

## IN BRIEF

### NIA arrests CRPF personnel from Delhi for espionage activities

New Delhi, May 26 (UNI) : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a CRPF personnel for sharing sensitive information with Pakistani Intelligence officers.

The accused, Moti Ram Jat, was actively involved in espionage activity and had been sharing classified information related to national security with Pakistani Intelligence Officers (PIOs) since 2023, a NIA statement said.

The agency has further found that the was receiving funds from the PIOs through various conduits.

NIA, which nabbed and arrested Moti Ram from Delhi, is continuing to interrogate the accused, who was remanded to the agency's custody till June 6 by the Special Court at Patiala House Courts.

### YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra sent to 14 days judicial custody

Hisar, May 26 (UNI) : Jyoti Malhotra, who was arrested on charges of spying for Pakistan, was brought to

Hisar court by police on Monday.

Jyoti Malhotra was produced in the court of Civil Judge Sunil Kumar, from where she was sent to judicial custody for 14 days.

According to the information, Jyoti will be kept in Hisar Central Jail. This is a jail for women. During the production, the gates inside the court were closed and heavy police force was deployed on the spot.

Jyoti was earlier taken on remand for five days and the second time for four days.

She was produced in the court after the completion of the four-day remand.

There was speculation that Jyoti would be produced in the court in the morning itself, but the police brought Jyoti to the court in the evening.

At the same time, the police has received the report of the call details deleted from Jyoti's mobile. However, the report of the data deleted from the laptop has not come yet.



Members of the Indian multi-party parliamentary delegation, led by BJP MP Jay Panda, after conclusion of their official visit to Bahrain. The delegation expressed gratitude for Bahrain's solidarity in the fight against terrorism.

## Indiramma Housing brings joy to beneficiaries; over Rs 68 cr disbursed so far

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, May 26 : "I never thought Indiramma's house would come to us," said a beneficiary emotionally during a video interaction with Telangana Minister for Revenue, Housing, and I&PR, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy.

Speaking from the Secretariat on Monday, the minister held a video conference with Indiramma housing beneficiaries across the state, who shared their heartfelt gratitude and invited him — along with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy — to their upcoming housewarming ceremonies.

Residents like Uma from Khammam, Lakshmi from Kodangal, and Subhavati from Nirmal expressed immense happiness, noting that for the first time in

decades, their dream of owning a house is becoming a reality.

Many shared that they were previously living in huts or rented houses and could now finally build permanent homes with the Rs 4 lakh assistance provided under the scheme. Several even pledged to prepare traditional meals and perform ribbon-cuttings if the CM and Minister visit their homes.

Minister Ponguleti stated that the construction of Indiramma houses is progressing rapidly despite the financial constraints inherited from the previous government. He assured that funds are being released every Monday without delay and directly credited to the beneficiaries' accounts. So far, Rs 68.08

crore has been disbursed for various stages of construction, including Rs 56.82 crore for 5,682 houses completed up to the basement, Rs 2 crore for wall construction, and Rs 9.94 crore for homes that reached the slab stage. He noted that 47,335 houses have been sanctioned under the pilot phase, with thousands nearing completion across 250 mandals in the state. The Minister emphasised that while the government oversees construction, beneficiaries have the flexibility to build according to their own needs and plot sizes, between 400 to 600 square feet. He urged engineers to support families during the rainy season and ensure the smooth completion of their homes, an official statement said.

## ACB issues notice to KTR in Formula E case, summons for May 28 enquiry

Hyderabad, May 26 (UNI) : The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has issued a notice to Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) Working President K T Rama Rao (KTR), summoning him to appear for an enquiry on May 28 in connection with the Formula E event case.

Reacting to the development on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), KTR confirmed receipt of the notice, stating:

"The ACB has given me a notice to appear for an enquiry on the 28th of May in the Formula E case.

As a law-abiding citizen, I will definitely cooperate with the agencies, even though the case is nothing but pure political harassment."

KTR further explained that he had scheduled an overseas trip to the UK and

USA for multiple official events well in advance. He stated that he has informed ACB officials in writing and assured them that he would appear before them upon his return.

In a sharp criticism of Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, KTR alleged that the notice was part of a political vendetta campaign. He said, "I should appreciate Revanth Reddy for his thirst for political vendetta and the way he swings in any direction without any scruples to achieve it." He also referred to recent developments in the ED chargesheet related to the National Herald case, alleging that Revanth Reddy's name figured in it just 48 hours ago, and yet, a day later, he was seen "schmoozing" with BJP top brass, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## Rajnath Singh reviews performance of eight DPSUs

New Delhi, May 26 (UNI) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday commended the role of the entire defence industry, including Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), in developing platforms and technologies that demonstrated the preparedness of the Indian Armed Forces during Operation Sindoor.

In a review meeting with CMDs of eight DPSUs at South Block, here, Rajnath emphasised that the

government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, remains committed to strengthening the defence industrial base and enhancing the competitiveness of the DPSUs, a Defence Ministry statement said.

In view of the prevailing geopolitical scenario and the recent developments, Rajnath Singh directed the DPSUs to enhance their production on latest technologies with more focus on research and

development in the emerging fields of modern warfare. During the meeting, Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev Kumar presented the growth statistics of the DPSUs highlighting their steadfast performance.

The value of production is poised to be more than Rs 1,40,000 crore for Financial Year 2024-25, out of which around 78 percent would be contributed by DPSUs.

The Minister, while appreciating the increase in

## 'Fish Prasadam' distribution to be held in Hyd on June 8, 9; thousands expected to gather

Hyderabad, May 26 (UNI) : In preparation for the annual Fish Prasadam distribution event scheduled on June 8 and 9 at the Exhibition Grounds, Nampally, that is expected to see the gathering of thousands of people, a high-level coordination meeting was convened on Monday.

The meeting was chaired by Shilpa Valli, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central Zone, Hyderabad.

The session witnessed participation from 21 key departments of Hyderabad City, representatives from the organising body, NGOs, and the Exhibition Society. Discussions centred around logistics, security, traffic management, public health, and crowd control to ensure the event proceeds smoothly.

The meeting also involved a comprehensive review of shortcomings from the previous year, with an emphasis on implementing corrective

measures. Each department was given clear directives to work in close coordination to facilitate a safe and orderly distribution of the Fish Prasadam to thousands of devotees expected to attend. The DCP stressed the importance of inter-departmental synergy and proactive planning, stating that all necessary precautions will be taken to manage large crowds and uphold public safety during the event.

The annual free 'Fish Prasadam' event, organised by the Bathini family, is administered to asthma patients and those with other respiratory ailments. It is believed to cure asthma and other respiratory ailments. Thousands gather to avail the prasadam.

The Bathini family inserts a herbal paste into the mouth of a live fingerling, which is then given to the patients. For vegetarian patients, a separate medicine with jaggery is prepared.

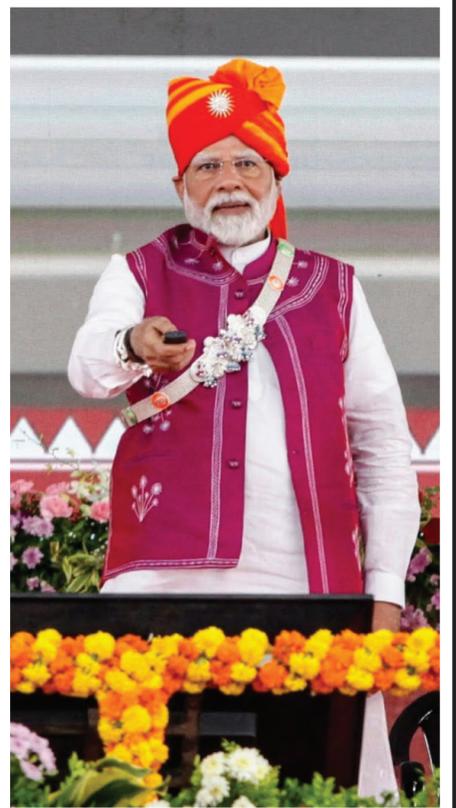
## Tension erupts in Sircilla as Cong, BRS clash over CM Revanth Reddy's photo

Rajanna Sircilla, May 26 (UNI) : A tense situation prevailed at the Sircilla MLA camp office on Monday when Congress leaders attempted to place a photo of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, leading to a clash with BRS workers.

The confrontation began when Congress members arrived at BRS MLA K T Rama Rao's camp office to install the Chief Minister's photo. BRS leaders, led by P Raju, opposed the move, resulting in heated arguments and a scuffle between the two groups. Both sides raised slogans against each other, prompting police

intervention. As the situation escalated, police resorted to a lathi-charge to disperse the crowds, leading to injuries among several BRS members. Angered by the police action, BRS leaders staged a sit-in protest in front of the camp office, accusing the police of a biased crackdown.

Both BRS and Congress activists were detained and taken to the Tangallapalli police station. The incident sparked a politically charged atmosphere in the Rajanna Sircilla district, with BRS leaders condemning the Congress move as provocative and disrespectful to protocol.



## 140 crore Indians are united in building a Viksit Bharat: PM

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 24,000 crore in Dahod, Gujarat today. Addressing the gathering, he remarked that May 26 holds special significance as it marks the day he first took the oath as Prime Minister in 2014. He acknowledged the unwavering support and blessings of the people of Gujarat, who entrusted him with the responsibility of leading the nation. The Prime Minister highlighted that this trust and encouragement have fueled his dedication to serving the country day and night.

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## Aaditya Thackeray slams govt, BMC for disruption of normal ...



Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and former Maharashtra minister Aaditya Thackeray on Monday slammed the Mahayuti government and the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) over disruption of normal life in Mumbai due to waterlogging following heavy rains.

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## Raducanu alleges preferred treatment for top stars



In a bold post-match statement, Britain's Emma Raducanu has raised eyebrows at Roland Garros by accusing French Open organisers of favouritism, claiming that some players are being granted privileged access to the tournament's main courts.

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## FS Misri to visit Washington ...



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will be on a three-day visit to Washington, from May 27, during which he will meet with senior officials of the US Administration. The visit is a follow up to Prime Minister Modi's visit to the United States in February 2025.

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## Career&amp;tech

# 5 email etiquettes to avoid Embarrassment

This is the age of email communication. Although we have quick access messengers for instant chats, there are instances where you have to send an email.

However, there are no set rules for the same. Remember your language classes in school where you were taught the important components of a letter? Yes, we did learn about letter writing skills - date, salutation, subject, body of the letter and sign off being the not to be missed components. Fortunately or unfortunately, this is missing from the emails that we exchange on a daily basis. Even though we use emails for office communication, we more often than not end up using an informal tone which at time might land you in trouble.

**Here are a few things to keep in mind when you write an email**

**First things first:** Do not use short forms. Agreed, we shorten words to fit the character length on our phones and also save time. However, this is a strict no-no in office communication. For all you know, the email may be read by your super boss or CEO of the company. Using short forms might lead him to

think you are not serious about your work. The bottom line — Be formal where required!

**Know the addressee:** get your facts right. Know who you are writing to. Also, find out his/her designation and follow protocol. For instance, even people in the top posts are addressed by their names in a media company which may not be the case in other corporate organisations. So it's best not to flout rules. If a person has to be addressed as sir/madam use the same.

**Spell out the subject:** Make a clear mention on the contents of the mail in your subject. For instance, if the mail pertains to a delayed project, mention the same in the subject line so the recipient knows what to expect. A subject line is what grabs attention of the recipient who receives hundreds of mails a day on an average.

**Be crisp:** Be clear on what you want to

convey. In the age of speed news, people do not have an entire day to read mails. Hence, no history required, just get straight to the point. Remember the attention span is limited and there are too many diversions. Hence the reader might lose interest and miss the actual point intended in the mail after reading your prelude. Keep the message brief, yet effective. MAKE sure you mention the important information in the first few lines itself.

**Proofread your mail:** Last, but not the least it's very important to reread what you have written so as to avoid typos and goof-ups to avert disasters. To err is human, but to rectify them is wise! It's better to be safe than sorry isn't it?



## Is your high-flying job making you sick?

Survey says 85% of private sector workers have lifestyle diseases, while only 8% government office-goers do.

It's not breaking news that most office-goers suffer from lifestyle diseases. But a new survey highlights just how stark the differences are between the health of private sector employees and those who work in sarkari offices.

### 85% afflicted

The difference between a corporate professional and his government counterpart isn't in just how much salary they draw, but also in how healthy they are. According to a national survey by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), "Due to demanding schedules, high stress levels and performance-linked perquisites in the private sector, nearly 85% of employees are afflicted with lifestyle, chronic diseases and acute ailments, while government employees range below 8%."

### Same work profile, different work hours

IT consultant Akshay Verma, 24, deals with foreign clients, and so his timings are never fixed. He says, "Before joining this consultancy job, I had no health issues. But in the last six months, I've developed spondylitis. I sit at my workstation for more than 12, and at times, 16 hours, per day."

However, Praveen Sahay, 32, who is also an IT consultant but deals with a government enterprise, says, "My client's an Indian bank, so my work life isn't hectic at all. Mine are proper sarkari office timings. I don't have to work after 6pm. After going home, I sometimes help my wife in the kitchen to make her happy."

### The young and the sick

Sumit Arora, 26, a web developer, says, "I've developed carpal tunnel syndrome, which happens when the movement of the hand is limited. I sit in front of the computer all day." Pratik Kumar, 27, a chartered accountant, has developed a dry eye because of long computer hours. "I use eye drops, but the damage is done," says he.



### All work, no play

There is no life outside work for Rahul Nishant, 30, a sales manager at an FMCG company. To achieve monthly targets, he sometimes has to work on Sundays. He says, "I just married a computer engineer. Sometimes, I work on Sundays, and if I'm home before 9pm, I have to make excel sheets and PPTs for a morning meeting. I hardly get any quality time to spend with my wife. It is usually at dinner that we talk. She taunts me that I shouldn't have married her, but the excel sheets and PPTs. I've also got high BP because of work tension."

Kapil Deo (name changed), 35, works as an R&D manager in an automobile company. He's called to office at 1am quite often. "Once you get into a private company, they act like they own you. I often get calls at midnight to be in office because machines are not responding properly. I've become an insomniac. I don't get time to play with my kid. She waits for Sundays as that's the only day I'm available for her."

But Shibani Rai, a bank PO, says, "It's not that government employees don't work. They are not overloaded. They're not understaffed, so work is distributed equally. The only time when I'm really busy is March and April. We have the closing, and after that, audits happen. So, for two months, my routine is rather busy, but otherwise, I leave for home by 7pm. If I have to meet my relatives or have to shop, I don't have to wait till Sunday like many of my friends."

Marshall Goldsmith, in his book, What Got You Here Won't Get You There, makes a pertinent point: "If you keep your mouth shut, no one can ever know how you really feel." Yet, most employees answer diplomatically or simply beat around the bush during their exit interviews. Here are a few points that employers should keep in mind while conducting exit interviews.

### -THE BASICS

An exit interview is an important HR tool to assess the company's well being at various levels. Good exit interviews enable organizations to extract relevant information from exiting employee, analyze it, and subsequently, perform reformative or corrective measures for organizational growth. Elaborating on this point, Manuel D'Souza, director, HR, Serco Global Services, says, "Exit interviews are a means to understand the underlying reasons that influences an employee to leave. Employee feedback can provide insights that can be used to eliminate the recurring factors and lower the attrition rate. The positive impact of such practices can sometimes even result in retaining the concerned employee."

However, exit interviews go beyond simply gauging employee issues and attempting retention. As Lakshmi Iyer, a brand consultant with over 15 years' experience at various branding and marketing and communication agencies, says, "Exit interviews are critical since they provide an opportunity for introspection within the organization. If conducted well, they clearly bring out what the organization should and should not be proud of."

### -DOING IT RIGHT

To make the most of exit interviews and ensure that they are not conducted as mere formality, organizations must begin by asking the right questions through the right people. Appropriately planned discussions are an excellent opportunity to learn about both the strengths and weaknesses of both, the manager and organization.

D'Souza says, "The interviewer must try to comfort the employees and ensure that the information they share will be confidential. It largely depends on the

## How to go about conducting exit Interviews

maturity of the person conducting the interview. If it inspires a level of comfort, then unpleasant conversations and subsequent discussions that trickle in could be sensibly handled." He adds, "The discussion pointers must include the overall work experience of an employee in the organization, reason key triggers for leaving and indicators that can make the employee stay."

He stresses on the fact that the interviewer must keep the discussion open and that information should be fairly presented to the management team.

### -PUTTING IT IN PERSPECTIVE

While organizations must remain neutral and encourage honest responses from exiting employees, some inputs placed before the organization may be explosive in nature and, perhaps, against the management's practices. "It is important that in the face of negative feedback the organization does not get defensive and lose sight of the larger picture," shares Iyer. The hallmark of a good organization lies in its ability to accept criticism with grace and have mechanisms to assess and effectively deal with them.



Most importantly, perhaps, exit interviews reflect that the organization cares. "When employees resign, companies often steer their focus on finding apt replacements and figuring a smooth transition strategy from everyday business perspective. As a consequence, the importance of organizing a purposeful exit interview takes a backseat. Thus, not only does the organization lose an excellent opportunity to learn about its strengths and weaknesses, but also on parting on good terms," says Lasya Chand, a communications professional, who recently quit her job at a branding agency. However, she also adds that employees must insist on an exit interview and it shouldn't be the sole responsibility of the company.

In conclusion, Iyer puts it best when she says: "An exit interview is an inexpensive and effective primary research that gives solid insights into the internal culture of the organization, its strengths and weaknesses, and identifies the gaps in perception as well. And therefore, it should be taken very seriously."



## BJP ST Morcha files complaint with DGP over fake seeds

Hyderabad, May 26 (UNI) : The BJP ST Morcha state team on Monday filed a formal complaint with Telangana DGP Jitender Reddy, seeking justice for tribal farmers who have suffered severe crop losses due to the alleged distribution of fake seeds in the Venkatapuram agency areas of Mulugu district.

Speaking on the occasion, ST Morcha State President Dr Kalyan Nayak alleged that for the past few months, companies like SIMJANTA, HITECH, BAYER, and SIBI have been supplying fake seeds to farmers. He claimed these scams have been carried out under the tacit approval of the government, accusing it of gross negligence. He said that tribal farmers, who placed their trust in these seeds, were left devastated as their crops failed, and in some tragic cases, debt-ridden farmers reportedly committed suicide.

He demanded that criminal cases be registered under the PEDIAC and Money Laundering Acts against those responsible, including company officials like Godavarthy Narasimha Murthy and Sunkara Prasad of SIMJANTA, Manyam Suresh Babu of HITECH, Danapaneni Nagaraju of BAYER, and Thanniru Rambabu of SIBI. He further

urged the government to provide immediate compensation to farmers who lost nearly 3,000 acres of crops and support to over 800 affected tribal families. He also called for ex gratia payments to the families of the five deceased farmers.

Dr Nayak stressed the need for an investigation into the role of government officials and demanded preventive measures and awareness programs to stop such fraudulent activities in the future.

He came down heavily on the state government, criticising Minister Seethakka for focusing on sand quarries and beauty pageants while ignoring the dire situation of tribal farmers. He also expressed disappointment that neither the Agriculture Minister nor the Chief Minister had taken the issue seriously, and condemned the government's failure to appoint even a single tribal Minister in the cabinet, calling it an insult to tribal communities.

The complaint was supported by BJP ST Morcha State General Secretary Ravi Nayak Nenawat, State Secretary Kunja Santosh, Mahesh Rupawat, Banoth Anusha, Ramesh Nayak, and others who were present during the submission at the DGP office.



Supporters at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's roadshow in Vadodra, Gujarat on Monday.

## African delegates captivated by Charminar's splendour during Hyderabad visit

Hyderabad, May 26 (UNI) : A group of African delegates visiting Hyderabad as part of a five-day cultural tour organised by the Union Ministry of External Affairs were left awe-struck by the architectural beauty of the Charminar, the iconic symbol of the city.

The delegates, who are content creators from various Central and South African countries, arrived in Hyderabad on Sunday. On Monday, they explored some of the city's most historic landmarks, including the Charminar, Salar Jung Museum, and Golconda Fort. Professor Sai guided the group throughout the tour, offering insights into the cultural and architectural significance of each site.

At the Charminar, the visitors spent over an hour

exploring the monument. They were particularly fascinated by the view from the first floor and the intricate architectural details, capturing the experience on their cameras with great enthusiasm.

Following their visit to Charminar, the group toured the Salar Jung Museum, where they examined an extensive range of artefacts — from rare manuscripts and ivory works to paintings, porcelain, textiles, and antiques from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. The musical clock featuring a human figure that chimes the hour especially captured their attention and admiration.

The final stop was the historic Golconda Fort. Despite a steady downpour, the delegates spent over an hour and a half admiring the grandeur

and historical significance of the site.

The Telangana State Information and Public Relations Department is coordinating the group's itinerary during their Hyderabad visit.

A standout among the visiting delegates is South African content creator Yovani Naidoo, who has been a major attraction on the tour. Though born and raised in South Africa, Yovani's heritage traces back to India — her father is of Telugu descent and her mother from Tamil Nadu. She proudly represents the sixth generation of her family settled in South Africa, whose ancestors migrated centuries ago.

Despite being physically distant from India, Yovani expressed a deep emotional connection to the country. Wearing a

traditional sari, she impressed onlookers with her Indian appearance and cultural grace. Though she doesn't speak Telugu or Tamil, Yovani is deeply rooted in Indian traditions. She creatively blends Western and Indian music in her content, actively promoting Indian culture, language, and heritage to a global audience.

An ardent fan of Tollywood and Kollywood, Yovani also revealed her admiration for singers like Shreya Ghoshal, K.S. Chitra, and composers like A.R. Rahman and Anirudh. Passionate about music from a young age, she said her parents' encouragement helped nurture her talent, which she now uses to represent Indian culture proudly on international platforms, an official statement said.

## India Becomes 4th largest economy: BJP lauds PM Modi, slams Revanth's 'hollow rhetoric'

Hyderabad, May 26 (UNI) : The BJP Telangana unit on Monday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for propelling India to the position of the world's fourth-largest economy, overtaking Japan—an achievement realised within just 11 years of BJP-led NDA governance.

"This is a proud moment for every Indian. Under Modi's visionary leadership, India has surged from the 10th to the 4th position globally, whereas during the Congress regime, the country slipped from 12th to 14th," said NV Subhash, Chief Spokesperson and Media In-Charge of BJP Telangana, in a statement here. In contrast, Subhash criticised Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for what he called "empty rhetoric" about the state's progress while admitting to the financial crisis the state is currently facing. "It's laughable. On one hand, he claims there's no money for development, yet on the other, he makes grand announcements about growth. The truth is, the treasury is empty, promises are unfulfilled, and students are being neglected," Subhash

remarked.

Calling out the contradiction, Subhash cited Revanth's recent participation in the NITI Aayog meeting chaired by the Prime Minister. "He boasted of Telangana's development there, while back home, students in Gurukulas don't even have basic facilities," he noted. He criticised the government for failing to address pending student scholarships and for its hollow announcement of constructing permanent Gurukula buildings.

"Over 600 Gurukula institutions are housing 7 lakh students. Most are functioning out of private buildings, with rent dues totalling Rs 215 crore. As many as 63 landlords have issued eviction notices. Is this the 'revolution' Revanth promised?" Subhash questioned.

He also pointed to the deteriorating state of the state's universities, where faculty recruitment has stalled and infrastructure is in decline. "Instead of misleading people with grandstanding and false bravado, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy should focus on reviving Telangana's economy and delivering real governance, not theatrics," Subhash asserted.

## Home ownership a priority for 80 pc Indians: reveals Knight Frank's latest report

Hyderabad, May 26 (UNI) : Home ownership is a priority for 80 per cent of Indians, according to the latest report 'Home Buyer Survey' released by Knight Frank, India's premier real estate consultancy.

The report 'Beyond Bricks: The Pulse of Home Buying' has revealed that 80 percent of respondents have positive purchase sentiments across the country, and the majority prefer ownership of homes over any other format.

The report, which mapped various trends within the residential real estate space, noted that a significant majority (80 percent) of Indians still hold strong home ownership ambitions. This intent was noted to be the strongest amongst high earners with annual incomes above Rs 5 million (91 percent) and millennials (82 percent). 1,629 respondents were interviewed from across the top eight cities across the country to get a comprehensive understanding of home buying sentiment in India.

The purchase sentiment was strongest in areas such as Chennai (86 percent), Mumbai Metropolitan Region (85 percent), and Ahmedabad (83 percent), driven by growing disposable wealth, greater financial stability, and cultural sentiments, the report stated.

Other regions, such as Kolkata (80 percent) and

Hyderabad (81 percent), also demonstrated high ownership preference owing to a desire for long-term security.

The reasons behind home ownership also varied markedly from region to region. A large number of respondents from Bengaluru (40 percent) and Mumbai Metropolitan Region (34 percent), for example, wanted to make investment-driven purchases while most prospective buyers from Chennai (51 percent), Ahmedabad (48 percent), and Delhi-NCR (42 percent) were looking to buy their first homes for end-use.

This latter trend reflected in the more robust early purchase sentiments in markets such as Delhi-NCR, where homebuyers demonstrated keen interest in under-construction and pre-launch properties, driven by modern amenities, pricing flexibility, and renewed confidence in project delivery.

Two main markets that somewhat lagged in this regard were Delhi-NCR (74 percent) and Bengaluru (73 percent), owing to higher property prices and an influx of young, migrant professionals who favoured rental accommodations over ownership. More than half (58 percent) preferred their new homes to be closer to health facilities, while a similar number (53 percent) indicated a preference for

shopping outlets. Public transport access was also a prominent factor in the decision-making process of most buyers, with 40 percent of respondents indicating it to be something they sought while selecting a home.

Somewhat surprisingly, features such as fitness centres (16 percent) and community clubs (23 percent) ranked much lower in the priority of homebuyers, with most expecting them to be a standard feature in modern housing projects. This indicated a growing shift amongst new-age homebuyers toward more informed and strategic decision-making, balancing financial viability, convenience, and long-term value. Factors like location, affordability, and developer reputation continue to hold significance, while lifestyle amenities and financing options were also noted to be increasingly influential in buyer preferences, the report said.

Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India, said, "Homeownership has emerged as a robust and enduring trend, particularly in the post-pandemic period, resulting in a marked increase in residential demand. This momentum was further supported by proactive measures undertaken by regulatory authorities, including

extended reductions in REPO rates and buyer-centric incentives such as stamp duty rebates. Collectively, these factors repositioned homeownership as a symbol of financial security and future stability. Additionally, sustained economic growth has reinforced buyer confidence, contributing to continued resilience and activity within the residential real estate sector." Ownership vs Rent Evaluating a complex interplay of income, generational factors, city-specific dynamics, and evolving buyer motivations, Knight Frank India's latest report reiterates how home ownership remained a deeply rooted aspiration for Indians across all major markets.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME FROM RIYAZ ISMAIL CYCLEWALA  
Old Name.: MOHMED RIYAZ CYCLEWALA  
TO NEW NAME MOHMED RIYAZ MOHMED ISMAIL CYCLEWALA  
& I WILL BE KNOWN AS NEW NAME  
WHICH PLEASE NOTE SD: MOHMED RIYAZ MOHMED ISMAIL CYCLEWALA  
ADD: 11/1828/2-501, GULSHAN E AHMED, SODAGARWAD, SURAT - 395003

## KCR family in feud over Rs 2000 crore party empire, alleges Nizamuddin

Hyderabad, May 26 (UNI) : Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) spokesperson Syed Nizamuddin launched a scathing attack on the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Monday, claiming the party has devolved into a family-run business torn apart by greed and internal power struggles.

Addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan, he alleged that a feud among K T Rama Rao, K Kavitha, T Harish Rao, and Santosh Rao is centred not on ideology but on control of assets worth over Rs 2,000 crore.

Nizamuddin presented financial data and donor records, showing BRS's declared assets skyrocketed from Rs 5 crore in 2011-12 to Rs 1,191 crore in 2022-23. He argued the actual value, including benami assets, shell companies, and undisclosed income, could far exceed this figure. "Such exponential growth in a political party's assets is only possible through systemic corruption," he said. He further revealed

that BRS earned Rs 738 crore in 2022-23, with Rs 154 crore coming from just 47 donors, most allegedly linked to government contracts and policy favours during the BRS regime. He claimed the party's matching expenditure hinted at possible money laundering.

Nizamuddin also pointed to signs of internal collapse, including a leaked letter from Kavitha to her father KCR, expressing concerns over the party's direction and alleged BJP-friendly tilt. He termed recent private meetings and shifting political stances within the KCR family as signs of a corporate-style succession battle.

Accusing the BRS of hijacking the Telangana movement for personal gain, he called for a court-monitored investigation into the party's financial dealings and assets. "The people deserve to know how a public movement was turned into a private fortune," he said, urging citizens to reject dynastic politics and support transparent governance.

## Minister Sridhar Babu applauds public, officials for collective effort

Kaleshwaram May 26 (UNI) : IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu lauded the successful conduct of Saraswati Pushkaram, describing it as a collective achievement despite the challenges posed by time constraints and election regulations.

The minister participated as the chief guest in a review meeting held at Saraswati Ghat on Monday evening, chaired by Principal Secretary of the Endowment Department Shailaja Ramaiyar. Speaking on the occasion, Sridhar Babu congratulated the district administration and all stakeholders for ensuring that nearly 30 lakh devotees were able to participate in the 12-day holy event without inconvenience.

"It was a challenge, but with commitment and coordination, we turned it into a celebration. God gave me the fortune to be part of this sacred event," he said, noting that Rs 40 crore was sanctioned for the arrangements.

Highlighting the spiritual significance, he expressed happiness over organising Pushkarams for

the first time at the confluence of Godavari, Pranahita, and Antarvahini Saraswati, where a 17-foot statue of Goddess Saraswati was also installed. He thanked voluntary organisations for their support in providing clean water and food to the pilgrims and assured that the upcoming Godavari Pushkaram would be held with even greater grandeur. Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao expressed appreciation for officials who worked tirelessly behind the scenes and praised Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramaiyar for proactive planning. "Despite rainfall on the final day, the arrangements stood firm—proof that the deities' blessings were with us," he remarked. Ramaiyar shared that although Sri Kaleshwara Mukteshwara Swamy temple is located in a small village, meticulous five-month planning and community cooperation made the event a grand success.

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No.: DYCEGSUWAT/ENGG2025005, Dated: 15.05.2025  
NAME OF WORK : EXECUTION OF WORKS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD OVER BRIDGE WITH (1X50 MTR ROW STRING GIRDER + 2X18.0 MTR COMPOSITE GIRDER + 8X24.0 MTR T-BEAM GIRDER AND BRIDGE APPROACHES) SERVICE ROADS AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS WORKS FOR LEVEL CROSSING-393 AT KM. 702/31-33 BETWEEN NOWPADA-KOTABOMMALI STATIONS OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 49,17,88,735.00, EMD : ₹ 26,09,000/-  
Completion Period of the Work : 24 (Twenty Four) Months

Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1500 hrs. of 13.06.2025.  
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.iraps.gov.in  
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering.

The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions.  
By, Chief Engineer (GSU)/ Waltair  
PR-34/CI/25-26

## STANDARD POST

## 3 sleepless nights may raise your risk of heart disease

People with poor sleep for just three nights may be at an increased risk of developing heart diseases, according to a study.

With chronic lack of sleep growing as a public health concern, researchers from Uppsala University in Sweden found that disturbed sleep may raise inflammation, increasing the risk of heart disease.

“Many of the larger studies that have been done on the link between sleep deprivation and the risk of cardiovascular diseases have generally focused on slightly older individuals who already have an increased risk of such diseases. That is why it was interesting that the levels of these proteins increased in the same way in younger and previously perfectly healthy individuals after only a few nights of sleep deprivation. This means that it’s important to emphasise the importance of sleep for cardiovascular health even early in life,” said Jonathan Cedernaes, a physician at Uppsala University.

The team analysed 16 healthy young men of normal weight -- all with healthy sleep habits.

The participants spent time in a sleep laboratory where their meals and activity levels were strictly controlled in two sessions.

In one session, participants got a normal amount of sleep for three consecutive nights, while during the other session, they got only about four hours of sleep each night. During both sessions, morning and evening blood samples were taken, and following high-intensity exercise lasting 30 minutes.

The researchers measured the levels of around 90 proteins in the blood and were able to see that the levels of many of these that are associated with increased inflammation rose when the participants were sleep-deprived.

Many of these proteins have already been linked to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease such as heart failure and coronary artery disease, said the researchers, in the study published in the journal Biomarker Research.

Further, the team found that physical exercise generated a slightly different response after a lack of sleep.

However, the number of key proteins increased equally, whether the person was sleep-deprived or not. Thus, proteins that can be linked to the positive effects of exercise increased, even if the person had too little sleep.

The researchers have previously shown that exercise in the presence of sleep deprivation can result in a slightly increased load on the heart’s muscle cells.

Cedernaes said that “further research is needed to investigate how these effects might differ in women, older individuals, patients with heart disease, or those with different sleep patterns”.

# 140 crore Indians are united in building a Viksit Bharat: PM

(Standard Post Bureau)

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 24,000 crore in Dahod, Gujarat today. Addressing the gathering, he remarked that May 26 holds special significance as it marks the day he first took the oath as Prime Minister in 2014. He acknowledged the unwavering support and blessings of the people of Gujarat, who entrusted him with the responsibility of leading the nation. The Prime Minister highlighted that this trust and encouragement have fueled his dedication to serving the country day and night. Over the years, India has taken decisions which were unprecedented and unimaginable, breaking free from decades-old constraints and advancing across every sector. “Today, the nation has emerged from an era of despair and darkness into a new age of confidence and optimism”, he added.

“140 crore Indians are united in building a Viksit Bharat”, exclaimed Shri Modi, emphasising the importance of manufacturing essential goods within India, stating that self-reliance is the need of the hour. He remarked that India is advancing rapidly in the global manufacturing sector, noting that both domestic production and exports are increasing consistently. India is now exporting a wide range of products, including smartphones, automobiles, toys, defense equipment, and medicines. He further stated that India is not only manufacturing rail and metro technology but also exporting it globally. Citing Dahod as a prime example of this progress, where major projects worth thousands of crores were inaugurated and launched, Shri Modi highlighted the Dahod Electric Locomotive Factory as a significant achievement. He recalled laying its foundation stone three years ago and expressed pride that the first electric locomotive has now been successfully manufactured. He flagged off the locomotive, marking a moment of pride for Gujarat and the entire nation. Additionally, he announced that Gujarat has achieved 100% electrification of its railway network, calling it a remarkable milestone and congratulated the people of Gujarat for this achievement.

Reflecting on his long-standing connection with Dahod and recalling the many memories associated with the region, the Prime Minister remarked that he has been visiting Dahod for decades, and during his early years, he often explored the area on a bicycle. He highlighted that these experiences allowed him to understand both the challenges and potential of Dahod. Even after assuming office as Chief Minister, he continued to



visit the region multiple times and took decisive steps to address its issues. He emphasized that every development initiative in Dahod brings him immense satisfaction, and today is yet another meaningful day for him.

Highlighting the rapid development of India’s railway sector over the past 10-11 years, Shri Modi emphasized the expansion of metro services and the introduction of semi-high-speed trains, transforming connectivity across the country. He remarked that Vande Bharat trains now operate on nearly 70 routes, further strengthening India’s transportation network. He announced the commencement of a new Vande Bharat Express between Ahmedabad and Veraval. Shri Modi further stated that the rise of modern trains in India is due to the country’s advancements in technology. He emphasized that coaches and locomotives are now manufactured domestically, reducing reliance on imports. “India has emerged as a leading exporter of railway equipment”, stated Shri Modi, noting that India exports metro coaches to Australia and train coaches to England, Saudi Arabia, and France. He added that Mexico, Spain, Germany, and Italy also import railway-related components from India. Shri Modi further remarked that Indian passenger coaches are being used in Mozambique and Sri Lanka, and ‘Made in India’ locomotives are being exported to multiple countries. He stated that this reflects the continuous expansion of the ‘Make in India’ initiative, reinforcing national pride.

“A strong railway network enhances convenience and boosts industries and agriculture”, remarked the Prime Minister, highlighting that several regions in India received railway connectivity for the first time in the past decade. He remarked that many areas in Gujarat previously had only small, slow-moving trains, but several narrow-gauge routes have now been expanded. Announcing the inauguration of multiple railway routes, including the new express train between Dahod and Valsad, which will greatly benefit the tribal belt, the Prime

Minister stated that factories create large-scale employment opportunities for youth. He highlighted that Dahod’s rail factory will manufacture 9,000-horsepower locomotives, significantly enhancing the power and capacity of India’s trains, noting that every locomotive produced in Dahod will bear the name of the city. The Prime Minister remarked that hundreds of locomotives will be built in the coming years, generating substantial employment for local youth. He emphasized that the factory will also support small-scale industries producing railway components, leading to economic growth in surrounding areas. He stated that employment opportunities extend beyond the factory, benefiting farmers, livestock owners, shopkeepers, and laborers, ensuring widespread economic progress.

Shri Modi highlighted that Gujarat has made remarkable progress across multiple sectors, including education, IT, semiconductors, and tourism. He emphasized that the state has established itself as a leader in various industries. He remarked that a major semiconductor plant is being set up in Gujarat with an investment of thousands of crores, further strengthening India’s position in the global semiconductor industry. He stated that these initiatives are creating new employment opportunities for lakhs of youth in Gujarat, contributing to the state’s economic growth and development.

Underlining that Dahod, Vadodra, Godhra, Kalol, and Halol have collectively established a high-tech engineering and manufacturing corridor in Gujarat, the Prime Minister remarked that Vadodra is rapidly advancing in aircraft manufacturing, with the Airbus assembly line inaugurated a few months ago. He noted that Vadodra is also home to India’s first Gati Shakti University. He emphasized that Savli already has a major rail-car manufacturing factory, while Dahod now hosts a facility producing India’s most powerful locomotives—9,000-horsepower engines, marking a moment of pride

for the nation. The Prime Minister stated that Godhra, Kalol, and Halol have a significant presence of manufacturing units, small industries, and MSMEs, contributing to Gujarat’s industrial growth. Envisioning a future where this region of Gujarat will be known for producing everything—from bicycles and motorcycles to railway engines and aircraft, the Prime Minister remarked that such a high-tech engineering and manufacturing corridor is rare globally, reinforcing Gujarat’s position as an industrial powerhouse.

“The development of tribal regions is essential for building a developed India”, emphasised Shri Modi, underlining that unprecedented efforts have been made over the past 11 years to uplift tribal communities. He remarked that his long experience working in Gujarat’s tribal areas has contributed to national-level initiatives. Shri Modi recalled a time when tribal children in Gujarat faced challenges in studying science. He highlighted that today, the entire tribal belt has access to quality education, with good colleges, ITIs, medical colleges, and two dedicated tribal universities serving these communities. Stating that the network of Eklavya Model Schools has strengthened significantly over the past 11 years, ensuring better educational opportunities for tribal students, Shri Modi noted that Dahod itself has several Eklavya Model Schools, further supporting tribal education.

Highlighting the significant efforts being made for the development of tribal communities across the country, the Prime Minister stated that for the first time in independent India’s history, a major scheme has been launched to uplift tribal villages. He remarked that the ‘Dharti Aaba Janjati Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan’ is a landmark initiative, with the Central Government investing approximately ₹80,000 crore to implement the program. He stated that under this scheme, development work is being carried out in more than 60,000 villages across the country, including Gujarat. The Prime Minister highlighted that these villages are being equipped with electricity, water, roads, schools, and hospitals to

improve the quality of life. He emphasized that pucca houses are being built for tribal families, ensuring better living conditions for the community.

Shri Modi emphasized his commitment to uplifting the most marginalized tribal communities, stating that his government prioritizes those who have long been overlooked. He highlighted that for the first time, the government has introduced the PM Janman Yojana to support particularly vulnerable tribal groups who have been deprived of essential facilities for decades. Shri Modi remarked that under this scheme, new infrastructure and amenities are being developed in tribal villages, and new employment opportunities are being created, ensuring greater economic and social inclusion for these communities.

Highlighting the launch of a national mission to free tribal communities from sickle cell anemia, the Prime Minister stated that millions of tribal citizens have already undergone screening under this initiative. He emphasized that the government is committed to accelerating the development of regions that have lagged behind. He noted that over 100 districts were previously classified as backward, with many of them being tribal-dominated areas. He remarked that Dahod was one such district, but today, it is progressing as an Aspirational District, undergoing a transformation with modern infrastructure and smart facilities. The Prime Minister highlighted that South Dahod faced severe water shortages, but now, hundreds of kilometers of pipelines have been laid, ensuring Narmada water reaches every household. He stated that over the past years, 11 lakh acres of land from Umargam to Ambaji have been connected to irrigation, making agriculture easier for tribal communities.

Acknowledging the overwhelming presence of thousands of women in Vadodra, who gathered to honor the nation and its armed forces, Shri Modi expressed his deep respect and gratitude to the women of India for their unwavering support. He highlighted that Dahod is a land of sacrifice and dedication, recalling that

Maharishi Dadhichi gave up his life on the banks of the Dudhimati River to protect creation. Shri Modi also noted that this region supported freedom fighter Taty Tope in times of crisis and that Mangarh Dham stands as a symbol of the sacrifices made by Govind Guru and hundreds of tribal warriors. Emphasizing that India’s cultural values demand action against injustice, questioning whether the nation could remain silent after the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, Shri Modi stated, “Operation Sindoor was not just a military action but a reflection of India’s values and emotions”. He remarked that terrorists had no idea of the consequences of their actions, recalling the brutality of killing a father in front of his children. He stated that such images still ignite anger across the nation, as 140 crore Indians were challenged by terrorism. Shri Modi declared that he fulfilled his responsibility as the nation’s leader, giving full freedom to India’s armed forces, who then executed an operation unseen in decades. He highlighted that nine major terror hubs across the border were identified and destroyed in 22 minutes, and stated that Pakistan’s military attempted retaliation but was decisively defeated by Indian forces. Shri Modi reiterated his deep respect for the valor of India’s armed forces, saluting their courage and dedication from the sacred land of Dahod.

Prime Minister remarked that the country born after partition has focused on hostility towards India and causing harm. “India, on the other hand, is committed to eradicating poverty, strengthening its economy, and achieving development”, he added. The Prime Minister highlighted that a developed India can only be built when both its armed forces and economy are strong. He stated that the government is continuously working in this direction, ensuring national security and economic growth go hand in hand.

Highlighting the immense potential of Dahod, stating that the event is just a glimpse of its capabilities, Shri Modi expressed full confidence in the hardworking people of Dahod, emphasizing that they will make the best use of the newly developed facilities and transform Dahod into one of the most developed districts in the country. He concluded by congratulating the people of Dahod once again, reaffirming his belief in their dedication and progress.

The Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel, Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting & Electronics and Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav were present among other dignitaries at the event.

# Relationships



## Is your kid Travelling to school safely?

With increasing safety concerns and instances of bullying, inculcating school-bus discipline is essential, say experts

Pakhi Jain was in for a shock when she heard her seven-year old return from school one day and mouth expletives. "When asked who taught such words, he said everyone in his school bus used them and he was following suit because he wants to be like his seniors," says Jain, who didn't know how to deal with the situation at that time.

She is not the only one. While most parents and school authorities impress the need to inculcate discipline within the four walls of the classroom, these rules often do not apply to school buses. In the recent times, there have been several cases of rowdy behaviour in buses, with children even hitting each other.

### Ground for unruly behaviour

After hours of being cooped up in classrooms, the bus ride provides a perfect ground for the child to let out all that pent-up energy.

Says consulting psychiatrist Dr Pavan Sonar, "Unlike classrooms, there is more freedom in buses, as there is an absence of parent/teacher supervision. So,

children feel the liberty to do some mischief."

Adds clinical psychologist Saloni Sawnani, "Kids of all ages travel together in the bus. If the older kids are using foul language or behaving badly, younger kids follow suit to fit in. That leads to more cases of rowdy behaviour."

More often than not, these buses are understaffed with only one attendant taking care of around 40-50 children. Moreover, the attendant is only equipped to ensure that the children are not physically injured. "They are not responsible towards children's behaviour, so there is no supervision at all," she adds.

### When your child turns rowdy

Do you feel your kid is picking up bad habits from the school bus?



## Asking yourself 'why' very important

### Life is a journey:

Asking yourself 'why' is part of that journey, as it helps you to understand yourself, those around you. When you ask why, you are looking at your life as an outsider and this gives a perspective. To question yourself will provide you a clear picture because you will know why you do these things and what

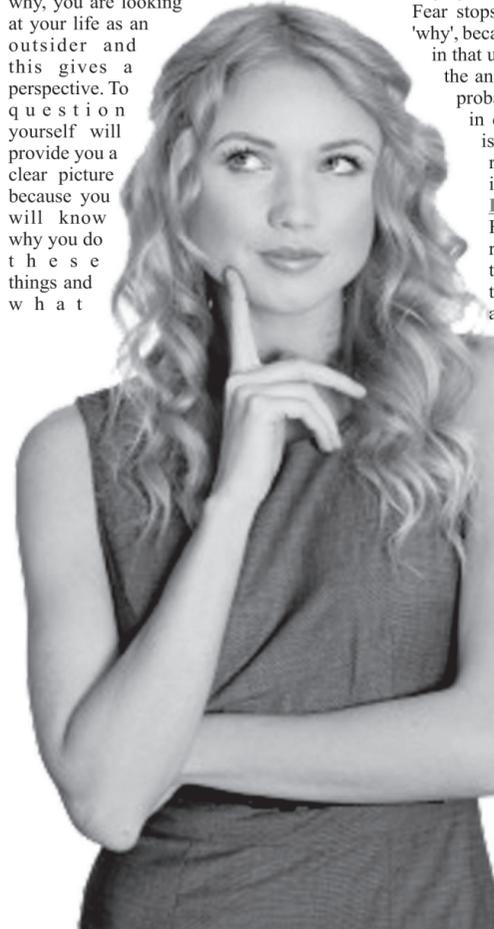
changes are needed in your life. So, don't feel scared and be open about asking questions.

### Say bye to fear:

Fear stops a lot of people from asking 'why', because people just don't want to be in that uncomfortable state of knowing the answer. And there are some who probably know the answer but live in denial. Remember, acceptance is the ultimate freedom. Getting a reality check is so very important in life.

### Essential to your happiness:

Have you asked yourself recently if you are doing the things you love? Do you think that you are on the right track and following your passion? Are you where you always wanted to be? Are you just letting life to control you? Are you making a conscious decision to follow your dreams? Are you living life king/queen size? Are you pushing your creative boundaries? It's so important to ask yourself these fundamental questions. These questions will give you a ring side view of life. It might be a good time to make some changes, take a new direction, or have an open discussion with someone who matters in your life. What's most important is that you are following your own bliss.



Discipline your kid and firmly explain that inappropriate language will not be tolerated. Also, impress upon him/her that there is no greatness in being like the older children and doing wrong things. "Often, when a child gets into a fight in the bus and it comes to the parents' attention, they confront the driver or school authorities. This is not the way to tackle the situation as you would be setting a wrong example," says Sawnani.

Instead, get to know both the versions and if you feel that your kid is at fault, act with concern rather than harshness. "Make your child understand that bullying another person is wrong. Often, children don't report instances of bullying. So, teach him/her to understand and report such instances to you, the teachers or the supervisor of the bus," says Dr Sonar.

### School authorities' role

With safety and discipline in buses being a concern, school authorities are now taking strict measures. While a few city schools have student monitors in every bus - they not only maintain discipline, but also keep an eye on the bus staff - some even have plans of installing CCTV cameras in the vehicles.

Interestingly, at an international school at Chandivali, a text message is sent to the parent when the child swipes his I-card and boards the bus.

Most schools have also hired a lady attendant to comply with the guide lines issued by the RTA (Roads and Transport Authority). "Having trained staff in buses is important. If younger and older kids are travelling together, the attendant should ensure that the younger ones are seated behind and the older ones in front. Any kind of intermingling between the two should be avoided," says Sawnani.

### Measures school authorities can take

- Provide instructions about school bus safety in classrooms.
- Send students on time, so that they don't have to run to catch the buses.
- Get the bus inspected for technical snags and ensure safety measures.
- Ensure that the bus has adequate staff and that a lady attendant is always present.
- Install CCTVs in buses for monitoring the behaviour of kids.

### Things parents should remember

- Check the background of the agency from where the buses are hired.
- Teach your child the importance of safety, how to wait for the school bus and how to board it.
- Any misbehaviour, on the part of a student or the bus staff, should be brought to notice immediately.
- Teach your child to maintain cleanliness in the bus.

## How to get kids to perform better in exams

It's time for First Unit tests in most schools in the city. But it's also a time when kids will be most vulnerable to pressures and stress.

It's important that parents and children work in cohesion to avoid feeling this way. While at the parents' end there is anxiety and restlessness, the situation can be detrimental for younger kids who suffer loss of appetite and sleep and fears on account of it.

While parents must always show that they are there for their children, it's important that they stay away from doing a few things like going over the question papers again and again, as well as continuously discussing the

score that they want their kids to meet.

What kids can do

1. Discuss not just the highs and lows of studying. Keep them in the loop about your issues and difficulties.
2. Do not create unrealistic goals. Instead, set reasonable daily targets and try to achieve them.
3. Do not allow pressure from peers to affect you. Find the difference between friendly advice and a brag that a friend might throw at you. At the end of the day, you are your own judge and answerable to yourself.
4. Always feel proud and happy of a task well done.

## 'Gurgaon is such an animal unfriendly zone'

Reportedly, the victim's neighbour first injured her servant who was walking their pet and, on her (the victim's) intervention, took her inside the house and assaulted her, both mentally and physically. A week later, she is back home but, like her husband Suresh Yadav told GT, she is still in shock from the entire experience. We spoke to Suresh about their struggle as an animal loving couple in Gurgaon and the urgent need for Gurgaon residents to condemn this attack and to warm up to animals.

According to Suresh, their neighbour first threw a slipper at their servant, screaming at him for walking the dog on the road. Suresh told us, "When my wife intervened, he screamed at her saying, 'Yeh meri road hai, tumhe pata nahi hai kya? You can't walk your dog here.' When she continued to argue, the man lost it. What happened after that is disturbing for both of us. I rushed back home when I found out and took her to the hospital and have been trying to get her to come back to normal ever since." He added, "We live in an independent plotted community. There are no dog parks or special areas. So, the dogs are walked on the roads. The roads are cleaned on a daily basis and nobody should have a problem with that."

According to Yadav, this isn't the first time that they faced a problem with this particular neighbour, who has now been arrested for abuse. However, he says that this wasn't a personal issue between them, but an attack on the animal loving community of Gurgaon.

### I hope animal lovers of Ggn condemn this attack: Suresh

He told us, "Gurgaon is such an animal unfriendly zone. Pets are not welcome and feeding of strays or even getting them vaccinated is looked down upon. Even with our bad history with this resident, we never saw this coming. The attack is just another example of the attitude people have towards animal lovers in Gurgaon. We have been taking care of a number of strays in our street, and slowly and gradually, people in our independent plotted community were getting used to the idea of taking care of animals. But this one incident has taken us back to the very start of that struggle. We're still being treated as criminals and I hope that the animal lovers of Gurgaon condemn this attack. The real villain of this story needs to be identified and it's not us." He added, "She has been at the forefront of this



## It's been a week since the news of the horrifying incident of a Gurgaon woman being stripped and thrashed for walking her dog, first came out.

movement for a very long time. Feeding strays and getting them vaccinated is not a crime. Initially, people used to complain about these strays and the MCG van would come and take them away. But we would get them back because these strays were not harmful to anyone. With time, our neighbours also became okay with the strays - everyone except this one guy. There are many other haters like him all over Gurgaon. Now if he isn't punished with severity, this will encourage these haters to take really extreme steps against dog lovers, which is scary." Alok Mittal, commissioner of police, Gurgaon said, "I do not have data regarding such incidents. Surely there have not been many fights between neighbours over petty issues. In this case we had registered a case under sections 323, 354, 452 of the IPC." The incident shocked pet owners and animal

lovers in not just Gurgaon, but in all parts of the world. The Facebook awareness page formed after the incident, which is like a discussion portal on different animal-related topics, was started by an international supporter of the cause. According to Suresh, "This just shows the support that we have for this incident. It is still gaining momentum in India, but internationally, it's a big movement."

In our Gurgaon residential society, I want the authorities to come forward and put up posters highlighting the basic animal feeding rights that we animal lovers have. So far, there is no rule book on the same, just lots of judgmental stares and angry neighbours in both gated and non-gated residential properties. I want to fight against this, and hope for some support from the government."

## GATHER THOSE EVERGREEN MOMENTS.

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# Come Together in Kerala



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and explore Kerala

## Raducanu alleges preferred treatment for top stars

Paris, May 26 (UNI) In a bold post-match statement, Britain's Emma Raducanu has raised eyebrows at Roland Garros by accusing French Open organisers of favouritism, claiming that some players are being granted privileged access to the tournament's main courts. "I feel like certain players get preferred treatment," the world No.42 said, alluding to an uneven playing field ahead of her anticipated showdown with reigning champion Iga Swiatek. Raducanu, who rocketed to fame after her 2021 US Open triumph, took aim at what she described as an "unfair" practice scheduling system that limits lower-ranked players' time on iconic courts such as Court Philippe-Chatrier.

"The tournament doesn't really help in terms of getting you court time on the bigger courts or on the match courts, really," she said, voicing concerns over being made to transition abruptly from peripheral practice courts to the spotlight of stadium play.

The 21-year-old acknowledged the challenge of making such a leap. "It's very different from the annex courts across the road. To then jump onto Chatrier or any stadium court—it isn't easy." While Raducanu appreciated the atmosphere on the smaller court she played on—describing it as "cute" and "intimate"—she made it clear that more equitable scheduling would benefit all players, not just the top seeds.

Her remarks have added a fresh layer of scrutiny to how Grand Slam tournaments manage practice court allocation and whether rising or mid-ranked players are being unfairly sidelined.

## Ninth seed Navarro suffers 6-0 6-1 first-round upset

Paris, May 26 (UNI) Ninth seed Emma Navarro exited the French Open in just 57 minutes as she suffered a 6-0 6-1 first-round thrashing by Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro.

Navarro, a semi-finalist at last year's US Open, did not hold serve all match in a wayward performance on the second day in Paris.

Up 6-0 5-0, Bouzas Maneiro was attempting to become the first woman to beat a top-10 player 6-0 6-0 at a Grand Slam since the 1989 US Open, when Martina Navratilova crushed world number seven Manuela Maleeva.

But Navarro got on the board and avoided a 'double bagel' scoreline with help from a double fault by the 68th-ranked Bouzas Maneiro. Earlier this year, Navarro became only the fifth player this century to win a WTA final 6-0 6-0 with victory over Emiliana Arango at the Merida Open in Mexico, the BBC reported. But the American was broken seven times, claimed just 30 of the 86 total points and won only 44% of her first-serve points. Navarro was also hindered by 23 unforced errors compared to just four winners.

# PBKS down MI by 7 wkts, seal Qualifier 1 berth



Jaipur, May 26 (UNI) : Punjab Kings stormed into Qualifier 1 of the IPL playoffs with a commanding 7-wicket victory over Mumbai Indians at Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Monday, chasing down 185 with 9 balls to spare.

The win not only sealed Punjab's place in the top two of the points table but also assured them of two chances to reach the final.

Chasing 185, Punjab were led by a dazzling 73 off 42 balls from wicketkeeper Josh Inglis, who anchored the innings with flair and authority. The Australian right-hander struck 9 fours and 3 sixes, dominating Mumbai's bowling attack even as wickets fell at the other end.

Young opener Priyansh Arya continued his fine form, hammering a brisk 62 off 35 deliveries with 9 boundaries and 2 sixes, before holing out to

Suryakumar Yadav off the bowling of Mitchell Santner.

Earlier, Punjab lost Prabhshimran Singh (13) cheaply in the fifth over to Jasprit Bumrah, but the Arya-Inglis partnership of 109 runs for the second wicket took the game away from the hosts. Skipper Shreyas Iyer then guided the chase home with an unbeaten 26 off 16, while Nehal Wadhwa struck the winning runs. Santner was the most effective bowler for Mumbai, returning 2 for 41, while Bumrah was economical yet wicketless in his 4 overs. Mumbai's other bowlers, including captain Hardik Pandya, were taken apart on a flat pitch that offered little assistance.

Earlier in the evening, Mumbai Indians posted 184 for 7 after electing to bat first, courtesy of a fluent 57 from Suryakumar Yadav and useful late cameos from

Hardik Pandya (26 off 15) and Naman Dhir (20 off 12).

Suryakumar's innings was the bedrock of Mumbai's effort, coming in at a tricky stage and playing with a blend of finesse and aggression. But Mumbai lost momentum in the death overs, scoring just 33 runs in the last 4, as Punjab's bowlers tightened the screws. Arshdeep Singh led the bowling effort with 2 for 28, including the key scalp of Suryakumar off the final delivery of the innings. Marco Jansen and Vijaykumar Vyshak also picked two wickets apiece.

The result sends a strong statement from Punjab Kings, who have gathered steam at the business end of the tournament and now march into Qualifier 1 with confidence and momentum on their side. Mumbai Indians, meanwhile, face an anxious wait to know their fate in the playoff race.

## Isco & Gavi back but no Rodri in Spain Nations League squad

Madrid, May 26 (UNI) : Spain national team coach Luis de la Fuente on Monday named his squad for the Final Four of the UEFA Nations League which will be played during the first week of June in Germany.

Spain will play France in the semi-final hoping to play the winner of the other semi-final between Germany and Portugal, with De la Fuente recalling Betis midfielder Isco and Barcelona's Gavi to his squad.

"It was a good moment for what Isco can bring to us. He has been playing very well, otherwise he would not be here," said the coach, who was glad to recall Gavi after a knee injury.

"It has been a natural process. We

## French Open rejects automated line-calling systems

Paris, May 26 (UNI) : In a move that harks back to old guard of tennis, the French Open has become the last Grand Slam tournament to resist the tide of technology, retaining human line judges and refusing to implement automated line-calling systems on its courts this year. French Tennis Federation (FFT) President Gilles Moretton on Monday defended the tournament's decision to persist with traditional officiating, citing a recent controversy at the Madrid Open involving world No 3 Alexander Zverev.

The German received a warning after asking the chair umpire to inspect a disputed mark on the clay, an appeal that was denied, prompting Zverev to take a photo with his phone in protest of a call made by the automated system.

"This is important for us," said Moretton during a press briefing ahead of

the main draw at Roland Garros. "We know that it's 10 percent errors possible, 10 percent. That's what we know. Regarding clay, we think that it's very important... we saw it with Zverev in Madrid. He took the picture. We think it can happen, and it did happen already."

While the ATP has implemented electronic line calling across most of its events, including those played on clay, Roland Garros remains a bastion of manual officiating. Even Wimbledon, known for its own emphasis on tradition, has confirmed a shift to full electronic line calling this year.

Moretton further elaborated that preserving the human element of the game was crucial, especially for the development of tennis at the grassroots level. "It's more human. First of all, we need those people working all year long in our tournaments, promoting

know how long that type of injury needs and now he is playing at a high level. He can still get better and is working to get back to what he was doing a year ago. He is very important to us," said De la Fuente in his press conference. Barcelona forward Ferran Torres misses out through injury as does Ayoze Perez the top scoring Spaniard in La Liga, while De la Fuente opted against recalling Manchester City captain, Rodri after his return to action in the last two games of a season ruined by a knee operation. "He has been out of action for over eight months and he has played just 10 minutes, I think that says everything," De la Fuente commented.

The decision comes amid rising discontent among players over the reliability of electronic systems. Zverev, who was at the centre of the Madrid incident, has indicated his intent to take up the matter with ATP authorities.

"I honestly think that there was a malfunction in the system in that moment... I said, 'Please, come down to have a look at this, I'm not crazy,'" he told reporters following the match.

## Mbappe wins European Golden Shoe for first time

Madrid, May 26 (UNI) Kylian Mbappe has won the European Golden Shoe for the first time after scoring twice in Real Madrid's 2-0 defeat of Real Sociedad on Saturday.

The France international scored 31 league goals in his debut season in Spain, meaning he also won La Liga's top scorer prize. A double in Real's final game of the season secured Mbappe top spot in the rankings ahead of Sporting striker Victor Gyokeres (39 goals) and Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah (29 goals). Though Gyokeres scored eight more league goals than Mbappe, he finished runner-up because a weighted-points based system decides the rankings.

Goals scored by players competing in Europe's top five leagues - Premier League, La Liga, Bundesliga, Serie A and Ligue 1 - are worth two points, the BBC reported.

Goals from those who play in leagues ranked sixth to 22nd in UEFA's coefficient, including the Portuguese Primeira Liga, are worth 1.5 points. Mohamed Salah needed a hat-trick in Liverpool's final Premier League match against Crystal Palace on Sunday in order to share the prize with Mbappe. The Egypt international scored once in a 1-1 draw.

Mbappe is just the third Real player to win the award, after Hugo Sanchez (1989-90) and Cristiano Ronaldo (2010-11, 2013-14 and 2014-15).

Gyokeres - who has been heavily linked with a summer move to Arsenal - had no chance of catching Mbappe because Sporting's league campaign ended the previous weekend.

After scoring in his side's 3-1 defeat of Lisbon rivals Benfica in the Portuguese Cup final on Sunday, the Sweden international finished the season with 53 goals in 51 games in all competitions.

The top five in the rankings were as follows: Mbappe (62 points), Gyokeres (58.5), Salah (58), Robert Lewandowski (54), Harry Kane (52).

## Thailand a good test before Hong Kong in AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers : Wangjam

Kolkata, May 26 (UNI) : The preparations in the Indian men's national team camp are in full swing here as the Blue Tigers gear up for the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers Final Round match against Hong Kong on June 10.

Midfielder Suresh Singh Wangjam believes that the friendly game against Thailand on June 4 will be the perfect way to groom for the all-important clash in Kowloon, Hong Kong.

"The good thing is that we will be playing a friendly against Thailand, who are a similar opponent, in my opinion," said Suresh.

"We got 15 to 20 days of break after the domestic season, and we started our camp on the 18th of this month. We're getting into form day by day, and it's very important to play an international friendly match before Hong Kong. So, it

## Ten Reliance Foundation athletes to represent India at Asian Athletics Championships

Mumbai, May 26 (UNI) : A stellar contingent of ten athletes supported by Reliance Foundation is all set to represent India at the Asian Athletics Championships 2025, taking place in Gumi, Republic of Korea from May 27.

This continental championship will be a key milestone ahead of the Asian Games next year, offering a critical platform for the region's finest talent to shine.

The athletes are part of the Reliance Foundation's high-performance programme aimed at enabling Indian athletes to excel at the global level. From grassroots development to elite performance, Reliance Foundation has remained committed to building a robust sporting ecosystem in India.

Speaking ahead of the championships, James Hillier, Athletics Director, Reliance Foundation said, "We are incredibly proud of our athletes and their dedication. Their recent performances, including multiple national records, reflect their hard work and the comprehensive support they receive from the Reliance Foundation. The

Asian Athletics Championship is a crucial platform, and I am confident that our contingent will showcase their talent and make the nation proud. We've focused not just on physical conditioning but also on mental fortitude, ensuring they are prepared for the intense competition ahead." James also expressed excitement about coaching India's national relay team in Mumbai—an effort that recently led to the breaking of the longest-standing national record in Indian athletics in the 4x100m relay.

India's top female hurdler Jyothi Yarraji will compete in two events—the 100m hurdles, where she's the defending champion and the 200m, where she bagged the silver medal in the previous edition in Bangkok in 2023.

The 25-year-old has consistently redefined the boundaries of Indian hurdling, holding the national record with a scorching 12.78 seconds—a mark she has matched multiple times. She is the first Indian woman to dip below the 13-second barrier in the 100m hurdles and is the reigning Asian champion in the event, having secured gold at the

2023 Asian Athletics Championships, along with a silver at the 2022 Asian Games.

Animesh Kujur recently shattered the national record in the men's 200m. His blistering time of 20.40 seconds at the Senior Federation Cup earlier this year not only set a new national benchmark but also established him as the current Asian leader in the event. Animesh from the Odisha Reliance Foundation HPC will also be a vital cog in the men's 4x100m relay team, alongside Manikanta Hoblidhar, Amlan Borgohain, and Gurvinder Singh. This dynamic quartet recently rewrote the national record books in the 4x100m relay with an impressive 38.69 seconds, showcasing their explosive synergy and readiness to challenge Asia's best.

All eyes will be on India's champion long distance runner Gulveer Singh, a force to be reckoned with in both the 5000m and 10,000m. Gulveer has been on a record-breaking spree, recently setting a new national record in the 10,000m with a time of 27:00.22s, a significant improvement on his previous best.

## Fourth seed Fritz falls; Tsitsipas, Badosa march on

Paris, May 26 (UNI) : The second day of the 2025 French Open was marked by significant upsets and remarkable comebacks, as top-seeded players faced unexpected challenges on the clay courts of Roland Garros. In a major upset, Germany's Daniel Altmaier, ranked 66th globally, eliminated fourth seed Taylor Fritz with a 7-5, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory. Altmaier's aggressive baseline play and strategic shot-making disrupted Fritz's rhythm, leading to a decisive win. This marks one of the most significant victories in Altmaier's career, as he advances to face Vit Kopriya in the next round. Fritz, who had high hopes following a strong clay-court season, struggled with unforced errors and appeared physically unsettled as the match wore on.

Fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas showcased his clay-court prowess, defeating Argentina's Tomas Martin Etcheverry 7-5, 6-3, 6-4. Tsitsipas's consistent groundstrokes and tactical

variety secured his progression to the second round. The Greek, a former finalist in Paris, looked in control throughout and maintained a high first-serve percentage. The match offered a glimpse of the confidence Tsitsipas brings into this year's tournament, especially on his preferred surface. In the women's draw, Paula Badosa overcame a challenging start to defeat former world No. 1 Naomi Osaka 6-7(1), 6-1, 6-4. Badosa, returning from a persistent back injury that had disrupted her season, demonstrated resilience and mental fortitude. After a nervy first-set tie-break loss, she shifted gears in the second and third sets, striking clean winners and defending stoutly from the baseline. She credited her focus on mental preparation and the energy from the Court Simonne Mathieu crowd for the turnaround. Badosa now prepares to face the winner between Elena-Gabriela Ruse and McCartney Kessler in the second round.

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# Mahavitaran appeals to be alert to power systems during rains

## 24-hour control room operational in Kalyan Circle

(Standard Post Bureau)

Kalyan/Vasai/Palghar, May 26 : There is a possibility of electrical accidents due to storms and continuous rains or heavy rains, flood conditions, broken power lines due to falling trees and branches, short circuits in electrical equipment or systems, etc. Against this backdrop, citizens should be alert to public and domestic power systems and equipment. Also, keeping in mind the possibility of adverse conditions and danger arising at any moment due to floods or heavy rains, the power supply of Rohitras is being shut down as a precautionary measure. In such a situation, Mahavitaran has appealed to electricity consumers to cooperate. 24-hour control rooms have been operational in all the mandal offices under Kalyan Circle. Chief Engineer Chandramani Mishra has given instructions to be ready with equipment and manpower in case of emergency. Electrical accidents are possible due to broken power lines, power poles, feeder pillars on the side of the road, iron fences of power lines, fuse boxes, as well as damp electrical appliances in the house, switchboards of agricultural pumps, other damp objects, materials, etc. due to heavy rains, storms, etc. Since water is a conductor of electricity, it is necessary to protect electrical appliances from water during the monsoon. Due to heavy rains and strong winds, trees and branches fall on power lines. In this, power poles bend, power lines break or remain dangling. Since there is a possibility of electricity flowing in such power lines, one should be careful of it. Do not try to



touch or remove these power lines. If such a situation is found, one should immediately contact Mahavitaran."

During the monsoon, one should take care that the switchboard or various electrical appliances in the house do not come into contact with moisture. Ensure that the power supply in the house is properly earthed. Instead of copper, a special metal wire called aluminum alloy should be used as the fuse wire. Always

turn off all electrical appliances from the switchboard. Especially in rural areas, animals should not be tied to electric poles. Clothes should not be dried near electric poles or wires. The toll-free numbers of Mahavitaran's Central Customer Service Center 1800-212-3435 or 1800-233-3435 are available 24 hours a day for electricity consumers. Along with this, complaints are also accepted through the mobile app and website www.mahadiscom.in. To complain about power outage, a complaint will be registered by giving a missed call to 022-50897100 from the mobile number registered with Mahavitaran or by sending the message NOPOWER<space><Consumer Number> from the mobile number to Mahavitaran's mobile number 9930399303."

Apart from this, the control room numbers for Kalyan Mandal One and Two (Kalyan East and West, Dombivli, Ulhasnagar, Ambarnath, Badlapur, Shahapur, Titwala) in Kalyan Mandal are 8879626151, for Vasai Mandal (Vasai, Virar, Nalasopara, Achole, Wada) 7875760602, for Palghar Mandal (Boisar, Dahanu, Jawhar, Palghar, Mokhada, Safala, Talasari, Vikramgad) 9028154278, for customer complaints and alerts.

### Disruption in Badlapur, Ambarnath, Ulhasnagar due to Mahatranshan failure

A failure occurred in the ultra-high voltage power line from Padgha to Pal and Anandnagar to Palava of Mahatranshan at 6:30 am on Monday (May 26), disrupting the power supply of Mahavitaran customers in Ambarnath East, Badlapur East and Ulhasnagar 4 and 5 sub-divisions. After the failure in the Mahatranshan power lines was repaired, power supply to all the above areas was restored in phases at 8:15 am. This resulted in a power supply disruption in Pal and Palava areas for 18 minutes.

# Repair work of power distribution system in Palghar district on war footing

## Chief Engineer Chandramani Mishra himself on the field; power supply restored in most places

(Standard Post Bureau)

Kalyan/Palghar, May 26 : On Friday, unseasonal rains accompanied by stormy winds caused extensive damage to the power distribution system in Palghar district throughout the day. As a result, the employees of Mahavitaran worked day and night to restore the affected power supply and restored power supply in most places by Saturday afternoon. Chief Engineer of Kalyan Circle Chandramani Mishra was personally present and gave essential instructions regarding the repair work throughout the day on Saturday.

Eight poles on the 33 KV Vikramgad power line were damaged near Savade village due to Friday's stormy rains. Due to this, the 33/22 KV Vikramgad substation has been closed since Friday evening. The power supply of consumers at 11 and 22 kV Bhopodi,



Chillar, Wada, Hamrapur, Vasa substations originating from this substation was disrupted. Four poles fell near Manor village and one pole of the Jawhar to Mokhada power line fell. A total of 40 electricity poles of high and low voltage lines collapsed in this disaster. Along with this, power lines were affected due to uprooted trees and falling tree branches in various areas.

Chief Engineer Chandramani Mishra himself has been stationed in Palghar since Saturday morning.

Earlier, since Friday afternoon, he had been closely monitoring every aspect, advising to restore the affected power supply by carrying out repairs as soon as possible. Despite the adverse situation, the officers and employees of Mahavitaran along with the

employees of registered contractors have worked tirelessly and restored power supply in most places. All the poles of the power line leading to the 33/22 KV Vikramgad substation have been erected and power supply to Vikramgad is expected to be restored by Saturday evening. Mahavitaran has appealed for cooperation in view of the natural disaster situation.

# Army, Federalism, Democracy and People: Uniqueness of Manipur

(By Amar Yumnam)

Imphal, May 26: We all know what the army is. They wear uniforms and carry guns; some may not wear uniforms but perform things as they feel like in the company of their uniformed compatriots in places far-off—like Manipur - from the Cenfederating units, diverse by the demographic features of the composing population, and so on. Now, a word on federalism may be of interest. Without going longer time back, what Daniel Dujah Elajar introduced his book on Federalism (1987) would be of interest: "Human, and hence scholarly, concern with politics focuses on three general themes: the pursuit of political justice to achieve political order; the search for understanding of the empirical tre of the country. They are fundamentally meant to protect the country where they are recruited, trained, and ensured their livelihood. It is also their primary responsibility that they do not try to antagonise the people of their country and take the things to take on the people for granted as they feel like.

This issue is particularly paramount in a diverse country following democratic federalism - diverse in the geographic size of the country, diverse by distance from the capital of the country, diverse by geographic features of the reality of political power and its exercise; and the creation best component of this: "One of the major recurring principles of political import which informs and encompasses all three themes is federalism idea that defines political justice, shapes political behaviour, and directs humans toward an appropriately civic synthesis of the two.

Through its covenantal foundations, federalism is an idea whose importance is akin to natural law in defining justice and to natural rights in delineating the origins and proper constitution of political society. of an appropriate civic environment through civil society and the civil

### FS Misri to visit Washington tomorrow

New Delhi, May 26 (UNI) : Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will be on a three-day visit to Washington, from May 27, during which he will meet with senior officials of the US Administration.

The visit is a follow up to Prime Minister Modi's visit to the United States in February 2025, when both sides had launched the India-US COMPACT (Catalysing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) for the 21st Century, a statement said.

The visit comes as an all-party delegation from India briefed US officials on Operation Sindoar and on Pakistan's role in fomenting cross-border terrorism.

The visit also comes as India and the US are firming up a trade deal.



community capable of integrating the first two themes to produce a good political life. .... In that pursuit, political scientists have uncovered or identified certain architectonic principles, seminal ideas, and plain political truths that capture the reality of political life or some significant segment of it and relate that reality to larger principles of justice and political order and to practical yet normative civic purposes." Now the element of justice is a fundamental

Although those foundations have been somewhat eclipsed since the shift to organic and then positivistic theories of politics, which began in the mid-nineteenth century, federalism as a form of political organization has grown as a factor shaping political behaviour. Now, in the crisis of transition from the modern to the postmodern epochs, the federal idea is resurfacing as a significant political force just as it did in the transition from the late medieval to the modern epoch, which took place from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries."

While it was a subject analysed mainly by the political scientists, it has now joined the transformation of the Social Sciences towards an integrated one with varied perspectives merging. It is under this federalism that Manipur happens to have

a large population (comparatively speaking) following the religion of Hinduism. The major destinations for worship for the followers lie in West Bengal and central India. It has been a very common experience for the Hinduism-following elders in Manipur to go to these places in groups by hiring a bus on which one would generally find the name and banners indicating the origin of the team from Manipur.

While there could be stories of like the experience of pick-pockets, as is common as anywhere, there would be no story like the recent case of the Indian Army manifesting the power of capability by removing the banner on Manipur; the political economy of this power can only be defined in a very adverse way. Now, what is the recent case. The Shiroi Lily of the Ukhrul is an internationally known flower - the beauty and attractiveness of a flower can never be defined completely. Since it is the time of flowering, the population of the district naturally organised a festival on the flower such that people would have the opportunity to enjoy watching of the beauty of the flower in situ and in a systematic way. An interestingly rare thing happened to the bus carrying the journalists to the place of the festival.

Well, before reaching the place, the Indian Army

stopped the bus and saw to it that any Manipur written on the bus should be invisible. There is a concept in economics called "public good" under which anyone should be accessible to appreciate this, and none can be excluded. But in this recent case, while going to the Vrindavan for worshipping the Hindu deities with Manipur banner in the bus of travel was never a social and administrative challenge, in the present case the travel with the banner was completely restricted.

Second, the beautiful public good—the Shiroi Lily was converted into a private good by the imposition of the restrictions. The implications for public policy of the difference between the 'public good' and the 'private good' are not simple ones, which can never be settled by the army. The interesting part here is that all these were performed by none else but the Army.

This makes us recall what Ivo Duchacek had said more than half a century back that Federalism had become 'one of those good echo words that evoke a positive response but that may mean all things to all men, like democracy, socialism, progress, constitution, justice, or peace.'" But Duchacek was definitely not talking of the armed, but it is the Army which had made it look like to mean anything in Manipur case. The involvement of the Army in the manner happened, and the 'supposed' Democratic Federalism India follows and, in an event, acting against the agents of sharing information with the public that is most painful. In fact, this amounts to insulting nature and compromising the prestige of the precious Shiroi Lily. The evolution of governance as a modern approach from plain government and the usual social pluralism associated with it have been hurt hard by this plain act.

Besides insulting Manipur, this act has insulted humanity and humanism.

# Historic British-era DC Underslung Portal Dismantled, Marking Completion of 100-Year-Old Infrastructure Removal

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, May 26 : In a significant milestone towards modernising Mumbai's suburban railway infrastructure, Central Railway's Mumbai Division (TRD Department) has successfully dismantled the last remaining three-track British-type Direct Current (DC) underslung portal at Vidyavihar station on 24.05.2025. This 100-year-old portal has been replaced by a modern three-span overlap system, thereby enhancing the reliability and maintainability of the Overhead Equipment (OHE).

The British-type DC underslung portals were iconic symbols of early railway electrification in India, and their phased removal marks the end of an era and the beginning of a more robust and efficient railway network."

The project to remove these old portals began in 2012, and with this final dismantling, all 22 such portals along the CSMT-Kalyan suburban main line have now been successfully removed. This



achievement reflects Central Railway's commitment to safety, reliability, and modernization of railway infrastructure.

This work was completed with meticulous planning and dedicated efforts by the Mumbai Division's TRD team, ensuring minimal disruption to train operations.