

College hostels revise menus, explore alternatives as LPG crunch continues

Campus kitchens are shifting to electric systems and wood-fired backups to keep meal services running

AUHONA MUKHERJEE & HEMANT KUMAR ROUT
New Delhi/ Bhubaneswar, 24 March

National commercial LPG disruptions due to the Iran war are hitting campus kitchens, forcing colleges and hostels to revise menus and trigger contingency plans to keep student meals running. Global supply chain shocks and tensions in the Strait of Hormuz have triggered an LPG crunch, threatening the large-scale mess kitchens that residential campuses depend on to feed thousands of students daily. “We experienced a significant disruption in LPG supply, which initially created challenges in maintaining regular kitchen operations,” said Perumal Alagarsamy, dean of students’ affairs, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati. “To ensure that every student continued to receive meals without interruption, we prioritised the core menu items and temporarily scaled back on live counters and speciality varieties.” Alagarsamy said IIT Guwahati has not changed the mess fees. “We are closely monitoring the situation, as any further escalation in LPG costs could necessitate a reassessment of our budgetary allocations and mess fees in the upcoming months,” he added. The university has backup measures, such as using traditional wood-fired kitchens, in case the circumstances worsen. Sourav Majumder, managing partner at Shree Vinsave, which runs the canteen at BMS College of Commerce and Management in Bengaluru, said his operations face a severe LPG

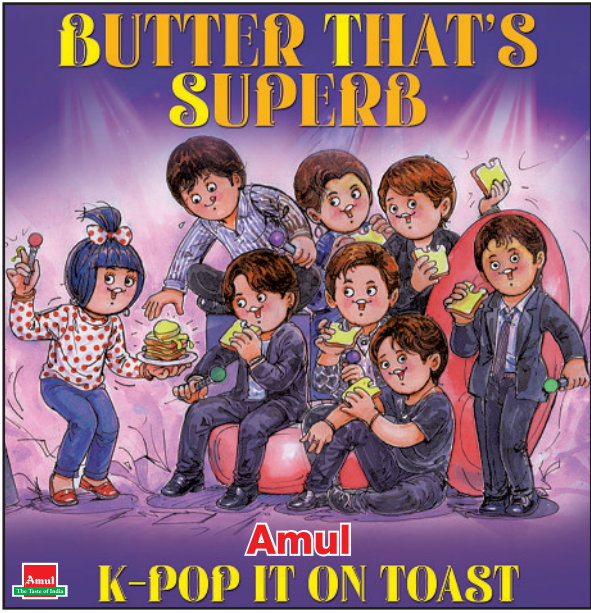


A cook preparing dinner on a wood-fired earthen stove at a girls' hostel in Utkal University in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday

shortage. “Like many restaurants, canteens, and cafés, we have not received a single LPG cylinder for over a week,” he said. BMS College has shifted to electric cooking systems to offset the disruption, moving away from its previous daily reliance on two to three commercial cylinders. “We have rapidly shifted to electric cooking using induction stoves and heaters to keep operations running,” Majumder said. Transitioning to alternative equipment has allowed the canteen to maintain roughly 80 per cent of its 200-item menu. “We run a student canteen that provides

meals at subsidised rates. When fuel alone starts consuming the majority of revenue, it becomes nearly impossible to sustain. The system is failing small food operators, and yet we are expected to continue serving without passing the burden onto students. This is simply not viable in the long run,” Majumder added. Hostels are a key part of India’s higher-education ecosystem, with several students moving away from home to study. Data from the All India Survey on Higher Education 2021–22 shows that over 40,000 hostels across universities and colleges, are housing more than 3.5 million students nationwide. Other institutions have also had to cut down menus. Kaikobad Bokdawalla, director of food & beverage quality control at Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai, said the university has reduced its menu to three to four items to “better manage resources.” “We continue to use a combination of induction and LPG-based cooking to maintain efficiency,” Bokdawalla said. Some institutions have not yet faced disruptions but are taking precautionary measures to optimise fuel usage. A spokesperson for Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, said LPG supplies are stable, but the institute has revised its menu as a precaution. “The approach has been preventive rather than corrective. Regular consumption audits, vendor performance reviews, and storage planning are built into operations. Kitchen teams track usage patterns and align procurement

cycles accordingly. As a precautionary measure, the menu has been revised to ensure optimal resource utilisation” the spokesperson said. The commercial LPG shortage has gripped Odisha’s university and private hostels too, forcing a retreat to firewood and coal to keep kitchens running. At Utkal University in Bhubaneswar, dwindling LPG supplies have already forced a shift to firewood and coal-fired stoves to keep hostel messes functional. Sibasankar Mohanty, the university’s hostel warden, said the problem is significant. “There are more than 1,500 students in seven hostels. We need at least 22 commercial cylinders a month for each of the bigger hostels and around 14 for smaller ones. Now, some smaller hostels have been clubbed together and most dishes are being cooked on firewood chulhas,” he said. The crisis has escalated at Berhampur University, where authorities have moved mess operations outdoors. Kitchens now function in the open under temporary sheds, allowing firewood cooking to proceed without disrupting student meals. Officials said the move was necessary to ensure uninterrupted meals for 1,486 hostel residents. “We have allowed the mess managers to prepare food using firewood outside hostel buildings so that students are not affected,” said Geetanjali Dash, vice-chancellor of Berhampur University. Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, a deemed university, has urged the state government and oil marketing companies to ensure a steady supply of commercial cylinders.



Aditya Birla Group, Times, Blackstone consortium to buy RCB for ₹16,600 cr

Aditya Birla Group, The Times of India Group, Bolt Ventures and Blackstone have signed a definitive agreement to buyout Royal Challengers Sports franchise from United Spirits for approximately ₹16,600 crore, according to news reports. This buyout includes both the men’s and women’s teams. Aryanam Vikram Birla will serve as the chairman and Satyan Gajwani of the Times Group will be the vice chairman, the news report added. In November, United Spirits said in a stock exchange filing that it has begun to strategically review the investment in Royal Challengers Sports Private Limited (RCSPL), wholly owned subsidiary of the company. “RCSPL’s business comprises ownership of the “Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)” franchise teams that participate in the Men’s Indian Premier League (IPL) and Women’s Premier League (WPL) cricket tournaments hosted by the BCCI annually,” it said in its filing. BS REPORTER

Kal Somani-led group to buy Rajasthan Royals for over ₹15,000 crore

Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Rajasthan Royals is set to be sold to the US-based Kal Somani-led consortium for \$1.63 billion (approx ₹15,290 crore), marking a colossal hike in valuation for the outfit which was the least expensive among the original eight teams of the T20 league. The Somani-led consortium includes Rob Walton from the Walmart family and Hamp family (Ford motor company). Somani is an Arizona-based tech entrepreneur who has founded IntraEdge (technology services and solutions), Truyo.AI (data privacy rights and AI governance) and Academician (edtech services). The sale of Rajasthan Royals is subject to approval from the BCCI and will come into effect after the 2026 edition. “The price reflects how far the IPL has come as a brand,” a source told PTI. PH

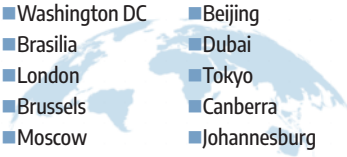
Centre to post 10 IIS officers abroad to strengthen global perception

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 24 March

The Central government is considering a proposal to deploy 10 senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officers in key global economies and business hubs on a pilot basis. The move is aimed at strengthening perception management, narrative building and engagement with global audiences — areas the government increasingly sees as central to modern diplomacy as India’s economic and strategic profile expands globally. Sources familiar with the matter said that, in the first phase, senior IIS officers might be posted in the diplo-

matic missions of major world economies such as Washington DC, Brasilia, London, Brussels, Moscow, Beijing, Tokyo, Dubai, Canberra and Johannesburg. The capitals are located in major global regions: North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Australia and Africa. It might even look at setting up a Directorate General of Global Outreach (DGGO) in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. According to sources, the broader plan could eventually see nearly 40 IIS officers posted abroad. They added that the idea is to augment India’s diplomatic outreach capacity, not create a parallel structure beyond the

Spreading the word Information Service officers to be deployed in top global business hubs



core mandate of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Government sources said there is a strong view within a section of the government that diplomacy today increasingly involves narrative building,

perception management and direct communication with global audiences. Since IIS officers are trained communication professionals with extensive experience in media relations, government messaging and public information campaigns, their presence in missions abroad is expected to strengthen India’s public diplomacy, media engagement and communication of policy positions, complementing the work of MEA officers. The sources also pointed to a wider rationale within the government: Information Service officials, having served across ministries, media units and field publicity organisations such as DAVP, bring deep familiarity with

government policies, programme communication and institutional messaging. This, they said, makes them well placed to articulate not just India’s broader development story, but also flagship schemes, economic progress and policy priorities to the international media, think tanks, diaspora communities and other foreign stakeholders. Moreover, once IIS officers take on specialised communication functions including, media coordination, digital engagement, information dissemination and narrative management, MEA officials posted in critical diplomatic missions can focus more on multilateral diplomacy and strategic policy work.

FICCI-EY REPORT

India’s digital media crossed ₹1 trn in 2025

SHARLEEN D’SOUZA
Mumbai, 24 March

India’s digital media has emerged as the single largest segment of the media and entertainment (M&E) industry in 2025 and crossed the ₹1 trillion mark for the first time, according to FICCI-EY’s report on India’s M&E sector titled ‘Stories, scale and impact’. Digital advertising witnessed a 26 per cent increase to ₹94,700 crore, accounting for nearly two thirds of total advertising revenues, as brands continued to shift spends toward performance-led, measurable and commerce-linked formats. The sector continues to evolve, with an increased rise in consumption on large screens. Linear television is transitioning from a regulated utility to a dynamic, lifestyle-integrated ecosystem that complements digital growth, reinforcing the nature of screen consumption in the country, the release on the report said. The FICCI-EY report notes that advertising overall grew 13.5 per cent in 2025, outpacing India’s nominal GDP per capita growth. Growth was led by digital platforms, including e-commerce and point of sale advertising. India’s over-the-top (OTT) market crossed ₹272 billion in 2025 with digital overtaking television as the largest segment, the report added. The report said that digital subscriptions continue to scale with video OTT households projected to grow from 143 million to around 191 million with regional being the key driver. Regional share in OTT has grown 27 per cent in 2020 to 56 per cent in 2025, with over 65 per cent of films now coming from regional cinema. In its outlook for the entire domestic M&E sector, the

report has estimated it to grow to ₹3.3 trillion by 2028 with digital media, live events, filmed entertainment and animation and VFX expected to be the primary growth drivers. “New media is projected to account for over 50 per cent of total industry revenues by 2028, reflecting ongoing shifts in consumer behaviour, content formats and monetisation models,” the release on the report said. The FICCI-EY report added that increasing smartphone penetration, rapid adoption of connected TVs, growth in regional language content, and the rise of experiential consumption will continue to reshape India’s media and entertainment landscape over the medium term. While releasing the report, Ashish Shelar, Minister of Information Technology & Cultural Affairs, Government of Maharashtra said, “The FICCI-EY Media & Entertainment Report has, over the years, evolved into a definitive benchmark for the sector—guiding both industry and policymakers with credible insights and a forward-looking vision. Today, India’s media and entertainment industry stands at an impressive ₹2.78 trillion in 2025, reflecting not just scale, but the sector’s growing strategic importance to the nation’s economy.” “Mumbai continues to be the creative capital of India and the epicentre of our media and entertainment ecosystem. From films and television to music, advertising, and digital content, Maharashtra has consistently led from the front, driving innovation, investment, and talent development. Our government is committed to building a future-ready ecosystem that seamlessly integrates creativity with cutting-edge technology, ensuring sustainable and globally competitive growth,” he added.



Inviting applications for the 2026 edition of the Business Standard-Rahul Khullar internships

This is the fourth edition of a programme instituted jointly by *Business Standard* and the family of late Mr. Rahul Khullar, a well-regarded administrator who influenced and steered government policy in several critical areas.

The one-month internship will provide six young journalists the opportunity to work at our New Delhi office during June 2026, covering economic policy and governance issues. Each will earn a stipend of ₹30,000.

Students who are about to complete or have just completed their course from top journalism institutes can apply by writing to bsrki@bsmail.in with their profile and a 500-word statement of purpose (SOP). An internal committee of *Business Standard* will vet the applications.

Business Standard will award a certificate to the interns, and may decide – on the basis of merit, need, and performance – to offer them jobs. The last date for accepting applications is 31 March 2026.

Please note: The application will be considered only if it is accompanied by an SOP. This is not an online or hybrid opportunity. Only those who can complete the internship in person for the entire month of June at the *Business Standard* Delhi office need apply.



Business Standard Insight Out

NOTICE FOR SPECIAL WINDOW FOR TRANSFER AND DEMATERIALISATION OF PHYSICAL SHARES

SEBI has opened a special window until February 4, 2027, for re-lodgment of physical share transfer requests lodged prior to April 01, 2019, and were rejected/ returned, or not attended due to deficiencies in documents/ process/ otherwise. (SEBI Circular No. HO/38/13/11(2)2026-MIRSD-POD/I/3750/2026 dated January 30, 2026)

Investors may submit the required documents to the Company’s Registrar and Share Transfer Agent i.e., Ms. Cameo Corporate Services Limited, Subramanian Building, No.1, Club House Road, Chennai - 600 002, Phone: 044 4002 0700, e-mail: investor@cameoindia.com.

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Short Notice Inviting Tenders

Central Bank of India invites e-bids for Bid No. **GEM/2026/B/7388090** for “Appointment of Corporate Gold Appraiser to provide Appraisal and Re-appraisal Services on Fulltime Basis and On-Call Basis under a Service Level Agreement (SLA)” Deadline for Tender Submission on GeM portal is **15.04.2026** up to 15:00 Hrs. For details, please visit our Bank’s Website : www.centralbank.bank.in

Mumbai

Ashok Palan

Date : 24/03/2026

Asst General Manager

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY OF RAJASTHAN LTD.

701-706, 7th Floor, ARG Corporate Park, Gopalbari, Ajmer Road, Jaipur – 302 001

Tel.: +91 141 2747001, E-mail: office@rdcor.in, Website: www.rdcor.in, CIN: U45203RJ2004PLC019850

RIDCORPRJ/ADNEW-519/2026/786

E-NIT

Date: 24.03.2026

RIDCOR intends to invite online tenders through e-procurement for various works as per details given below:

S.N.	Description
1	Routine Maintenance Works on various RIDCOR/RIPL Roads in Rajasthan
2	Repair & Rehabilitation work of selected structures of RIDCOR/RIPL roads in Rajasthan

Period for downloading the Bid document: from 25.03.2026 (17:00 Hrs) to 08.04.2026 (18:00 Hrs)

Online Bid Opening Date: 08.04.2026 (11:30 Hrs)

All the particulars/details and amendments related to this E-NIT can be viewed on the website <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>

Interested agencies/firms are required to be registered on this website through digital signatures.

Director

RALLIS INDIA LIMITED

A TATA Enterprise

Corporate Identity No. L36992MH1948PLC014083

Registered Office: 23rd Floor, Vios Tower, New Cuffe Parade

Off Eastern Freeway, Wadala, Mumbai - 400 037

Tel: +91 22 6232 7400

Website: www.rallis.com Email: investor_relations@rallis.com

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Special Window for re-lodgement of transfer requests of physical shares

In accordance with SEBI Circular No. HO/38/13/11(2)2026-MIRSD-POD/I/3750/2026 dated January 30, 2026, the shareholders of Rallis India Limited are hereby informed that SEBI has opened another special window from February 5, 2026 to February 4, 2027 for re-lodgement of transfer deeds which were lodged prior to April 1, 2019 for transfer of physical shares and were rejected/returned/not attended to due to deficiency in documents/ process/ or otherwise.

The shares that are re-lodged for transfer shall be issued only in demat mode and shall be under lock-in for a period of one year from the date of registration of transfer.

Cases involving disputes between transferor and transferee shall not be considered in this special window and may be settled by transferor and transferee through Court/NCLT process. Further, shares which have been transferred to Investor Education and Protection Fund shall not be considered under this window for processing.

Eligible shareholders are requested to submit the necessary original transfer documents along with corrected or missing details and other requisite documents to the Company’s Registrar and Transfer Agent, MUFG Intime India Private Limited (formerly known as Link Intime India Private Limited) at C-101, Embassy 247, L.B.S. Marg, Vikhroli (West), Mumbai – 400083, Contact no: +91 81081 18484 or send an e-mail at investor_relations@rallis.com. In case of any queries, shareholders are requested to raise a service request at https://web.in.mpms.mufg.com/helpdesk/Service_Request.html.

For Rallis India Limited

Sd/-

Sariga P Gokul

Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place: Mumbai

Date: March 24, 2026

