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## ONE STEP TOWARDS TB TREATMENT CAN MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

The world Tuberculosis Day, celebrated on March 24, aims to raise public awareness about the global tuberculosis (TB) epidemic and efforts to eradicate the disease. In 2018, 10 million people became ill with tuberculosis (TB), and 1.5 million died from the disease, with low and middle-income countries accounting for the vast majority of cases. As a result, it is the leading cause of infectious disease death. World TB Day, along with World Health Day, World Chagas Disease Day, World Blood Donor Day, World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, World Immunization Week, World Malaria Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Hepatitis Day, World Patient Safety Day, and World AIDS Day, is one of the World Health Organization's (WHO) eleven official global public health campaigns.

Dr. Robert Koch stunned the scientific community in 1882 when he announced to a small group of scientists at the University of Berlin's Institute of Hygiene that he had discovered the TB bacillus, the cause of tuberculosis. Koch's colleague Paul Ehrlich stated that "During this memorable session, Koch made an announcement to the public that marked a watershed moment in the history of a virulent human infectious disease. Koch displayed many of his microscope slides and other evidence while explaining the aetiology of tuberculosis in simple terms." TB was raging across Europe and the Americas when Koch made his announcement in Berlin, killing one out of every seven people. Koch's discovery revolutionised tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment.

The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD) proposed that March 24 be designated as

World Tuberculosis Day on the one-hundredth anniversary of Robert Koch's presentation in 1982. This was part of a year-long centennial effort by the IUATLD and the World Health Organization (WHO) under the theme "Defeat TB: Now and Forever. More than a decade later, the World

years. WHO, KNCV, IUATLD, and other organisations collaborated in 1996 to organise a variety of World Tuberculosis Day activities. On World Tuberculosis Day 1997, WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima declared that "DOTS is the biggest health breakthrough of this decade,

now exist."

Nearly 200 organisations had taken part in World Tuberculosis Day public outreach activities by 1998. For the first time, WHO identified the top twenty-two countries with the highest TB burden during its World Tuberculosis Day news conference in London in 1998. The following year, over 60 key TB advocates from 18 countries attended a three-day WHO/KNCV planning meeting for World TB Day 1999.

President Bill Clinton of the United States observed World Tuberculosis Day 2000 by giving patients at the Mahavir Hospital in Hyderabad, India, the WHO-recommended Directly Observed Therapy, Short-Course (DOTS) treatment. Clinton asserts that "These are human tragedies, economic disasters, and global crises, not just personal crises. The spread of disease is the one global issue that no country is immune to." The National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health in Canada reported on World Tuberculosis Day 2014 that 64% of TB cases reported nationally were among foreign-born individuals and 23% among Aboriginal people, highlighting TB as a key area of concern in terms of health equity.

Today, the Stop TB Partnership, a network of TB-fighting organisations and countries (of which the IUATLD is a member, and WHO houses the Stop TB Partnership secretariat in Geneva), organises the Day to raise awareness of the disease's scope and methods for prevention and treatment.

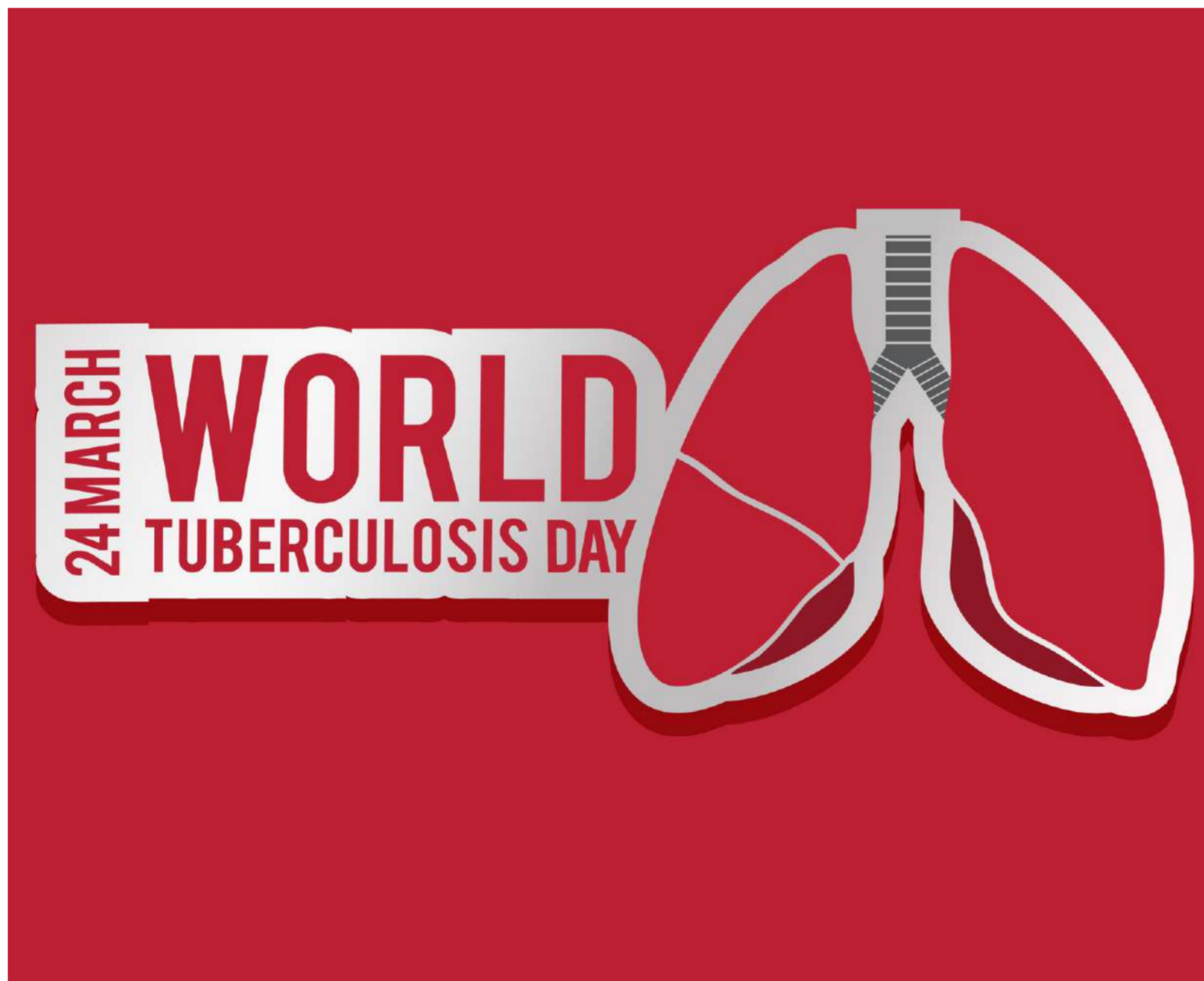
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Health Assembly and the United Nations officially recognised World Tuberculosis Day as an annual event.

In the fall of 1995, WHO and the Royal Netherlands Tuberculosis Foundation (KNCV) hosted the first World Tuberculosis Day advocacy planning meeting in The Hague, Netherlands; an event they would continue to co-sponsor in the following

in terms of lives we will be able to save."

WHO Global TB Programme Director Dr. Arata Kochi promised that "Today, the global tuberculosis epidemic is about to change due to a breakthrough. The advancement of health-care systems allows tuberculosis to be controlled not only in developed countries, but also in developing countries, where 95 percent of all TB cases



# SPARROWS RELY ON HUMANS TO SURVIVE

World Sparrow Day is observed every year on March 20th to raise awareness. On this day, we hope that individuals, government agencies, and scientific communities will come up with solutions to save them. This will also allow us to save biodiversity. It's critical to figure out why our oldest friends are on the verge of extinction. One of the most common birds on the planet is the sparrow, specifically the common house sparrow. It is one of humanity's most enduring companions. They progressed alongside us in time. Sparrows were once a common bird all over the world, but in recent years, many of their natural ranges, both urban and rural, have been on the verge of extinction. Their decline reflects the ongoing degradation of our surroundings. We all grew up hearing stories about sparrows, monkeys, foxes, kings and queens, and other animals from our grandparents and parents. Previously, the melodious chirping of sparrows woke us up, but these common house sparrows are now on the verge of extinction. It is said that sparrows are no longer alive. Large and massive towering buildings are disrupting natural flora and fauna, and this ubiquitous bird is no longer a common sight.

The Nature Forever Society of India (founded by Mohammed Dilawar) launched World Sparrow Day in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation of France and many other organisations around the world. Despite the name, Sparrow Day was created to raise awareness of Sparrows as well as the beauty and biodiversity of other common birds that share our space. Mohammed Dilawar, an ardent conservationist, launched a campaign in Nashik to provide specialised care for house Sparrows. The

idea to formalise the campaign arose during an informal discussion at the office of the Nature Forever Society. Following that, the first World Sparrow Day was observed worldwide in 2010. It provided a venue for



bird conservationists to network and share conservation ideas. Its goal is to serve as a point of contact for people from all over the world to come together and raise awareness about the importance of protecting common biodiversity or species with lower conservation status.

Sparrows, also known as house sparrows, have been observed chirping in urban areas, but they require cool shade and water during the hot summers. They have always been common in urban areas, but ornithologists believe they are on the verge of extinction due to noise pollution, a lack of nesting sites in modern buildings, pesticide use, and a lack of food. The house sparrow

was designated as the state bird of Delhi in 2012 as a result of increased awareness. More people are joining the campaign to save these birds as a way to give back to nature. Some have even gone so far as to

birds have the ability to swim quickly to avoid predators.

- Sparrows are prone to infidelity; a recent study found that only a small proportion of eggs contain DNA from both parents.
- Sparrows can survive in the wild for approximately 4-5 years.
- They are extremely social and prefer to live in close proximity to human settlements.
- Sparrows are carnivores by nature, but because they live so close to humans, they have begun to eat fruits, berries, seeds, and other plant materials.
- According to the Handbook of Texas Online, they can eat over 830 different foods.
- House sparrows cover themselves in dust and soil, as if taking a bath.
- Sparrows are non-migratory, but city-dwelling individuals migrate to the countryside in late summer to forage in ripening grain fields.

The primary goal of the day is to spread the conservation message of the house sparrow and other common birds, as well as to mark a day of celebration to appreciate the beauty of common biodiversity. On this day, a variety of activities are held, including art competitions, awareness campaigns, sparrow processions, and interactions with the media.

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construct bird nests for local sparrows and other common birds.

Here are some fascinating facts about house sparrows, which prefer to live near humans.

- Male and female house sparrows can be distinguished easily. Females have brown backs with stripes, while males have reddish backs with black bibs.
- Sparrows typically fly at 24 miles per hour, but they can accelerate to 31 miles per hour when necessary.
- When threatened, these small feathered

# THE UNSUNG SAGA - VEERAPANDIYA KATTABOMMAN

**V**eerpandiya Kattabomman was a brave warrior who fought against the British Empire in the 18th century. He was born in January 1760 in the Panchalankurichi village of the Theni district of Tamil Nadu. His birth name was Kattabomman Nayakkar, and he belonged to the Nayak dynasty. The Kattabomman ancestor migrated from Andhra Pradesh, they were great fighters and fought till their last breath belonging to the Thogalavar community. Kattabomman was known for his bravery from a young age, and his fighting skills and bravery brought him to settle in Salikulam he was designated as the chieftain after the demise of his father

The ruling king of that era was King Jagaveera Pandian of Veerapandiapuram. Kattabommu earned the king's trust through his sincere dedication and devotion and soon became the dependable guard. King Jagveera Panyian crowned Kattabomman as his heir to the throne as he lacked any heir to the throne. Kattabomman called himself Jagaveera Pandiya, On February 2, 1760, he began his reign and on behalf of the king ruled the state with great vim and passion. The Kattabomman were the 47th generation and effectively managed the state with great skill in terms of administration, justice, and welfare; he had cordial connections with neighboring states. It was during this time, the British were expanding their territories in India and started to demand taxes from the local rulers. Kattabomman refused to pay the taxes and fought against the British troops. They set up limitations on the construction of forts and the establishment of armed formations and declared that rulers were just ordinary contractors who may face disciplinary punishment like any other citizens if they refused to accept notice to abide by orders. Katabomman refused to accept the order claiming that it was a plot by the British to force Indians into slavery.

He built his army and started guerrilla warfare against the British soldiers. Kattaboman pledged and rejected and thereby gathered all his neighboring rulers to form a union to fight against the British attempt to rule on Southern territories. But this attempt was unsuccessful, as the British were effective in fomenting animosity among territorial authorities despite persistent pressure coming from British Kattabomman refused to capitulate and pay taxes. In 1768, Jackson was the collector of Tirunelveli when Kattabomman refused to pay taxes instead of repeated reminders, Jackson in meantime was fired due to clashes between the British and Kattabomman., Mr. Louis was

appointed collector in 1799. Kattabomman was invited to visit him but a firm Kattabomman refused and stayed rigid to his belief paying taxes to British was unjust.

The British invaded Panchalamkurichi on September 5, 1799, while an entire population was at Tiruchendur for a



festival celebration. Major Bannerman commanded the British army, but Kattabomman's well-informed forces learned about the plan of a surprise attack. Before this the British had sent a formal message to surrender but Kattaboman replied "We are the sons and daughters of this land, we live in a world of prestige, honor, and dignity and we sacrifice our souls for the sake of our country reputation, honor, and dignity, we don't prostrate ourselves in front of foreigners, we will fight till we are dead."

The war began, and there was an intense conflict between both ends leading to Kattabomman being critically injured on the last day of conflict and being taken back to the kingdom by King Pudukotta and his aides. When the British learned that Kattabomman was in Pudukotta's kingdom, the

British threatened King Vijaya Raghunatha to trace and hand over the chieftains or face grave consequences. The King buckled under pressure and sent his soldiers who were subsequently arrested on September 24, 1799, he was taken to Kayathar jail on October 16, 1799, in present-day Kayathar town of Tamil Nadu, following interrogation stretching over 15 days and a ridiculous trial, Kattabomman and was taken to a court-martial. He was charged with treason, and even though he pleaded not guilty. He was 39 years when was executed but he did not show a flinch in the face of death and continued on his principle of respect and dignity, and pride, He stood up for his motherland's rights and chastised the British for their immoral and illegal occupation. He became a symbol of rebellion for the people of Tamil Nadu.

His companion Sunramania Pillai was hanged and his head was displayed on a spike near Panchalankurichi. Soundaria Pandian, another associate, was brutally murdered by slamming his skull against a wall and his brother Oomathurai was imprisoned.

Kattabomman's legacy is remembered even today as a symbol of Tamil pride and resistance against foreign rule. His life and story have been immortalized in books, movies, and folk songs. His bravery and courage continue to inspire generations, and his courage in standing up for his idea of justice fighting the fight against the tyrant is something that is spoken about in the way he lived his life.

On October 16, 1999, the Indian postal service issued a postage stamp commemorating the bicentenary of Veerapandiya's execution which was released by the Indian government. In Tamil Nadu Kayattar village the government built a memorial of Kattabomman. There are statues of him all around Tamil Nadu. The INS Kattabomman is the Indian Navy communication center at Vijayanarayanam.

Veerpandiya Kattabomman was a warrior who fought against British rule and stood for justice and autonomy. His legacy continues to inspire people, and he remains an icon of Tamil pride and bravery.

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# INDIA'S FIRST TRIPLE AMPUTEE TO CLIMB MOUNT ELBRUS



Amputation presents a number of difficulties. Most amputees face not only the obvious loss of a limb or limbs, but also numerous emotional and psychological challenges. While many amputees suffer from anxiety, stress, or even depression, Hyderabad-based adventure sports junkie Shekar Goud did not let his dreams be derailed by the loss of limbs. Shekar Goud is from the state of Telangana and has overcome his disabilities. He is a living example of never giving up on life and living it to the fullest, regardless of what life throws at us.

Success is defined as falling but rising stronger each time. And Mr. Shekar Goud demonstrated that nothing can stop him from achieving his goals. Not only did he make his state proud, but he made all of us proud. Many people have been moved by Shekar Goud's "special ability." Rejected by companies for disability, Naidhroven built a 'Special Scooter' for disabled people.

Shekhar is the first triple amputee to reach the summit of Mount Elbrus. Trekking was always his passion, and he discovered that it provided him with excitement, happiness, and pleasure. He stated that after becoming an amputee, he began focusing more on trekking. It makes us so proud to know that he did not give up and faced challenges with a brave heart and a cheerful smile. It's common to believe that amputees should stay indoors. They can't do anything in life, but Shekar Goud's achievements changed everything. He believes that if we are confident, determined, and have a strong desire for something, we can achieve it. He stated in an interview that he has many plans for the future and is working hard to make his dreams come true. And everyone at Mad4India

wishes him all the best.

Shekar Goud became an amputee at the age of 18 after being electrocuted. It happened on December 24, 2006, when one of his friends played a practical joke on him. He was sitting on a wall, talking on the phone with a friend, when one of his friends came over and pushed him out. He grabbed a wire to avoid hitting his head on the ground, but he was electrocuted as a result. He was unconscious when he awoke and found himself in a hospital bed. He stayed in his village after the accident, but seeing all of his family members cry made him weak, sad, and angry. He then relocated to Hyderabad and began living independently. He completed his education until the tenth grade and now works for the Pranaam Hospital.

Shekar's right hand below the shoulder, right foot bottom and toes, and left leg below the knee have all been amputated. As I previously stated, he never gave up on his passions and dreams. By December 2016, he was ready to travel and cycled solo from Ladakh to Kanyakumari in 48 days. This success inspired him to try new things. He began swimming lessons, badminton, and marathon running. These are some of the things he enjoys doing.



Soon after he began trekking seriously and completed a few treks in India, he embarked on a long journey and completed his first international trek to Mount Everest's base camp. He found a boost of confidence after arriving there, which convinced him that nothing in life is impossible and that he could do it all despite his disability. Following this, he climbed Mount Elbrus in southern Russia, becoming India's first triple amputee to do so. While discussing his plans, he mentioned that his ultimate goal as a trekker is to reach the summit of Mount Everest. He wishes to travel to every corner of the globe and connect with people from all over the world.

He stated that his life had changed since becoming an amputee. He wants to start an NGO for people like him to give them hope. Every human being, regardless of what they lack, has the ability to live a beautiful life and should face challenges bravely rather than giving up.

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## BHU HAS ESTABLISHED AN INTERNATIONAL VISITING STUDENT PROGRAM FOR PHD STUDENTS



The 'International Visiting Student Program' at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) was launched today. Under this scheme, university research scholars will be able to conduct their research in prestigious global institutions outside of India for a semester. According to the plan, selected research scholars will spend one semester (nearly six months) at one of the world's top 500 institutions (as THE or QS rankings).

The scheme aims to promote networking, collaborative research, and institutional ties while also developing experimental, theoretical, and professional skills. Researchers who have completed their course work with a CGPA of 8.0 or higher and have published at least two papers in their discipline in a journal of international renown will be eligible for the programme. The host institution will need to grant permission for the research scholar to continue their research.

In addition, the research scholars will receive a consolidated fellowship of \$1800 per month for their semester abroad. They will also receive economy class return air travel, a visa, and health insurance (if required). The scholar will also receive a travel allowance of around \$600 within the host country to attend conferences or visit other institutions of interest under this scheme. According to BHU VC professor Sudhir Kumar Jain, this initiative will allow outstanding BHU PhD students to work in leading research universities or laboratories around the world, giving them the opportunity to compete internationally. The programme was designed in accordance with the 2020 National Education Policy.

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## OVER 6000 FACULTY POSITIONS ARE OPEN AT CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES, 4500 AT IITS, AND 496 AT IIMS



At the country's central universities, 6028 faculty positions are currently unfilled. Furthermore, 4526 faculty positions at IITs and 496 positions at IIMs remain unfilled, as the Minister of Education informed Parliament on Wednesday.

"The Ministry of Education has directed all central higher educational institutions to fill vacancies in Mission Mode, and over 6000 posts of faculty/non-faculty have been filled so

far," the minister said. Furthermore, 7 IITs, 22 NITs, and 20 IIITs currently have a vacancy on their Board of Governors (BoGs). The charge of the position of Chairperson, BoGs in these 7 IITs, however, is assigned to the Chairperson, BoGs of other IITs with the approval of the Institute's Visitor.

The Director of the NIT concerned discharges the functions assigned to the Chairperson, BoGs of the Institute until a new Chairperson, BoGs is nominated, whereas the charge at IIITs is either given to the Chairperson, BoGs of other Centrally Funded Technical Institutions or by extending the tenure of the existing incumbent or by assigning the charge to the senior echelons of the central or state government, the Parliament was informed.

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## ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT, THERE ARE 84,866 VACANCIES IN THE CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES



Rajya Sabha was informed that there were 84,866 open positions in six Central Armed Police Forces, including the CRPF and BSF, out of a total sanctioned strength of 10,05,520. The Union's State Minister for Home, Nityanand Rai, reported that 31,785 new CAPF members had been hired in

the previous five months. He claims that CAPF positions become vacant due to retirements, resignations, promotions, deaths, the formation of new battalions, the creation of new positions, and so on.

In response to a written query, he stated that there were 29,283 vacancies in the CRPF as of January 1, 2023, 19,987 in the BSF, 19,475 in the CISF, 8,273 in the SSB, 4,142 in the ITBP, and 3,706 in the Assam Rifles. According to Rai, as of January 1, 2023, the Central Armed Police Forces have 247 open positions for doctors and 2,354 open positions for nurses and other medical professionals.

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## HALF-DAY CLASSES BEGIN TODAY IN TELANGANA SCHOOLS AS TEMPERATURES RISE

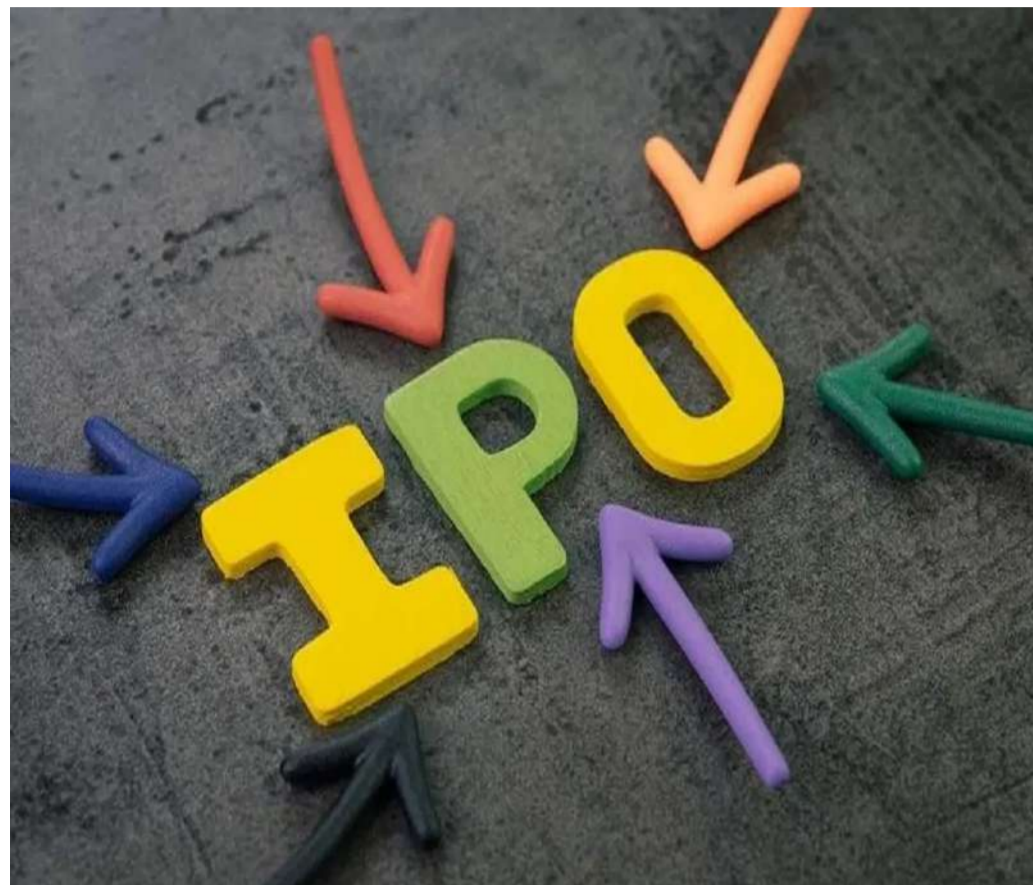


In response to rising temperatures in the state, the Telangana government has announced that half-day classes will be implemented across the state beginning Wednesday. "All Regional Joint Directors of School Education and District Educational Officers in the state are hereby informed that the half days will begin on March 15 and will end on April 24, 2023," the Director of School Education said in an official notification.

According to the official notification, primary, upper primary, and high schools under government, government-aided, and private management will operate as half-day schools from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Midday meals will be served at 12:30 PM. The special classes for preparing Class X students for the SSC Public Examination, on the other hand, will continue. Schools with SSC Examination Centres will be open from 1.00 PM to 5.00 PM. As the state's temperatures rose in 2022, the Telangana government announced the start of half-day schools from March 15th until the last working day of the academic year 2021-22.

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## GOVT PARTIALLY SELLS IREDA STAKE VIA IPO: CABINET APPROVES STOCK EXCHANGE LISTING



IREDA, a wholly-owned Government of India Mini-ratna (Category-I) CPSE incorporated in 1987, finances renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) projects in India. It is registered as a Non-banking Financial Company (NBFC) with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The government has pledged to achieve 175 GW of installed RE capacity by 2022 and 500 GW by 2030 as part of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in the Paris Accord on Climate Change. IREDA has a crucial role to play in achieving these RE targets.

Climat Change. IREDA has a crucial role to play in achieving these RE targets.

The IPO will not only benefit IREDA but also the Indian renewable energy sector as a whole. By providing a platform for a government-owned company to raise funds and improve its governance, the IPO can potentially attract more investments to the sector. Moreover, the public listing of IREDA can raise awareness and interest in renewable energy among the public, which can boost demand for clean energy and stimulate the growth of the sector.

In conclusion, the approval of IREDA's IPO by the CCEA marks a significant step towards achieving the government's RE targets and unlocking the value of the government's investment in the company. It can also benefit the Indian renewable energy sector by attracting more investments and raising awareness and interest in clean energy among the public.

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The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the listing of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) on the stock exchanges via an Initial Public Offering (IPO). The IPO will involve the part-sale of the government's stake in the company and the issuance of fresh equity shares to raise funds for IREDA. The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) will oversee the listing process.

This decision supersedes a previous CCEA decision made in June 2017, which allowed IREDA to issue 13.90 crore fresh equity shares of Rs 10 each to the public on a book-building basis through IPO. The change in capital structure due to a government infusion of Rs 1,500 crore in March 2022 necessitated the new decision.

The IPO is expected to unlock the value of the government's investment and offer the public an opportunity to acquire a stake in a national asset and reap its benefits. It will also allow IREDA to raise capital and meet its growth plans without relying on the public exchequer. The listing requirements and disclosures will also enhance governance through greater market discipline and transparency.

## SIGNATURE BANK COLLAPSE: THE THIRD LARGEST BANK FAILURE IN THE HISTORY OF US BANKING

The United States witnessed the collapse of the Signature Bank making it the third largest Bank failure in the History of US banking. After the failure of Silicon Valley Bank one more bank has been shut down by the regulators in this week. Signature Bank is a New York based bank which is a prominent lender to the law firms and the corporate firms but its main activities were related to cryptocurrency the second largest bank after Silvergate to provide service in crypto which also announced its impounding liquidation this week. Signature Bank had a total asset of \$110.4 billion and a total deposit of 82.6 billion in the last week of December 2022.



The main reason for the collapse of Signature Bank is linked to Silicon Valley Bank, a word about Silicon Valley Bank trouble started to spread last week and the depositors of Signature Bank started calling the lenders to know whether their money was safe or not. As many of the depositors had more than \$2,50,000 dollars in their accounts like the customers of Silicon Valley Bank a panic was created among the depositors which made them withdraw their cash and causing a burden on the lenders.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has been appointed as the receiver which will liquidate the Banks assets to pay back its customers including the depositors and others. The regulators decision to shut the Bank surprised the managers who got to know about the decision shortly before the public announcement. The lenders had expected to be able to weather the storm because the outflow had slowed and though the bank faced a torrent of deposit on Friday but the situation had stabilized on Sunday. To protect the depositors FDIC transferred all the deposits and substantially all the assets of the bank to Signature Bridge Bank, a Bridge Bank is typically a Chartered National Bank that operates under a board appointed by the FDIC. Since Friday, there have been calls from the tech and finance sector for a bailout but the finance minister Yellen said that, after the 2008 financial crisis government was not considering this option for the Banks.

Signature Bank was one of the few Financial Institutions that had opened its door to taking deposits of crypto assets which it entered in 2018. After the collapse of crypto exchange and an ensuing criminal investigation the downfall of crypto began which led two major banks to be defunct. Signature Bank's digital asset related client deposit stood at \$16.52 billion. Since the collapse of FTX signature Bank was under the spotlight however it had said FTX deposits represented less than 0.1% of its overall deposits. Due to the ongoing Bank Crisis the dollar Index which measures U.S currency against other six major currencies has fallen as much as 0.55% to near one month low which was 106.5 last month and is expected to fall ahead. FDIC said that the major reason behind closing this bank on Sunday was to not let the stock rate to fall much lower.

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## BY 2030, INDIAN RAILWAYS WILL BE CARBON NEUTRAL

Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw stated in a written reply to the Lok Sabha that Indian Railways has set a target of becoming a "net-zero carbon emitter" by 2030. The Railways intends to achieve this lofty goal in two stages: a complete transition to electric trains by December 2023, and a switch to non-renewable energy sources for trains and stations by 2030. The total energy requirement of the railways is expected to rise to 8,200 MW, or 8.2 GW, by 2030. According to the official, a small portion of the projected energy requirement — 700 MW, or 8.5% of total energy demand — will continue to be sourced from non-renewable sources due to current power purchase agreements with coal plants. The majority — 91.5 percent — will be met by renewable sources. Because solar and wind energy are not available around the clock and generation varies by region, the Railways will need to build a renewable energy installed capacity of 30,000 MW. The Indian Railways had only 245 MW of installed renewable energy capacity as of August 2022. Beginning in 2014, the Railways accelerated the phase-out of diesel coaches and the electrification of broad gauge railway tracks. It intends to completely electrify its rail network by December 2023. The Railways' annual diesel consumption has decreased from 3,066 million litres in 2018-19 to 1,092 million litres in 2020-21 (till January 2021). Apart from being environmentally friendly, the phaseout of diesel coaches makes economic sense because the country imports the majority of its fuel.



## HDFC BANK AND FLIPKART WHOLESALE JOINTLY LAUNCH A CO-BRANDED CARD FOR THE LATTER'S MEMBERS

On Wednesday, HDFC Bank and Flipkart Wholesale, the Flipkart Group's omnichannel B2B platform, launched a co-branded credit card exclusively for Flipkart Wholesale members. The credit card will provide users with 5% cashback on Flipkart Wholesale online purchases. The introduction of co-branded credit cards will improve access to credit and accelerate the adoption of digital payments in India, while also providing numerous benefits to smaller merchants. Members can apply for the card at Flipkart Wholesale stores or through the Best Price Flipkart Wholesale app. To process applications and provide related customer services, HDFC Bank will set up dedicated booths inside Flipkart Wholesale stores. "At Flipkart Wholesale, we are committed to transforming the Kirana retail ecosystem by leveraging the power of technology and innovation," said Koteswar L N, Business Head. As part of this vision, we focus on providing small retailers with simple and appropriate credit options to help them overcome financial challenges." He went on to say that the introduction of these credit cards will help smaller retailers better manage their cash flows while ensuring that the benefits of digitisation permeate the entire B2B ecosystem. "SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) are the backbone of the Indian economy," said Parag Rao, Country Head, Payments and Consumer Finance Technology and Digital Banking, HDFC Bank. "It is the bank's endeavour to provide customised solutions for this vital segment." "We hope to support even more Kirana stores and small merchants with this partnership with Flipkart Wholesale, and help them optimise their transactions, streamline operations, and deliver a rewarding experience," he added.



## THE BIS HAS LAUNCHED AN INITIATIVE FOR STUDENTS CALLED 'LEARNING SCIENCE THROUGH STANDARDS'

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), India's national standards body, has launched a 'Learning Science Through Standards' series for students. The initiative focuses on a series of lesson plans designed to help students understand the practical applications of scientific concepts, principles, and laws in the manufacturing, functioning, and testing of quality characteristics of various products as stated in relevant Indian Standards. According to BIS, the subjects for the lesson plans are largely related to products used in daily life and were chosen based on their relevance to education as part of the course curriculum as well as to industrial applications. BIS officials and resource personnel will deliver lesson plans to students in an interactive learning environment. These lesson plans will be available on the BIS website as well. "The lesson plans would also serve as a means for students in schools and colleges to appreciate the significance of quality and standards and empower them to face real-life situations with confidence in any of their future endeavours," the standards authority said. The 'Science through Standards' learning series is a continuation of an earlier BIS initiative in which 'Standards Clubs' are being established in educational institutions across India. Over 4,200 such Clubs have already been established, with over 100,000 student members. More than 3400 science teachers have been trained to act as Mentors to kick-start the activities under these Clubs, according to the statement. 'Standards Clubs' organise student-centered activities such as debates, quizzes, and competitions, including standards-writing contests. Students are also taken on field trips to industries and laboratories to observe various manufacturing and testing processes, as well as BIS offices that have been converted into learning spaces. BIS provides financial assistance to these Clubs for up to three activities per year. Pramod Kumar Tiwari, director general of BIS, commented on this initiative "The 'Learning Science Through Standards' initiative is a step towards closing the gap between science education theory and real-world application. It will allow students to connect scientific concepts to real-world applications while also promoting a quality and standardisation culture in the country." This initiative is expected to benefit a diverse group of students, including those enrolled in schools, colleges, and technical schools. It will also help to build their capacity to participate successfully in a variety of economic sectors in the country.

## 36 ONEWEB SATELLITES WILL BE LAUNCHED BY ISRO ON MARCH 26

This month, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) plans to launch 36 low-Earth orbit satellites for the UK-based OneWeb. This will complete the first-generation constellation for the ambitious project aimed at providing global internet access via space. "Exciting news from India as we confirm the encapsulation of our 36 satellites ahead of OneWebLaunch18; our final launch that will complete our Gen 1 constellation," OneWeb tweeted. OneWeb's Chief Technology Officer, Massimiliano Ladovaz, tweeted that the launch date is set for March 26th. OneWeb is a private satellite communications company that is backed by India's Bharti Enterprises. This launch is part of their mission to provide everyone with affordable high-speed internet access, particularly in remote and rural areas. On February 16, the 36 OneWeb satellites arrived in India from the satellite manufacturing unit in Florida for integration with the Launch Vehicle Mark III. ISRO marked a significant milestone in October of last year by successfully launching the first set of 36 OneWeb satellites from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III) made its debut into the global commercial launch service market with this launch.

## AUSTRALIA SUFFERS A BATTING COLLAPSE IN THE FIRST ODI LOSS TO INDIA, WHICH TAKES PLACE IN MUMBAI



Australia experienced a collapse of 8-59 on Friday and was eventually bowled out for a pitiful 188 in 35.4 overs. Mitch Marsh led the way with 81 off 65 balls, but the rest of the batting order was ineffective. Following the destruction of the top and middle order by Starc (3-49) and Marcus Stoinis (2-27), India was in serious trouble at 4-39 and 5-83 in response. But KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja's 108-run partnership (75 not out off 91 balls; 45 not out off 69 balls) helped India win with 61 balls remaining.

India now leads the three-match series 1-0, with game two scheduled for Sunday in Visakhapatnam. Rohit Sharma, the team's regular captain, will also take the helm once more after missing the opening match in Mumbai. Hardik Pandya led the team in the first ODI in Rohit's absence, leading them to a five-wicket victory in a low-scoring contest at the Wankhede Stadium. With pacers Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj thriving on the pace-friendly Wankhede pitch, India's bowling did a fantastic job in Mumbai. Kuldeep Yadav, a wrist spinner, was unable to leave a lasting impression. The team management is not anticipated to alter the bowling lineup, though, as Pandya has excelled in Mumbai's third seamer role. Since there will likely be a few scattered thunderstorms during the first half of the second ODI, pacers from either team may be able to swing the ball if it is windy.

## IGA SWIATEK BOOKS SEMIFINAL AT INDIAN WELLS AGAINST ELENA RYBAKINA



Iga Swiatek, the world's top seed, defeated Sorana Cirstea 6-2, 6-3 on Thursday to set up a semi-final showdown with Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina at Indian Wells. Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic, who was ranked 76th, was defeated by Rybakina 7-6 (7/4), 2-6, and 6-4. Before falling to Aryna Sabalenka in the year's first Grand Slam final, Rybakina shocked Swiatek in the fourth round of the Australian Open. In the combined WTA and ATP Masters 1000 event in the California desert, Swiatek, who is in her 50th week at number

one, is attempting to become just the second woman, after Martina Navratilova in 1990-1991 to win back-to-back titles. She has defeated former US Open champions Emma Raducanu and Bianca Andreescu in the past week without dropping a set. The 83rd-ranked Romanian Cirstea did everything in her power to keep up with Swiatek in the opening stages after defeating Caroline Garcia, who was ranked fifth, in the previous round. She saved a break point and recovered an early break to tie the opening set at 2-2. However, Swiatek won the following eight games to seize control of the match after adjusting to the warm daytime conditions following two straight night matches. She lost two points by making two backhand errors in the penultimate game while Muchova kept serving. However, Swiatek won the following eight games to seize control of the match after adjusting to the warm daytime conditions following two straight night matches. Swiatek quickly built a 4-0 lead in the second with two breaks, and Cirstea battled back to hold for 4-2 before Swiatek sealed the victory. She will face Kazakhstan's Rybakina, who gave the frequently injured Muchova all she could handle, in her toughest test of the week.

## TREESA JOLLY AND GAYATRI GOPICHAND REACH THE SEMIFINALS OF ALL ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, a prominent Indian duo, continued their unbeaten streak on Friday at the All England Championships in Birmingham by putting on yet another outstanding performance to advance to their second straight semifinals. The World No. 17 pair, the only Indians in the match, defeated the newly formed Chinese pair of Li Wen Mei and Liu Xuan Xuan in a 64-minute quarterfinal match by scores of 21-14, 18-21, and 21-12. Treesa and Gayatri, who throughout the match displayed strong defensive play and relentless attack, had previously advanced to the semifinals in the previous edition after receiving a last-minute spot in the main draw. However, this time they came into the draw with some experience, having won the bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games the year before and victories over pairs that were ranked higher, including Tan Pearly and Thinnah Muralitharan, who were ranked No. 7 in the world, at the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship in February. In the preliminary rounds, the Indian team stunned the seventh-seeded Thai team of Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Ravindra Prajongjai as well as the former world-number-one Japanese team of Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota. Gayatri, 20, and Treesa, 19, competed against Li, a former World No. 9 and Liu, a former World No. 16, in the quarterfinals. When facing the world number 52 pair, Gayatri maintained her composure at the net while Treesa produced delectable smashes and drops from the back to control the rallies.



## INDIA DEFEATED AUSTRALIA 2-2 TO WIN THE FIH HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE AND REMAIN UNBEATEN (4-3 SO)

In the final home game of the FIH Hockey Pro League at the largest-seated Birs Munda Hockey Stadium in the world, Rourkela, Odisha, the Indian Men's Hockey Team maintained its perfect record against Australia after a hat-trick of victories. Both Vivek Sagar Prasad and Sukhjeet Singh scored during regulation time, but the home team won the game 2-2 (4-3 SO) in the shootout thanks to goals from Harmanpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, and Dilpreet Singh. India got off to a rousing start, earning a well-worked PC in the 2nd minute of the match of the tournament, thanks to a sensational 6-3 victory over the defending world champions Germany. Australia's Johan Durst blocked captain Harmanpreet Singh's powerful drag flick. Vivek Sagar Prasad, who was playing his 100th game for India that day, picked up the rebound brilliantly and outmuscled Australian defender Jake Harvie to take a successful shot on goal from the top of the circle. India built a few more PCs in the first quarter to put Australia on the back foot but was unable to capitalize on the chance. The visitors made some excellent moves inside the circle despite India's quality attack piling pressure on them. The tactically sound Indian defence remained vigilant, and young Pawan did a good job guarding the post. Earlier in their campaign, India had defeated the defending World Champions Germany in straight sets, 3-2 and 6-3, as well as World No. 4 Australia, 5-4. (5-4). In the home matches played in October and November of last year, they defeated Spain 2-2 (3-1 SO) and lost to New Zealand 4-3 and 7-4 to start the illustrious league season. The FIH Hockey Pro League matches will then resume for India in May 2023 when they travel to Europe to face Belgium, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Argentina.





## EXPERT



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### FAQs ON

### Learning and Development through Ancient Indian Wisdom

#### Q1. What is Yoga Siddhi?

**Ans.** Classic yoga texts, such as Patanjali's Yoga Sutras, written about 2000 years ago, educates that if you sit silently, pay close attention to your mind, and practice yoga meticulously, then you will gain supreme powers. These super capacities, known as siddhis, are not observed as magical in ancient days as they are ordinary capacities that everyone owns. But as we have completely lost to recognize it, we need to get inward, with the yoga practice can realize the power within us. I will explain the Siddhis we can achieve by meditation with the help of ancient Indian wisdom:

#### I. Nine Yoga Siddhis:

The are Nine Principal Yoga Siddhis:

1) **Parakaya Pravesha:** The ability to take on another being's body and revive even a dead body. To win debate with Mandan Mishra and his wife Adi Shankaracharya performed

parakaya pravesha to learn about kama shastra.

2) **"Haadi Vidya":** The ability to endure hunger and thirst. Ancient day Rishis were able to survive due to this siddhi.

3) **"Kaadi Vidya":** The ability to withstand all seasons, including summer, winter, and rain, as well as the power of immunity from the harshness of heat, cold, and rain. We often argue that how in the extreme cold or heat our ancestors used to do Tapas, I hope you got it, it was due to their practice of kaadi vidya.

4) **Prakya Sadhana:** Ability to direct a soul or spirit to take birth. Many Rishi's were having this siddhi could instruct their pupil to have a kid or to direct where to take birth.

5) **"Vayu Gamana Siddhi":** The power to fly quickly and far. Many characters in pauranic stories we heard used to have this siddhi.

6) **"Madalasa Vidya":** The skill of changing one's bodily size to suit one's desires.

7) **"Kanakadhara Siddhi":** The ability to amass boundless wealth. You must have heard Adishankaracharya chanted 'kankadhara strotram' in front of a poor womens hut who could offer only a singly Gooseberry to him when he approached her for biksha. Looking at her empathy and goodness, shankaracharya chanted kanakadhara strotra and there was a shower of golden gooseberries says the story.

8) **"Surya Vigyan":** The capability of using sunlight to change any substance into another substance.

9) **Mrit Sanjivani Vidya:** Adi Shankaracharya was the creator of this Vidya. Even the dead can be brought back to life using it. Only a few people nowadays actually know how to use this Technique.

#### II. Pancha Mahasiddhi as per Bhagavata Purana:

In the Bhagavata Purana, the five siddhis brought on by yoga and meditation are:

1) **Trikalajnatvam:** Knowing the past, present and future

2) **Advandvam:** Tolerance of heat, cold and other dualities

3) **Aara Chitta Adi Abhijnata:** Knowing the minds of others, etc.

4) **Agni Arka Ambu Visha Adinam Pratiṣṭambhaḥ:** Checking the influence of fire, sun, water, poison, etc.

5) **Aparajayah:** Remaining unconquered by others

#### III. Dasa Siddhi as per Bhagavata Purana:

The Vaishnava theology lists the following ten secondary siddhis:

1) **Anurmimattvam:** Without being bothered by body appetites such as hunger and thirst

2) **Durasravana:** Hearing distant sounds

3) **Duradarsanam:** The ability to see distant objects

4) **Manojavah:** The ability to teleport or project one's body elsewhere

5) **Kamarupam:** Assuming the required shape

6) **Parakaya Pravesanam:** Accessing another person's body

7) **Svachanda Mtyuh:** Dying whenever one wants

8) **Devanam Saha Kria Anudarsanam:** Observing and taking part in the gods' pastimes

9) **Yatha Sakalpa Samsiddhi:** Complete realisation of one's resolve

10) **Ajnapratihata Gati:** Following orders or directives without resistance

It is said that siddhi powers can be attained by meditation, mind control, devotion, herbs, mantras, pranayama, or a blessed, healthy birth. The Vibhuti Pada, or third chapter, of Patanjali's Yoga Sutras provides detailed instructions for acquiring various Siddhis. Rightly targeted Samyama is used to control intricate Siddhis. Meditation entails entering that peaceful, deep region in your soul, which is frequently regarded as the finest way to achieve siddhis. Stay blessed!

Mail your questions on  
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or

DM your questions on our instagram handle  
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**Please note:** Only selected questions will be answered in the next issue of The HULAHUL Times.

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# QUIZ TIME

1. What is the name of the world's first-ever radio platform powered by artificial intelligence?
2. Which country holds the Presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in 2023?
3. Which state/UT released the 'Master Plan for 2041' to guide the development of city in various areas?
4. Madhav National Park, which was seen in the news, is in which state/UT?
5. Which Union Ministry is set to host the 'World Food India-2023' event?
6. Which country launched the Earth observation satellite 'Gaofen-3 03'?
7. Which country's medical team reconstructed a 3D ear made of living cells?
8. Which Indian chess player won the 'La Roda International Open Chess tournament'?
9. Which state is the champion of the 12th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2022?
10. When is the 'World Poetry Day' observed every year?

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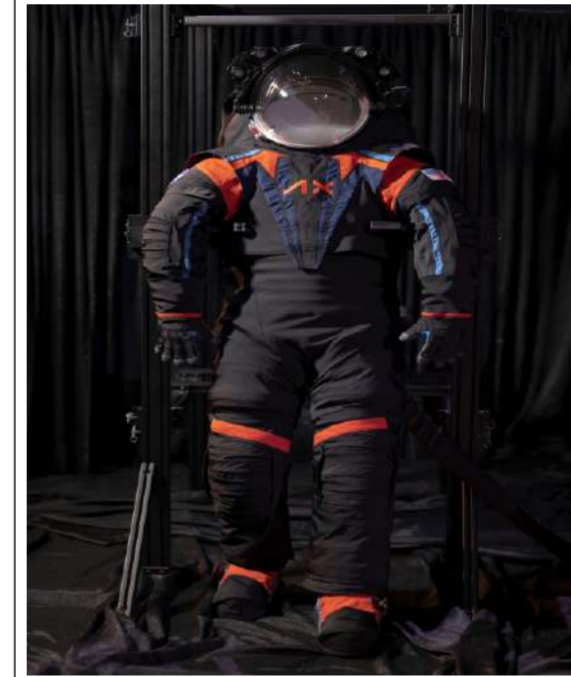
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## DID YOU KNOW?

### NASA PRESENTS THE SPACESUIT FOR THE ARTEMIS LUNAR MISSIONS



**N**ASA has unveiled the first spacesuits that astronauts will wear on their journey to the Moon. A prototype of the spacesuit was unveiled on Wednesday at Space Center Houston's Moon 2 Mars Festival, with NASA

receiving a full fleet of training spacesuits later this year. The new suit, known as the Axiom Extravehicular Mobility Unit (AxEMU), was designed and built by Axiom Space, a space services company, as part of a deal with NASA. NASA awarded Axiom a \$228.5 million task order as part of a \$1.26 billion contract in 2022 to build the agency's next-generation spacesuits for the Artemis lunar missions. Axiom's next generation spacesuits, which are based on NASA's years of research and expertise, will not only allow the first woman to walk on the Moon, but will also allow more people to explore and conduct science on the Moon than ever before," he added. NASA's Exploration Extravehicular Mobility Unit (xEMU) spacesuit design served as the foundation for the new Axiom spacesuits. They are designed to provide increased flexibility, increased protection against harsh environmental conditions, and specialised tools to meet exploration needs and expand scientific opportunities. To reflect heat and protect astronauts from extreme high temperatures, a spacesuit worn on the Moon must be white.

\*\*\*\*

10. March 21

9. Odisha

8. D Gukesh

7. USA

6. China

5. Ministry of Food Processing Industries

4. Madhya Pradesh

3. New Delhi

2. India

1. RadioGPT

**ANSWERS**

