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## EAR AND HEARING AID FOR ALL!

**W**orld Hearing Day is a global healthcare event held annually on March 3rd from its headquarters in Geneva, with the goal of bringing together patients suffering from hearing loss and promoting ear and hearing care by creating a community in which the epidemiological profile, condition, diagnosis, and treatment are discussed. Over 5% of the world's population (approximately 43 crores) requires rehabilitation to treat 'disabling' hearing loss. Over 70 crore people, or roughly one out of every ten people, are expected to suffer from debilitating hearing loss by 2050, according to estimates. Disabling hearing loss is defined as hearing loss greater than 35 decibels (dB) in the better-hearing ear. Nearly 80% of people with hearing loss live in low- and middle-income countries.

The 2023 World Hearing Day will have the following theme: "Ear and Hearing Care for All! Let's Make It a Reality", an appeal to all parties with influence—patients, governments, world leaders, and interested parties—to work together to spread knowledge about the difficulties faced by people with hearing loss. It also encourages collaboration among various medical societies working to advance scientific research on debilitating hearing loss and the coordinated implementation of various policies aimed at reducing noise pollution.

The World Health Organization's Office for the Prevention of Blindness and Deafness has sponsored World Hearing Day on March 3rd since 2007.

The objectives of World Hearing Day are to promote better hearing care and to disseminate information about preventing

hearing loss.

The previous World Hearing Day themes have included:

- 2022 - "To hear for life, listen with care."
- 2021 - "Hearing Care for All."
- 2020 - "Hearing for Life. Don't let hearing loss limit you."
- 2019 - "Check your hearing."
- 2018 - "Hear the future."

- Vaccination
- Excellent parenting and child-rearing techniques
- Genetic consultation
- Common ear disorders diagnosed and treated

Occupational hearing conservation programmes for noise and chemical exposure

per year.

Hearing loss is expected to become more common in the coming decades as a result of changing demographics, increased exposure to risk factors such as recreational noise, and the persistence of untreated ear disorders such as otitis media (middle ear infection).

It is important to understand that many causes of hearing loss can be avoided with proper care. Hearing loss sufferers benefit greatly from timely and appropriate interventions. If appropriate public health measures are implemented, at least 60% of childhood hearing loss can be avoided.

The oncoming wave of disabling hearing loss can only be met with awareness. Understanding can aid in the early detection of hearing loss, and it is more likely to be successful if the drive is brought to the patient. With increased awareness, policies and decisions can be influenced, such as:

- Guidance and assistance on effective health care intended for hearing loss.
- Ear and hearing care facilitation and data generation.
- Methodological advice and technical resources for hearing care.
- Certification in ear and hearing care for health workforce training, etc.

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March 3 is World  
Hearing Day

Check Your Hearing!



The World Health Assembly adopted a decision on deafness prevention in 2017, emphasising hearing care and hearing loss as public health concerns. This resolution urges the World Health Organization and its member states to advocate annually via World Hearing Day on the 3rd of March.

Many causes of hearing loss can be avoided by implementing public health and therapeutic interventions such as:

While more than 150 million people worldwide have hearing loss, nearly 43 million have disabling hearing loss. The following are some alarming facts about debilitating hearing loss:

The majority of them live in low- and middle-income countries with limited access to needed services and interventions.

Hearing loss is the leading cause of morbidity and costs the world 98,000 crores



# EQUALITY FOR PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM A RARE DISEASE



The World Health Organization defines rare disease as a debilitating lifelong disease or disorder with a prevalence of 1 or less per 1000 population. A rare or orphan disease is defined strictly by its prevalence in the United States, specifically "any disease or condition that affects less than 200,000 persons in

the United States," or about 1 in 1,500 people. Diseases affecting fewer than one in 2,000 people are considered rare by the European Union (EU). In Japan, a rare disease is defined as one that affects no more than one in every 2500 people. Given India's population, the suggested threshold for defining a disease as rare is one in 10,000. It is estimated that there are 6000 to 8000 rare diseases worldwide, with new rare diseases being reported in the medical literature on a regular basis. However, approximately 350 rare diseases affect 80% of all rare disease patients. Rare diseases include, among other things, rare cancers, autoimmune diseases, congenital malformations, and infectious diseases. The majority of rare diseases affect children, with the remainder manifesting in adults. Hemangiomas, Hirschsprung disease, Gaucher's disease, Cystic Fibrosis, muscular dystrophies, and Pompe disease are examples of rare diseases.

The Organization for Rare Diseases India (ORDI) is a non-profit organisation in India that aims to provide a unified voice for all Indian patients suffering from rare diseases. Given India's massive population, an illness is considered rare if it affects one in every 5,000 Indians or less. In India, ORDI has identified 263 rare diseases. The first ten are as follows:

- Acanthocytosis Chorea - A neurological disorder affecting movement in many parts of the body.
- Achalasia Cardia - A rare disorder in which food and liquid cannot pass

through the swallowing tube that connects your mouth and stomach (oesophagus).

- Acromesomelic Dysplasia - A skeletal disorder that causes short stature, also known as short-limb dwarfism.
- Acute Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (AIDP) - A general classification of nervous system pathologies.
- Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia - A type of blood cancer that primarily affects white blood cells.
- Addison's Disease (adrenal insufficiency) - The adrenal glands do not produce enough cortisol and aldosterone hormones.
- Adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD) - A genetic condition that causes damage to the myelin sheath (membrane) that surrounds nerve cells in the spinal cord and brain.
- Acute inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy - A century-old autoimmune disease of the peripheral nervous system.
- Alagille syndrome - An inherited condition in which bile accumulates in the liver.
- Alkaptonuria (black urine disease) - an inherited condition characterised by impaired protein breakdown and the accumulation of homogentisic acid.

The theme for Rare Diseases Day 2023 is "Share Your Colors!" (a continuation of the 2022 theme). It is a call to patients, governments, world leaders, and other stakeholders in positions of power to work together to remove the stigma associated with patients suffering from rare diseases and raise neglected awareness about the challenges these patients face.

Although all diseases can cause excruciating pain, rare diseases present more significant challenges than common disorders. Families and carers are also affected by the guilt of not providing adequate treatment support.

These diseases frequently cause severe, progressive illness and disability, as well as premature death. Furthermore, rare diseases frequently affect multiple organ

systems, necessitating collaborative research structures. Furthermore, due to the overlapping symptoms seen with common (non-rare) diseases, the treating healthcare team frequently misdiagnoses the patients. For all of the reasons stated above, improvements in translational research would greatly benefit the awareness of rare diseases and the allocation of funding for research into them.

Some of the goals that the NIH is attempting to achieve on Rare Disease Day include: Demonstrate the NIH's dedication to assisting patients with rare diseases through research. Bringing the NIH-sponsored research on uncommon illnesses, diagnostics, and therapies to the forefront. Begin a mutually beneficial dialogue among patients suffering from rare diseases. Bringing together people from various backgrounds, such as patients, patient advocates, carers, health care professionals, researchers, trainees, students, industry representatives, and government employees.

India, like many other developing countries, lacks a standard definition of rare diseases as well as prevalence data. There are no figures on the burden of rare diseases, as well as morbidity and mortality associated with them, because there is no epidemiological data.

Only about 450 rare diseases have been documented in India from tertiary care hospitals so far. Primary immunodeficiency disorders, Lysosomal storage disorders (Gaucher's disease, Mucopolysaccharidoses, Pompe disease, Fabry disease, and others) are among the most commonly reported diseases. Small molecule inborn metabolic errors (Maple Syrup urine disease, organic acidemias, and so on), Cystic Fibrosis, osteogenesis imperfecta, certain forms of muscular dystrophy and spinal muscular atrophy, and so on.

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# THE GOLDEN GIRL OF INDIA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE

India's freedom struggle speaks dominantly on the supreme sacrifices made by men as leaders but when many men were arrested during the struggle for freedom, women daringly stepped out to participate in the movement. One such hero is Kanaklata Barua from Assam. Several other unsung heroes fought and gave up their lives for freedom, in 1940 as India's Freedom Struggle was at its peak. Young Indians especially were getting impatient. They wanted to be rid of British rule as soon as possible.

Kanaklata was born on 22 December 1924 in Borangari village of the undivided Darrang district of Assam, her father was Krishna Kanta and her mother was Karneshwari Barua, her grandfather was Ghana Kante Barua a famous hunter in Darrang. Kanaklata father was a poor farmer. A family of modest means when her mother died when she was only five years. Her father remarried but after her father died when she was just thirteen. She dropped from school when she was in class three to take care of her sisters. Her trouble mounted after her father's death when she along with her 3 step-siblings had to be raised by her mother.

It was during that phase the Quit India movement was gaining strength in the country. As the India congress passed the Quit India resolution on 8 August 1942 at the Bombay session demanding Independence for India. During that period Mahatma Gandhi arrived in Assam and had already galvanized the people in the state to participate actively in the freedom movement on 26 January. The Purna Swaraj declaration was made by the Congress many people were encouraged to hoist the Indian National flag across Assam. As part of the movement a large camp of revolutionaries was set in Tezpur District of Assam just 8 km away from Kanaklata home. Kanaklata was not a regular teenager, she was concerned about the state of affairs happening in the country under British rule and was eager to play her role in ushering in freedom.

On August 8, 1942, the youngsters were excited, Mahatma Gandhi was expected to announce an action plan at Gowalia Tank in far-off Mumbai. It would take a day or two for news to reach them.

However, the very next day they heard that Gandhiji and several other leaders had been arrested by the police. The Indian National Congress, which was spearheading the freedom movement, was banned. So we're all public gatherings. But what did the Mahatma say? What does he want us to do?" asked Mukunda Kakati, an activist of the Mrityu Bahini. They had no clue as the government had ordered newspapers not to carry reports of Gandhiji's speech.

Fortunately, those who attended the meeting noted what Gandhiji had said. They made several copies of his speech and secretly sent it to all parts of the country. One



such copy reached Gohpur. A young lad came running, clutching a piece of paper. Kanaklata Barua snatched the crumpled paper, and read out, as her comrades listened with rapt attention.

The note said that Gandhi had asked the British to Quit India, and then given his countrymen a simple message. "This is the mantra Mahatma has given us," announced Kanaklata, "He wants us to carry it in our hearts. The mantra is: Do or Die. We shall either free India or die in the attempt. We shall not live to see the continuation of our slavery."

Ultimately when Mahatma Gandhi's clarion call of "Do or Die" (the motto of the Quit India movement),

Kanaklata set out and made her journey of sacrifice. Built the patriotic spirit in her when she secretly started attending the meetings at the camp of revolutionaries. As a patriotic zeal fuelled by speeches made by the leader Bishu Prasad Ratha, it created the fire to just dare on the consequences.

Kanaklata joined the Mritubahini during the Quit India movement group of youths from the Gohpur sub division Assam. She was made the women cadres of Mrityu Bahini. Kanaklata who was also called Birbala (the brave)

It was on 20 September 1942, Bahini decided she would hoist the tricolor flag at the local police station as a procession of unarmed villagers led by Kanaklata led the dangerous mission as police Rebat Mahan Som, an officer in charge warned them of dire consequences. But, Kanaklata just told him to do his duty and marched forward as police station opened indiscriminate fire on the group to prevent them from committing the daring act.

Kanaklata was shot and the flag she was carrying was taken over by her team member Mukunda Kakoti who too was shot by British imperial Police of the British Raj. At the age of 17, leading the procession bearing the National flag. Kanaklata Barua matured at a young age with a tricolor in her hands. Her valiance of Mrityu Bahini strengthened India's resolve to dethrone and weaken England's grip on the country and eventually the country gained its rightful Independence on 15 August 1947.

Kanaklata Barua epitomizes bravery and selflessness, a veritable teenage brave heart, and her patriotic etched name forever among the immortal martyrs and legends of the country, history books in Assam replete her signature and pivotal contribution to countries freedom struggle from Imperial rulers.

As a mark of tribute to her heroic freedom struggle, the vast patrol vessel ICGS of the Indian Coast Guard commissioned in 1997 was named after Kanaklata Barua. Anaklata's story is an inspiring one and she is remembered as a symbol of courage and determination in India's freedom struggle. She is remembered as the golden girl of India's freedom struggle and is an inspiration to many.

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# THE MEDICINE BABA OF INDIA, OMKARNATH SHARMA



**M**edicine is now practically a necessary and vital component of people's lives. Medicine, like air and water, plays an equal role in people's daily lives. Humans can be given a new lease on life by using medicines, while they suffer greatly in their absence. Medicines, like other necessities of life, can occasionally be out of reach for the poor and those with lower incomes. Many people die in our country as a result of a lack of timely access to medications. The medication bank may be able to fill the gaps mentioned above. There are still people out there who have a big heart and want to help the poor and needy. A Delhi resident has

taken the initiative to collect these medicines from the rich and middle classes and establish a free medicine bank for the poor. Omkar Nath Sharma, the man in question, is a retired blood bank technician. The man is known as Medicine Baba (Medicine Man), and he is a god for the poor and needy.

Omkar Nath Sharma, also known as the "Medicine Monk," grew up in India. Despite his advanced age, he remains committed to his goal of assisting as many families as possible in surviving. Omkar previously worked as a blood bank technician in Greater Noida. He is currently working with a group to collect unused prescription medications from people and distribute them for free to those who cannot afford them. The inspiration for this noble cause came to him alone, and the journey was not as simple as it first appeared. Read his subsequent story to find out how it began and where it ended.

The news of Delhi Metro under-construction bridge collapse in 2008 changed his life. The tragic incident made him realise that hospitals provide very little assistance to workers. Most hospitals frequently back down in order to save lives, citing medicine shortages at their pharmacy stores as an excuse. These poor people must choose death



over begging for expensive medicines at pharmacies.

The thought of how poor people live waiting for death after being injured or ill shattered him to the point where he decided to help them. With few powers and freedom at his disposal, he considered finding an alternative to sitting idle and watching this nonsense continue. Omkar Nath Sharma wakes up at 6 a.m. every day, wears a saffron kurta, and goes door to door collecting unused medicines from Delhi residents. He then distributes these medicines to charitable hospitals, clinics, trusts, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Omkar Nath Sharma was paralysed in a car accident when he was 12, but he has never let his humanity die in him. He rides the bus with his senior citizen pass and walks in areas where buses do not go. He neatly arranges the medicines, names them, mentions the expiry date, manufacturer name, and where he got them. Omkar has a supportive wife and a mentally challenged 44-year-old son. Life has not been easy for him, nor has it been easy for anyone; people like Omkar decide to make life happen by assisting others in living. Omkar Nath Sharma walks 5 to 6



kilometres every day for this noble cause because he cannot afford to take the metro.

Even at the age of 86, the medicine man dressed in a saffron kurta and walked the streets of Delhi every day. He collects medicines from wealthy and middle-class individuals who may be unaware that they have excess medications in their homes. Omkar Nath Sharma typically travels through the capital city's affluent neighbourhoods, encouraging residents to donate any excess medicines to him. According to him, in a country where more than 65% of the population suffers from a lack of medicines, Medicine Baba's free medicine bank for the poor helps the poor survive death. Along with collecting medicine, he also wishes to raise public awareness. So that people do not throw away prescribed medications that are no longer useful to them.

The objective of the story of Omkar is not to expect



you to collect medicines, but to let the humanity remain alive in you. Consider the various ways to assist those in need. There was a time when money didn't matter so much; people used to barter for each other's needs, and the world was still peaceful.

Many people consider Medicine Baba to be a blessing. He is currently attempting to assist people suffering from cancer and kidney disease. He is doing everything he can to raise funds for their treatment. Medicine Baba, who walks around Delhi wearing an orange shirt with his phone number and mission in bold, is a source of hope for many. We can only hope that his dream of establishing a medicine bank comes true.

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## IN THE UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXTRA-TRIAL CASE, THE SUPREME COURT DECLARES, "LET THE GOVERNMENT MAKE THE CALL."



The Supreme Court dismissed the UPSC Civil Services exam petition for an additional attempt and an age relaxation today, citing the Live Law, which states that candidates could not present in the exam because of the Covid epidemic.

The subject has been brought up by candidates for the past two years. The petitioners have asked the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to give them permission to take the exam one more time.

The Supreme Court of India was presented with writ petitions in March 2022 over the issue of providing candidates for the civil services examination (CSE) with an age relaxation and an additional try due to Covid-19.

The committee recommended the government change its mind and sympathetically consider the demand for civil services examination (CSE) aspirants and grant an extra attempt with corresponding age relaxation to all candidates in its March 24 report, noting the difficulties faced by the student community during the first and second waves of Covid-19.

The Centre informed the Supreme Court during the hearing that it is not possible to alter the current rules governing the number of attempts and age restriction for the civil services examination. The request for a second attempt cannot thus be granted.

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## LESSONS ON EDUCATION TO LEARN FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

Jagan Mohan Reddy, the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, is mindful of the importance of investing in human capital by laying the proper foundation via education. More than Rs 30,000 crore annually is currently set aside by the AP government for education. The results of these initiatives are seen in programmes like "Videshi Vidya Deevana," "Amma Vodi," and "Nadu-Nedu."

The initiative, which began with Amma Vodi, offers Rs 15,000 in financial aid to poor and needy moms in exchange for their sending their kids (in classes 1 through intermediate) to school. The programme has played a significant role in encouraging enrollment and retention in public schools, especially among females.

The "Videshi Vidya Deevana" programme, which gives students financial aid if they can't afford to pursue higher education abroad. The

number of students seeking higher education overseas has increased dramatically by 50% over the past two years as a result of this scheme.

The "Mana Badi - Nadu Nedu" reform attempts to improve the amenities and infrastructure of public schools so that they are on par with private institutions. With a focus on supplying government schools with furniture, safe drinking water, restrooms, and power. Up to 44,512 schools have undergone transformation to date.

According to the Union education ministry's Performance Grading Index, the education system in AP underwent a transformation as a result of particular policies addressing the requirements of pupils from diverse backgrounds, placing the state eighth nationally in 2021 as opposed to 24th in 2018.

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## FAKE SAMPLE PAPERS FLAGGED BY CBSE

For the ongoing Class 10 and 12 board exams, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued a public alert regarding bogus sample question papers. The board claimed that 30 sample papers had been distributed through the fictitious website [cbse.support/sp](http://cbse.support/sp), which also claimed that questions would only be based on these papers.

The website lists "rajkumar.kanodia@gmail.com" as the owner's name. While attempting to open these documents, a Google PlayStore app by the name of NODIA is redirected. Students and parents are encouraged to exercise caution when opening the website or the app in light of the CBSE's advice.

According to the notice by

CBSE, all parties involved are hereby advised to exercise great caution and not click on any such phoney website links or messages. On the CBSE website, [www.cbse.gov.in](http://www.cbse.gov.in), sample tests are freely accessible. Parents or students are not required to pay any fees in order to download sample papers from the Board. Stakeholders may only access the Board's official website at [www.cbse.gov.in](http://www.cbse.gov.in) for information and updates.

Board exams for classes 10 and 12 of the CBSE began on February 15. Almost 38 lakh children will take the board exams this year. This comprises 16,96,770 Class 12 students and 21,86,940 Class 10 students.

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## THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE AND STUDYING ABROAD IN THE POST-COVID EDUCATIONAL PERIOD

The number of applications from Indian students to overseas institutions has dramatically increased after a nearly two-year hiatus, and nations and universities, including the top-ranked ones, have implemented modifications to make the admissions process more straightforward.

In 2021, attitudes towards international exchange and educational programmes started to marginally improve, but the tremendous workload on foreign embassies meant that relatively few people were granted visas to visit overseas. Studying abroad bloomed once more this year. In fact, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MEA) predicted that by the end of this year, over 13 lakh Indian students will be studying abroad, with the bulk of them (4.65 lakh) choosing to pursue higher education in the United States.

Depending on the subject they are enrolled in, many schools, colleges, and universities in India give students the opportunity to live abroad for anywhere between six months and two years through a variety of student exchange programmes. The courses help students develop their portfolios while also fostering overall personality development.

Students who are starting their studies in the post-Covid-19 period are observing many changes in higher education. The pandemic opened up a new area of digitization in education, and the pattern will persist. Colleges and universities have adjusted their strategy. The focus of institutions' course redesigns is shifting from what students already know to what they want to learn.

The world may still be in a state of flux, but the number of Indian students going overseas to study is increasing quickly, making this group one of the biggest foreign student populations on the planet. The number of Indian students seeking higher education overseas surged from 440,000 in 2016 to 770,000 in 2019 and is anticipated to reach 1.8 million by 2024, according to a report on higher education abroad by consultancy firm Redseer. It is not shocking that these numbers will keep climbing given the post-pandemic rush to study abroad.

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## INDIA'S FIRST SEMICONDUCTOR PLANT IN GUJARAT



India self-reliant and the dependency on China will also decrease. The semiconductor plant in Gujarat is going to be the first semiconductor plant in India. Vedanta and Foxcon will build a semiconductor fabrication unit a display fabrication unit and an assembling and testing unit. After signing a 60:40 joint venture Foxcon is the technical partner and Vedanta is

financing the project the plant will start production in 2 years said the chairman of Vedanta, the company will work close to the Gujrat government to develop a High-tech cluster. The project will provide employment to more than 1,00,000 people. The semi-conductor market in India was valued at \$27.2 billion which is expected to grow by 19% touching a valuation of \$64 billion. The 2020 semiconductor crisis had significant impact on the Automobile and electronic markets. The JV's proposal included manufacturing 12-inch (300mm) wafers carrying the 28nm chips. The state is providing complete corporation by giving huge subsidies and incentives like zero stamp duty on purchase of land and providing water at subsidized rate, the state also announced its 'Semiconductor Policy 2022-27' Gujarat became the first state in the country to have such a dedicated policy for the semiconductor and display fabrication sector. To encourage investors under the policy, the state government has also announced to reimburse 100 per cent of stamp duty which investors would pay for the first time for taking land on lease, sale or on land transfer. This particular project is going to be a boon for the Indian Economy.

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**D**uring lockdown when the industrial production had stopped the pace of semiconductor manufacturing had also slowed and since 2020 chip shortage is an ongoing global crisis in which the demand for integrated circuits (commonly known as "semiconductor chips") exceeds the supply, affecting more than 169 industries. From the smartphones to the space shuttle, from electric scooters to bullet trains, inside each of these, there are tiny pieces of technology that brings it all together and that is the semiconductors. But Indians are trained at creating chance from crisis. Its been more than a year Vedanta is making continuous efforts to enter the semiconductor business, finally Vedanta has found a companion to make the semiconductor project into great success. Vedanta and Foxcon have planned to form a joint venture and set up a semiconductor plant at Ahemdabad Gujrat. Earlier this project was going to be executed at Mumbai but due to the political instability the project went to Gujrat.

Due to boost in the EV sector in India the demand for Semiconductor has increased to a great extent. Vedanta and Foxcon are going to invest 1.54 lakh crore rupees in the semiconductor plant in Ahemdabad which will make

## SRI LANKA TO GET \$442 MILLION: INVESTMENT BY ADANI GROUP



**S**ri Lanka's investment promotion authority has approved the Adani Group's plan to construct two renewable energy facilities in the northern and eastern regions of the country. The Mannar and Pooneryn wind power plants will have a total capacity of 350 MW and require an investment of \$442 million. The projects aim to strengthen Sri Lanka's energy capacity and are expected to become operational by 2025. This initiative marks the Adani Group's entry into Sri Lanka's energy sector, following its prior investment in the Western container terminal at the port of Colombo.

Gautam Adani, the group's chief, held a meeting with the Minister of Energy, which was the first formal discussion since the Hindenburg Research allegations were made against the conglomerate. The Adani Group's investment plan in Sri Lanka was also discussed during a meeting with former Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in October 2021.

The Sri Lankan Board of Investment stated that the renewable energy project will generate between 1,500 and 2,000 new jobs, making it the country's first major foreign investment since the economic crisis and bankruptcy declaration last year. This announcement comes amidst power outages caused by insufficient thermal and coal power generation. In response to this crisis, the government has expedited the development of renewable energy projects. To secure a \$2.9 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund, Sri

Lanka increased power prices by 66% last week, as it faces its worst financial crisis in over 70 years.

The Adani Group, one of India's largest conglomerates, has announced plans to invest \$442 million in Sri Lanka. This move comes as the South Asian island nation struggles to recover from the economic fallout caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Adani Group has been expanding its presence in Sri Lanka in recent years, having already invested in the country's power and renewable energy sectors. The company sees Sri Lanka as a key market in the region and has expressed its commitment to supporting the country's economic development.

The ECT project is expected to create jobs and generate significant revenue for the Sri Lankan government. It will also help to improve the efficiency of the Port of Colombo, which is a vital hub for trade in the Indian Ocean region.

However, the Adani Group's investment has not been without controversy. Some opposition groups in Sri Lanka have raised concerns about the deal, claiming that it could lead to Indian domination of Sri Lanka's economy and a loss of sovereignty.

The Sri Lankan government has dismissed these concerns, stating that the investment is a win-win for both countries. The Adani Group has also emphasized that its investment is aimed at creating jobs and supporting economic growth in Sri Lanka, rather than exerting control over the country.

Overall, the Adani Group's investment in Sri Lanka is a positive development for both countries. It will provide a much-needed boost to Sri Lanka's economy and strengthen ties between India and Sri Lanka. However, it will be important for both parties to ensure that the investment is carried out in a transparent and responsible manner, and that the concerns of all stakeholders are taken into account.

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## THE NAMAMI GANGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED NINE PROJECTS TOTALING RS1.278 CRORE

The Namami Gange Executive Committee has approved nine projects totaling over Rs. 1,278 Crore for Ganga Basin pollution abatement and ghat development. Seven of these projects are related to pollution reduction in the Ganga Basin, and two are related to ghat development. The decision was made yesterday during the 47th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), which was presided over by NMCG Director General G. Asok Kumar. According to the Ministry of Jal Shakti, various Sewage Treatment Plants and other work will be done to clean the Ganga in several states, including West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh, under the approved projects. The Ghat development in Bihar, one project for the development of Atal Ghat Manjhi, Saran, Bihar, was approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 crore, according to the statement.



## W.H.O. WILL ESTABLISH AN MRNA VACCINE HUB IN HYDERABAD, ACCORDING TO IT MINISTER KT RAMA RAO

In a significant validation of Hyderabad's growing clout as a global vaccine hub, the World Health Organization (WHO) is establishing an mRNA vaccine hub in Hyderabad as part of its plans to establish such hubs in select locations around the world, industries minister KT Rama Rao announced on Tuesday. The mRNA vaccine hub is being established at Biological E as part of a WHO technology transfer to develop capacities not only for global emergencies such as the Covid-19 pandemic, but also for future



pandemics and ailments such as malaria, HIV, and cancer. KTR said that as Hyderabad is also home to one of the largest number of US Food & Drug Administration (USFDA) approved manufacturing plants at 214, the state government was trying to get the US drug regulator to set up its offices in the city. The city accounts for about 40% of India's pharma output, KTR said at an interaction in the run-up to the 20th edition of Asia's largest life sciences conclave - BioAsia 2023 - that kicks off on February 24. On Telangana government's target to double the state's life sciences ecosystem from \$50 billion in value (turnover of \$13 billion) in 2021 to \$100 billion by 2028, he said the plan is to also double the employment generated by the sector to 8 lakh over the next five years. He also stated that the Telangana government intends to double the state's life sciences ecosystem from \$50 billion in value (turnover of \$13 billion) in 2021 to \$100 billion by 2028, and that the sector's employment will be doubled to 8 lakh over the next five years. KTR elaborated on Hyderabad's life sciences ecosystem, saying it has grown from 600 companies in 2014 to over 1,000 now, and Genome Valley, India's largest life sciences cluster, has run out of space, with 30 lakh square feet of lab space already built and occupied and another 20 lakh square feet on the way. On the ambitious Pharma City project, for which the government has acquired 10,000 acres, he stated that some of the final court hearings had concluded and that a decision is expected soon. KTR stated that BioAsia has helped attract \$3 billion in investments in its 19 years of existence, and that this year's event, themed 'Advancing for ONE-shaping the next generation of humanised healthcare,' will see participation from global tech giants such as Apple for the first time. While the United Kingdom is a partner country, and Flanders in Belgium is an international partner region, over 3,000 delegates from 50 countries are expected to attend BioAsia 2023.

## THE FIRST HYBRID ROCKET IN INDIA WAS LAUNCHED FROM PATTIPULAM IN TAMIL NADU

Private players launched India's first hybrid sounding rocket from Pattipulam village in Chengalpattu in the presence of Tamilisai Soundararajan, Governor of Telangana and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry. The Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission- 2023 was launched by the Martin Foundation in collaboration with the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation and Space Zone India. According to the organisations, the project involved 5,000 students. The chosen students designed and built a student satellite launch vehicle (rocket) and 150 PICO satellite research experiment cubes with various payloads. The top 100 students built the reusable rocket, while the rest built the satellites. The rocket can be used for weather, atmospheric, and radiation research. Former ISRO Satellite Centre director Mylswamy Annadurai declared the launch a success. He advised the students to look into opportunities in the space sector. According to both foundations, the selected students learned not only about satellite technology but also about STEM.



## AMAZON WILL PROVIDE LOGISTICS AND SMARTCOMMERCE SERVICES TO ONDC

Amazon announced on Friday that its logistics network (from pickup to delivery) and SmartCommerce services will be integrated with the government's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform. This will be Amazon's first collaboration with ONDC, though the company will continue to investigate other potential opportunities for stronger integration between the two in the future. "We are excited about the opportunities to leverage Amazon's industry-leading infrastructure and technology, including logistics and small business digitisation tools, to assist the ONDC in meeting its goals. We remain committed to being a driving force behind India's digitisation efforts across the board." Amazon India's Country Manager, India Consumer Business, Manish Tiwary, said in a statement. Furthermore, the company stated that the integration will provide greater technological support to the seller community and further empower small businesses, as well as benefit crores of consumers by providing them with more options. The integration would be a significant step towards the ONDC's goal of nationwide democratisation of e-commerce. "We are pleased that Amazon has a definite roadmap to becoming a part of the ONDC network and is taking its first step in coming in as the logistics partner in the ONDC network, which is a globally pioneering idea established with a view to democratising digital commerce in India, and we also hope that the buyer and seller platforms are onboarded as soon as possible," said T Koshy, MD & CEO of ONDC, in a statement. According to the company, Amazon has consistently leveraged technology and innovation on behalf of Indian customers and sellers, and has digitised over 4 million small businesses and kirana stores in India, providing them with access to cutting-edge technology for online selling. The e-commerce giant has over 11 lakh sellers, with more than half of them hailing from tier 2 and lower cities across the country. The company also intends to digitise one million small businesses by 2025. ONDC, a Ministry of Commerce initiative, will enable sellers to access this massive market by providing a fair and secure platform that connects multiple sellers, buyers, and logistics players.



## INDIA'S ANKIT GULIA WINS BRONZE: IBRAHIM MOUSTAFA 2023 WRESTLING



**A**nkit Gulia, 19, of India, won bronze in men's 72kg at the Ibrahim Moustafa 2023 wrestling ranking series in Alexandria, Egypt, on Friday. Ankit Gulia's bronze medal was India's first at the tournament. Gulia, who won gold at the U15 Asian Championships in 2019, was defeated in the first round by Georgia's Otar Abuladze due to technical superiority (9-0). After Otar Abuladze advanced to the final, Ankit Gulia advanced to the repechage round, where he defeated Kyrgyzstan's Nurzhigit Keneshbek

Uulu on technical superiority (9-0). Ankit Gulia of India wins bronze in Ibrahim Moustafa 2023 wrestling. Ankit Gulia, 19, of India, won bronze in men's 72kg at the Ibrahim Moustafa 2023 wrestling ranking series in Alexandria, Egypt, on Friday. Ankit Gulia's bronze medal was India's first at the tournament. Gulia, who won gold at the U15 Asian Championships in 2019, was defeated in the first round by Georgia's Otar Abuladze due to technical superiority (9-0). After Otar Abuladze advanced to the final, Ankit Gulia advanced to the repechage round, where he defeated Kyrgyzstan's Nurzhigit Keneshbek Uulu on technical superiority (9-0). Earlier in the tournament, Indian wrestlers Ashu (men's 67kg), who won a bronze medal at the Zagreb Open earlier this year, and Sunil Kumar (men's 87kg) advanced to the bronze medal matches through repechage but came up short. Manjeet (55kg), Vikram Kurade (60kg), Nitin (63kg), Karanjeet (67kg), Rohit Dahiya (82kg), Narinder Cheema (97kg), and Naveen (130kg) were eliminated in the first round of Greco-Roman wrestling.

## MAGNUS CARLSEN IS STUNNED BY INDIAN GRANDMASTER VIDIT GUJRATHI IN A GAME OF CHESS

**G**randmaster Vidit Gujrathi became the fourth Indian to defeat Magnus Carlsen, the master of Norwegian chess, in an online match for the Pro Chess League. Gujrathi, a member of team Indian Yogis, profited from world number one Carlsen's error by missing a checkmate late on Tuesday. In the Pro Chess League, an online competition including teams from all over the world, Carlsen was competing for Canada Chessbrahs. Rapid games are played by 16 teams in this event, which has a



USD 150,000 prize pool. Carlsen had never previously defeated the current world champion before this. Crucially, Gujrathi outplayed his well-known rival with black pieces by capitalising on a tactical blunder. The 28-year-old Gujrathi teamed up with R Praggnanandhaa, D Gukesh, and Arjun Erigaisi, three other Indian GMs, to defeat Carlsen. In a number of competitions last year, the three had previously defeated the Norwegian superstar. Gujrathi's Indian team, which also included Vaishali, Raunak, and Aronyak, won the Pro Chess League match against Carlsen, Aryan Tari, Razvan Preotu, and Jennifer Yu and now trails by one point going into the final round. The team that scores 8.5 first wins the game, according to the rules. The Yogis simply turned the situation around by winning on all four boards, with Gujrathi leading the pack on the top board.

## SWIMMERS FROM NAVI MUMBAI SHINE AT THE KHELO INDIA GAMES



**R**ishabh Das (14) and Prathistha Dangi (15) of Navi Mumbai won medals for the entire Thane district at the recently concluded Khelo India Youth Games in Bhopal. Both Das and Dangi clinched a hat-trick of medals each in their respective beats at the national level competition, which was held by the sports ministry of the Government of India to tap budding talents for international exposure, to help Thane district open its medal account in swimming. Swimmers from Navi Mumbai

shine at the Khelo India Games. Rishabh Das (14) and Prathistha Dangi (15) of Navi Mumbai won medals for the entire Thane district at the recently concluded Khelo India Youth Games in Bhopal. Both Das and Dangi clinched a hat-trick of medals each in their respective beats at the national level competition, which was held by the sports ministry of the Government of India to tap budding talents for international exposure, to help Thane district open its medal account in swimming. If that wasn't enough, Das went on to win 10 medals, including 7 gold, 2 silver, and a bronze medal, at the Maharashtra State Olympic Games in Pune last month, earning him the title of best male athlete in the game across 37 sporting disciplines. Dangi took gold in the 100 metre backstroke with a time of 1 minute and 06.87 seconds and bronze in the 50 metre backstroke with a time of 31.47 seconds. She also competed for Maharashtra in the 4x100 medley relay, adding another gold medal to her collection, bringing her tally to a hat trick.

## THIRD HOCKEY INDIA SENIOR MEN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN BENGALURU

**H**ockey stars from 18 departments descended on Bengaluru for the 3rd Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championship 2023, which began on Sunday, February 26th at the Field Marshal KM Cariappa Hockey Arena. This prestigious tournament's inaugural edition was also held in Bengaluru in 2021. The tournament is expected to feature some intense rivalries between departmental teams, making the Championship exciting for spectators. Defending champions Railway Sports Promotion Board will look to maintain their unblemished record in the face of a



diverse field of competitors. Hockey buffs in Bengaluru are in for an action-packed week as several international players are set to participate in the tournament. The 18 teams are split into four groups. Pool A includes the Railways Sports Promotion Board, the Central Reserve Police Force, the Food Corporation of India, the Air India Sports Promotion Board, and the Sports Authority of Gujarat - Hockey Academy. Petroleum Sports Promotion Board, last year's finalist, is grouped with Sports Authority of India, Canara Bank, All India Police Sports Control Board, and Tamil Nadu Police in pool B, while Services Sports Control Board, Cromptroller and Auditor General of India, Central Industrial Security Force, and BSES (Delhi) will compete in pool C. Punjab National Bank, Punjab and Sind Bank, ITBP Central Hockey Team, and Sashastra Seema Bal will compete in Pool D.



## EXPERT



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### FAQs ON

### Learning and Development through Ancient Indian Wisdom

#### Q1. What is the importance of Dharma?

**Ans.** The importance of Dharma is emphasized in our Indian knowledge system to a greater extent.

#### Dharmic living is given so important emphasis in utmost of the Vedic and Vedantic jottings.

- As per Atharva Veda (12.1.17) the Earth is maintained by Dharma. So dharmic living is essential for all those live in earth, to sustain the existence on earth.
- Brihadaranyaka Upanishad considered dharma as the 'sreya' or good. thus 'adharma' means the contrary of good or evil. It has been specified that one must follow 'dharma' in order to attain 'moksha' or deliverance.
- As per Chandogya Upanishad (2.23.1), there are three branches of Dharma (righteous life, duty): (1) Yajna (immolation), (2) Svadhyaya (tone study) and (3) Dana (charity). All these attain to the worlds of the virtuous.
- Manusmriti (4.178) emphasizes that one should walk in the pathway of righteous men

which their fathers and progenitors walked. By doing so, one will come to no detriment. Manusmriti(8.15) educates that when Dharma is destroyed, it destroys us. When Dharma is defended, it protects. thus, don't injure Dharma, lest the injured Dharma strikes us back.

#### Shistas is veritably important as far as authority of dharma is considered.

- As per Baudhayana Dharmasutra (1.1.5- 6) a shishta is one who's free from covetousness and pride, possesses just a jar of grain for food, i.e. he's not greedy and doesn't stow wealth, is free from covetousness, insincerity, arrogance, rapacity, vision and wrathfulness.
- A Per Vashishta Dharmasutra (1.5- 7) also analogous emphasis on shista is given. On the failure of the Shruti and Smriti in deciding on Dharma, Shistas are the authority. A shishta still is one whose heart is free from worldly solicitations, and only those exemplifications from the lives of shistas are considered as Dharma for which no selfish cause or motive can be assigned.
- As per Brahmaṇḍa Puraṇa (1.2.32.41b- 42a), since the Shistas-Manu and the 7 Rishis (Saptarshis), practice these in all the Manvantaras, they're so conceded as Shishtachara. The following eight conditioning are also characteristically Shishtachara viz. generous immolations, integrity, austerity, knowledge, literacy, generosity, sympathy and negation of the world & departure from one's menage (means Vanaprashram).
- Taittiriya Upanishad is one of the ancient training conveyed by a schoolteacher to his scholars also teaches. the need to protect dharma It says, "If you cover Dharma, Dharma will cover you." This is a important instruction, which is dateless and still holds good in moment's world.

#### Dharmic values have given further significance as per spiritual literacy.

- As per Manusmriti (4.239) after we die, neither the father, mama, son, woman nor one's clan is available for help. Only the Dharma that one has rehearsed in his continuance before death is present to help us out.
- As per Ramayana (3.66.16), separate between what's right and what's wrong rightly by using your intellect. They who are largely intelligent individualities can use proper logic to determine what's good and what's evil.
- As per Ramayana (4.18.15), the principle of deciding what's Dharma is refined. Abiding within the hearts of all living beings, the atman alone knows what's good and what's evil.

#### Sadhachara is veritably important for the nation to prosper as per our ancient Indian wisdom.

- As per Vashishtha Dharmasutra (1.17), Manu has declared that the peculiar customs of countries, gentries and families may be followed in the absence of rules proffered by the Veda.
- As per Vishnu Puraṇa (3.11.3), the word 'sat' means good, and the good are those who are free from (moral) onus. The practices of similar people are called Sadachara.

#### Dharma is having dateless benefits, indeed beyond life or say after death as per our ancestors' value systems.

- As per Vasishtha Dharmasutra (1.2- 3), the person who knows Dharma and also follows it's called ' Dharmika '. Such a person

becomes blessed soul in this world, and goes to heaven upon death.

- As per Vayu Puraṇa (2.14.29), man must go alone upon death. He must bear the corrections alone. Hence, it's he who must perform pious deeds. Vayu Puraṇa (2.14.30) teaches that none follows him who proceeds along the path of death. Only the conduct performed by him accompany him. Vayu Puraṇa (2.8.182) says that If a person is tainted in his inner feelings, all his external conduct no way bear fruit indeed if he puts in his utmost trouble. As per Vayu Puraṇa (2.8.183), indeed if a person donates all his effects, but has an irreverent inner soul, he'll not be considered perfect. Dharma alone is the true cause of perfection.
- As per Vyasa Smriti (4.19), luxuries similar as wealth and a handsome body don't last for ever, but death waits near always. thus, one ought to accumulate virtue at all times. Vyasa Smriti (4.25) state that everyone dies one day, but the man who performs numerous righteous deeds doesn't really die ( because his fame lives indeed after his death). In discrepancy, a man who has no way done great and pious acts dies the death of a jackass i.e. his life was a waste and he dies incomprehensible.

#### Our ancestors practiced dharma by following simple and powerful chanting as affirmations:

- Satyam vada dharmam chara : Tell the truth, practice the dharma.
- Satyaan na pramadithavyam: Never deviate from the path of truth.
- Dharmaan na pramadithavyam: Never deviate from the dharmic pathway. No one can be at peace if we leave the path of dharma. Being dharmic we are assuring a happy nation.
- Satyam nasthi parodharma: There is no dharma higher than truth.

Dharma is not a creed, but the mode of life. Dharma influences the way citizens of our mother nation live and view themselves. Let us go back to our roots, let us practice dharma the way our ancestors did, stay blessed!

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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.

# QUIZ TIME

## DID YOU KNOW?

### DHARMENDRA PRADHAN LAUNCHES "JAADUI PITARA," A LEARNING AND TEACHING RESOURCE

According to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, "Jaadui Pitara," a play-based learning resource for children aged three to eight, will be mandated to be used in at least 1,200 central government-run schools starting with the current academic session. According to Pradhan, it would achieve one of the most important goals of the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and prepare young children for a lifetime of learning.

In October of last year, the government introduced a national curriculum framework (NCF) for foundation or early childhood care, in accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which cautions against using textbooks with children aged three to six. It also emphasised the importance of promoting learning through play, real-world experience, and the use of one's mother tongue. As a result, the ministry introduced play-based materials for children enrolled in Balvatika, which provides classes for nursery, lower kindergarten (LKG), and upper kindergarten (UKG).

Textbooks will be introduced only in classes 1 and 2, and will be illustrative in nature. Balvatikas 1 (nursery) and 2 (LKG) will not have any books, but students in Balvatika 3 (UKG) will be introduced to a playbook. The NCERT will release textbooks for Classes 1 and 2 by the end of this month. The "Jaadui Pitara" collection includes playbooks, activity books, workbooks, toys, manuals for teachers and trainers, flashcards, narrative cards, posters, puzzles, puppets, and kid-friendly publications (magic collection). The play-based teaching and learning materials place a strong emphasis on five aspects of child development: physical, socio-emotional and ethical, cognitive, language and literacy, and aesthetic and cultural development.

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1. What was the name of the first Indian-built cruise ship?
2. Which state/UT just began the "Jal-Jan Abhiyan"?
3. What is the name of the local data link communication that the Indian Navy developed?
4. What state has the Amrutha Nagarothana Scheme in place?
5. Which Indian firm and Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a cooperative venture including the armed forces?
6. What nation is the "Munich Security Conference" held in?
7. Which state is home to Kuno National Park, which was mentioned in the news?
8. Where will the inaugural G20 Cultural Working Group (CWG) meeting be held?
9. Who will serve as the Global Tech Summit (GTS) 2023 host?
10. Which state/UT has implemented the Lakshmi Bhandar programme?

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