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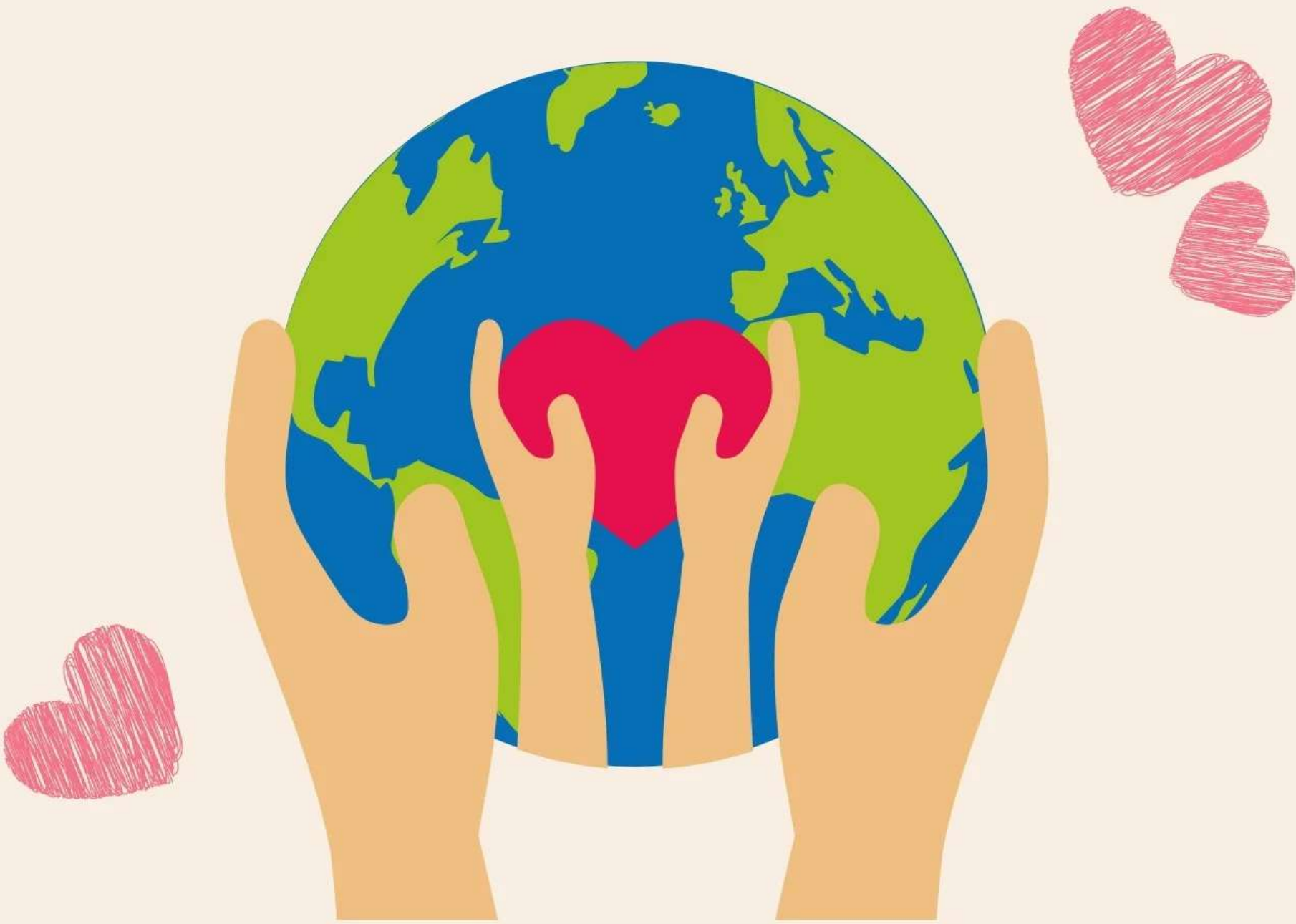
THE HULAHUL TIMES

Evolving Today For A Better Tomorrow



Ravi Singh & Tanishka Verma

BEYOND BORDERS: CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF HUMANITARIANISM



WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

AUGUST 19

Every year on August 19, the world pauses to reflect on the people who put their lives on the line to help others in times of crisis. World Humanitarian Day is more than just a date on the calendar, it is a tribute to those who embody courage, compassion, and selflessness in some of the most challenging and dangerous places on earth.

The day was first designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2008, following the tragic bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad in 2003, which claimed 22

lives, including that of the UN's Special Representative for Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. Since then, it has served as both a commemoration and a call to action, urging governments, organisations, and individuals to recognise the work of humanitarian actors and to stand in solidarity with communities facing conflict, disaster, and displacement.

Humanitarians work under extraordinary pressure. Whether they are delivering food to drought-hit villages, setting up emergency shelters after earthquakes, providing medical care in war zones, or negotiating safe passages for

civilians, their work often takes them into volatile and life-threatening environments. These are not faceless workers; they are doctors, nurses, teachers, logisticians, engineers, aid coordinators, and volunteers, ordinary people with an extraordinary commitment to humanity.

With each passing year the importance of their work has grown manifold because of the pressing issues like climate change intensifying natural disasters, from floods and cyclones to heatwaves and wildfires, displacing millions. Armed conflicts continue to devastate communities, while economic instability worsens food insecurity in many regions. Humanitarian workers often arrive as one of the first signs of hope, bringing not only aid but also the reassurance that the world has not forgotten.

This year's theme, as in previous years, is not just about recognising the scale of humanitarian needs but about shining a spotlight on the human stories behind the headlines. Behind every relief convoy or medical camp is a network of people who have chosen to act despite the risks. These individuals face physical danger, emotional strain, and sometimes political hostility, yet they persist because they believe that helping others in their time of greatest need is a moral obligation.

World Humanitarian Day also reminds us that humanitarian action is not the sole responsibility of aid organisations or the UN. It is a collective duty. Ordinary citizens can contribute in countless ways by supporting charities, volunteering locally, advocating for humanitarian policies, or even just spreading awareness about crises that rarely make front-page news.

The day serves as a stark reminder that humanitarian work is not without sacrifice. Many aid workers lose their lives in the line of duty each year. Honouring their memory means more than observing a moment of silence; it means committing ourselves to a world where their efforts are valued, protected, and supported.

As August 19 approaches, the message is clear: in a world that can often seem divided and fractured, the spirit of humanitarianism stands as proof that empathy, solidarity, and action can bridge even the widest of divides. It is a day to honour those who have served, support those who continue to serve, and commit ourselves to the belief that every life matters, no matter where it is lived.

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THE HUMBLE BARBER SAINT: STORY OF SANT SENA MAHARAJ

In the bustling town of Sonar Gaon near Pandharpur, centuries ago, lived a simple barber named Sena. By all outward appearances, he was an ordinary man who earned his living by cutting hair and shaving beards. But behind his humble profession shone an extraordinary spirit that would one day inspire countless souls. That man was Sant Sena Maharaj, revered as one of the most compassionate saints in the Bhakti tradition of Maharashtra.

The Ordinary Man with an Extraordinary Heart

Sena lived in times when society was deeply divided by caste and profession. Barbers were considered among the lower castes, often looked down upon despite their essential service. Yet Sena, with his cheerful disposition and pure heart, treated every person who came to him—rich or poor, high-born or low—with the same respect and kindness. He would often say, “Every head I touch is blessed, for it carries the spark of God within.”

From a young age, Sena felt an irresistible pull toward devotion. Even while working with his razor and scissors, his mind often drifted to the thought of Lord Vithoba of Pandharpur. Instead of gossiping with customers, he hummed bhajans quietly under his breath, and when his day's work ended, he would immerse himself in singing kirtans with other devotees. His home, though modest, was always open to wanderers and pilgrims. To him, service to humanity was service to God.

The Test of Devotion

One famous story captures Sena Maharaj's unwavering faith. The Sultan of Bidar, a powerful ruler of the time, once summoned Sena to his court for shaving and grooming. It was considered an honor as well as a dangerous responsibility—displeasing the Sultan could cost one's life. But on that very day, a great kirtan was to be held in honor of Lord Vithoba at Pandharpur. Torn between duty and devotion, Sena closed his eyes and prayed: “O Vithoba, I cannot abandon your bhaktas. If I fail to attend, my heart will wither. Please protect me.”

Miraculously, according to tradition, Lord Vithoba himself took Sena's form and appeared in the Sultan's court. The Sultan was pleased with the service, never realizing it was God in disguise. Meanwhile, Sena joyfully joined the kirtan, losing himself in divine songs. When the Sultan later discovered that Sena had not been physically present in the court, he realized a great spiritual power was at work. Filled with reverence, he honored Sena and even allowed him to continue his devotional practices freely.

This incident spread far and wide, and people began to see Sena not just as a barber but as a saint blessed by God's grace. The message was clear: when one's devotion is pure, even kings bow before the servant of God.

The Barber Who Saw God in All

Sant Sena's life was a living sermon on equality and humanity. In an age where caste hierarchies ruled society, he shattered barriers through his simple yet profound philosophy. For him,



cutting the hair of a nobleman or trimming the beard of a poor farmer carried no difference—it was all seva, or service. He believed that the body may differ in form, but the soul within each person is divine.

He would often say to his fellow villagers:“Do not ask what caste a man belongs to. Ask instead how much love he carries in his heart. That alone decides his nearness to God.”

This philosophy made him loved by people of all communities. Sena's humility was legendary. Though revered as a saint, he never abandoned his profession. He continued working as a barber, proving that holiness does not require renunciation of worldly duties—it requires purity of action and intention.

His Philosophy of Humanity

The philosophy of Sant Sena Maharaj can be summed up in four principles:

- Dignity of Labor – No work is low or high. All professions, when done with honesty and devotion, are equal in the eyes of

- God.
- Equality of All Souls – Caste and status are illusions; the divine resides in everyone.
- Devotion Through Service – True bhakti lies not in rituals alone but in serving people selflessly.
- Faith in God's Grace – When one surrenders wholeheartedly, God himself protects and uplifts his devotee.

These ideas, though simple, carried deep ethical weight. Sena's life was a reminder that spirituality is not about escaping the world but about sanctifying every moment of it.

Legacy of Compassion

Sena Maharaj's kirtans, filled with humility and love, touched countless hearts. His example inspired many to treat all human beings with respect, regardless of birth or occupation. He became part of the illustrious Varkari tradition, alongside saints like Tukaram, Namdev, and Dnyaneshwar.

Even today, pilgrims in Pandharpur remember the barber-saint with affection. Folk songs celebrate his unwavering devotion and his fearless stance against social discrimination. His samadhi at Pandharpur is visited by devotees who seek blessings for humility, compassion, and faith.

Conclusion

The story of Sant Sena Maharaj is more than just a tale of miracles; it is a lesson in humanity. He proved that true greatness lies not in wealth, caste, or status but in the capacity to serve others with love and devotion. By upholding the dignity of his profession, he shattered social barriers and showed that every act, however small, can become worship if done with sincerity. His life reminds us that devotion to God must reflect in devotion to humanity.

In a world often divided by inequality and pride, Sant Sena's message continues to shine: “Serve all, love all, and see God in all.” It is through such humility and compassion that society can find true harmony. His legacy teaches us that an ordinary barber, guided by extraordinary love, can become a saint who uplifts generations.

RIA SHARMA: CHAMPIONING HEALING, DIGNITY, AND HOPE!

I can be changed by what happens to me but I refuse to be reduced by it.
~ Maya Angelou

At just 21, Ria Sharma witnessed scenes that many of us can scarcely imagine. As part of a documentary assignment during her final year at Leeds College of Art, she walked into a burn ward filled with acid attack survivors. "I had never witnessed so much misery all at once," she later recalled, marking the moment she chose action over observation.

It was there that she paused not to film, but to help. What began as a college project quickly transformed into a life's work. In 2014, Sharma founded Make Love Not Scars (MLNS), an NGO based in New Delhi dedicated to providing holistic rehabilitation to acid attack survivors across India.

MLNS breaks down the barriers survivors often face be it medical, legal, educational, or emotional. The organization helped establish India's first rehabilitation centre for acid attack survivors in New Delhi in March 2016. That centre offers more than treatment: it provides psychological counselling, vocational training, legal guidance, and even recreational workshops like yoga and poetry .

These services have tangible impact. Between 2014 and 2016, MLNS supported nearly 70 survivors, offering life-changing care and a fresh start . One powerful campaign, #EndAcidSale, called for banning the unchecked retail sale of acid. Its widespread reach led to India's Supreme Court enforcing a ban on over-the-counter sales in 2015 a policy win supported by MLNS's awareness and online activism.

For Ria Sharma, survivors are not defined by trauma they are the authors of their own resilience. Her memoir, Make Love Not Scars, launched at the Jaipur Literature Festival in 2019, captures this, “It's written from the perspective of a 21-year-old girl who never

thought she could do anything impactful,” she said. The book blends raw honesty, dark humour, and a celebration of courage.

Gates Goalkeepers Global Goals Award. That same year, MLNS was honored as "Brand of the Year" at the CNBC-TV18 Indian Business

free of obstacles. MLNS faced allegations in 2017 regarding misuse of funds. In 2018, however, the Mumbai Police exonerated Sharma, filing a closure report and clearing her of all charges.

Moreover, Sharma hasn't shied away from risk. She's received death threats yet continues undeterred, drawing strength from survivors whose resilience helped her become “a woman of substance”.

Ria Sharma's vision extends beyond rescue; it's about restoration and empow-erment. MLNS continues to offer, through a crowdfunded model all the medical aid, legal assistance, vocational training, safe housing, and community reintegration.’ Also, her early step of shunning makeup for a year to signal solidarity embodied a larger commitment: empathy over aesthetics, advocacy over comfort .

Moving forward, she and MLNS hope to expand reach further, potentially branching into broader gender-based violence and burn-victim rehabilitation.

Ria Sharma's journey is a story of conviction meeting compassion. One woman, faced with overwhelming grief, chose to stay, transforming personal anguish into collective healing. Her empathetic leadership, combined with bold storytelling and systemic advocacy, continues to remake societal perceptions of survivors.

For those seeking inspiration, Ria isn't a distant icon she's someone shaped by loss, fear, and possibility, who chose to listen, uplift, and rebuild. Her story reminds us that change often begins with a single moment of choice and that dignity, once restored, radiates outward.



Through her words, readers see Haseena, now mastering computers despite being blinded; Monica Singh, studying design at Parsons; and Reshma Qureshi, who graced New York Fashion Week, each a testament to overcoming stigma and reclaiming agency.

Sharma's work quickly caught global attention. In 2017, she became the first Indian to receive the United Nations Bill & Melinda

Leader Awards.

Furthermore, her exceptional work gave her the recognition in form of the British Council's Social Impact Award (2016), India Today's Woman of the Year for Public Service (2017), a place on Forbes Asia's 30 Under 30 (2018), and inclusion in India Today's 50 Most Influential Women Under 50.

However, for her this journey hasn't been

GLOBAL FOOD PRICES: A MIXED PICTURE OF
HIGHS AND LOWS

Food prices showed a mixed picture, with some categories rising sharply while others declined. The biggest increase was in vegetable oils, which jumped 7.1% to a three-year high. Strong worldwide demand and supply constraints caused costs of the palm, soybeans, and sunflower oils to rise. The only exception was rapeseed oil, which became cheaper because of new harvests in Europe.

With a 1.2% increase, meat prices also set a new high. Consumption between China and the United States drove up the price of beef and lamb, while Brazil's return to exporting caused a modest increase in the price of poultry. In contrast, the European Union's weaker demand and abundant supply caused pork prices to decline.



However, despite higher costs for maize and barley, cereal prices fell by 0.8%, mostly due to cheaper wheat and rice. After 14 months of price hikes, dairy prices decreased by 0.1% due to lower prices for butter and milk powder. The cost of cheese, meanwhile, kept going up. Finally, anticipations of increased output in important nations caused sugar prices to fall by 0.2% for the fifth straight month.

UNITY BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND FARMERS
STRENGTHENS INDIA'S AGRICULTURAL SELF-RELIANCE



The Pusa Campus in New Delhi, farmer leaders from all over India met with Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to thank the government for its strong measures to protect farmers and encourage autonomy. They praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's farmer-friendly policies, particularly the decision to bar American companies from entering India's dairy and agriculture sectors, which they said would protect farmers' autonomy and the country's agricultural soul. Leaders like Kirpa Singh Natthuwalla.

Lohan, Dharmendra Malik, and Dharmendra Choudhary expressed their full support for the government's stance and urged it to resist pressure from abroad. Kuldeep Singh Bajidpur praised ongoing health schemes and called for more efforts to lessen reliance on foreign markets in India.

Minister Chouhan called farmers the “providers of life” and said serving them is like worship. He announced upcoming strict laws against fake fertilisers and pesticides, and highlighted progress in schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, with recent digital payouts in Rajasthan.

He also lauded the government's 'Nation First' attitude, highlighting the cancelation of the River Waters Agreement after the Pahalgam, which terror assault.

The actor Choudhary, Virendra

TGRA ACHIEVES TOP QUARTILE RATING FOR
SUSTAINABLE RICE FARMING

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FROM DRY WELLS TO THRIVING FIELDS:
INDIA'S QUIET WATER REVOLUTION



India is facing an urgent water crisis. Rivers that once flowed year-round are now dry, groundwater levels are plummeting, and monsoons meet only 20% of our water needs. Depleting aquifers provide the remaining 80%, which is used for farming, cooking, and drinking.

The Art of Life Social Projects is spearheading a water revolution driven by communities, informed by science, and anchored in ecology under the direction of Gurudev Sri Ravi Shankar. Making India water-positive is their aim.

In eight states, they have constructed more than 1,05,000 recharge structures and revitalized 72

rivers through the use of geoinformatics, Geographic Information Systems (GI mapping, and local knowledge). Thanks to Jal Tara, a straightforward pit-based recharge technique surrounded by fruit trees, groundwater levels have increased by up to 14 toes, and farmers like Sulabai Chavhal are now gathering an abundance of crops.

Backed by the 4R model-Reduce, Reuse, Recharge, Recycle-the initiative has conserved water worth ₹1.74 lakh crore and empowered 3.45 crore people.

This is more than conservation- it's transformation. With improved yields, rising incomes, and thriving communities, The Art of Living offers a scalable, science-backed solution for India's water future. The journey continues but the blueprint for change is already here.

FYLLO'S NERO
INFINITY REVOLUTIONISES
AFFORDABLE, LONG-LASTING
FARM SENSORS IN INDIA



Fyllo, a Bengaluru-based agritech company, has developed Nero Infinity, an advanced farm device created in collaboration with IIT. It replaces costly imported sensors with a durable PVC-based system that uses the Standing Wave Ratio (SWR) principle to measure soil moisture. Earlier, imported sensors cost ₹3,500–4,000 each, making the device price over ₹20,000 with a lifespan of only 3–4 years. With the new design, the cost has dropped to ₹6,000, and the life has extended to over 10 years. Within a month of launch, Fyllo received 8,000 bookings, double its previous annual sales record.

Fyllo also offers Kairo, which tracks climate conditions. These devices connect to a cloud platform that uses AI to give farmers insights on pests, weather, and irrigation. Over 40 companies use Fyllo's equipment for contract farming to improve produce quality, ensure sustainability, and increase farmer profits. Initially adopted by grape farmers in Nashik, the technology is now used for bananas, potatoes, pomegranates, sugarcane, chillies, tomatoes, tea, and more.

Fyllo sells its IoT devices outright, with an additional annual subscription fee. While it already has some presence in France, Mexico, and Europe, the company's priority is strengthening its network in India, where it operates in 13 States through 40 distributors and up to 400 retailers.

KERALA LAUNCHES 'SURAKSHA MITRAM' WITH
HELP BOXES TO PROTECT CHILDREN



also being given specialized training to notice behavioral changes in students that might signal abuse.

To further encourage open communication, students will be urged to express their concerns through diary writing and designated “zero-hour” sessions. The initiative will roll out in collaboration with departments like Women and Child Development, Social Justice, Local Self-Government, Health, and the Police. Additionally, parenting clinics will receive extra support for counseling, while existing government facilities will be ready to support children needing immediate safety. A formal Standard Operating Procedure for these safety protocols will soon be issued by the Director of Public Education.

This plan signifies Kerala's commitment to proactive child protection and a safer school environment for all.

IIT BHU LAUNCHES ₹20 LAKH STARTUP INCUBATION
SCHEME FOR DAPT INNOVATIONS



This programme is in line with national goals such as Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and Viksit Bharat, aiming to encourage homegrown innovation and create sustainable technological solutions for real-world problems. To qualify, applicants must be registered in India, hold a valid Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recognition, and have at least one full-time founder owning a majority stake in the company. The proposed solution must be rooted in DAPT technology and show strong commercial potential.

The institute's leadership expressed its commitment to building an ecosystem where innovation can thrive, noting that such support can empower startups to contribute significantly to the country's technological advancement. Interested entrepreneurs can apply through the I-DAPT Hub Foundation's official portal, with the application deadline set for August 20, 2025.

IIT KHARAGPUR OFFERS 10 FREE ONLINE
ARCHITECTURE COURSES

IIT Kharagpur, one of India's leading institutes, has announced ten free online courses in the field of architecture and planning through the NPTEL platform. These courses are designed to support students, professionals, and enthusiasts who want to strengthen their knowledge of design, construction, and planning without bearing financial costs.



Two of the courses, focusing on Universal Design and Architectural Acoustics, are currently open for enrolment. Interested learners can register until August 18, 2025, making it a timely opportunity for those eager to gain structured learning from faculty experts. The other eight courses are available in a self-paced format, allowing participants to access lessons and resources anytime, making learning flexible and convenient.

The subjects cover a wide range of important themes such as sustainable design, building materials, planning principles, and innovative construction methods. Each course aims to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and real-world application, ensuring that learners can apply the concepts in

practical contexts. By offering these courses free of charge, IIT Kharagpur is encouraging a broader community of learners to explore architecture. This initiative is particularly useful for students in smaller towns, working professionals seeking to upskill, or individuals simply passionate about the built environment. The courses are structured to be accessible and enriching, regardless of a learner's prior background.

SMART SCHOOL-SMART BLOCK INITIATIVE



The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), in partnership with the Sampark Foundation, has launched the “Smart School-Smart Block” initiative across 217 municipal schools in Mumbai. Designed to revolutionize learning through technology, this initiative aims to install foundational literacy and numeracy tools that are intuitive for teachers to use, promoting digital literacy among students.

As part of the program, 273 classrooms will be transformed into interactive smart learning spaces for approximately 3,078 students. Educators will receive specialized training—434 teachers in total to implement Sampark's innovative teaching-learning materials and methodologies effectively. Additionally, 159 smart TV panels will be deployed across schools in wards

like Chembur, Bhandup, Dadar, Parel, Byculla, Ghatkopar, Borivali, Kurla, and Goregaon, ensuring broader access to visual and dynamic learning aids.

Built upon a five-year (2023–2028) agreement between Sampark Foundation and the Maharashtra government, the initiative expands a decade-long effort that already converted over 14,300 classrooms into smart environments, trained nearly 10,000 teachers, and distributed more than 6,100 LED TVs. Beyond infrastructure, the program includes comprehensive training for educators, orientations for education officials at district, block, and cluster levels, and active community engagement with parents and local stakeholders.

Monthly reviews, ongoing training refreshers, and periodic surveys will track its impact, striving for tangible improvements in learning outcomes and ensuring sustained educational excellence.

BR AMBEDKAR OPEN
UNIVERSITY OFFERS FREE
EDUCATION FOR TRIBAL,
TRANSGENDER AND
SPECIALLY-ABLED STUDENTS



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) in Hyderabad has launched the Samatha Support Scheme to provide free degree-level education to tribal, transgender, and differently-abled students. Applications for the programme opened today and will close on August 13, 2025. Vice Chancellor Ghanta Chakrapani stated that for the past four decades, the university has been committed to reaching underprivileged communities who have often been denied access to higher education due to economic or geographical barriers. This initiative, known as Education at Your Doorstep, will allow tribal students from communities such as Gond, Koya, and Chenchu to study without paying tuition fees. They will only need to pay a nominal admission fee of Rs 500 and will receive textbooks free of cost.

To qualify, tribal applicants must hold a valid Telangana community certificate, be permanent residents of the state, and have an annual parental income below Rs 2 lakh. Transgender candidates must possess a white ration card, with parental income not exceeding Rs 2 lakh in urban areas and Rs 1.5 lakh in rural areas. Specially-abled students are required to have at least 40% disability, a Sadharam certificate from Telangana, and an annual parental income of no more than Rs 6 lakh.

Through this scheme, BRAOU aims to break social and financial barriers, ensuring that education becomes accessible to some of the most marginalised groups in society, promoting equality and inclusion in higher learning.

CHINA SIGNALS INTEREST IN SPECIAL TRADE DEAL WITH INDIA AMID U.S. TARIFF PRESSURES



China has expressed openness to exploring a “special” trade arrangement with India that could include rare earth minerals, fertilizers, and pharmaceutical products. The initiative, if realized, would represent a significant step in improving economic ties between

the two Asian powers at a time when both are grappling with the fallout of heightened U.S. tariffs and the disruption of global supply chains. According to officials aware of the discussions, the proposal is expected to be a part of the agenda during the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin later this month. Such a package could help India secure critical raw materials, reduce supply shortages, and offer China a dependable export destination as its trade with Western economies becomes increasingly constrained.

Spotlight on Rare Earths

Rare earth elements vital for India's fast-growing electronics, defense, and renewable energy sectors—are central to the talks. Earlier in April, Beijing restricted exports of some medium and heavy rare earth

products, citing national security concerns in the backdrop of tensions with Washington. Although shipments to the U.S., Europe, and Southeast Asia have since resumed, Indian firms have not yet obtained the necessary licenses. Negotiations during the summit could provide much-needed access to these resources for Indian industries.

Fertilizer Supply Concerns

India's agriculture sector, which heavily depends on Chinese imports of specialized fertilizers, has been facing shortages due to export curbs. While China has gradually relaxed restrictions on urea, advanced fertilizers such as calcium nitrate and mono ammonium phosphate remain scarce. Estimates indicate that nearly 80 percent of India's demand for these fertilizers is met by Chinese supplies. Officials suggest that ensuring smooth fertilizer imports will be a top agenda item during the upcoming talks.

Pharma Industry Pressures

Pharmaceutical trade is another area under strain. With Washington considering tariffs as high as 250 percent on certain finished drugs, both Indian and Chinese producers are looking for ways to minimize the impact. India's commerce ministry has already initiated consultations with leading pharmaceutical firms to explore cooperative mechanisms, including structured sourcing of key active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) from China. Such an arrangement could help stabilize the industry at a time of global uncertainty.

A Diplomatic Opening

Observers note that the trade discussions may also serve as a catalyst for a broader diplomatic reset between New Delhi and Beijing. Alongside economic matters, talks are being revived on reopening border trade posts, restoring direct air connectivity, and enhancing cultural exchanges. Experts believe that the proposed package signals a pragmatic approach by both sides to reframe relations in the face of volatile international economic conditions. A former Indian trade negotiator commented, “The U.S. tariff war has disturbed established supply networks. For India and China, this situation brings both risks and opportunities. If handled wisely, this package could strengthen ties while protecting essential industries from global shocks.”

Challenges Ahead

Despite optimism, hurdles remain. Lingering mistrust over border disputes continues to weigh heavily on relations, and industry leaders warn that any agreement must be carefully designed to avoid creating excessive dependence on Chinese suppliers. Nevertheless, Beijing's willingness to keep negotiations open is being interpreted as a rare and positive sign. As the SCO summit draws near, global attention will be on Tianjin to see whether this tentative step can translate into a concrete breakthrough for Asia's two largest economies.

PM MODI OUTLINES ROADMAP FOR A SELF-RELIANT AND DEVELOPED INDIA IN INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a landmark Independence Day speech from the historic Red Fort, presented a comprehensive vision for India's transformation into a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047, the centenary of independence. His nearly two-hour address emphasized self-reliance, inclusive development, and wide-ranging reforms aimed at positioning India as a global leader.

Strengthening Self-Reliance Amid Global Uncertainty

Amid international trade tensions, including rising U.S. tariffs, the Prime Minister reaffirmed India's commitment to Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India). Stressing the importance of minimizing dependence on external economies, he highlighted domestic production in vital areas such as fertilizers, jet engines, and electric vehicle batteries. He assured strong support for farmers, fishermen, and cattle rearers, emphasizing that their welfare would remain at the heart of policy decisions. Modi noted that building resilience in agriculture and allied sectors was essential to protect livelihoods from unpredictable global challenges.

Reforms Focused on the Common Citizen

In a move directed toward easing financial pressures on households, PM Modi announced a reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) effective from October. Described as a “Diwali gift” for the people, this reform aims to boost consumption and stimulate economic activity. Alongside this, he introduced a Next-Generation Reform Task Force that will spearhead new strategies to simplify governance, strengthen the ease

of doing business, and ensure India's growth remains both inclusive and sustainable. Modi stressed that reforms must directly benefit the ordinary citizen, making governance more transparent and efficient.

Technological Breakthrough: Semiconductor Manufacturing

Underscoring India's ambition to emerge as a global technology hub, the Prime Minister announced that the first semiconductor chips made in India would be available in the market by the end of 2025. This milestone, he said, would mark a turning point in reducing reliance on foreign technology while enabling India to become a key player in advanced electronics manufacturing. He described it as a crucial step toward achieving technological sovereignty in an increasingly competitive digital world.

Defense, Diplomacy, and National Heritage

On national security, PM Modi firmly stated that India would not be cowed by regional threats or nuclear blackmail. Referring to Operation Sindoor, he reiterated India's resolve to safeguard sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Prime Minister also invoked the sacrifices of freedom fighters and the contributions of leaders like Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, linking their vision to the nation's current aspirations. By honoring their legacy, he reminded citizens of the responsibility to carry forward the ideals of courage, unity, and service to the nation.



Vision for 2047: Toward a Developed India

The centerpiece of Modi's speech was the call to transform India into a Viksit Bharat by 2047. He urged citizens, institutions, and industries to work collectively toward this shared national goal. His roadmap emphasized sustainable growth, inclusivity, and competitiveness in the global arena. He concluded by asserting that India's journey toward development required not only economic progress but also a renewed commitment to values of self-reliance, unity, and innovation.

EXPERT



Dr. (Mrs) Chandra Hariharan Iyer

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FAQs ON Learning and Development through Ancient Indian Wisdom

Mail your questions on
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or

DM your questions on our instagram
handle [@thehulahultimes](https://www.instagram.com/thehulahultimes)

Q. What are the red flags of workplace bullying which I shouldn't ignore?

Ans. Workplace bullying can take a significant toll on your mental health and overall well-being. It's important to recognize the signs early and take proactive steps to address the issue. In this article, we will explore common red flags of workplace bullying, such as sabotaging your success, constant criticism, public humiliation, and more, using Sanskrit slokas to shed light on these behaviors and provide wisdom on how to deal with them.

1) Sabotaging Your Success: One of the most destructive behaviors of workplace bullying is the deliberate sabotage of your success. This could involve someone actively undermining your work, spreading lies, or deliberately creating obstacles to prevent you from reaching your goals. "न कस्यचित् कर्तव्यं दुरात्मना रुषा कृतम्। स्वधर्मेण न क्रियते यः प्राणं समाश्रित्य धृतम्॥" — Bhagavad Gita 17.13. This

verse from the Bhagavad Gita teaches us that hostile actions only lead to a lack of peace and integrity. If you notice that someone is intentionally trying to sabotage your progress or success, it's a major red flag of workplace bullying. Their actions are out of alignment with ethical and harmonious behavior. Stay true to your values and seek support from trusted colleagues or HR to prevent such behaviors from affecting your performance.

2) Constant Criticism: Unwarranted criticism is a clear sign of bullying. This may manifest as your work being criticized no matter how well you perform, or being blamed for things that aren't your responsibility. "कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन। मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भूर्मा ते सङ्गोऽस्त्वकर्मणि॥" — Bhagavad Gita 2.47. The Bhagavad Gita advises us to focus on our duties and detach from the outcomes. If you're constantly criticized, it may be a sign that someone is unjustly trying to diminish your confidence and work. Learn to take feedback in a constructive manner, but don't internalize unproductive criticism. Ask for specific, actionable feedback, and if criticism is unjustified, communicate calmly to defend your position without becoming defensive.

3) Public Humiliation: Undermining Your Dignity in Front of Others Public humiliation is an extremely harmful form of bullying. This can erode your self-esteem and create a toxic work environment. "अधमं सर्वजन्यं स्थितं शान्तं सुखं हि यः। पुनर्व्यवहितं नैव विपरीतं यथाशिवम्॥" — Bhagavad Gita 3.43. In this verse, Lord Krishna emphasizes that trying to bring others down results in harm to one's own character. Public humiliation is a tactic used by bullies to manipulate and control others. It's essential to recognize this as a toxic behavior that undermines not only the victim but also the perpetrator's ethical values. Stand firm in your dignity, and seek a private conversation to address the situation with HR or a trusted colleague.

4) Manipulating Performance Reviews: Manipulating performance reviews is a subtle yet destructive form of bullying. This might involve inflating or deflating your achievements, spreading inaccurate assessments of your work, or highlighting minor mistakes to make you appear incompetent. "यथा एकं कार्यं शान्तं परं नाथं च धीमन्। दुर्योधनादि विक्रान्तं सम्प्रदाय्याऽधिको यथा॥" — Mahabharata. The Mahabharata reminds us that true leadership comes from fairness and integrity. Manipulating performance reviews is a way to distort someone's reputation for personal gain. This is a form of bullying that seeks to undermine your professional identity. Document your accomplishments and ask for regular feedback to ensure that your work is accurately represented.

5) Setting You Up to Fail: A bully might create situations where failure is inevitable, setting you up to fail by providing impossible tasks or setting you up for failure in meetings or projects and to make you look incompetent. "तथासुखं श्रेयो धर्मेण सर्वे धर्मार्थकृत्यः। सज्जनं कालजं कष्टं क्षमा धर्मस्य वर्तते॥" — Mahabharata. This verse speaks to the importance of resilience in the face of adversity. If you're being set up to fail, it's essential to stay grounded in your own abilities and not be swayed by malicious attempts to undermine you. Reach out for help when you feel overwhelmed and communicate your concerns to someone in authority to prevent further manipulation.

6) Silent Treatment: The silent treatment is a passive-aggressive form of bullying where the person ignores or refuses to communicate with you. This can create feelings of isolation and uncertainty, often making you feel like you're being shunned for no apparent reason. "विषयं परिमृश्यं परि चित्तस्य आत्मनः। धैर्यं च विस्मयं शान्तिं शोचं खलु स्थितम्॥" — Bhagavad Gita 16.3. The Gita advises cultivating inner peace when faced with challenges. The silent treatment is a form of emotional manipulation that aims to isolate you and create confusion. Understanding your own worth and not internalizing this behavior helps in coping with it. Address the issue directly and calmly with the person involved or report it to HR if necessary.

7) Spreading Rumors: Spreading rumors is a toxic way to sabotage your

reputation. If someone is gossiping about you or spreading lies, it can harm both your professional image and relationships within the workplace. "निन्दितं जगतं सर्वं कर्तव्यं कर्तुमेव हि। सम्पदं सन्तुष्टिं सुखं स्थानं साध्यं सदा कर्ता॥" — Mahabharata. Rumors have the power to destroy trust and relationships. The Mahabharata teaches us to focus on virtue and righteousness, which shields us from the harm that lies and gossip can cause. Confront the rumors with truth and seek support from reliable colleagues to maintain your credibility.

8) Verbal Abuse: Verbal abuse involves insults, degrading comments, or offensive language aimed at belittling and dehumanizing you. Such behavior can leave lasting emotional scars. "सत्यं प्रियं ब्रूयात् न ब्रूयात् सत्यं अप्रियम्। प्रियं च नानृतं ब्रूयात् एष धर्मो सनातनः॥" — Mahabharata. The Mahabharata encourages us to speak in a way that promotes peace and dignity, reinforcing the idea that no one should be subjected to verbal degradation. Report abusive language immediately to HR and document the incidents as evidence.

9) Excessive Micromanagement: Micromanagement can be a subtle form of bullying where your supervisor continuously monitors and controls every aspect of your work, often doubting your abilities or autonomy. "कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन। मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भूर्मा ते सङ्गोऽस्त्वकर्मणि॥" — Bhagavad Gita 2.47. The Bhagavad Gita teaches us to trust ourselves and our work without being overly controlled by external forces. If you're being micromanaged, it can undermine your confidence and autonomy. Address the situation by respectfully communicating your need for more autonomy and offering solutions to build trust.

10) Unreasonable Workload: An unreasonable workload is a common sign of workplace bullying. If you're being given more work than you can reasonably handle or work that isn't aligned with your role, it's a tactic used to overwhelm and break you down. "कर्मणा सदा धर्मेण कष्टं न पश्यति त्याज्यं। श्रमो धर्मेण नष्टं सुखं समृद्धं स्थिता॥" — Bhagavad Gita 3.7. The Gita advises that work should be balanced and aligned with our purpose. An unreasonable workload is a deliberate attempt to break your spirit and balance. Speak up about your workload and negotiate for a more reasonable distribution of tasks.

Workplace bullying can take various forms, but recognizing the red flags early is the first step in protecting yourself. Behaviors like sabotage, public humiliation, verbal abuse, and manipulation can deeply affect your mental health and career progression. Drawing upon the wisdom of Sanskrit texts, we see that integrity, patience, and clarity are essential in navigating such toxic behaviors. By being aware of these red flags, setting boundaries, and seeking support, you can maintain your dignity and well-being in the workplace. Wish you much and more, stay blessed!

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YOUR LIFE, YOUR PACE : ESCAPING THE COMPARISON TRAP



The comparison trap is nothing new, as it roots back to everyone's childhood. Parents were the ones who started this by comparing their children with others, whether it be grades, career, or marriage. Indian parents tend to compare their children with others in every way possible. This doesn't motivate anyone; rather, it builds envious feelings towards the one that we are being compared to.

generational trauma.

In this new age of social media, we are attracted to the lavish lives of the social media influencers. We forget that they live dual lives, one in front of the camera and one behind it. Following them, we also get that urge to buy branded things even if we are not capable and in need of it. We start to compare our lives, income, and relationships with the people on social media; this

This generational trauma needs to have a full stop before it becomes too risky, as we have seen many people end their lives just because they are not achieving what others have achieved at the same age.

Comparison leads nowhere; rather, it builds envy and hatred.

Every individual has unique capabilities, so instead of comparing with the ones who are better, parents need to understand what their children are capable of; this will definitely help in ending this

constant comparison may lead to mental trauma, low self-esteem, and low self-confidence.

Have we ever compared ourselves with the ones who are underprivileged? We never actually do, but when we do this, we will realize how immensely blessed we are. Money and success don't define how content and happy we are in life; peace and happiness come from within and from being grateful for whatever we have rather than complaining about it.

Some ways to break through this comparison trap:

1. Be grateful: When we evaluate ourselves, we end up realizing that we are far beyond blessed in our lives; we have a roof over our head, food to eat, clean water to drink, a good sustainable job, and what not. Be grateful for all the bounties that you are blessed with.

2. Celebrate your wins: When we celebrate our achievements, we tend to live in that moment and forget about comparing our success with that of others. Every win, be it small or big, needs a celebration.

3. Don't be envious of others' success: The comparison comes along with hatred and envy, when we replace the former, the latter automatically goes away. Be happy for others' success as well.

4. Learn from others: Everyone has unique talents and

abilities, so rather than comparing ourselves with them, we can learn from them. That not only helps in going further in life but also builds the attitude of upskilling at each level.

There are plenty of people with the same designation, and everyone excels at their respective positions, right? Have you ever thought why? Because everyone brings something different and unique to the table. Maybe you are not good at something that others are, but you might be good at something else. Explore your potential and your own pace in reaching your life's objectives, and do your best.

Comparison actually kills your creativity. Don't waste time comparing yourself when you can utilize this time in building the empire of your dreams.

Bring good change within and break through this comparison trap, which will lead you nowhere; rather, it will diminish the happiness and peace from your life. Life is too short to worry about things that you don't have; appreciate and be grateful for what you have and go ahead.

No one is you, and that's your superpower-
Dave Grohl

FROM PAGES TO PURPOSE : HOW ONE BOOK CAN SHAPE YOUR LIFE

Books are not just confined to school and college for educational purposes, but they can prove to be helpful in every phase of our lives. The habit of reading books may seem outdated to many, but in reality, if we instill this habit, then there is no going back.

Books are not just meant for bookworms and introverts, who love to be indulged in books to be away from interactions and social gatherings, but they are also meant for each and every individual who wants to repurpose their lives and change their lives for good.

Reading books can help us experience vast number of things that we might have never witnessed in our lives before.

Books sometimes act as a mirror, and authors act as a guide to help us navigate through difficult and challenging phases of our lives. It builds empathy in us; while reading about different characters in a book, when we try to put ourselves in their shoes, we learn the art of being empathetic, which many people lack nowadays.

Whether it be inspirational, fantasy, thriller, mystery, or romance novels or self-help books, each one has distinctive characteristics that can change your life when you read them.

There are plenty of stories of readers out there on

social media that highlight the importance and role of books in their lives, that have brought about a change that never existed before reading that particular book.

There are plenty of books that have the power to change our perspective about life, about challenging situations, relationships, friendships, success, and failures.

Books not only help us in attaining hard skills required for us to excel in the corporate world, but they can also prove to be the best source for learning and excelling in soft skills, which are the most necessary skills to stand out among the crowd. Emotional intelligence, empathy, critical thinking, leadership, time management, problem-solving, and creativity—all these things can be easily attained when you build a habit of reading books.

Regular reading also improves your communication skills, grammar, vocabulary, and sentence formation, and you can learn the tone of the dialogue that the author is using.

Some of the books that I have personally read and would highly recommend you as well to give them a read. They are as follows:

☞ **“Eat That Frog” by Brian Tracy** - It basically focuses on how we can be efficient in completing our tasks and not just juggle between them. It

emphasizes having a schedule ready for the day and completing the most important task first.

☞ **“Atomic Habits” by James Clear** - This was the very first book that I have read, and it had the power to make me an avid reader because it totally helped me in as many ways as possible. The book mainly focuses on initiating small habits in our routines, which, after being consistent, have proven to have shown brilliant results.

☞ **“Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini** - This is a roller coaster of emotions; the author keeps us hooked by his amazing storytelling ability. The author has highlighted the importance of family and friends, forgiveness, and healing.

☞ **“The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari” by Robin Sharma** - This fantastic book by the author focuses on happiness, life, peace, and purpose.

☞ **“What We Think We Become” by Durgesh Satpathy** - This book basically emphasizes the impact of our mindset on our growth and success.

Go grab a book; there are umpteen numbers of options available for you to change your life. Inculcate the habit of reading a book for at least half an hour or an



hour a day, in the morning or at bedtime; it is far better than mindless scrolling on your mobile phone that gives you nothing.

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petroleum products and their derivatives — polymer, pet coke, gypsum, chemicals, propylene, iron, and steel.Oman is India's third-largest export destination within the (GCC) Gulf Cooperation Council. India exports cereals, electrical equipment, pharmaceutical products, cosmetics, meat, dairy, and spacecraft items to Oman. The aim of the FTAs is to generate significant benefits for trade and industry, support farmers, and create job opportunities.

INDIA'S FIRST COMMERCIAL EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE WAS ESTABLISHED BY PIXXELSPACE INDIA

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center announced the selection of the PixxelSpace India-led consortium to operate, build, and create India's first commercial indigenous Earth observation satellite constellation observation on Tuesday under the Public-Private Partnership model. Based on the PPP framework, the Union government will provide strategic, technical, and policy support. The Bangalore-based PixxelSpace India is the first private consortium to invest more than 1,200 crore over the next five years to launch a constellation of 12 state-of-the-art Earth observation satellites. The Earth Observation Satellite will provide analysis-ready data and value-added services for applications in climate change, disaster management, infrastructure, urban planning, agriculture, and other high-quality geospatial intelligence. IN-SPACe said that it will significantly reduce India's reliance on foreign sources, ensure data sovereignty, and position the country as one of the global leaders in space based Data Solutions, as it is generating high-resolution indigenous satellite data which will provide high-quality information. IN-SPACE added that the EO Constellation will be deployed in a phased manner and will ensure the provision of continued service over the next four years. It will be the most advanced EO system in the world, designed, built, and operated entirely in India by Indian talent.



INDIA LAUNCHES FIRST ANIMAL STEM CELL BIOBANK IN GACHIBOWLI TO IMPROVE VETERINARY CARE AND REDUCE IMPORTS

In Hyderabad, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, on Saturday, revealed new technologies developed by the city-based National Institute of Animal Biotechnology under the Department of B.R.I.C. (Biotechnology Research Innovation Counseling). They have integrated India's first stem cell biobank, which provides high-quality stem cells for various animal species. The aim is to boost veterinary medicine, improve livestock health facilities, and reduce import dependency. "Dr Singh said that these affordable technological innovations will improve animal's health, improve farmers' livelihoods, and increase livestock productivity. In addition, they will also strengthen our ability to combat zoonotic diseases, which account for nearly two-thirds of new and emerging infections globally. The biobank will ensure quality-controlled animal stem cells and cost-effective culture media to veterinary clinics, hospitals, research institutions, and industries. NIAB Director Dr. G. Taru Sharma said, the innovation is aligning with the government's BioE3 policy and it will focus on economy, employment, and environment to create sustainable knowledge of livestock health solutions from disease control to smart protein production. This initiative is highlighting the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and the principle of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas of the central government.



SUPERSTAR RAJINIKANTH COMPLETES 50 YEARS IN INDIAN FILMS

Superstar Rajinikanth completed nearly five decades and 170 films in Indian cinema. From a bus conductor to Indian biggest superstar, it isn't just about survival in the film industry, but it's more about fabulous work and countless efforts. Recently, his new film Coolie was released on 14 August and got intense love from the audience and embarked a mark on their hearts. In this movie, he reflects on his own life, playing a character of a working-class hero. The 74-year-old superstar is a phenomenal personality and has the power that makes us look at him. Rajinikanth's new release Coolie got from love and tickets are advanced booked and theatres are getting before even screening. Bottoms pulling of fans celebrated for his new movie and wished him for the best. His home in Chennai is always covered with thousands of fans seeking just a glimpse of the superstar. With the blockbuster hit “Billa” in 1980, Rajinikanth came up with the status of action hero. He starred in Tamil, Bollywood films and even popular American film Bloodstone. He comes up with a long journey as an artiste who became the most beloved and heart of Indian cinema.



INDIA MOVES FORWARD WITH AI FOR WIDESPREAD SUSTAINABILITY AND TO CUT CO₂ EMISSIONS



Many Indian firms and startups are adopting AI to fulfill environmental goals, emission forecasting, and e-environmental, social, and governance data analysis. According to IBM's 2024 State of Sustainability Readiness Data Index, 64% of Indian companies are already setting up AI to meet environmental targets, while the global average is 44% for deploying AI for sustainability. And 98% of Indian companies are planning to adopt AI for sustainability this year.Many companies are using AI solutions for machine learning-based emission monitoring, ventilation, and predictive water loss measurement. TATA POWER uses AI for real-time and predictive weather data to forecast and optimize solar energy integration, enhancing efficient solar power utilization. Their AI-powered weather forecasts provide early alerts for extreme weather events, support disaster preparedness, and enhance grid reliability. ReNew also uses AI in forecasting, power trading, price forecasting, and scenario modeling to lead and increase the efficiency of its processes. AI powered solar panels reduce water consumption by 25%. AI is helping companies spot exactly where resources are being wasted and test different solutions before creating any change, says Mahesh Ramanujan, CEO of Global Network for Zero (GNFZ).

HIMACHAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL PERFORMS ROBOTIC SURGERY

The surgeons at the Atal Institute of Medical Superspecialities (AIMSS), Chamiana, have successfully performed a high-end robotic surgery on August 12. The surgery was carried out by a team of Dr. Anand Kumar, Dr. Pamposh Rana, and Dr. Pawan Kaundal is a resident of Khalini suffering from a prostate-related ailment. Hospital authorities said that the robotic surgery lasted for 3 hours, significantly shorter than the 5 hours typically required for traditional surgery, and it was completed without any blood loss compared to the amount usually involved in traditional procedures. The patient is in a good state and is expected to be discharged within 3–4 days, compared to the earlier 8–10 days, the doctor said. Robotic technology leads to faster recovery, minimal blood loss, and greater precision."Chief Minister Sukhu congratulated the team for their success and highlighted his government's resolve in bringing advanced healthcare to the public sector. He hailed it as a historic milestone achieved by the doctors." This marked a new era in the state's medical history, as robotic arms filter out natural hand tremors, enabling surgeons to operate with microscopic precision, which results in less scarring and better outcomes.



Afreen Mazgaonkar & Roshni Kumari

INDIA'S A WOMEN TRIUMPH OVER AUSTRALIA'S A WOMEN IN ODI SERIES



In an existing showcase of skills and determination, India A Women clinched the ODI series against Australia A Women with an intense domination. The match was held at the Healy Oval in Brisbane, displaying some remarkable performance from the Indian side. India A Women presented a spirited run chase, led by their experienced players who thrived under pressure to clinch the victory. The team's bowlers set the tone early in the match, taking crucial wickets at important moments and limiting the Australian batting lineup. Their fielding was focused and methodical, showing the hard work out during training sessions. Aiming for victory, India A Women exhibited remarkable poise. Key partnership in the middle overs stabilized the innings, while the finishers ensured a victorious run to seal the series. Every player supported to win, highlighting the depth of talent in Indian women's cricket. This achievement is a testament to India A Woman's growing confidence and skills on international grounds with the remarkable victory, the team has not only earned respect and appreciation but also sent a strong message that their team has the ability to challenge the world's best. Supporters and analysts are eager to witness what the future holds for these rising stars.

GOLDEN THROW: ANNU RANI SHINES IN JAVELIN EVENT

What a day to remember at Kalinga Stadium. Under the Scorching Bhubaneswar sky, India's athletics champions truly illuminated the track and field in the first ever Indian intercontinental series. In the women's Javelin the composed Annu Rani surged past the 60 metres barrier not once, but twice - her best throw reaching 62.01 metres a clear cut above the rest. It was the exhaustion courageous away with powerful release, paving her way towards world championship qualification. The men's 200 metres delivered its own actions. Aminesh Kujur, who had omitted the 100 heats, drew strength from the roaring home around in a blistering 20.77 second – clinching gold in style. It also noticed a spectacular last round vaulted in the long - jump. Murlu Sreeshankar, with nerves of steel, produced a season's best 8.13 metres to edge past the promising Shahnawaz Khan. All in all, it was a day experienced campaigners and young prodigies alike reminded us. Why athletics remains India's heart pounding, soul - stirring pride. It felt like the star of something truly grand.



MURALI SREESHANKAR'S IMPRESSIVE COMEBACK IS GAINING TRACTION

Indian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar is coming back impressively after a traumatic knee injury that could have hindered his career. Sreeshankar made a powerful re-entry into competition last month with an 8.05m leap at the Indian Open in Pune, an indicator that he is primed to again be in the contention to be one of the best in the world. He followed that with a second straight win at a World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze level meet in Portugal, where he still placed first with a decent jump of 7.75m, even if conditions were difficult. Sreeshankar's way back has been aided by a strong sense of resilience. After a lengthy and complicated knee surgery in Doha, he followed with a regimented rehabilitation, gradually ditching the crutches to simple training drills, then full-length jumps. His mental strength, along with constant discipline were essential to his recovery and subsequent return to competition. With these consecutive victories, Sreeshankar is showing that he is definitely back on track to contend in elite events again. He is now trying to qualify for the World Championships, where the entry standard is an audacious 8.27m.



ROHITH KRISHNA S CREATES HISTORY AS INDIA'S 89TH GRANDMASTER

Rohith Krishna S a chess player has proudly engraved his name in Indian Chess history by becoming the 89th Grandmaster of the country. His notable achievements came at the Almaty Masters Qonaev Cup, where Rohith earned his third and final GM norm, the most important step to officially gaining the Grandmaster title. Rohith's journey represents the spirit of hard work, patience, and strong determination. He highlighted excellent strategic skills and calm decision making, which paved the way for this major achievement. His success is more than just a personal victory, the moment of pride for the entire nation. India has been noticing a chess revolution in recent years, with other young players shining on the global stage. Inspired by legends like Viswanathan Anand, youngsters like Rohith are carrying forward the legacy, showcasing to the world that India is becoming a true chess powerhouse. This achievement is a historic moment, it motivates and inspires many future players to believe in themselves and work tirelessly towards their dreams. Now Rohith Krishna S name will be remembered among brightest Indian Chess players.



INDIA FINISHES FOURTH AND RITIKA CLINCHES THE HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE



Ritika's conquest in the women's 80 plus kilograms division at the U-22 Asian Boxing Championship in Bangkok was nothing short of extraordinary. Facing Kazakhstan's Assel Toltassyn in a high- pressure final, she performed a perfect combination of control and ferocity- landing telling blows when it mattered most. Her gold medal was India's solo top victory at the U-22 section and helped the team conclude its campaign with a total of 13 medals achieving a commendable fourth place overall. However, the younger group sparked even brighter. The U-19 boxer secured 14 medals, three golds, seven silver, and four bronze in India. Granting second place over, a testament to the rising wave of boxing talent in the country. Ahead of Ritika, India's U-22 boxers brought pride to the nation. Yatri Patel (57kg) and Priya (60kg) both fought with determination to secure silver, with Priya narrowly missing gold in a 3-2 decision. In the men's level, Neeraj (75kg) and Ishan Kataria (90+kg) also added silver medals to the tally after tough encounters. This quest reasserted India's strength across youth boxing . His power combined with the 43 medals from the au-15 and U-17 teams earlier this year. It projects a positive outlook for Indian boxing.

TOUGH DRAWS AWAIT INDIAN SHUTTLERS AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The badminton world championship 2025- has set the stage, and Indian Badminton athletes have been presented with some of the toughest draws of the tournament. Leading the challenges in Lakshaya Sen, who faced none other than the world No.1, Shi Yu Qi of China, in his opening match. It promises to be an electrifying showdown right from the start. Shi Yu Qi holds a 3–1 edge in their past meetings. However, Lakshaya had already showcased his fighting spirit by earning a bronze medal in 2021, and he was determined to craft another glorious chapter. On the women's side, India's most consistent performer at the world and time medalist, PV Sindhu, begins her campaign with a relatively easier first round match. Her expertise and passion for the third world title run make her a strong medal hope once again. In the double match, every eye will be on Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag who have carried the nation's hopes at many major events. Though their journey is filled with powerful opponents, their recent form gives fans reason to believe. India has been achieving medals at the worlds every year since 2011. Now the challenges are tough, but the passion for the podium finishes shines brighter than ever.



EASTERN RAILWAY
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The Railway Recruitment Cell (RRC), Eastern Railway (ER), Kolkata has announced a golden opportunity for ITI pass candidates! As per Notification No. RRC/ER/Act Apprentices/2025-26, applications are invited for the engagement of 3,115 Act Apprentices for the year 2025–26 under the Apprenticeship Act. The online registration will be open from 14th August 2025 to 13th September 2025 at www.rrcer.org.

Vacancy Details – Division/Workshop-wise:

- Howrah Division: 659
- Liluah Workshop: 612
- Sealdah Division: 440
- Kanchrapara Workshop: 187
- Malda Division: 138
- Asansol Division: 412
- Jamalpur Workshop: 667

Eligibility Criteria:

- Age Limit: 15–24 years (Born between 02.01.2001 & 01.01.2010) Relaxation: SC/ST – 5 yrs, OBC – 3 yrs, PwBD – 10 yrs, Ex-servicemen as per rules.

Qualification:

- ✓ Passed 10th Class (Matriculation) with minimum 50% aggregate marks from a recognized board.
- ✓ Possess National Trade Certificate (ITI) in the relevant trade issued by NCVT/SCVT.

Selection Process:

- Merit-Based (Marks obtained in ITI)
- Document Verification

Application Fee:

- UR/OBC/EWS: ₹100/-
- SC/ST/PwBD/Female: No fee
- Payment Mode: Online via Debit/Credit Card, UPI, Net Banking (Non-refundable)

Important Dates:

- Apply Online: 14.08.2025 to 13.09.2025

How to Apply:

1. Visit rrcer.org
2. Register & fill application form with accurate details
3. Upload scanned photo, signature, ITI & relevant certificates
4. Pay fee (if applicable) and submit form
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- Exam Pattern: English Language, Quantitative Aptitude, Reasoning Ability, Professional Knowledge

Eligibility Criteria:

- Age Limit: 22–35 years as on 31.07.2025 (Relaxations: SC/ST – 5 yrs, OBC (NCL) – 3 yrs, PwBD – 10 yrs)

Educational Qualification:

- ✓ Bachelor's Degree or Integrated Dual Degree in any discipline with minimum 60% marks (55% for SC/ST/OBC/PwBD) from a recognized University/Institute, OR Chartered Accountant (CA).
- ✓ Desirable: CMA/CFA/ICWA, JAIIB, CAIIB.

Experience: Minimum 3 years post-qualification experience in banking or relevant sectors.

Application Fee:

- UR/EWS/OBC: ₹1180/-
- SC/ST/PwBD: ₹118/-
- Mode: Online payment only.

Important Dates

Apply Online: 13.08.2025 – 30.08.2025

How to Apply:

- Visit [Apply Here during the registration window](#).
- Fill out the application form with accurate personal, educational, and experience details.
- Upload required documents:
- Recent Photograph
- Signature
- Left Thumb Impression
- Handwritten Declaration (as per prescribed format)
- Pay the application fee online and submit the form.
- Print the confirmation page for future reference.

For more details, candidates can refer to the official notification.

BANK OF BARODA RECRUITMENT 2025-26
788 EXECUTIVE & MANAGERIAL VACANCIES

Bank of Baroda, one of India's leading public sector banks, invites online applications from talented, passionate, and result-oriented individuals for various Executive and Managerial positions in Retail Liabilities, Rural & Agri Banking, MSME, Human Resource, Digital, Risk Management, IT, and other departments.

Vacancy Highlights (Total: 788)

- Retail Liabilities: Manager-Sales – 227
- Rural & Agri Banking: Officer Agriculture Sales – 142; Manager Agriculture Sales – 48
- Human Resource: 371 (Regular & Contractual)
- Digital Department: 33
- MSME: Assistant Manager (Sales) – 300
- Risk Management: 10
- Fire Safety Officer: 14
- IT & Information Security: 18

Eligibility

- Graduation/ Post-Graduation with relevant experience as per post. Age limits: 22–40 years (varies by post, with relaxations as per government norms).

Selection Process

- Regular Posts: Online Test, Psychometric Test, Group Discussion/ Interview.

- Contractual Posts: Personal Interview.

Pay Scales

- JMG/S-I: ₹48,480 – 67,160
- MMG/S-II: ₹64,820 – 93,960
- MMG/S-III: ₹85,920 – 1,05,280
- S M G / S - I V : ₹ 1,02,300 – 1,20,940 (Contractual posts: Pay based on qualifications, experience & market benchmarks.

Application Fe

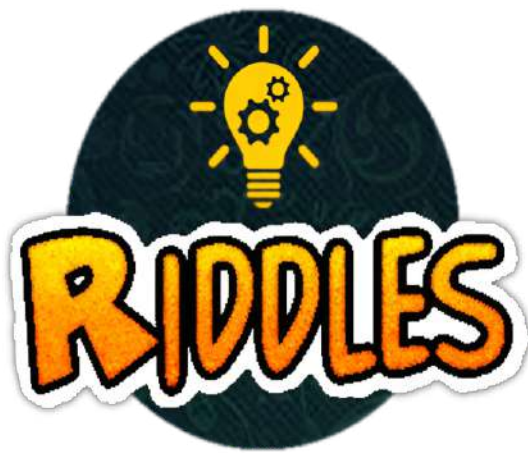
- General/EWS/OBC: ₹850/-
- SC/ST/PwBD/EXS/DISXS/Women: ₹175/-

Apply Online: www.bankofbaroda.in

For more details, candidates can refer to the official notification.



1. Which ministry launched the "NITI NCAER States Economic Forum" portal in New Delhi?
2. What is the name of the world's smallest known snake, rediscovered in Barbados after 20 years?
3. Which organization developed the SACHET system to send real-time disaster alerts across India?
4. Which Indian city is hosting the 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships?
5. The Battery Aadhaar Initiative was launched under which government department at the Battery Summit 2025?
6. What is the full form of ISRO?
7. Which Indian state recently became the first to implement 100% electric buses in public transport (2025)?
8. Which Indian cricketer announced retirement from international cricket in July 2025?
9. Which is the largest political party in the Indian Parliament after the 2024 general elections?
10. What does RBI stand for in India?



1. I am a place where the world's smallest known snake was recently rediscovered after 20 years. What am I?
2. I am a missile developed by an organization known for its research on defense technologies. Who am I?
3. I'm the current repo rate, as per the RBI MPC meeting held on August 6, 2025. What am I?
4. I'm the winner of the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year Award. Who am I?
5. I am a portal launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. What am I?
6. I'm the world's largest data centre, to be built in India. Where will I be located?

- ANSWERS
- 1) QUIZ TIME
1. Ministry of Finance
 2. Barbados thread snake
 3. Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)
 4. Ahmedabad
 5. Department of Science and Technology
 6. Indian Space Research Organisation
 7. Kerala
 8. Ravindra Jadeja
 9. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
 10. Reserve Bank of India
- 11) RIDDLES
- 1) The Barbados threadsnake
 - 2) DRDO
 - 3) 5.50%
 - 4) Suryakumar Yadav
 - 5) E-shram portal
 - 6) Gujarat



SAVORING JACKFRUIT GALOUTI – A ROYAL VEG TWIST

This Week, We're Relishing Vegetable Tehri – Uttar Pradesh's Comfort in a Pot

A wholesome, one-pot rice delicacy from the heart of Uttar Pradesh, Tehri is fragrant, mildly spiced, and brimming with seasonal vegetables. Traditionally cooked in mustard oil for its earthy aroma, this dish strikes the perfect balance between homely comfort and festive charm. Whether it's a cozy Sunday meal or a special family gathering, Tehri makes the table complete.

Ingredients:

- **Base:** Basmati rice (1 ½ cups, soaked 20 min), Water (3 cups), Mustard oil (2 tbsp).
- **Whole Spices:** Cumin seeds (1 tsp), Bay leaf (1), Green cardamom (2), Black cardamom (1), Cloves (3–4), Cinnamon stick (1 small)
- Masala & Vegetables:** Onion (1 medium, sliced), Green chilies (2, slit), Ginger-garlic paste (1 tsp), Tomatoes (2 medium, chopped), Mixed vegetables (1 cup – potato cubes, peas, carrot, beans, cauliflower)
- **Powder Spices:** Turmeric powder (½ tsp), Coriander powder (1 tsp), Red chili powder (½ tsp), Garam masala (1 tsp), Salt (to taste)
- **Finish & Garnish:** Fresh coriander leaves (a handful, chopped)

Steps:

1. **Infuse Flavor:** Heat mustard oil until it smokes lightly. Add cumin and whole spices; let them crackle.
2. **Build the Base:** Sauté onions till golden, then add ginger-garlic paste and chilies. Stir in tomatoes and cook until soft.
3. **Spice It Up:** Mix turmeric, coriander powder, red chili powder, and salt. Add vegetables and sauté for 3–4 minutes.
4. **Cook the Rice:** Add soaked rice, stir gently, and pour water. Bring to a boil, then cover and simmer till rice is cooked and fluffy (or pressure cook for 1 whistle).
5. **Finish with Warmth:** Sprinkle garam masala and coriander leaves. Rest for 5 minutes before serving.

Serving Suggestion: Pair hot Tehri with boondi raita, papad, and tangy pickle for the complete UP-style experience. Vegetable Tehri is more than just rice it's tradition, warmth, and comfort in every bite. Light yet hearty, simple yet soul-satisfying, this dish is a timeless favorite in Uttar Pradesh households.



Introducing Our New Column

ARTWORK OF THE WEEK

We invite all young artists to showcase their talent in our weekly e-newspaper, The HULAHUL Times. Submit your hand-drawn artwork to be featured!

CRITERIA	SUBMISSION DETAILS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Age Limit: Up to 24 years• Artwork Size: A4• Format: Hand-drawn only	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email your artwork to: thehulahultimes@gmail.com• Subject Line: ARTWORK• Include: Your Name, Age, School/College Name, and Phone Number
CONTACT INFORMATION	Phone +91-7977005423 Email thehulahultimes@gmail.com

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