader D Raja asked, “Who is buying gold? Whom is the Prime Minister advising? Let him say who is buying gold. He is advising people not to buy gold, but people do not even have enough money to eat. They do not have money in their hands, so how can they buy gold? What is the Prime Minister saying?”

AAP MP Sanjay Singh said the PM should stop doing roadshows, holding public rallies and going on foreign trips to save fuel.

Stage set for Himanta to take oath as Assam CM for 2nd term

Prime Minister and top NDA leaders to attend event

MPOST BUREAU

GUWAHATI: The stage is set for Himanta Biswa Sarma to take oath as Assam chief minister for a second consecutive term on Tuesday, marking the start of the BJP-led NDA government’s third straight tenure in the state.

The swearing-in ceremony at the Veterinary College Field in Khanapara is expected to witness the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home minister Amit Shah, Defence minister Rajnath Singh, Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal and BJP national president Nitin Nabin, along with over 40 NDA chief ministers and deputy chief ministers.

Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya, who on Sunday appointed Sarma as the chief minister, will administer the oath of office and secrecy to the BJP leader and members of the new Council of Ministers at



Security personnel inspect the venue ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of Assam CM-elect Himanta Biswa Sarma, in Guwahati, Monday

11:40 am.

Sarma, who first became chief minister in 2021, will be the first non-Congress leader in Assam to serve two consecutive terms as CM.

This will be the NDA’s third consecutive term in the state since the BJP-led alliance first came to power in 2016 under then CM Sarbananda Sonowal.

The NDA, comprising the BJP, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and Bodoland People’s Front (BPF), secured a sweeping mandate in the Assembly polls, winning a record 102 seats in the 126-member House.

The BJP alone bagged 82, its first single-party majority in the state, while AGP and BPF won 10 seats each.

‘NEET not exam anymore but auction’: Rahul

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Monday attacked the BJP over alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG 2026, with Rahul Gandhi claiming that it is not an exam anymore but an “auction” and that no one poses a

greater threat to the dreams of India’s youth than the Modi government.

The leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said he stands with the country’s youth in an “incredibly difficult time” and vowed to change the system.

“I heard the news about the

NEET 2026 paper leak. It’s not an exam anymore --NEET is now an auction. Many questions were being sold on WhatsApp 42 hours before the exam,” Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X.

Over 22 lakh children studied through sleepless nights all year, burning the midnight oil,

and in one night, their future was openly “auctioned off” in the marketplace, he said.

“This isn’t the first time. In 10 years, 89 paper leaks—48 re-exams. Every time, the same promises, and then the same silence,” the former Congress chief said.

Punjab CM’s cousin Gian Singh Mann joins BJP

SWATI MAHAJAN

CHANDIGARH: As Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann’s cousin brother Gyan Singh Mann joins the saffron party, Bhartiya Janta Party, few months before state Assembly polls, it sends strong signals about changing shades of Punjab’s politics.

Though this might be yet another set back for Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab which was still recovering from the setback of seven of its ten Rajya Sabha MPs joining BJP, it displays a shift from alliance-era politics to symbolic politics.

Gyan Singh Mann joined the party in the presence of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab

Closer Look

- » Gyan Singh Mann joined the party in the presence of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and BJP Punjab Chief Sunil Jakhar

- » The saffron party has been primarily dependent on Shiromani Akali Dal to form government in Punjab for years

- » This might be another setback for AAP after seven of its Rajya Sabha MPs joining BJP

Singh Saini and BJP Punjab Chief Sunil Jakhar.

It seems that the party has switched its political strategy in Punjab and is aiming at deeper political expansion by symbolism and focussed social outreach.

With the Haryana Chief Minister Saini also proactively

contributing to upcoming elections through numerous outreach initiatives, BJP’s switch from remaining a coalition partner in the past to an independent political party in the state seems real.

The saffron party has been primarily dependent on Shiromani Akali Dal to form govern-

ment in Punjab for years.

Hitting on the pulse of the state, where family status, networking in villages often shape political narratives by bringing a relative of the Chief Minister the BJP might be successful in corroborating the internal rift regarding Bhagwant Mann’s leadership in AAP.

According to news agency, the Mann-cousin has been a part of the Aam Aadmi Party and played key organisational role in Sangrur and Dhuri. He was in fact associated with the managing the campaign of Bhagwant Mann during his initial political days. Later, he has been vocal in criticising and questioning the decisions of AAP government.

Punjab: Polling for 105 municipal bodies on May 26, counting on May 29

CHANDIGARH: Polling for 105 municipal bodies in Punjab, including eight municipal corporations, is scheduled for May 26, as announced by State Election Commissioner Raj Kamal Chaudhury on Monday.

Vote counting will take place on May 29. Addressing the media here, Chaudhury shared details about the elections, stating that they will occur in the following eight municipal corporations: Mohali, Bathinda, Abohar, Barnala, Kapurthala, Moga, Batala, and Pathankot.

Additionally, elections will be held for 76 municipal councils and 21 Nagar Panchayats, totalling 2,019 wards across the 105 municipal bodies, he added.

With the announcement of the election schedule, the Model Code of Conduct has come into immediate effect.

AGENCIES

TN CM Joseph Vijay, newly elected MLAs take oath in Assembly

OUR CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI: Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, nine other ministers, former CMs including Edappadi K Palaniswami, ex- deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin and the newly elected MLAs on Monday took the oath of office in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

Pro-tem Speaker M V Karuppaiah, praising Vijay’s leadership and victory, initiated the proceedings on administration of the oath of office for MLAs in the first session of the 17th Assembly.

The chief minister was the first to take oath as MLA and ministers N Anand, Aadhav Arjuna, KG Arunraj, KA Sengottaiyan, P Venkataramanan, R Nirmalkumar, Rajmohan and TK Prabhu followed suit.

Following this, DMK legislature party leader and former deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin, former CMs Palaniswami and O Panneerselvam (DMK), and other MLAs took oath of office.

Vijay, Udhayanidhi



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay takes oath as Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)

and Panneerselvam were among those who “solemnly affirmed” and took oath.

Palaniswami and PMK’s Sowmya Anbumani were among those who took oath in the name of God.

Panrutti ALADMK MLA K Mohan while taking oath suddenly broke down and hailed late chief minister J Jayalalithaa and with folded hands paid tributes to the portrait of the late AIADMK matriarch in the Assembly hall.

Initially, Minister S Keerthana could not take oath of office as MLA as she did not present her Certificate

of Election, a prerequisite for taking oath, an official said.

When the Assembly Principal Secretary K Srinivasan invited Keerthana, announcing her name in the microphone, she walked to the podium, which was right in front of the chair of the CM from one side.

Also, MLAs who take oath would face the chair of the pro-tem speaker.

While Keerthana neared the podium, Srinivasan raised his hand and asked her the certificate, which could be seen in the live coverage of the Assembly proceedings.

However, she could not produce the certificate and what she replied to Srinivasan was not known.

Asked what transpired, an official told news agency: “It seems she did not have her certificate of election with her ready. Since she could not submit the certificate, the senior official politely declined to allow her to take oath. She may take oath whenever she submits her certificate of election.”

J&K CM calls on Amit Shah to discuss statehood & business rules for UT

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called on Union Home minister Amit Shah on Monday where the two leaders discussed issues concerning the Union territory.

Before leaving for the national capital, the chief minister told reporters in Srinagar that he would discuss all the issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir.

“I wish we could have got our statehood after one meeting with the home minister. If that was the case, we would have got it a long time ago. But yes, I will raise statehood, business rules and other issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir in the meeting,” he said.

Abdullah also said that there was “nothing wrong” in



Union Home Minister Amit Shah being greeted by J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during a meeting

giving telecom powers to the lieutenant governor (L-G) during public safety events, as he holds the charge of security and law and order.

“This is the right thing. These powers should be with the lieutenant governor. This is not against the business rules or the reorganisation act” the chief minister told reporters.

He said that orders to stop phone services or internet are issued by the home department, which comes under the L-G.

The Centre has last week authorised the Jammu and Kashmir L-G to exercise powers, such as interception of signals, suspension of service and decryption of messages, related to telecom services in the UT during public safety events or national emergency.

According to the order issued on Thursday, the President directed the LG to exercise the powers and discharge the functions of the state government under Sub-Section 20 (2) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 (44 of 2023), which deals with situations involving public safety and national security, within the UT.

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

OPEN TENDER Batch
No- 22/2026 Dt. 07/05/2026
E-Tender Notice for supply of materials
"Participation in through" Web Portal of IREPS - www.ireps.gov.in. Offers are invited for supply of the following material. The closing time for the tender is at 14.00 Hrs.
SL. No : 01 Tender No. : 39265045A, Short Description of item : 38 KV (UE)/66 KV (E), 1C x 630 square mm, Aluminium conductor, XLPE, Excise Duty insulated power cable, short circuit withstand capability-25 KV for 3 secs [conductor]/1500 MVA for 1 sec [metallic screen and armour], with trefoil clamps. The power cable shall confirm in all respect to the latest edition/revision of IEC-60840, IEC-60228, IS-7098 Part-3, IS-8130, IS-5831. Make-Polycab, Havells, gloster or similar. Test report submitted at the time of material supply which is done by any gov. agencies. As per specification attached., Quantity : 1920 Meter.
Publishing Date & Time : 07 May, 2026 18:13 hrs, Tender Closing Date & Time : 08 June, 2026 14:00 Hrs. Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web Portal of IREPS-www.ireps.gov.in before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and detailed description of stores are available in tender document in tender notice on the above portal.
Sr. DMM/ECR/DHN PR/0199/DHN/Material/IT/26-27/44

 सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Central Bank of India 1911 से आपके लिए "सेन्ट्रल" "CENTRAL" TO YOU SINCE 1911		Regional Office Delhi (North) 1398, First Floor, Chandni Chowk, Delhi-110006		E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (Under SARFAESI Act 2002)			
APPENDIX- IV-A [SEE PROVISO TO RULE 8(6) & 9(1) SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES]							
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.							
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s) and guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Central Bank of India (secured creditor), the constructive/ physical Possession of which have been taken by the authorized officer of Central Bank of India(Secured creditors), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on date 29.05.2026 for recovery of dues to the Central Bank of India from below mention Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and Earnest money deposit (EMD) is displayed against the details of respective properties.							
E-AUCTION SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON 29.05.2026 (15 DAY'S NOTICE)							
S. No.	Name of Branch	Authorised Officer / B.M.	Name of the Account	Description of Property & Owner Name	Demand Notice Date & Amount Dues (In Rupees)	Date & Type of Possession	In Rupees Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase
1.	Indirapuram Ghaziabad	Ms. Shruti Kumari Mobile: 8800013517	Bhairaw Ghosh	Residential builder flat, 2nd floor, flat no. S-2, Plot No. 88, Shalimar Garden Extension-1, Ghaziabad, UP, Area- 520 Sq feet (Owner - Mr. Bhairaw Ghosh)	31.10.2015 Rs.17.77 Lakh + Other Charges Applicable Deductions/ Repayments	09.09.2017 (Physical)	₹ 13,86,000.00 ₹ 1,38,600.00 ₹ 15,000.00
2.	L R P G Ghaziabad	Ms. Ektaa Sharma Mobile: 8800013520	Aarti Kapoor and Nitin Kapoor	Flat No. 304 MIG First Floor Right Hand Back Side Without Roof Rights, Situated at plot No. B-11/15, DLF Ankur Vihar, Hadbast Village-Sadullabad, Pargana & Tehsil Loni Distt. Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh. Area-55.74 Sq Mtr Owner - Aarti Kapoor W/o Nitin Kapoor	22.11.2023 Rs.22.43 Lakh + Other Charges Applicable Deductions/ Repayments	02.12.2025 (Physical)	₹ 21,60,000.00 ₹ 2,16,000.00 ₹ 20,000.00
3.	MMH College Ghaziabad	Ms. Sandhya Sharma Mobile: 8800013525	Mahipal Singh S/o Shri Kundan Singh	Property Bearing No.35-A Entire Ground Floor Khasra No.1025, Without Roof Rights New Friends Colony, Hadbast Village Dargal, Pargana- Jalalabad, Tehsil & Distt.- Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh Area 65 Sq Mtr Owner- Mahipal Singh S/o Kundan Singh	30.06.2017 Rs.16.52 Lakh + Other Charges Applicable Deductions/ Repayments	12.11.2025 (Physical)	₹ 20,34,000.00 ₹ 2,03,400.00 ₹ 20,000.00
4.	Patel Nagar Ghaziabad	Mr. Vinod Meena Mobile: 8800013533	Abhay Sharma	Flat Bearing No. G-01, Ground Floor Without Roof Rights, Plot No. 46, out of Khasra No.- 1586, Krishna Enclave, Vill- Harsaon, Tehsil and Distt. Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh. Area- 57.00 Sq Mtr Owner- Abhay Sharma	02.07.2019 Rs.14.38 Lakh + Other Charges Applicable Deductions/ Repayments	09.01.2026 (Physical)	₹ 13,42,000.00 ₹ 1,34,200.00 ₹ 15,000.00
5.	Patel Nagar Ghaziabad	Mr. Vinod Meena Mobile: 8800013533	Soniya W/o Vikaram Singh	Residential Flat No. NyayKhand-3/487, E.W.S Ground Floor Without Roof Rights, Loni Indrapuram Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh Area-24.65 Sq Mtr Owner- Ms. Soniya W/o Vikram Singh	01.03.2025 Rs.9.67 Lakh + Other Charges Applicable Deductions/ Repayments	05.12.2025 (Physical)	₹ 11,00,000.00 ₹ 1,10,000.00 ₹ 10,000.00
6.	Patparganj Road, Delhi	Mr. Mohit Kumar Mobile: 8800013534	Shefall Aqua Solutions	First Floor (Adjoining to Property No. 87), Without Roof Rights, Upto the extent of Ceiling Level, Part of Property Bearing No. 86 out of Khasra no.5/30, Situated in layout plan of Ram Nagar in the Area of Village Khureji Khas, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi -110051 Area- 85 Sq Yrd Owner- Sapna W/o Rakesh Kumar	26.10.2018 Rs.29.28 Lakh + Other Charges Applicable Deductions/ Repayments	12.01.2026 (Physical)	₹ 40,70,000.00 ₹ 4,07,000.00 ₹ 40,000.00
7.	Sadar Bazar Delhi	Sunny Kumar Mobile: 8800013540	Sanjay Thakur and Ranjeet Thakur	Property Bearing No. K-4A, Third Floor without Roof Rights, Khasra No.82/23, situated in the area of Village - Palam known as Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi-110045. Area 70 Sq. Yards. Owner- Sanjay Thakur and Ranjeet Thakur	18.08.2020 Rs.1.36 Lakh + Other Charges Applicable Deductions/ Repayments	21.11.2024 (Physical)	₹ 16,00,000.00 ₹ 1,60,000.00 ₹ 15,000.00
8.	Sehani Ghaziabad	Abhay Mishra Mob: 8588907378	Udaivir Singh	1st And 2nd Floor, Residential Flat on Plot No. A-68, Khasra No. 389, Village - Ghonda Gurjan Khadar, Bhajanpura, Shahdara, New Delhi-110053, Area 56.84 Sq M Owner - Udaivir Singh		21.03.2025 (Physical)	₹ 18,30,000.00 ₹ 1,83,000.00 ₹ 20,000.00
9.	Pitampura New Delhi	Poonam Mob: 8383803088	Febu Sabu	First Floor No.203 Without Roof/terrace Rights built On Property Bearing Plot No. B-63, Admeasuring 57.25 Sq Yard i.e 47.87 Sq Mtr(Out Of 229 Sq Yard) Out of Khasra No.317 Situated In The Revenue Estate of Village Bindapur Area Abadi Known as Colony Sanjay Enclave , Uttam Nagar New Delhi -110059. Area-515.27 Sq Ft Owner -Smt Febu Sabu & Sh. Subin T.	03.02.2025 Rs.16.86 Lakh + Other Charges Applicable Deductions/ Repayments	27.10.2025 (Physical)	₹ 21,00,000.00 ₹ 2,10,000.00 ₹ 20,000.00
10.	Sahibabad Ghaziabad	Gulshan Kumar Mob: 8800013541	Phoolwati Yadav	Residential Flat Bearing No. L-257, on Ground Floor, Block -L, Situated At Lajpat Nagar Shahibabd, Distt. Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. Area-346.08 Sq Ft Owner- Mrs. Phoolwati W/o Mr. Ram Niwas Yadav	06.08.2024 Rs.15.96 Lakh + Other Charges Applicable Deductions/ Repayments	29.09.2025 (Physical)	₹ 14,00,000.00 ₹ 1,40,000.00 ₹ 15,000.00

E-AUCTION DATE: 29.05.2026, TIME: 12:00 NOON TO 04:00 PM WITH AUTO EXTENSION OF 10 MINUTES
Last Date & Time of Submission of EMD and Documents (Online) On or Before: 29.05.2026 Upto 03:30 PM.
Bidder will register on website: <https://BAANKNET.com> and upload KYC documents and after verification of KYC documents by the service provider, EMD to be deposited in **BAANKNET** EMD wallet through NEFT/RTGS/Transfer / Generation of challan from (<https://BAANKNET.com>). The auction will be conducted through common landing platform **BAANKNET.com** Portal (<https://BAANKNET.com>). E-auction will be held "As is where is", "As is what is" and "whatever there is" basis. **(All other charges / dues to the property will be borne by the purchaser).**
For detailed terms and conditions please refer to the link provided in www.centralbank.bank.in Secured Creditor or auction platform (<https://BAANKNET.com>). Helpdesk: **(+91) 8291222020, E-mail: support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com**

STATUTORY 15 DAY'S SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) & 9(1) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002
Borrowers/Guarantors/ Mortgagees are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.
DATE: 11.05.2026
PLACE: DELHI

Authorised Officer,
CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, RO Delhi (North), Delhi