

A Weekly E-newspaper Initiative of the HULAHUL FOUNDATION

# THE HULAHUL TIMES

Evolving Today For A Better Tomorrow



## 412 SAPLINGS, ONE VISION: HULAHUL FOUNDATION CHAMPIONS GREEN FUTURE!

**H**ULAHUL FOUNDATION conducted a large-scale Tree Plantation Drive at Satsang Vihar, Badlapur, on Saturday, bringing together volunteers, trustees, and community members in a collective effort to promote environmental awareness.

During the initiative, the Foundation successfully prepared 412 Brahmi saplings, a plant valued for its medicinal properties. These saplings will be distributed to devotees on September 16, as part of the 138th Shri Shri Thakur Avirbhav Diwas celebrations.

Speaking about the purpose of the initiative, Foundation representatives emphasized that the plantation drive was not just about greenery, but about encouraging people to integrate environmental responsibility with spiritual practice.

The smooth execution of the event was made possible by the efforts of the Asharam Sevaks, who oversaw the arrangements. The Foundation also acknowledged the support of Dr. Kuldeep Sharma, Dr. Suraj Agarwala, and Mrs. Jyotsna Agarwala, whose presence added encouragement to the drive.

The event was attended by the entire Trust Board of HULAHUL FOUNDATION, reaffirming its commitment to social welfare and community development.

Mr. Ravi Singh, Chairman and Trustee of HULAHUL FOUNDATION, described the role of volunteers as central to the success of such initiatives.

*“Our volunteers are the true powerhouse of HULAHUL FOUNDATION. Their energy, compassion, and dedication turn ideas into action. A tree plantation drive is not just about planting saplings; it is about planting dreams and ensuring a better tomorrow,”* he said.

Volunteers formed the core of the initiative, actively participating in the plantation process. Their enthusiasm and teamwork turned the activity into a collective celebration, reflecting the spirit of community service.

The Foundation views the distribution of Brahmi saplings as a symbolic step linking



spiritual devotion with environmental conservation. Each sapling, once planted by devotees, will serve as a reminder of the importance of sustainable living.

By concluding the event with a call for continued commitment to nature, HULAHUL FOUNDATION reinforced its vision of fostering harmony between people and the environment.

With this drive, the Foundation has not only planted trees but also strengthened the message that collective action, rooted in service and responsibility, can pave the way for a healthier, greener future.

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THE ETERNAL SLEEP OF SACRIFICE: STORY OF KING MUCHUKUNDA

Long ago, in the age of Dvapara Yuga, there lived a mighty ruler named King Muchukunda, son of King Mandhata of the Solar dynasty. Muchukunda was not an ordinary king; he was known across Aryavarta for his courage, wisdom, and unwavering sense of duty. For him, kingship was never about personal glory but about protecting dharma and serving humanity.

One day, the Devas, the celestial beings of heaven, found themselves in grave danger. The Asuras (demons) had grown powerful and launched a fierce assault on the heavens. Unable to withstand the relentless onslaught, the Devas turned to Muchukunda for help. They approached the noble king, humbly requesting him to lend his strength and lead them in battle.

Though he was already weary from years of ruling, Muchukunda did not hesitate. He believed that when dharma calls, one must rise above personal comfort. He set aside his royal pleasures, bid farewell to his family, and entered the divine battlefield. With his valor, strategy, and unmatched dedication, Muchukunda led the Devas to victory over the Asuras. The heavens were restored to balance, and the Devas were deeply grateful.

However, this victory came at a cost. Many years had passed in the realm of the Devas what seemed like just days in heaven was in fact decades, even centuries, on earth. When Muchukunda asked the Devas to return to his kingdom, they lowered their heads in silence. They revealed that during his absence, ages had passed, his kingdom had new rulers, and his family line had long perished. Muchukunda was heartbroken, for everything he once cherished was lost to time.

As a gesture of gratitude, the Devas offered him a boon. But weary and disillusioned, Muchukunda asked not for wealth, power, or even immortality. Instead, he asked for rest. His body longed for sleep after years of battle and sacrifice. The boon he received was unique he would sleep undisturbed for ages, and anyone who dared to wake him would instantly be reduced to ashes by the fire of his gaze.

Thus, Muchukunda withdrew into a cave in the mountains, where he fell into a deep, unbroken slumber—a sleep that lasted through yugas.

Awakening to a New Dharma

Time rolled on. Ages later, Lord Krishna was waging his own war against the tyrannical king Kalayavana, a barbaric invader

who had attacked Mathura with a massive army. Unlike other foes, Kalayavana was blessed with a boon that made him impossible to defeat through conventional warfare. Krishna, with his divine wisdom, led Kalayavana toward the cave where Muchukunda slept.

Confident of his strength, Kalayavana entered the cave, mistaking the sleeping Muchukunda for Krishna. In arrogance, he kicked the sleeping king, instantly awakening him from his centuries-long rest. Muchukunda opened his eyes, and the boon of



the Devas came to pass—his fiery gaze burned Kalayavana to ashes.

Muchukunda then saw Krishna standing before him in all his divine radiance. Though Muchukunda had never met him before, his heart recognized the Supreme. Overwhelmed with devotion, he bowed to Krishna and sought guidance.

Krishna, in his gentle yet profound manner, reminded Muchukunda that his sacrifices, though noble, had been tied to the fleeting nature of worldly duties. True liberation, Krishna said, lay in surrendering to the eternal truth the divine self.

Humbled, Muchukunda renounced all worldly desires. He chose not to return to kingship or seek revenge for the life he had lost. Instead, he withdrew into the Himalayas, dedicating the rest of his life to meditation and union with the Divine.

Muchukunda's Philosophy of Humanity

The life of Muchukunda shines as a beacon of moral strength, sacrifice, and spiritual awakening. His story offers timeless lessons:

·Duty Above Self: When the Devas called for help, Muchukunda did not cling to personal attachments. He embodied the principle that a leader's first responsibility is to protect dharma and serve others.

·Sacrifice with Humility: Though he lost his family and kingdom, he never cursed fate or sought revenge. He accepted life's impermanence with grace.

· Righteous Anger, Controlled Power: His fiery gaze destroyed evil (Kalayavana) but spared the innocent. His power was never misused, reflecting his ethical restraint.

· Detachment as Liberation: Finally, his renunciation showed that the highest fulfillment lies not in worldly victories but in seeking eternal truth.

Muchukunda's philosophy resonates deeply with humanity's eternal struggles—how to balance duty with personal loss, how to use power responsibly, and how to rise above material attachments. His life tells us that true greatness is not in conquest, but in sacrifice; not in possession, but in surrender.

Conclusion

The story of King Muchukunda is not just a tale from mythology; it is a timeless reminder of the moral and ethical choices that define human life. His journey from a great king and warrior to a humble seeker mirrors the evolution of the soul—from action to wisdom, from sacrifice to surrender.

In his courage, we learn the value of duty. In his loss, we learn the impermanence of worldly ties. In his awakening, we see the path of liberation. King Muchukunda's life teaches us that humanity's greatest strength lies not in clinging to power or possessions, but in rising above them, dedicating oneself to dharma, and finally surrendering to the Divine.

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MEERA SHENOY: TRANSFORMING DISABILITY INTO ABILITY THROUGH YOUTH4JOBS

INTERVIEW BY  
TANISHKA VERMA



“Skilling an individual is like nurturing a chrysalis, it opens into a butterfly and flies on its own”

- Meera Shenoy

In an interview with The HULAHUL Times, Meera Shenoy, a social entrepreneur and a ray of hope for youth with disabilities, unfolded the various phases of her life from working into corporate sector, business media, television to founding Youth4Jobs and equipping youth with disabilities with cutting-edge technology and helping them find jobs. She was born in a joint family in Chennai and had an unwavering value-based upbringing. She recollects her family being a generous one with values of helping people in need. However,She says, “I never had keen interest in doing social work but I was surrounded by family members for whom giving to the needy was an intrinsic value”.

Upon asking about any moment in her life that drove her into the direction of social work she shared that her work trajectory led her into social work. she mentions that during her work days in television she would write about and capture the lives of the people in villages but this would not give her the satisfaction and she would always say “I want to do something hands on”, and that's when her tireless journey of social work began by setting up and leading Employment Generation and Marketing Mission (EGMM) in 2004. Mrs. Shenoy

considers this as a major milestone as it positively influenced the government policies with establishment of around 100 training centres in the state of Andhra Pradesh for young men and women who later got different kinds of jobs. While establishing Youth4Jobs in 2012, she was persistent to do something different from her previous works and that's when she decided to transform the lives of the youth with a prevision expressed as, “When you catch them at 18 years and train them, you not only secure their lives for next 50 years but, also ward off them from social ills like-smoking, substance abuse etcetera”, remarks Meera Shenoy.

On being asked about her rationale and vision behind focusing particularly on youth with disabilities, she shared some striking International Labour Organisation (ILO) statistics with an 80% far-reaching presence of Persons with Disabilities in developing countries like India and the unfortunate observation about the neglected position of persons with Disability. Thus, she decided to work for the betterment of the rural youth with disability. The vision of Youth4Jobs have remained the same over years that aims to help youth with disability to be poverty free, independent, and confident through the pathway of tech training and livelihood creation.

Till date, Youth4Jobs has been successful in impacting the lives of 6,10,000+ youth with disability and over 1712+ corporate partnerships.



Later in the interview she talked about her two flagship Portal and programs SwarajAbility and NotJustArt and the vision behind it. Meera Shenoy shared that the



inspiration to launch SwarajAbility came from the motivating words of the judges when they received MIT Asia Inclusion award in 2019 who asked them why don't they open a tech platform keeping in mind the kind of control they have on demand and the supply. And then, after coming back to India, Mrs. Shenoy launched the SwarajAbility platform through the active inclusion and partnership with IIT Hyderabad, CII, IBDN, and ILO keeping youth with disability at the pedestal. This inclusive tech platform assisting in 11 languages has transformed the lives of youth with over 2 lakhs registered on it.

NotJustArt is another major flagship venture on which Meera Shenoy started working on her own realising the importance of honing one's creative skills alongside tech skilling. To support NotJustArt, United Nations and UNESCO partnered with it which gave the major push to the whole idea behind this creative venture.

Youth4Jobs also focuses on the empowerment of the women with disabilities as they are trapped in multiple layers of vulnerability. The organisation focuses on making this burden of vulnerability light by skilling them and enabling them to make money and sustain themselves and their families. Therefore, empowering them economically and socially. Mrs. Shenoy shared a story of a woman named Lulu who was severely disabled hence was not getting a job. However, sincere efforts of Youth4Jobs managed to get her placed as a vendor in JP Morgan Chase.

Since its inception in 2012, Youth4Jobs has changed the lives of people who were earlier looked down upon as liabilities by turning them into assets and giving them confidence and self-esteem.

Notwithstanding the praiseworthy work that Youth4Jobs continues to do, they too face some challenges especially when it comes to changing attitude of persons with disability about themselves and others attitude about them. People usually treat disability as a curse and finds it hard to deal with it. Also, she highlights that there is a huge digital divide that creates issues in rural skilling. However, it has been more than a decade and Youth4Jobs has been successful in combating challenges like these.

Though, Meera Shenoy and her organisation have received many international and national awards like TALHero India Award 2024, National Award for Empowerment of Person with Disability in 2018 and many more, but her altruistic soul finds solace in stories like these that they get to witness and experience on a day-to-day basis. Meera Shenoy says that awards for her are a sign that they are going in the right direction and gives motivation to her team to work even more harder. For her,“The feeling of a youth with disability being recognised is unparalleled to any award in the world”, says her.



Finally, when asked about an advice she would like to give to the young entrepreneurs, she said “I advise them to not give up and be persistent on the path of their ideation, if you think your idea is great then don't give up even if it doesn't give tangible results”.

Meera Shenoy's work journey is truly inspirational for the youth; it is a perfect blend of practicality and compassion along with right ideations and intent.

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MIXED TREND IN KHARIF SOWING: GAINS IN RICE, MAIZE, SUGARCANE; LOSSES IN OILSEEDS, COTTON

The total area under Kharif crops in India has reached 1,039.81 lakh hectares as of August 15, 2025, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. This is 37.39 lakh hectares more than the same period last year, showing a clear rise in cultivation.



Rice continues to lead the season, with sowing covering 398.59 lakh hectares, up by 35.67 lakh hectares from 2024, thanks to good monsoon rains. Coarse cereals also grew well, reaching 182.34 lakh hectares, an increase of 9.12 lakh hectares. Maize showed the highest growth in this group, adding 9.82 lakh hectares. Pulses too expanded slightly, now covering 109.52 lakh hectares compared to 108.39 lakh hectares last year.

In contrast, oilseeds saw a decrease. With the exception of castor seed, which had a 1.21 lakh hectare gain,

other oilseeds showed lower sowing, and their area shrank to 178.64 lakh acres of land, 6.74 lakh kilometres less than the previous year. Jute and mesta saw a modest decrease to 5.54 lakh hectares, while cotton acreage also decreased by 3.24 lakh hectares to 107.87 lakh hectares.

Sugarcane stood out among cash crops favorably, growing to 57.31 lakh hectares, 1.64 lakh areas greater than the previous year. Since sowing is still going on, the numbers could increase even further.

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SEEDS OF RESILIENCE: HOW HYBRID MUSTARD IS POWERING RURAL PROSPERITY IN INDIA



Hybrid mustard is transforming rural India, offering farmers higher yields, better incomes, and greater resilience. Traditionally vital to Indian agriculture and diets, mustard has found new strength in its hybrid form, delivering 16–20% more yield and 2–2.5% higher oil content than conventional varieties. This translates into significantly improved earnings for farmers, especially in key states like Rajasthan, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh.

Sown ideally between October 5 and 25, hybrid mustard thrives with good agronomic practices. Farmers like

Devendra Singh from Haryana have seen tangible benefits—from increased productivity to better quality seeds—enabling them to invest in their families and farms.

Beyond individual success, hybrid mustard supports entire rural economies. It bolsters agri-retail, strengthens mandi networks, and brings income stability to households. As India pushes for self-reliance in edible oil and climate-resilient farming, hybrid mustard stands out as a homegrown solution rooted in farmer trust and regional innovation.

Its widespread adoption reflects not just agronomic progress, but a growing sense of pride and possibility in rural communities. With the right investment in quality seeds and localized support, hybrid mustard can continue to drive sustainable growth and secure the future of India's oilseed sector.

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KARNATAKA, BEL JOIN HANDS TO LAUNCH TECH DASHBOARD FOR FARMERS

The Karnataka Agriculture Department has signed an MoU with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to make agricultural services more accessible, data-driven, and farmer-friendly. Under this partnership, BEL will create a centralised, technology-based dashboard for the Raitha Kare Kendra call centre.

This dashboard will combine important datasets such as crop details, weather forecasts, the FRUITS database, and information on government schemes. By analyzing this data, farmers will get timely and accurate advice, helping them make better farming decisions.

BEL will custom its Equinox platform for agricultural use, provide technical consultancy, and support data integration. Meanwhile, the Agriculture Department will supply scheme and



policy information to be displayed on the dashboard.

The project will be implemented in two stages: a one-year pilot phase, followed by a four-year full-scale rollout. Once completed, the Equinox dashboard will provide real-time, efficient, and scalable solutions, supporting farmers with technology-driven guidance to enhance productivity and sustainability.

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INDIA ENSURES SMOOTH FERTILISER SUPPLY FOR KHARIF 2025 DESPITE GLOBAL CHALLENGES



The Central government has assured that there is no shortage of fertilisers during the 2025 kharif season, despite global challenges. According to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, the availability of all major fertilisers has remained comfortable. Around 18.3 million meters of urea were available, with 15.5 million meters having already been sold, compared to the 14.3 million meters that were needed. Similarly,

DAP availability was 4.9 million meters against the need of 4.5 million

meters, and NPK availability was 9.7 million meters against the demand of 5.8 million meters.

The government highlighted that urea sales have increased compared to last year due to higher cultivation of paddy and maize, yet supplies remain steady through increased domestic production and imports. Despite disruptions caused by the Red Sea crisis, the Russia-Ukraine war, and rising global prices, India has secured long-term supply agreements with Morocco and Saudi Arabia to ensure uninterrupted fertiliser availability for farmers.

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GOVERNMENT'S ETHANOL PUSH BOOSTS FARMERS' INCOME, CUTS EMISSIONS AND OIL IMPORTS



Through incentives, advanced biofuel projects, and infrastructural improvements, the government is increasing the production of ethanol. This program has replaced 244 lakh metric tons of crude oil and reduced 736 lakh kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since 2014–15. In the Lok Sabha, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri stated that ethanol blending is increasing farmers' profits and bolstering the rural economy. Under the Alcohol Blended Petrol (EBP) Program, which is supported by the National Policy for Biofuels, farmers have made over ₹1.25 lakh crore, and savings from fewer crude imports have exceeded ₹1.44 lakh crore.

Marketing of Oil in the Public Sector Five months ahead of schedule, in June 2022, companies reached 10% ethanol blending. By July 31, 2025, blending levels had increased to 12.06% in ESY 2022–2023; 14.60% in ESY 2023–2024; and 19.05% in July alone (19.93%). The government has increased feedstock possibilities, lowered GST to 5%, implemented administered pricing, and encouraged distillery renovations in an effort to increase ethanol output.

The Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana, which was updated in 2024 and cost ₹1,969.50 crore, encourages the production of advanced biofuels from crop leftovers, which reduces stubble burning and generates income for rural areas. With new regulations and a GST reduction, biodiesel blended is also advancing. The goals of these initiatives are environmental sustainability, farmer welfare, and energy security.

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CLASSROOMS OF CHANGE: NEP 2020'S IMPACT ON INDIAN EDUCATION



India's National Education Policy 2020 has initiated a sweeping transformation in classrooms, shifting away from narrow, exam-focused teaching to a model that values curiosity, flexibility, and inclusivity. Rooted in both India's rich cultural traditions and global educational goals like Sustainable Development Goal 4, the policy injects purpose and vision into every level of learning.

A key shift is the emphasis on early learning. Recognizing that over 85% of brain development occurs before age six, NEP 2020 prioritizes foundational literacy and numeracy through structured early childhood education and ECCE programs. This underscores the importance of preparing children for lifelong learning from the very start.

By redefining the traditional 10+2 structure into a 5+3+3+4 format, the policy ensures smoother transitions between stages of schooling while fostering skills alongside academics. Classrooms are now more dynamic—less memorization, more critical thinking, creativity, and hands-on learning become the norm.

NEP 2020 also strengthens local languages and cultural relevance, bolstering comprehension and connection by promoting instruction in students' mother tongue through foundational grades. Technology plays a major role too—platforms and digital tools support learning, enhance teacher effectiveness, and help bridge accessibility gaps.

In essence, NEP 2020 is turning classrooms into vibrant learning ecosystems. Students are encouraged to think, create, and grow—not just succeed in exams. Educators and learners alike are energized by a system that embraces inclusivity, adaptability, and a deeply human vision of education's purpose.

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NCERT LAUNCHES AI-POWERED INTERACTIVE DIGITAL TEXTBOOKS



The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has introduced a new era of learning with the launch of interactive digital textbooks under the name KATBOOK. Developed in collaboration with UEducate Global, these textbooks are designed to combine the reliability of NCERT's academic content with modern digital tools, offering students a more engaging and accessible learning experience.

Unlike traditional printed books, the KATBOOK series integrates multimedia features such as videos, animations, 3D models, and virtual labs. These tools aim to simplify complex topics, encourage curiosity, and make classroom learning more interactive. In addition, the textbooks

include artificial intelligence-powered features such as multilingual dictionaries, translation support, and audiobooks. Such innovations are expected to benefit both students and teachers by making explanations clearer and lessons more personalized.

Another key highlight of these digital textbooks is their offline accessibility. Students living in areas with poor internet connectivity will still be able to access the learning materials without disruption, ensuring that no learner is left behind. The initiative also aligns with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes the role of technology in making education more inclusive, innovative, and future-ready.

The launch will initially begin as a pilot project in selected states before being expanded nationwide over the next 18 months. Through this initiative, NCERT hopes to empower nearly 250 million students in India, transforming traditional learning into a more dynamic and technology-driven experience.

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AMAZON INDIA EXPANDS FUTURE ENGINEER SCHOLARSHIP FOR WOMEN

Amazon India has unveiled 500 new technology scholarships for female engineering students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. This expansion of its Amazon Future Engineer (AFE) initiative coincides with the graduation of the program's first cohort, which achieved over an 80% placement rate in top-tier tech firms, including Amazon itself.

The scholarships target women entering their first year of undergraduate engineering, especially those studying in computer science, IT, or related fields—though all branches are eligible. Each scholar receives financial aid totaling ₹2 lakh over four years (₹50,000 per year), along with a laptop to support their studies.

Beyond monetary support, the program equips students with technical bootcamps, mentorship from Amazon engineers, and access to paid internships at Amazon—creating a strong foundation for academic and professional growth.

Selection is based on academic merit, financial need, and leadership



potential, in collaboration with the non-profit Foundation for Excellence (FFE). Applications are open from August 18 to November 30, 2025, for the academic cycle spanning 2025–2029.

Since its 2022 launch, AFE has awarded around 1,700 scholarships. Many recipients—often first-generation graduates from smaller towns—have successfully transitioned into careers with Fortune 500 companies, demonstrating the program's transformative impact.

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INDIA WELCOMES ITS FIRST PRIVATE MATHEMATICS RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN MUMBAI



India has taken a landmark step with the inauguration of its first privately funded mathematics research institute—the Lodha Mathematical Sciences Institute (LMSI) in Mumbai. This initiative, backed by a substantial endowment of ₹20,000 crore from the Lodha Foundation, marks a major investment in fostering deep mathematical research and innovation.

The LMSI launch featured global luminaries from the world of mathematics. Fields Medalist and Princeton professor Dr. Manjul Bhargava, the first person of Indian origin to receive the prestigious award, will lead the institute's inaugural seminar, focusing on arithmetic statistics and number theory. The intensive four-month programme starts

later this month and runs until mid-December, setting a tone for similar future courses.

Under the leadership of renowned mathematician Dr. V. Kumar Murty—formerly of the Fields Institute and University of Toronto—the institute emphasizes problem-driven research. Dr. Murty spoke of India's rich mathematical heritage and LMSI's mission to contribute to national development, aiming to make India a global leader by 2047.

LMSI's advisory council features prominent mathematicians from India and abroad, including Dr. Vikraman Balaji, Dr. Sourav Chatterjee, Dr. Ravi Vakil, Dr. Yakov Eliashberg, Dr. Alexander Lubotzky, and Dr. Kavita Ramanan, among others.

Designed to foster groundbreaking research, LMSI also envisions hosting the Indian Congress of Mathematics in the near future—an event aimed at celebrating and strengthening India's mathematical community.

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TAMIL NADU HIGHLIGHTS IMPACT OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES ON EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT



The Tamil Nadu government has underlined the success of its women empowerment programmes, which have been designed to strengthen education, skills, and employment opportunities for women across the state. Through a series of targeted initiatives such as Pudhumai Penn, Vidiyal Payanam, Naan Mudhalvan, and the Kalaingar Women's Rights programme, women are gaining greater access to financial aid, career guidance, and skill development resources.

The Pudhumai Penn scheme has enabled thousands of young women to pursue higher education by providing direct financial support, easing the burden on families and reducing dropout rates. Complementing this, Naan Mudhalvan focuses on career readiness, equipping women with training, mentorship, and counseling to help them secure jobs in emerging sectors. Vidiyal Payanam combines education with economic empowerment, encouraging self-reliance and confidence among women learners.

Official data highlights the impact of these measures, showing that women now account for 41.4% of Tamil Nadu's workforce in industries, services, and governance. The state has also introduced strong reservation policies to enhance representation, with women holding 30% of positions in education services and 33% in local governance. In some departments, this representation has risen to 50%, reflecting a significant shift toward gender parity in public employment.

By investing in education, providing economic opportunities, and ensuring institutional representation, Tamil Nadu has set a progressive example for women's empowerment in India. These programmes are not only improving the lives of individual women but are also contributing to inclusive growth and social transformation.

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INDIA PUSHES RUPEE TRADE, BUT IT'S NOT DITCHING THE U.S. DOLLAR



There has been a flood of headlines recently claiming that India has ditched the U.S. dollar and ordered BRICS nations to trade only in rupees. The truth is more layered and less dramatic. India is not cutting ties with the dollar, but it is quietly creating more space for the rupee in global trade.

the Reserve Bank of India took a step to make rupee transactions easier. It scrapped the requirement for prior approval when banks open special Rupee Vostro accounts. These accounts allow foreign banks to hold rupees and settle trade directly in India's currency. For businesses, this cuts red tape and lowers costs, while for the government, it signals a long-term goal of strengthening monetary resilience. It is less about fighting the dollar and more about giving India and its partners more flexibility.

This policy move comes against the backdrop of a heated dispute with Washington. Earlier this month, the Trump administration slapped India with a steep 50% tariff on exports, largely over New Delhi's continued oil purchases from Russia. While the U.S. framed the decision as punishment for undermining sanctions, India has made it clear it will not bow to pressure. Still, officials have stressed that the rupee initiative is not an act of retaliation. It is a calculated step to diversify trade options and reduce dependence on a single global currency.

Despite all the buzz about “de-dollarisation,” Indian policymakers have been very clear: New Delhi is not abandoning the dollar. Ministry of External Affairs spokespeople and Reserve Bank officials have both said that replacing the dollar is not on India's agenda. Instead, the country is following a practical path—keeping its doors open to dollar-based trade while promoting the rupee in specific partnerships where it makes sense.

trade in rupees with Russia, the UAE, and the Maldives, among others. Nearly 30 countries now have the option of paying India in rupees through Vostro accounts. For BRICS, which has expanded to include countries such as the UAE, Egypt, and Iran, the idea of moving away from dollar dominance has gained momentum. Local currency trade and even digital payment systems like BRICS Pay are being discussed, but India has taken a cautious line, calling these experiments rather than replacements.

For New Delhi, this balancing act reflects the reality of a multipolar world. India does not want ultimatums—it wants options. Building more space for the rupee does not mean throwing the dollar aside, but it does mean having a stronger toolkit when global risks rise.

At the heart of it, India is nudging its partners toward rupee trade, not forcing them. It is testing a future where its currency has a bigger voice in global markets, without making the mistake of cutting itself off from the dollar, which still dominates international finance. What we are witnessing is not a cold war between currencies, but India's push for flexibility, resilience, and choice in uncertain times.

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In August 2025, as trade tensions with the United States escalated,

That approach is already visible. India has been settling parts of its

INDIA PASSES BILL TO BAN MONEY-BASED ONLINE GAMES, APP SHUTDOWNS LOOM



India's Parliament has passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, a landmark piece of legislation that bans online games

involving real-money stakes. The move marks a dramatic turning point for the country's gaming industry, which had been growing rapidly over the past decade but has faced increasing criticism for fueling addiction, financial ruin, and money laundering.

The bill, cleared by both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, now awaits the President's assent before becoming law nationwide. It is sweeping in scope. Any game that requires users to place deposits or wagers with the promise of financial gain—whether games of chance like poker and rummy or skill-based formats such as fantasy sports—will be prohibited. Even the advertising of such games will be illegal, with strict penalties attached.

money-based games could face up to three years in prison along with fines reaching ₹1 crore. Repeat offenders risk harsher sentences, including a minimum of three years' imprisonment that can extend to five years. The legislation also penalizes advertisers and payment processors tied to such platforms, with possible jail terms of up to two years and fines of ₹50 lakh.

The government's decision comes amid growing concern about the dark side of online gaming. Reports of families falling into debt, students getting hooked on betting-style apps, and illegal money flows through gaming platforms have all contributed to mounting pressure on lawmakers. Officials defending the bill said it was necessary to protect vulnerable groups, especially young people, from the harms of digital gambling disguised as entertainment.

For India's online gaming industry, however, the decision is nothing short of devastating. Companies like Dream11, Mobile Premier League (MPL), WinZO, Games24x7, and RummyCircle—some of which had achieved unicorn status—are now scrambling to survive. Many have already suspended their real-money offerings. Dream11 announced it will pivot entirely to a free-to-play model centered on social gaming, while WinZO and Zupee are shifting focus to casual titles such as Ludo and Carrom that do not involve betting.

The industry's disappointment is underscored by the financial stakes involved. India's online gaming sector had been projected to touch nearly \$3.8 billion by 2029, with significant foreign investment flowing into homegrown platforms. Industry groups warn the new ban could wipe out tens of thousands of jobs, dry up capital inflows, and cause the government

to lose tax revenues estimated at over ₹25,000 crore annually. Investors who had poured billions into the space are now reconsidering their India exposure.

Yet, the government insists the bill is not meant to kill innovation. Alongside the prohibitions, it introduces a framework for responsible and non-monetary gaming. The legislation calls for the establishment of a National Online Gaming Commission, tasked with licensing permissible platforms, ensuring consumer safeguards, and encouraging the growth of esports, educational gaming, and other skill-based formats that do not involve betting. Officials argue this dual approach balances consumer protection with the promotion of a healthier gaming ecosystem.

The passage of the bill has also sparked legal debates, with some experts suggesting that gaming firms may challenge the law in court, especially since earlier Supreme Court judgments had upheld skill-based games like rummy and fantasy sports as legitimate business activities. For now, however, companies are preparing for immediate compliance, shutting down money-based operations, and bracing for a turbulent period of transition.

What happens next will likely reshape India's digital entertainment landscape. By drawing a hard line between gaming and gambling, the government has staked its position firmly on the side of public welfare, even if it comes at the cost of one of the country's fastest-growing industries. The coming months will show whether this gamble pays off—or whether India risks stifling innovation in its bid to protect society.

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## 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  
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### Q. What are the habits that will earn a leader more respect?

**Ans.** Leadership is not just about being in charge or holding a position of authority; it's about earning respect and trust from your team. The best leaders are those who model behaviors that inspire others to follow them not because they have to, but because they genuinely want to. We are going explore the habits that will earn a leader more respect and how Sanskrit subhashithas (proverbs) can offer timeless wisdom on these principles.

**1) Keep Your Word Every Time:** One of the most critical traits of a respected leader is reliability. A leader who keeps their promises and honors commitments earns the trust of their team. "यथा धर्मं प्रपद्यते तथैव धर्मं नयन्ति ते। न हि धर्मं तत्त्वतः कर्तव्यं न्यायव्रतं धृतम्॥" — Mahabharata. This verse reflects the importance of keeping one's promises and maintaining steadfastness. A leader who

does this consistently will naturally earn respect and loyalty from others. Be mindful of the promises you make. If you cannot keep a promise, communicate that honestly and provide an alternative solution.

**2) Show Up Early, Not Just on Time:** Being punctual is essential, but great leaders go beyond merely being on time—they show up early. This shows your commitment to the work and your respect for the time of others and also encourage them to follow it. "प्रथमं कर्मणं यः शङ्कायाम् प्रतिपद्यते। साधुता यत्नं कर्मणा सदा समाप्नुयात्॥"— Mahabharata. This verse highlights the importance of setting an example by leading with punctuality and dedication. By arriving early, you demonstrate a commitment to the team's success. Arriving early gives you time to organize, plan, and show readiness for the day ahead. It's a great way to set a positive tone for the entire team.

**3) Take Ownership When You Mess Up:** Leaders are human and make mistakes. However, what sets great leaders apart is their ability to take full ownership of their errors, without deflecting blame. "धर्मेण कर्मणा यः स्वधर्मं प्रवर्तते। साधु धर्मेण निपुणं पुण्यं च समर्पयेत्॥" — Bhagavad Gita 3.35. In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna emphasizes the importance of performing one's duties with integrity. Taking ownership of mistakes demonstrates that you are willing to learn and grow, a sign of true leadership. When you make a mistake, address it immediately, learn from it, and take the necessary steps to correct it. This builds credibility and respect.

**4) Listen First, Speak Second:** A good leader understands the importance of listening more than speaking. When you listen first, you create an environment of mutual respect and collaboration. "शरीरं बहुशब्दं च श्रोत्रं कं बन्धनं सुखं। यः सदा शान्तिवर्धकं शिष्यं सर्वे गुणं यथा॥" — Mahabharata. This verse underlines the importance of patience in leadership. Listening with empathy before responding ensures that you make well-informed decisions and communicate effectively with your team. Give your full attention to the speaker, without interrupting. This will encourage your team to approach you with their ideas and concerns more openly.

**5) Skip the Office Gossip:** Gossiping in the office is harmful and can create unnecessary conflicts. Engaging in gossip undermines trust and distracts from productivity. "न निन्दन्ति यः सर्वे क्षमा धर्मस्य लक्ष्यः। कान्तारं भ्रान्तमणिना यः सुखं प्राप्नुयात्॥" — Mahabharata. In this verse, the importance of cultivating a peaceful, respectful environment is emphasized. Leaders should refrain from indulging in harmful conversations and instead focus on fostering unity. If you find yourself in a conversation that turns into gossip, gracefully excuse yourself or steer the discussion toward more productive topics.

**6) Say What You Mean Clearly:** Clear communication is a hallmark of a great leader. Leaders who can express themselves clearly help their team understand expectations and goals. "वचनं तु सदा यः प्रियं आत्मनं विकाशयेत्। न शङ्कते यः सर्वे तस्य वाक्यं मनुष्येण॥" — Bhagavad Gita 17.15. This verse teaches us the power of clear and honest communication. When a leader is transparent and speaks directly, they eliminate misunderstandings and foster an environment of trust. Practice clarity in your communication. Avoid ambiguous language, and make sure your message is received as intended.

**7) Bring Solutions, Not Just Problems.** Instead of complaining, a great leader works with their team to find ways to overcome challenges and move forward. "सम्भवति यः सदा समाधानं मार्गदर्शकं। कार्यशक्तिः न किञ्चित्संकटं क्रियते न चा॥" — Bhagavad Gita 4.33. In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna emphasizes the importance of finding solutions and acting wisely. Great leaders don't dwell on the obstacles; they focus on removing them. When presenting a problem, always try to suggest a possible solution or ask the team for their input on how to solve it.

**8) Go the Extra Mile Consistently:** Leaders earn respect by going above and beyond what is expected of them. It's not just about completing tasks but about

consistently putting in the extra effort, showing initiative, and being proactive in achieving the team's goals. "कर्मणि दक्षतां वर्धयेत् स्वधर्मं च सदा। न्यायप्रवृत्तिमं श्रेयो यः कर्मण पतिष्यति॥" — Mahabharata. This verse reflects the idea that excellence in work, paired with dedication, earns a leader immense respect. Going the extra mile not only enhances your reputation but also inspires your team. Regularly look for ways to improve processes or help your team beyond your official duties.

**9) Make Room for Others to Shine:** A great leader knows that leadership is about uplifting others. "परमं सम्मान्यं यः एकं आत्मानं स्तुतिं समर्पयेत्। सर्वे सम्मनं कार्यं कुर्यादित्यम् परमं विजयम्॥" — Mahabharata. This verse emphasizes the power of uplifting others. A leader who gives space for others to showcase their talents earns both admiration and loyalty. Be generous with praise and recognition. Make sure everyone on your team has the chance to demonstrate their strengths.

**10) Ask for Honest Feedback:** The best leaders are those who are open to feedback and willing to learn from others. "शरणं प्रपद्यते यः आत्मनं समाहितं। स्वधर्मं च स्वकर्मण शरण्यं यः समाश्रितम्॥" — Bhagavad Gita 4.10. Lord Krishna's teachings highlight the value of humility in leadership. By actively seeking feedback, you show that you are invested in self-improvement and respect the opinions of your team. Encourage an open dialogue where feedback is welcomed and acted upon. This creates a culture of continuous improvement.

**11) Stay Curious, Not Judgmental:** Curiosity in leadership means seeking to understand before making judgments. "दृष्ट्वा च भावं यः शान्तिं मेव प्रपद्यते। नान्ये सर्वे जगत्साक्षाद्दृष्ट्वा धर्मं सदा शृणु॥" — Bhagavad Gita 15.9. This verse emphasizes open-mindedness and understanding. A curious leader avoids jumping to conclusions and seeks to understand the deeper context before making decisions. Practice active listening and encourage diverse viewpoints in your team. This will help you stay open to new ideas.

**12) Keep Your Cool Under Pressure:** Finally, a true leader knows how to stay calm under pressure. "शान्तिं साधयति आत्मनं सदा स्थिरं धर्मेण। कान्तारं हरितं तसं यः शान्तं समाश्रितम्॥" — Bhagavad Gita 2.14. The Gita teaches that maintaining inner peace, especially during challenges, is a sign of strength. Leaders who manage pressure with calmness instill a sense of stability in their team. In moments of stress, focus on your breath, center your thoughts, and lead with a calm demeanor. Your team will mirror your composure.

Respect in leadership is earned through consistent actions, clarity, humility, and dedication. By embodying the habits discussed in this article and integrating the wisdom of Sanskrit slokas, you can develop as a leader who commands respect, inspires trust, and fosters a thriving, positive work environment. Cultivate these habits, and you will build a lasting legacy of leadership that others admire and follow. Wish you much and more, stay blessed!

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AI & THE FUTURE OF JOBS: SKILLS YOU MUST LEARN BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

We are living in an era where Artificial Intelligence (AI) is advancing at lightning speed. Almost every week, a new AI tool makes headlines, promising to transform the way we work and live. This raises an important question: is AI truly a threat to jobs, or is it an opportunity in disguise?

The truth is, AI itself may not replace you but someone who knows how to use AI effectively might. The real competition is not human versus machine, but human with AI versus human without AI. Those who embrace AI as a companion will thrive, while those who resist may find themselves left behind.

Across industries, AI is shaping the future of work. Let us explore how it is impacting Science, Commerce, and the Arts (Humanities), and the skills required to remain future-ready.

AI in Science

Scientific research is being transformed. What once took years can now be completed in months with AI analyzing vast datasets at incredible speed. In healthcare, AI assists in drug discovery and personalized treatments, offering hope for faster medical breakthroughs. A new role, prompt engineering, has emerged, where specialists design precise instructions to make AI deliver meaningful

outputs. Data analysis, coupled with AI, is among the most sought-after skills today. Beyond labs, AI is revolutionizing climate studies and even space exploration, unlocking insights into sustainability and astronomy.

For aspiring scientists, skills like data literacy, bioinformatics, research methodology, and prompt engineering are vital to staying ahead.

AI in Commerce

In business, AI is no longer optional it's essential. Companies now rely on AI to deliver personalized customer experiences, tailoring marketing and product suggestions to individual needs. Market forecasting has become sharper, with AI predicting consumer behavior and emerging trends. Financial institutions employ AI to detect fraud and manage risks, while supply chains worldwide are optimized with reduced delays and costs. Even financial planning and investment strategies are increasingly shaped by AI-powered tools.

Future professionals in commerce must master business analytics, financial AI tools, digital marketing, and supply chain technology to remain competitive.

AI in Arts (Humanities)

The humanities are also experiencing the AI wave.

Students of literature, psychology, philosophy, and history are using AI to conduct research more efficiently, scanning and summarizing vast libraries of texts. Writers and researchers employ AI for drafting and editing, while translation tools are breaking language barriers, allowing knowledge to flow across cultures. Social scientists analyze survey data and model policy impacts with AI assistance. In education, AI-powered platforms are offering personalized learning, giving students greater flexibility.

For those pursuing BA or MA degrees, key skills include digital research methods, critical analysis, ethical reasoning, and adaptability to AI-driven tools.

Despite these advances, AI cannot replace qualities that are uniquely human emotional intelligence, creativity, empathy, and innovation. To succeed in the AI era, individuals must cultivate problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, adaptability, and lifelong learning.



AI is not here to replace us it is here to work with us. While it can handle repetitive tasks, it cannot replicate human imagination or judgment. The future will belong to those who strike a balance, using AI to enhance rather than diminish their capabilities.

In the end, AI is only as powerful as the human who wields it. The real question is not whether AI will shape your career, but whether you will shape your career with AI.

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BALANCING FESTIVITIES AND FUTURES: MANAGING STUDY PRESSURE DURING CELEBRATIONS



Festivities bring in a lot of preparations, celebrations, feasts, and also distractions along with them when it comes to studies. We tend to completely get indulged in the celebrations, neglecting the studies, and then later stress about it. A lot of times, celebrations come before the exams, making it difficult for the students to concentrate on their studies and enjoy the festivities as well.

No one wants to be left behind, neither in studies nor in celebrations. So, why create chaos in your mind and stress about the academics during festivities when you can balance both with some practical steps?

Below are some of the steps that you can follow to get the most out of your studies during celebration times.

**1- Prepare in advance** - You are already aware of the syllabus that you will get in exams, so why wait till you get a schedule for them? You can prepare beforehand; once you are done with the lessons, build a habit of revising them after coming back home.

**2 - Prepare a Schedule** - During festivities, it becomes quite difficult to manage time as we are exposed to a lot of activities that we usually do not. So, preparing a schedule helps a lot in maintaining proper study time.

Don't just make the schedule; follow it as well.

**3 - Avoid Distractions** - Studying under distractions is not productive studying. So, try as much as possible to avoid distractions during your study hours.

**4 - Set Small Achievable Goals** - Do not set hyperrealistic goals that are impossible to achieve, which later on build up stress. Reach your larger objectives by taking small actions.

**5 - Prioritize your Health** - Get proper sleep, at least for 6 hours. Avoid eating too much oily and fried foods that usually make you feel sleepy and decrease your concentration. Keep yourself hydrated; drink plenty of water.

If you do not get proper sleep, it further decreases your concentration power and your ability to memorize and remember during the exam. So, keep these things in place to achieve good results.

**6 - Set Quiet Time to Study** - Having a quiet environment free from any distractions leads to more focused sessions of study, which further enhances concentration power and productivity.

**7 - Have Small Breaks** - Studying at a stretch usually feels boring and decreases concentration.

So, have some small breaks between study sessions. Walk for 5 minutes, take deep breaths, snack on something, and then get back to studying.

**8 - Prioritize Important Topics** - List down important topics that need the most attention. Give most of your time to those topics. The topics that are least important can be taken on further after completing the important ones.

**9 - Highlight Important Topics and Words** - This is the least focused technique, but it yields good results. When

we make a habit of highlighting while studying, it becomes easier to revise the topic later on. We can just have a glance over the highlighted part, and it gets easier to recall and remember this way.

**10 - Follow Productivity Hacks** - There are a lot of productivity hacks that, when followed with accuracy, give good results.

One of the most followed productivity hacks is The Pomodoro Technique, which I have personally followed, and it bore astonishing results for me.

This method calls for 25 minutes of concentrated study sessions interspersed with a 5-minute rest. Like this, 4 pomodoros should be completed; that accounts for about 1 hour of focused study sessions along with 20 minutes of total break time.

After completing 4 pomodoros, take a longer break of 15-30 minutes for mental refreshment and to regain focus.

Don't stress out, maintain proper balance between studies and celebrations, follow the aforementioned steps, and stand out. Everything is achievable if you wish to and work towards it.

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TO BRING FASTER AND SMARTER POSTAL SERVICES, INDIA POST LAUNCHED IT 2.0



On Tuesday, India Post announced that it has entered a new era of digital transformation with the nationwide rollout of IT 2.0, Advanced Postal Technology (APT). The IT 2.0 initiative, taken under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and guided by Union Communication Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, is being hailed as a milestone in India Post's journey towards Digital India. Advanced Postal Technology is basically designed to bring faster, more efficient, reliable, and citizen-friendly postal services. The new system offers many next-generation features like QR code-based payment, OTP-based delivery, and a 10-digit alphanumeric DigiPIN to improve the accuracy of postal services. It also introduces end-to-end digital solutions for booking and delivery, ensuring greater efficiency, and creating stronger rural connectivity through an open network system. Today, more than 1.70 lakh offices, including post offices, mail offices, and administrative units, are live on the APT system. To carry this transformation forward, India Post will train over 4.6 lakh employees under a cascade training model that ensures employees adopt the technology smoothly. Officials stated that the new platform will deliver world class services to citizens and enhance financial growth.

24 STARLINK SATELLITES WERE LAUNCHED BY SPACEX ON AUGUST 14 TO EXPAND INTERNET COVERAGE.

The active Starlink constellation of SpaceX is designed to provide high-speed data at low cost and to reach even the most rural areas of the world. Currently, the service of SpaceX covers 130 countries, including rural places where traditional broadband is very limited. With the launch on August 14, the active Starlink constellation exceeds 8,100 satellites out of nearly 9,400 launched since 2019, and they plan to launch 12,000 satellites in its first phase, and the number can be increased further. This mission, carried out by a Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base, further expands Starlink's active constellation. This launch is the 98th SpaceX Falcon 9 mission in 2025 and the 516th overall Falcon 9 flight since its debut in 2010. Starlink satellites are flown in such a way that this was the 452nd Falcon 9 first-stage and 427th booster landing, making it cost-effective and reusable. The satellites reach the designated orbit after separation of the upper part of the rocket. The deployment roughly takes one hour after launching. By increasing satellite numbers, Elon Musk aims to dominate the market by providing easy and cost-effective Internet service.



FAIMA LAUNCHES TOLL-FREE HELPLINE NUMBER FOR MENTAL HEALTH OF DOCTORS

The Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) has launched a toll-free Mental Health Redressal Helpline number (MHRH) for doctors, resident healthcare professionals, medical students, and people who are working in the healthcare sector on the 19th of August. This helpline mainly aims to provide free and confidential mental health support and detailed counseling to healthcare professionals, doctors, and medical students who are struggling and suffering from stress, emotional problems, and facing many challenges in their medical careers. This initiative has been taken by FAIMA in response to the rising cases of suicides among doctors and medical students. In July, a young doctor from Mumbai's JJ Hospital attempt suicide because of stress and emotional issues, highlighting the major problem is lack of mental health assistance that was not given to him on time. Doctors are constantly working and facing high patient loads, long working hours, and academic challenges, and we often neglect the mental health of those who save others. This helpline will assist 20 hours in a day. psychological assistance will provide support and help medical professionals to cope with stress and prevent extreme outcomes like suicides. The helpline concept was conceptualized by Dr. Sajal Bansal and launched under the leadership of President Dr. Akshay Dongardive supported by many professionals.



REGULATORY REFORM: GREENWASHING & ESG LAW STARTED TO GAIN PROMINENCE

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) laws have started to gain consideration and prominence in the corporate world. India has made various moves and regulatory actions to support sustainable development and a sustainable economic growth path. The absence of ESG guidelines is the major reason for various challenges like greenwashing and fraud. This situation has been acknowledged and appreciated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Greenwashing is an illusion created by companies and firms to attract customers and investors, as they claim to take environmental responsibility, but in reality, their practices are completely opposite to that. It is basically misrepresenting that a product is ethical, environmentally friendly, and sustainable in order to attract clients and investors. Greenwashing deceives people into thinking that the company is taking enough measures to take care of environmental issues. It is a planned strategy of businesses because companies have pressure from the public to create eco-friendly products by keeping ESG goals in mind. To divert people's attention, companies aim to gain a "green image" to increase their revenues and investment and neglect the environmental measures that need to be taken to create an eco-friendly and sustainable development.



MANIKA VISHWAKARMA BEAT 48 CONTESTANTS TO REPRESENT INDIA AT MISS UNIVERSE.



Manika Vishwakarma from Rajasthan has been crowned Miss Universe India 2025, trumping 48 contestants from across the country at the finale in Jaipur. She will now represent India at the Miss Universe pageant to be held in Thailand this November. Manika is a girl from Sri Ganganagar, where she was brought up in a modest family. She pursued her graduation in Political Science and Economics from Delhi University. She is also an NCC Cadet, a classical dancer, and an artist recognized by the Lalit Kala Academy and the NJ School of Arts. Beyond this, she is the founder of NeuroNOVA, an initiative that works on creating awareness about ADHD and autism. She said about her journey that these are not her weaknesses, but rather a unique expression of human potential. She has now been selected as a finalist to represent India at the Miss Universe contest in November in Thailand. Manika's journey has also taken her to international forums. She represented India at BIMSTEC, where her contributions on policy and society drew praise. She is an inspiration for women to break barriers and move forward to achieve their dreams.

EASE IN FDI REGIME & TAX BENEFITS FOR STARTUPS

The Commerce and Industry Ministry is moving forward with easing the foreign direct investment regime and providing tax benefits for startups. The officials are working on a 100-day reform agenda, which includes further liberalizing the FDI regime, easing investment rules for neighboring foreign countries, and providing more tax benefits to start-ups. The agenda of the government is to transform the nation and put India on a fast track to becoming a developed country. The proposals may include easing environmental norms for leather industries, footwear industries, and e-commerce hubs, which will boost exports and fast-track Bharat Trade Net. This proposal will help the country boost exports and foreign direct investment, as boosting India's exports is needed in the wake of the high tariff imposed by the US on India. At present, a 25% tax has been imposed, and now an additional 25% tax will be imposed from August 27 as India is buying crude oil and military equipment from Russia. The government is promoting the startup ecosystem in the country and expanding the e-commerce medium, as there are huge export opportunities in this sector.





INDIAN WRESTLERS SHINES BRIGHTLY AT U20 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



India's youngest Wrestlers performed a power-packed performance at the ongoing U20 world wrestling Championships, with Sruti, Saarika, and Kaajal gaining their places in the semifinals of the women's event. Their strong display continues India's impressive run on the global stage and displays the depth of talent in the country's wrestling circuit. All three displayed great grit, talent, and determination to overcome their opponents in the preceding rounds. Their entry into the semifinal level has not only boosted India's medal hopes but has also underlined the rising dominance of Indian women in wrestling. Inserting to the success, Suraj advanced to the semifinals in Greco- Roman 60kg Category, showcasing the all-round strength of the Indian squad. However, Prince, competing in the 82kg category, bowed out in

the quarterfinals despite putting up a valiant fight. The works of Sriti, Saarika, Kaajal, and Suraj portrays the hard work of athletes and guidance who have been preparing relentlessly for this championship. With multiple semifinal spots confirmed, the Indian camp is filled with positivity and confidence in the tournament. As the tournament continues, the country waits in anticipation for more medals, expecting these youngsters to bring respect to India around the globe.

10 YEARS OLD BODHANA CREATES CHESS HISTORY

A 10 years old Bodhana Sivanandan from London stunned the chess fraternity by defeating a grandmaster on August 18, 2025. This historic moment is witnessed by the world of chess. Bodhana has established herself as the youngest female player to do so at the age of just ten years old and five months. The young chess talent, whom the chess community has given notoriety to because of her wits, tactical sensibility, expected and unexpected decisions made headlines again the day after with this amazing victory. Chess experts and enthusiasts have praised her maturity on the calmness of a seasoned professional despite her young age. Bodhana victory is not just an individual success but also she stands as a guiding light for aspiring younger female players across the globe who make a passion of excelling in chess and other intellectual sports. Her achievement symbolises the rising power of youth skills, talent, and showcases how determination, practice and confidence can break barriers. Bodhana stamped her name in the record books of the game by winning the match, and expected to be a shining star in the coming years. The chess community can now look forward as she embarks on a journey as she continues to take on new challenges and conquer new peaks.



ABHINAV SHAW SHINES AS INDIA TOPS ASIAN SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

India's shooting team has once again shown its undeniable dominance with great performances at the Asian shooting championship led by young, talented and skilled athlete Abhinav Shaw. Shaw offered up an impressive showing that helped propel India towards the top of the medal tally on August 21, 2025, once again solidifying the country's status as a leader in the shooting sports. Abhinav Shaw, master of calm focus and execution, produced an outstanding performance that not only earned him individual glory but also added valuable points to India's overall ranking. His ability to control tough competition and be steady showed his progress as an athlete and maturation. Shooters in India have been on gold medal track in recent years and Shaw's gold medal victory added another proud moment in India's sporting journey. Experts believe that his rise will inspire many youngsters to take up shooting as a sport, bringing in fresh talent for the future. With India now solidly at the first place in the Asian Shooting Championship. The accomplishment has represented a huge achievement for the country's sports community. Abhinav Shaw's excellent competition is a testament to hard work, discipline and the future of Indian shooting.



NAGPUR WOMEN SHINE WITH GOLD IN INTER- DISTRICT SENIOR BADMINTON

The city of Nagpur has a reason to celebrate, as the women's team badminton Nagpur, clinched the gold medal at the Nandu Natekar Memorial Senior State Inter-District Team Badminton Championship, held at Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar. The women team - Nehal Gosavi, Krisha Soni, Pinak Rokhe and Nikkita Joseph - showed good team spirit and determination during the entire tournament. A combination of dazzling individual display and team strength was the combination that determined their victory, in what was a congested tournament schedule of levels of play. Their reliable displays and well calculated moves, Nagpur women emerged champions, bringing pride to the district. While the women earned Gold, Nagpur men's team also put up a passionate contest and managed to secure a bronze medal. Nevertheless, their outing has added to the district's fondness for this prestigious championship. Firstly, this victory exemplified advanced mastery and emerging talent of Nagpur's racquet superstar, secondly it accentuated teamwork and consistency exhibited in sport. Coaches, Supporters, and families have honoured the efforts of both teams, believing that such victories will inspire more youngsters in Nagpur to pursue badminton at competitive level. With this remarkable performance, Nagpur has once again stamped its authority on the state badminton circuit.



BHAVINA PATEL ESTABLISHED HERSELF AS WORLD NO.1 IN PARA TABLE TENNIS



India's Bhavina Patel has scripted history by rising to World No.1 in women's singles (Class 4) at the Para Table Tennis Championship. Bhavina Patel's historic rise comes on the back of her brilliant performance in the ITTF Para Table Tennis Championship in the USA.” where she earned a gold medal in singles and a silver medal in doubles. The journey of Bhavina Patel's has been full of persistence and strength. In spite of physical challenges, she has consistently proved her mettle at the international stage. Her success in this tournament is a reflection of hard work, dedication, Her resilience and fighting spirit have become a beacon of hope for millions of youngsters nationwide. With her relentless spirit, she continues to motivate countless youngsters across the country.” The victory made by

Bhavina Patel's is not only for individual success but also made Indian a proud moment. Her achievements highlight the potential of Para- athletes and encourage the country to provide greater support and recognition of them. India hails Bhavina Patel for her golden journey, wishing her many more triumphs ahead.

PRANATI NAYAK WINS THIRD BRONZE AT ASIAN GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Jecheon (South Korea), June 15- India's star gymnast Pranati Nayak has once again made the nation proud by earning her third bronze medal at the women's Artistic Gymnastics Asian championship in the Vault event. Competing against some of the finest gymnasts in Asia, Pranati performed a tough performance, finishing third in the standings with a score of 13.466. It was not the first time Pranati had shone on the regional stage. She had earlier achieved bronze medals in Ulaanbaatar(2019) and Doha (2022), she made this victory her third podium finish at the prestigious Asian championships. Her consistent success revealed her dedication, hard work, and determination to keep Indian gymnastics in the public eye. Pranati's win is a big morale booster for the gymnastics community in India, the sport is still growing and fighting for recognition. With her toughness and experience, she has emerged as an icon for upcoming gymnastics across the country. By boosting another bronze to her collection, Pranati Nayak has once again underlined her place among Asia's best. Her journey continues to inspire young athletes, proving that perseverance and passion can lead to historic achievements.





LIC AAO RECRUITMENT 2025



LIC AAO Recruitment 2025 Notification Out. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), a premier Public Sector Undertaking, has released an official notification for the recruitment of 350 Assistant Administrative Officer (AAO-Generalist) posts for its 32nd Batch. Interested and eligible Indian citizens can apply online through the LIC AAO 2025 IBPS Portal.

Overview

- Post Name: Assistant Administration Officer (AAO-Generalist)
- Total vacancies: 350
- Job location: Across India

LIC AAO Salary

- Basic Pay Scale: ₹ 88635-4385(14)-150025 – 4750 (4) – 169025/- per month.
- Total emoluments: Approximately ₹ 1,26,000/- per month in 'A' Class city (including HRA, CCA, etc.)

LIC AAO Educational Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from a recognized Indian University/Institution approved by Government Regulatory bodies.

Important Dates

- Opening Date for Application & Fee Payment 16/08/2025
- Last Date for Application & Fee Payment 08/09/2025
- Download of Call Letter for Online Exam 7 days before examination
- Online Examination – Preliminary (Tentative) 03/10/2025
- Online Examination – Main (Tentative) 08/11/2025

Application Fee

- For SC/ST/PwBD Candidates: ₹ 85/- (Intimation Charges + Transaction Charges + GST).
- For all other Category Candidates: ₹ 700/- (Application Fee-cum-Intimation Charges + Transaction Charges + GST).
- Payment Method: Online payment gateway.

Selection Process:

- Preliminary Examination (Objective, Online)
- Main Examination (Objective + Descriptive, Online)
- Interview
- Pre-recruitment Medical Examination

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

BOMBAY HIGHCOURT PERSONAL ASSISTANT RECRUITMENT 2025



Bombay High Court Personal Assistant Recruitment 2025 Notification Released. The High Court of Judicature at Bombay, Principal Seat at Bombay, invites online applications from eligible candidates to prepare a Select List of 35 candidates and a Wait List of 09 candidates for the post of Personal Assistant to the Hon'ble Judge. The select list will remain valid for two years.

Interested candidates meeting the eligibility

38 years  
SC/ST/OBC/SBC: 21-43 years  
High court/ Government Employees: 21 years (no upper limit)

Qualifications:

University Degree (relaxable for candidates with 10 years as Stenographer Lower Grade or 8 years as Stenographer Higher Grade in High Court, other courts, or offices of Advocate General/Government

criteria can apply online through the Bombay High Court website from 18th August 2025 to 1st September 2025.

Job detail

Post name: Personal assistant to the Hon'ble Judge  
Total vacancies: 44 (select list:35, Wait list:09)  
Job location: Bombay

Age Criteria:

General (open): 21-

Pleader; preference for Law Degree holders).  
English Shorthand Exam: 120 w.p.m. or above (Government Commercial Certificate or ITI).  
English Typing Exam: 50 w.p.m. or above (Government Commercial Certificate, MSCE GCC-TBC, or ITI).

Salary:

Pay Scale: ₹ 67,700 – 2,08,700/- per month (S-23) plus allowances as per rules

**Bombay High Court Personal Assistant Application Fee:**

₹ 1,000/- for all candidates (inclusive of GST).

**Payment Method:** Online via SBI Collect payment gateway.

**Bombay High Court Personal Assistant Selection Process:**

Shorthand Test (40 marks, minimum 20 marks to pass).  
Typing Test (40 marks, minimum 20 marks to pass).  
Viva-voce (20 marks, minimum 8 marks to pass).

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

PUNJAB & SIND BANK LBO RECRUITMENT 2025

Punjab & Sind Bank LBO Recruitment 2025 Notification Out. Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB), a leading Public Sector Bank (A Government of India Undertaking), has announced the recruitment of 750 Local Bank Officers (LBO) in JMGS-I. Interested and eligible candidates can apply online through the PSB IBPS Online Application Portal. The application window is open from 20th August 2025 to 4th September 2025.

Vacancy detail:

**Post Name:** Local Bank Officer (JMGS-I)  
**Total Vacancies:** 750  
**Age Limit:** 20 – 30 years as on 01/08/2025  
**Job Location:** Across India

**Age Limit:** Between 20-30 years as on 01/08/2025 (born between 02/08/1995 and 01/08/2005, both inclusive). Upper age relaxation: 05 years for SC/ST, 03 years for OBC (NCL), and 10 years for PwBD.

**PSB LBO Salary:** Basic Pay Scale: ₹ 48480-2000/ 7-62480-2340/ 2-67160-2680/ 7-85920/- per month.

**Educational Qualifications & Experience:** A Degree (Graduation) in any discipline from a University recognized by the Government of India or any equivalent qualification.

Minimum 10 months of work experience.

**Application Fee:** For SC/ST/PwBD Candidates: ₹100/- + Applicable Taxes + Payment Gateway Charges.

**For General, EWS, and OBC Candidates:** ₹ 850/- + Applicable Taxes + Payment Gateway Charges.  
Payment Method: Online payment gateway.


Selection Process:

Written Test, Screening, Personal Interview

**How to Apply:** Eligible candidates must apply online through the PSB IBPS Online Application Portal from 20th August 2025 to 4th September 2025.

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





1. Which tax reform will end by Dec 2025?

2. Which country joined ISA as 107th member?

3. Which law modernized sports governance in 2025?

4. Which Act revamped maritime law in 2025?

5. Which U.S. forum was canceled before tariff hike?


6. Which military op did PM mention on I-Day 2025?

7. Which body forecast Aug–Sep monsoon 2025?

8. Which state launched 'Disha Abhiyan'?

9. Name Asia's longest freight train trailed by Railways.

10. Where was India's first Animal Stem Cell Bio Bank set up?



1) I forecast rain and storms, keeping cities safe from harms. In India's capital I send alerts what am I?

2) The repo rate got a big chop, by 50 basis points, who made this policy drop?

3) I'm the digital ID's new face trick in the Aadhaar app, I make access quick. Who am I?

4) Broadcaster turned accessible, visuals made more sensible sign language now live, guess the medium where archives thrive?

5) In May '25, a small business day with a goal to empower or inflate? What was the theme that set it straight?

6) The pride of Mumbai Phoenix wasn't alone who did they battle at the Women's Premier League's opening tone?

ANSWERS

1) QUIZ TIME

1. GST compensation cess

2. Moldova

3. National Sports Governance Act

4. Merchant Shipping Act

5. India–U.S. trade talks

6. Operation Sindoor

7. IMD

8. Maharashtra

9. Rudrastra

10. Hyderabad

11) RIDDLES

1) The India Meteorological Department (IMD).


2) RBI

3) The face authentication upgrade

4) Door Darshan's

5) Empowering small businesses for inclusive growth

6) Bengaluru Blaze



## Ukadiche Modak Maharashtra’s Divine Sweet

This Week, We’re Relishing Ukadiche Modak – Maharashtra’s Divine Sweet Offering

A festive delicacy from Maharashtra, Ukadiche Modak is a steamed dumpling filled with sweet coconut-jaggery stuffing and encased in a soft rice flour shell. Prepared especially during Ganesh Chaturthi, it is believed to be Lord Ganesha’s favorite sweet. Aromatic, melt-in-mouth, and full of traditional flavors, this treat is both prasadam and comfort food.

**Ingredients:**

- **For Outer Cover (Ukad):** Rice flour (2 cups)Water (2 ½ cups)Ghee (1 tsp)Salt (1 pinch)
- **For Filling (Saran):**Fresh grated coconut (2 cups)Grated jaggery (1 ½ cups)Ghee (1 tsp)Cardamom powder (½ tsp)Nutmeg powder (a pinch, optional)Chopped cashews & raisins (2 tbsp, optional)

**Steps:**

1. **Make the Filling (Saran):** Heat ghee, add coconut and sauté. Mix in jaggery, cook till it blends well. Add cardamom, nutmeg, and dry fruits. Let cool.
2. **Prepare the Dough (Ukad):** Boil water with salt and ghee. Add rice flour gradually, mix well. Cover and steam for 2 minutes. Knead into a soft, smooth dough while warm.
3. **Shape the Modaks:** Grease palms, make small cups from dough. Fill with coconut-jaggery mix. Pleat edges and seal to form peak-shaped modaks.
4. **Steam to Perfection:** Place modaks on banana leaf/muslin cloth in steamer. Steam 12–15 minutes until glossy.

Serve warm Ukadiche Modaks drizzled with ghee as naivedya to Lord Ganesha. These soft, aromatic dumplings embody devotion, festivity, and the essence of Maharashtrian tradition.Ukadiche Modak is not just a sweet it’s bhakti wrapped in flavor, a symbol of joy that fills every Ganesh Chaturthi with sweetness and grace.

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**

- Age Limit: Up to 24 years
- Artwork Size: A4
- Format: Hand-drawn only

**SUBMISSION DETAILS**

- Email your artwork to: thehulahultimes@gmail.com
- Subject Line: ARTWORK
- Include: Your Name, Age, School/College Name, and Phone Number

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