

A Weekly E-newspaper Initiative of the HULAHUL FOUNDATION

THE HULAHUL TIMES

Evolving Today For A Better Tomorrow



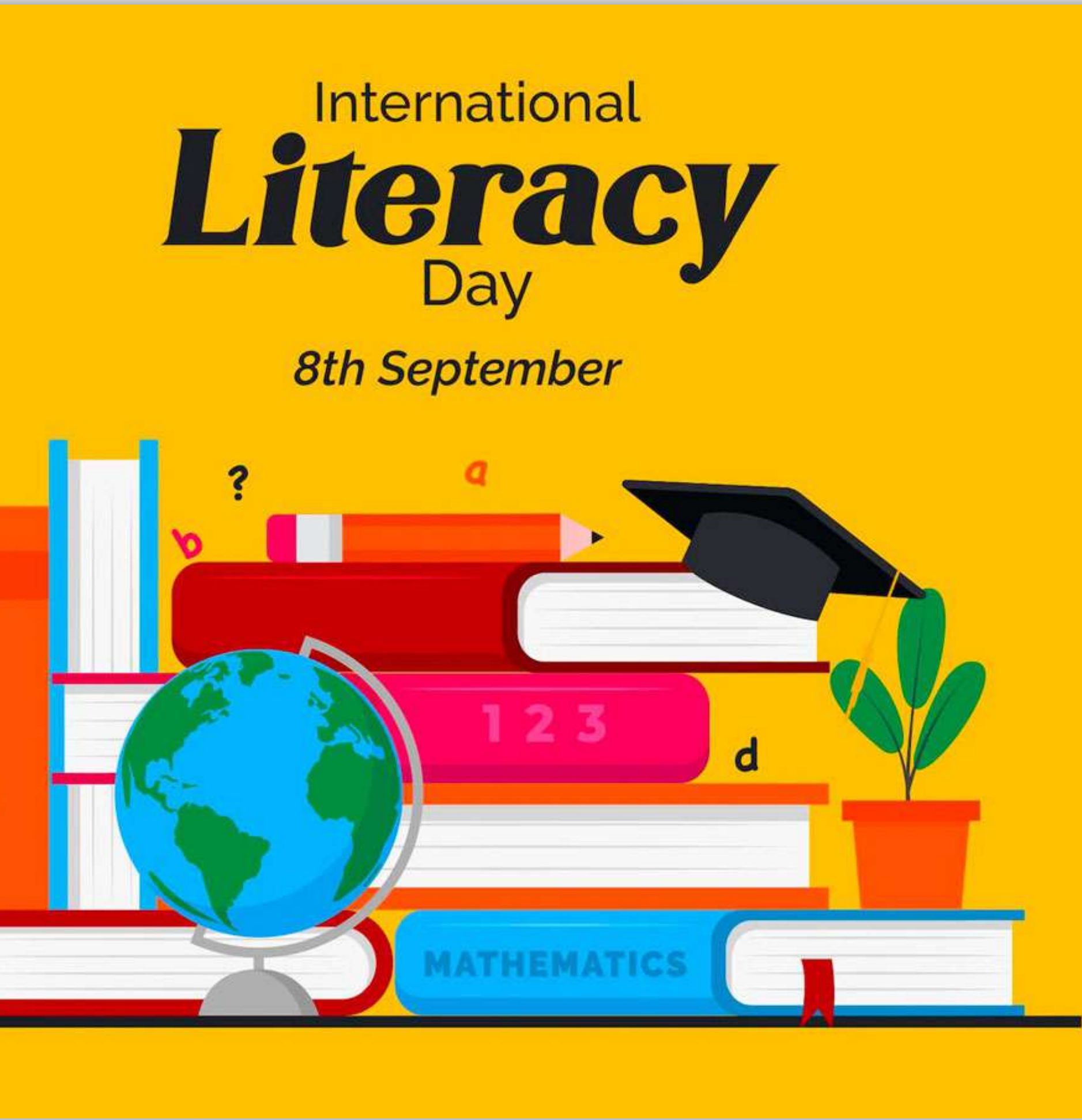
FROM ILLITERACY TO OPPORTUNITY: THE GLOBAL CALL ON LITERACY DAY

Every year on 8th September, the world comes together to observe International Literacy Day. First proclaimed by UNESCO in 1966, the day serves as a reminder of the power of literacy in shaping individuals, communities, and entire nations. It is not just about the ability to read and write, but about gaining the skills necessary to participate fully in society, access opportunities, and live with dignity.

Literacy is often described as the foundation of education. Without it, the doors to higher learning, meaningful employment, and social empowerment remain closed. Yet, despite decades of progress, UNESCO reports that millions of adults and children across the globe are still deprived of basic literacy skills. In many developing regions, factors such as poverty, gender discrimination, conflict, and lack of infrastructure continue to keep education out of reach for large sections of the population.

The theme chosen each year highlights a specific challenge or goal. Recent themes have emphasized the role of digital learning, the importance of inclusive education, and the link between literacy and sustainable development. These themes remind us that literacy is not static. In today's world, being literate also means being able to navigate digital spaces, understand media, and use information responsibly.

In the Indian context, International Literacy Day has a special significance. India has made remarkable progress in literacy since independence, with rates improving from around 18% in 1951 to more than 75% today. Yet, the gap between rural and urban areas, and between men and women, persists. While urban centres have largely bridged the gap, rural communities still struggle with limited schools, shortage of trained teachers, and socio-economic barriers that discourage children from completing education. Women and girls in particular face cultural restrictions, early marriage, or economic pressures that prevent them from continuing their studies.



Several initiatives have been launched to address these challenges. Government programs like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao have focused on universal education and girl child empowerment. Non-governmental organizations too have played an important role by setting up community libraries, adult education centres, and after-school support classes in underprivileged areas. The success stories of women who, after gaining literacy, were able to start small businesses, participate in local governance, or simply help their children with homework, show the transformative effect of this basic skill.

However, literacy is not just about statistics or government schemes. It is about the ability of individuals to find their voice, claim their rights, and improve their lives. A literate society is better equipped to fight inequality, resist exploitation, and build democratic values. In the 21st century, where access to information shapes power, literacy acts as the

great equalizer.

International Literacy Day is, therefore, both a celebration and a call to action. It celebrates the progress humanity has made in spreading education, while reminding us of the work still left to be done. Every child taught to read, every adult helped to write their name, and every community given access to books or digital tools represents a step towards a fairer and more inclusive world.

As we mark this day, it is worth reflecting on our shared responsibility: literacy is not a privilege, but a right. Ensuring that right for all is the first step towards a brighter, more informed future.

#Notable_Story

Raje Umaji Naik: The First Revolutionary of Swarajya.... **Pg 02**

#Person_of_Interest

I Have Seen God in Donors: The Inspiring Story of Apte Kaka.... **Pg 03**

#Krishi_Gyan

Chhurpi: A Heritage of the Himalayas.... **Pg 04**

#Educational_News

Maya Devi University: Emerging as a Global Innovation Hub.... **Pg 05**

#Artha_Gyan

GST 2.0: India's Landmark Tax Reform to Boost Growth and Ease Burdens.... **Pg 06**

#Learning_and_Development through_Ancient_Indian_Wisdom

Q. What do you look in healthy workplace culture?.... **Pg 07**

#Lifelab

Future of Education: Hybrid Learning Beyond Classrooms.... **Pg 08**

#Current_News

Kulasekarapattinam to Host ISRO'S SSLV Launchpad.... **Pg 09**

#Sports_News

Badminton World Championships to Return to India in 2026 After 17 Years.... **Pg 10**

#Job_Junction

IBPS RRB XIV Recruitment 2025 – 13,217+ Vacancies.... **Pg 11**



RAJE UMAJI NAIK: THE FIRST REVOLUTIONARY OF SWARAJYA

In the rugged hills of Pune district, during the early 19th century, when India groaned under the oppressive rule of the British East India Company, there rose a fearless warrior whose courage and sacrifice would ignite the flames of resistance. His name was Raje Umaji Naik, also known as the “Gadkari of Swarajya”, a freedom fighter who became a living symbol of defiance, dignity, and devotion to the motherland.

Early Life and Inspiration: Born in 1791 in the small village of Bharud near Pune, Umaji belonged to the Ramoshi community, traditionally known for guarding forts during the Maratha Empire. From a young age, he grew up hearing stories of Shivaji Maharaj's bravery and the dream of Swarajya (self-rule). These tales filled his heart with pride and a burning desire to fight for justice.

Umaji witnessed firsthand the exploitation of farmers, heavy taxation, and harsh punishments inflicted by the British on common villagers. The once-proud land of the Marathas was now shackled by oppression, and Umaji could not bear the suffering of his people. Inspired by the ideals of freedom and equality, he vowed to dedicate his life to restoring the dignity of Bharat.

Raising the Banner of Revolt: By the 1820s, Umaji had gathered a band of loyal Ramoshi warriors who shared his vision. Using his deep knowledge of the Sahyadri hills and guerrilla warfare tactics inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Umaji began launching attacks on British camps, government treasuries, and corrupt landlords who sided with the Company.

Unlike ordinary rebels, Umaji fought not for personal gain but for his people. The wealth captured from British outposts and collaborators was distributed among poor farmers and struggling families. In villages across Pune, Satara, and Ahmednagar, Umaji became a hero, a leader who protected the weak and punished oppressors.

The British Declare Him an Outlaw: Umaji's growing influence deeply unsettled the British administration. His raids were swift, precise, and unstoppable. Knowing the terrain better than anyone, Umaji and his men would strike at night and vanish into the hills by dawn. In 1827, the British officially declared Umaji Naik an outlaw and announced heavy rewards for his capture.

But no villager dared betray him, for Umaji had earned their

love and respect. He was not just a warrior; he was a guardian of the people. However, the British, using deception and spies, finally managed to corner Umaji and his companions.

Arrest, Trial, and Martyrdom: In 1832, after a fierce struggle, Umaji Naik was captured. The British hoped his surrender would crush the spirit of rebellion, but even in chains, Umaji remained



unbroken. At his trial, when questioned about his actions, he boldly declared:

"I fought not for myself but for my people. When my motherland suffers, my blood cannot stay silent."

His words left the courtroom stunned. Despite appeals from villagers and leaders, the British sentenced Umaji Naik to death. On 3 February 1832, at the gallows of Pune's Yerawada Jail, Raje Umaji Naik attained martyrdom at the young age of 41.

His final words were said to be: "Swarajya is our birthright. My life ends, but my dream shall live forever."

Philosophy of Raje Umaji Naik: Umaji's life was not just

about resistance it was about ethics, equality, and service to humanity. His philosophy can be understood through his guiding principles. Umaji believed that living in chains was worse than death. His entire life was dedicated to protecting the dignity of his land and people, proving that courage can defeat tyranny. Belonging to the Ramoshi community, Umaji fought against both foreign oppression and social discrimination. To him, caste and class were meaningless in the fight for justice. Umaji used his resources and strength to uplift the poor, protect the helpless, and ensure that his actions benefited the greater good. Inspired by Shivaji Maharaj's ideals, Umaji kept alive the dream of self-rule even when hope seemed lost. His rebellion sowed the seeds of resistance that later fueled India's freedom struggle.

Legacy and Inspiration: Though the British tried to erase his name from history, Raje Umaji Naik remains immortal in Maharashtra's memory. His story continues to inspire generations, especially those who believe in justice and equality. Statues, memorials, and folk songs celebrate his bravery, reminding us that freedom is earned through sacrifice.

Today, Umaji Naik is remembered as the “First Revolutionary of India's Freedom Struggle”, even predating the 1857 uprising. His life teaches us that revolutions are born not in palaces, but in the hearts of those who dare to dream of justice.

The story of Raje Umaji Naik is more than a chapter in history it is a timeless lesson in courage, morality, and sacrifice. From protecting farmers to challenging the British Empire, Umaji's life embodies the highest ideals of the Indian Knowledge System: dharma (righteousness), seva (service), and swarajya (self-rule).

Even today, when injustice and inequality persist, his spirit calls out to us:

"Rise when your people suffer. Speak when silence is demanded. Fight when freedom is threatened."

Umaji Naik's dream of a free, just, and equal Bharat continues to live on—not just in monuments and songs but in every heart that refuses to bow before oppression.

Ravi Singh & Tanishka Verma

I HAVE SEEN GOD IN DONORS: THE INSPIRING STORY OF APTE KAKA

INTERVIEW BY TANISHKA VERMA

One must turn difficulties into opportunities, remarked Apte Kaka in an interview with HULAHUL Times. Mr. Shrikant M. Apte, commonly known as Apte Kaka is a retired banker, former legal practitioner, and the founder of V4Organs Foundation. He has been working passionately to convert every human death into “New Life” by Noble Organ donation. Apte Kaka shares that he grew up in a highly cultured environment whereby serving people and being empathetic was valued a lot. These values given by his family planted the seeds of philanthropy in his soul.

Despite his desire to work for the society and make a difference, Mr. Shrikant shares that during his professional years he could hardly get any time to wholeheartedly engage in social work making him restless and dissatisfied. Thus, after retiring from bank and working for some time in court he finally decided to bestow all his attention to the welfare work. “I thought God has given me enough and I'm financially sound so I should work for people's welfare”, says Mr. Apte.

On being asked about his entry into organ donation program and the establishment of V4Organs Foundation, he recalled his professional days when once he wanted to get himself registered for organ donation but faced a lot of formal issues due to lack of information and guidance from anywhere and anyone. Moreover, during those years he also joined an NGO named Rajhans Pratishthan Trust whose annual report about Organ donation wing intrigued him. So, his active engagement in the NGO's organ donation wing and the free hand given by the founders to work for this cause along with the welcoming coordination of Zonal Organ Transplant Centre paved the way for his entry into this cause and the establishment of V4Organs Foundation.

Coming from a totally different professional background, he initially invested his time and energy in attending the seminars and meetings that discussed various aspects of organ donation to understand it better.

The mission of his organisation lies in creating absolute awareness about Body Organ

donation, letting no stones remain unturned. They aim to work with their utmost ability and capacity furthered by various training sessions and presentations taken in various areas including Mahila Mandal, Temples, Gurudwara, Church etc. In their presentations they try to explain various dimensions of Body Organ donation like, about eye donation, skin



donation, hand donation etcetera. V4Organs Foundation and Mr. Apte has taken around 400+ presentations so far in various societies. He calls Organ donation as his 'Life Mission'.

He then also shed light on the day-to-day functioning of this foundation talking about the efficiency of their administration which is mostly paperless and functions through mobile phones. Apart from working on donation registration they also work towards training young generation through their online training programs. Kaka believes that young people have scientific wisdom and clear understanding and they can create much more awareness when trained properly. Their online training program started during the COVID 19 Lockdown when any sort of movement was restricted. So that's

when his online training program started whereby, they try to give holistic knowledge to the Students enrolled; through various online presentations and books and study material posted on their free telegram channel that divides the entire curriculum into 8 units imparting knowledge to the students from the very basic to advance level. Mr. Apte himself

limited reach is a challenge and aims to reach as many people as possible and create more awareness.

His training program functions exceptionally well with a well-developed mechanism for testing the Intelligence Quotient and learning capacity through a questionnaire developed by the founder himself. These questionnaires provide students with a Re-Submission option allowing them to take the test as many times as they want until they achieve 100% accuracy.

Mr. Shrikant M. Apte has been recognised by the Maharashtra government for the incredible work that he does and upon asking him about his idea of success and social impact, he shared a few stories that are most dear to him. He shared a story of a 4-class worker in a hospital who signed up to donate his wife's organs after her death to contribute in this noble cause. Apart from this he also recalled a story of a lady who called him to share a story of her father who was not afraid of dying naturally but was afraid of dying of COVID because he then, would not be able to donate his organs and contribute his share in the welfarism. Witnessing such stories on a daily basis makes Apte Kaka say, “I have seen God, in the form of donors”. He also takes pride in the kind social impact they are able to create when very young students of even 8th standard talk about organ donation and spread awareness around it.

Lastly, on asking him about a message he would like to give to the young changemakers, he said “you can do it, if you work”, primarily focusing on the need to indulge in hard and on ground work and not on just mere words. The saying “Be the change you want to see in the world” goes really well with the idea held by Apte Kaka who motivates people to first contribute in organ donation if they too demand organ supply for their family members. He says that not everyone has to be a doctor in order to be a saviour, any commoner can be the one and give a new meaning to somebody's life, the only need is to have a pure intent and the realisation of one's responsibility towards the society.

So far V4Organs has been successful in training around 21,000 students but this for Apte Kaka is not enough. He still feels that

NEW ZEALAND'S PREMIUM ROUGE APPLE DEBUTS
IN INDIA AT APMC VASHI

The premium m Rouge Apple from New Zealand was introduced in India for the first time at the APMC Fruit Market, Vashi, on Thursday, highlighting the growing agricultural trade between the two countries.



The event saw the presence of Graham Rouse, Consul General of New Zealand and Trade Commissioner for South Asia, along with other dignitaries including Irfan Jaffer, Vrunda Sonawane, Chandrakant Dhole, Sanjay Pansare, Rajendra Konde, and leading members of the fruit trade community. It was hosted by D B Ursal and Grandsons in partnership with Bearsley Exports New Zealand, Don Limon Germany, and Scion Agricos India.

Rohan Satish Ursal linked the launch to stronger Indo–New Zealand

ties and described Rouge Apple as bright red, crunchy, and naturally sweet, receiving positive response from Indian traders. Graham Rouse called India one of the most promising markets for New Zealand produce. The event concluded with the unveiling of the first crate and an Apple Toast.

CHHURPI: A HERITAGE OF THE HIMALAYAS

Chhurpi is more than a simple dairy product; it is a reflection of Himalayan resilience, culture, and farmer wisdom. For generations, rural communities in Nepal, Bhutan, and India's northeastern hills have crafted this hard cheese, turning scarce resources into something both nourishing and enduring. Its long shelf life made it essential for survival in cold, isolated regions where access to fresh food was limited.

Today, Chhurpi is gaining recognition beyond the mountains, admired not only for its unique taste and nutritional value but also for the story it carries. Each piece represents centuries-old traditions, local craftsmanship, and the deep bond between farmers and their livestock. Unlike modern mass-produced snacks, Chhurpi is handmade, eco-friendly, and deeply rooted in sustainability.

As global markets search for authentic and natural foods, Chhurpi



stands out as a symbol of cultural heritage. Promoting it internationally means more than exporting a product it means honoring rural communities, empowering farmers, and preserving a tradition that connects people to nature. Supporting Chhurpi ensures that the voices of Himalayan farmers are heard, their livelihoods strengthened, and their wisdom celebrated.

Chhurpi is not just cheese it is a living legacy of endurance and heritage.

GST REFORMS MAKE FARMING AFFORDABLE
AND RURAL ECONOMY STRONGER



The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in its 56th meeting, has announced a major overhaul of India's tax structure, easing rates across essentials, medicines, vehicles, and farm-related goods. The reforms aim to spur domestic consumption, reduce input costs, and support rural livelihoods.

For agriculture, the biggest boost comes through reduced GST on machinery and inputs. Tractors below 1800 cc, tyres, hydraulic pumps, threshers, sprinklers, and diesel engines up to 15 HP now fall under the 5% slab,

making mechanisation and maintenance more affordable. Fertilisers like ammonia, sulphuric acid, and nitric acid, along with bio-pesticides and micronutrients, also shifted to 5%, helping stabilise farm input costs and encouraging sustainable practices.

In the dairy sector, GST on butter, ghee, milk cans, and preserved fruits and vegetables has been cut from 12% to 5%, lowering food prices, supporting women-led enterprises, and boosting exports by reducing wastage. Fisheries and apiculture also benefit, with natural honey and processed fish now taxed at 5%, aiding tribal and rural communities.

Logistics costs have been addressed too, with GST on trucks reduced to 18% and third-party insurance on goods carriers lowered to 5%. Effective from September 22, these reforms are set to modernise farming, cut costs, and strengthen India's agri-economy.

PUNJAB, HARYANA,
CHHATTISGARH MAY SEE
LOWER RICE OUTPUT
DUE TO HEAVY RAINS



The government has reported that rice procurement from both kharif and rabi seasons stood at 54.52 million tonnes(mt) during October 2024 to August 2025, against the full-year target of 58.48 mt. The purchase objective for the electrical current kharif season is 46.35 mt. Last year, about 47.4 mt was purchased from the kharif crop, though the target was 51.16 mt.

The Department of Public Distribution and Food has concluded its purchasing strategies for the 2025–26 kharif marketing season in an interview with Provincial Food Ministers and the Food Company of India (FCI) season, beginning October. Apart from rice, a target of 1.92 mt has been fixed for coarse grains and millets (Shree Anna). The government has urged states to focus more on millet procurement to promote crop diversification and improve nutrition.

However, the rice target may be revised later since heavy rains and floods have damaged crops in several states. Punjab, which contributed the highest 11.61 mt last year, may face a decline in output. The India Meteorological Department has also predicted above-normal rainfall in key rice-growing states such as Punjab, Haryana, and Chhattisgarh during September, which could further impact procurement.

COROMANDEL OPENS 1000TH GROMOR STORE,
PLANS EXPANSION IN MAHARASHTRA



Coromandel International, a Murugappa group company that provides agricultural solutions, has inaugurated its 1000th 'Gromor' retail store at Kashti village in Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra. The company first entered the rural retail space in 2007 with its “My Gromor” brand, offering quality agri inputs and services to farmers, mainly in southern states.

Over time, Coromandel has expanded its network beyond the South and now has a strong presence in Maharashtra. With this milestone, its

retail footprint includes 766 Mana Gromor stores in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, 195 Namma Gromor in Karnataka, 23 Namadu Gromor in Tamil Nadu, and 16 Apla Gromor in Maharashtra. The network is supported by more than 5,000 employees who work closely with farmers to improve crop yields and farm productivity.

According to Executive Chairman Arun Alagappan, My Gromor centres have become trusted partners for farmers by providing timely access to quality agri-inputs, advanced technologies, and personalized advice while encouraging eco-friendly farming practices. The company now plans to double its retail network within two years, including 20 more stores in Pune district.

MAYA DEVI UNIVERSITY: EMERGING AS A
GLOBAL INNOVATION HUB



Maya Devi University (MDU), located in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, is rapidly gaining recognition as a hub for innovation-driven global education. The university is focused on blending advanced technology with holistic learning to prepare students as creative, skilled, and socially responsible leaders. Its mission goes beyond academics, emphasizing research, practical exposure, and industry readiness.

included enriching activities such as field trips to the Regional Science Centre, a “Dummy Shark Tank” competition where students pitched innovative ideas, and workshops on modern tools like ChatGPT, Canva, Suno AI, and Vo.dev, led by Dr. Sachin Chaudhary, a distinguished IIT Ropar alumnus and NTU Singapore scholar.

MDU has built strong industry partnerships with over 550 companies, ensuring excellent placement opportunities. Top recruiters include Cognizant, IMH, and Running Warehouse, with the highest salary package reaching ₹43.6 LPA and an average package of ₹5.6 LPA.

Approved by UGC, NCTE, PCI, and the Uttarakhand government, MDU offers over 150 undergraduate, postgraduate, and research programs. With smart classrooms, modern labs, and a forward-thinking curriculum, the university provides a vibrant learning environment. Its entrance test, MDUCET 2025, also offers merit-based scholarships of up to 100%, making quality education accessible to all.

A key initiative at MDU is the #DigitalCatalystProgramme 2025, a fully residential, free-of-cost program aimed at empowering students, especially those from rural and underprivileged backgrounds. In its latest batch, 100 bright students from the Uttarakhand Board received hands-on training in emerging fields like Python, mobile app development, data analysis, artificial intelligence tools, and leadership skills. The program also

OPERATION KAYAKALP AND PROJECT ALANKAR
TRANSFORM UP GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

The Uttar Pradesh government has undertaken two major initiatives, Operation Kayakalp and Project Alankar, to modernize government schools and provide students with safe and advanced learning environments. Launched in 2018, Operation Kayakalp focused on upgrading council schools by improving basic facilities. As a result, nearly 97% of schools now have functional toilets, clean drinking water, proper furniture, electricity connections, boundary walls, and well-maintained classrooms. Many campuses also feature tiled restrooms, solar lights, and freshly painted buildings, creating a positive and motivating atmosphere for students and teachers.

multipurpose halls, art and craft rooms, playgrounds, vocational training centers, cycle stands, and staff rooms have also been added to support both academic and extracurricular development.

Safety and sustainability have been major priorities under these projects. Schools now include fire safety systems, CCTV surveillance, biometric attendance systems, solar panels, and rainwater harvesting facilities, ensuring a secure and eco-friendly learning environment.

These transformative efforts have boosted public confidence in government schools. Parents are now more willing to send their children to these institutions, which have become symbols of progress and community pride. The initiatives have successfully turned traditional village schools into inclusive, future-ready educational hubs that serve as models for other states to follow.

Project Alankar was introduced to enhance secondary schools and develop them into modern learning centers. A total of 2,295 schools were upgraded based on 27 key parameters. These schools are now equipped with smart classrooms, Wi-Fi connectivity, science and computer laboratories, and well-stocked libraries. Modern furniture,

UGC URGES COLLEGES TO PRIORITIZE MENTAL-HEALTH
SURVEYS UNDER SUPREME COURT-BACKED INITIATIVE

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has called on all higher education institutions to make responding to mental-health and wellbeing surveys a top priority. These surveys are part of a National Task Force launched following a Supreme Court directive aimed at addressing the rising number of student suicides.



The Task Force's portal, launched in August, provides structured questionnaires in both English and Hindi. It invites responses from students, parents, faculty, mental-health professionals, and the public. Separate institutional surveys are available for heads of colleges to share data on reported suicides, existing support systems, and mechanisms for grievance redressal.

Tasked with spotting the root causes behind student suicides, the panel chaired by former Supreme Court judge Justice S. Ravindra Bhat aims to review current regulations and recommend stronger preventive strategies.

In July, the Supreme Court further mandated that all institutions implement a mental-health policy. Institutes must now comply with this requirement and submit monitoring reports within 90 days. The Supreme Court scheduled the next review of progress for October 27.

By prioritizing these surveys, colleges can contribute to a better understanding of student needs, helping shape proactive support systems and safeguard student wellbeing across the country.

NUTRITION EDUCATION DRIVE LAUNCHED
IN DELHI SCHOOLS

A new school-based nutrition education program was unveiled in Delhi during National Nutrition Week, spearheading an important shift toward healthier lifestyles among young learners. Initiated by Amway India in collaboration with the Nourishing Schools Foundation, the initiative is being rolled out across six government and NGO-run schools in the capital. In its first year, it is expected to benefit over 6,000 individuals, including approximately 1,500 children.



The program weaves nutrition lessons into daily school life using engaging methods such as interactive games, specially designed toolkits, and hands-on activities. Teachers will receive dedicated training so they can effectively guide students toward informed eating practices. Children are also encouraged to adopt healthy habits themselves and to inspire their families and communities to do the same.

Education Department, educators, and representatives from non-profit organizations took part in discussions emphasizing food awareness from an early age. Students played an active role, delivering presentations on wellbeing and nutrition.

As emphasized by Rajneesh Chopra of Amway India, shaping dietary habits during school years provides a strong foundation for long-term wellness. Archana Sinha of the Nourishing Schools Foundation highlighted that informing children empowers them to positively influence families and communities, creating a lasting ripple effect of healthy choices.

This targeted program represents a promising step toward addressing lifestyle-related health issues among youth, reinforcing schools as crucial platforms for promoting food literacy and preventive health.

At the launch event, the Delhi

NAGALAND UNIVERSITY TO
SHAPE GRAMMAR FOR
18 NAGA LANGUAGES



Nagaland University, the state's only central university, has joined forces with the state's Directorate of School Education to embark on a groundbreaking mission: develop written grammar for all 18 officially recognised Naga languages. Starting with school textbooks for Classes 5 through 12, this project is firmly grounded in the multilingual vision of the National Education Policy 2020.

Despite being taught in classrooms for years, these languages have lacked structured grammar resources until now. The initiative aims to address this by carefully documenting linguistic elements such as parts of speech, tense and aspect, phrase and clause structures, tone, vocabulary, and even clarifying orthography.

Once crafted, the grammars will be woven into textbooks that blend grammar lessons with prose, poetry, and translation, under the guidance of SCERT (State Council of Educational Research and Training) and NBSE (Nagaland Board of School Education). To ensure good teaching practice, educator training workshops including refresher courses at the university will support teachers in delivering the new material.

The project is led by Dr. Mimi Kevichüsa Ezung, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Tenyidie. Tenyidie is the standardised form of the Angami language, used by the Angami people and speakers of related Tenyimia tribes.

Prof. Jagadish K. Patnaik, Vice Chancellor of Nagaland University, described this as more than an academic task it is a cultural mission, meant to safeguard and uplift the rich linguistic heritage of Naga communities.

Durgesh K. Dubey & Anshika Pandey

INDIA'S DIESEL EXPORTS TO EUROPE HIT RECORD HIGH AS 2026 BAN NEARS; RELIANCE ADAPTS STRATEGY

India's diesel exports to Europe surged to record levels in August as refiners and traders raced to secure supplies ahead of the European Union's (EU) planned 2026 embargo on fuels derived from Russian crude. The sharp rise highlights India's growing dominance in the global energy trade while posing potential challenges for Reliance Industries, the country's largest fuel exporter, as the deadline approaches.

A Surge Driven by Anticipation

According to energy analytics firm Kpler, India exported 242,000 barrels per day (bpd) of diesel to Europe in August a staggering 137% increase compared to last year and a 73% jump from July. A separate study by Vortexa placed the figure at 228,316 bpd, still reflecting a massive 166% annual rise.

The sudden spike comes as EU members prepare for a 2026 ban on fuels refined from Russian crude, even if processed outside Russia. Indian refiners led by Reliance Industries have been taking advantage of discounted Russian Urals crude, refining it into diesel, and re-exporting it to Europe. However, once the embargo kicks in, such supplies will no longer be permissible.

An energy analyst explained, “European buyers are stockpiling diesel now to secure inventories before sanctions restrict supply.”

Reliance Industries at the Center

Reliance Industries, which operates the world's largest refining

complex at Jamnagar, contributes significantly to India's fuel exports, with one-fifth of its shipments currently heading to Europe. The upcoming EU restrictions could impact Reliance's export revenues, making diversification critical.

In anticipation, Reliance has begun purchasing premium Murban crude from Abu Dhabi, gradually reducing its dependence on Russian Urals and Middle Eastern grades. This strategic shift aims to shield its refining operations from potential disruptions once the EU ban takes effect.

Despite these challenges, financial experts remain optimistic. A Jefferies report notes that Russian crude accounts for just 2% of Reliance's overall EBITDA and predicts a 15% profit growth in its Oil-to-Chemicals division during the first half of 2026, supported by strong diesel margins and stable auto-fuel spreads in India.

Global Energy Dynamics in Transition

India's export spike underscores how geopolitics is reshaping global fuel markets. With Europe cutting ties to Russian-linked fuels, Gulf refiners, unaffected by the ban, are expected to capture a greater share of the European market post-2026.

In the short term, however, Europe's rush to secure supplies has strained logistics. Freight costs are rising, shipping routes are longer, and supply constraints could drive diesel prices higher for European consumers this winter.



The Road Ahead for Indian Refiners

While August's export boom highlights India's increasing clout, the 2026 embargo forces a strategic pivot. Reliance and other refiners will need to focus on diversifying export markets across Asia, Africa, and Latin America to offset potential European losses.

In the near term, Europe's stockpiling offers a profit windfall for Indian exporters. But over the long term, sustained success will depend on securing new crude sources, expanding trade partnerships, and leveraging India's refining edge to stay competitive in a rapidly evolving energy landscape.

GST 2.0: INDIA’S LANDMARK TAX REFORM TO BOOST GROWTH AND EASE BURDENS

In one of the most significant tax reforms since the launch of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017, India has unveiled a sweeping overhaul of its indirect tax system. After a marathon GST Council meeting, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the “GST 2.0” framework, designed to simplify compliance, reduce household expenses, and accelerate economic growth. The reforms, taking effect on September 22, 2025, are strategically timed ahead of the festive season to stimulate consumer demand and strengthen the economy.

Key Features of GST 2.0

1. Simplified Tax Structure: The current four-tier GST regime has been streamlined into three slabs:

- 5% on essential goods and basic services.
- 18% on most products and services.
- 40% on luxury and harmful items such as premium cars, tobacco, alcohol, and gambling services.

The abolition of the 12% and 28% slabs aims to make the tax system more transparent and predictable for consumers and businesses.

2. Relief for Healthcare and Education: Life and health insurance premiums, critical medical treatments, and school supplies have been made fully GST-exempt. Analysts say this will reduce household spending and improve access to essential services.

3. Green Push for Renewable Energy: GST on solar panels, wind turbines, and commercial drones has been cut to 5%. The move is expected to accelerate renewable energy adoption and support India's

long-term climate goals.

4. Easier Compliance for Businesses

Key measures include:

- Pre-filled tax returns to cut manual errors
- Faster refund processing
- Simplified registration for e-commerce sellers

These reforms particularly benefit small and medium-sized enterprises by reducing compliance costs and boosting efficiency.

Industry and Market Reactions

The reforms have been widely welcomed across sectors:

- **Retail & FMCG:** Reliance Retail pledged to pass on tax savings directly to consumers, while ITC Chairman Sanjiv Puri called GST 2.0 a “consumption booster.”
- **Automobiles:** Taxes on small cars and two-wheelers have been reduced from 28% to 18%, while farm equipment now attracts just 5%, giving a strong push to rural demand. Luxury cars, however, will face a steep 40% rate.
- **Healthcare & Pharma:** Exemptions on life-saving drugs and insurance are expected to make treatments for chronic illnesses more affordable.
- **Renewable Energy:** Industry players welcomed lower taxes on solar and wind technology, predicting faster adoption of clean solutions.

Economic Impact and Growth Outlook

Economists expect GST 2.0 to lift consumption and growth:

- **Inflation Relief:** Lower tax rates could reduce inflation by up to 90 basis points.
- **Consumer Spending:** The State Bank of India projects an additional ₹2 lakh crore in spending during FY2026.
- **Revenue Impact:** The government may face an annual shortfall of about ₹85,000 crore, though higher demand could offset losses.
- **GDP Growth:** Standard Chartered Bank estimates that the reform could add 0.35–0.45 percentage points to GDP growth by FY2027.

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram cautioned that tax reforms alone may not ensure sustained growth without parallel improvements in infrastructure, investment, and jobs.

The Road Ahead

GST 2.0 represents a balancing act between boosting consumption and managing fiscal stability. By creating a simpler, consumer-friendly, and business-oriented framework, the government hopes to energize households and industries while pushing India closer to its \$5 trillion economy goal.

With the festive season approaching, early signs point to rising consumer sentiment. The true test, however, will lie in sustaining demand and ensuring that revenue losses are offset by long-term growth. For now, GST 2.0 stands as a landmark reform that could reshape India's economic trajectory for years to come.

Dr. (Mrs) Chandra Hariharan Iyer

EXPERT



Dr. (Mrs) Chandra Hariharan Iyer

Assistant Professor, Department of Management
Studies, Coordinator - Center for IKS, B.K.Birla
College (Autonomous), Kalyan.

PhD(Management-Finance), M.Phil(Management),
MBA(Finance), M.com, M.Sc.(Psychology),
M.A. (Philosophy and Religion)
DBM, PGDBM, PGDFM,
PG Diploma in Guidance & Counselling

FAQs ON
Learning and Development through
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Mail your questions on
thehulahultimes@gmail.com

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Q. What do you look in healthy
workplace culture?

Ans. Continued from earlier weeks
article....

10) Given Flexibility: A healthy workplace culture values flexibility. Employees should have the freedom to adjust their schedules or work arrangements to meet personal or family needs. This flexibility enhances job satisfaction and employee well-being. "योग्यं कर्म समाश्रित्य कार्यं सुखं समाप्नुयात्। धर्मेण कर्मणा कार्येऽहं सदा शक्तिं समाप्नुयात्॥" "Work with flexibility, adapt your duties to your needs, and find joy in both."— Bhagavad Gita. This verse promotes adaptability and flexibility in fulfilling one's duties, leading to a healthier work-life balance. Offer flexible working hours or the option to work from home as part of your company's culture.

11) Given Careers, Not Jobs: A healthy culture invests in people by offering careers, not just jobs. Employees should feel they

have the opportunity to grow and advance within the company, leading to greater job satisfaction and retention. "स्वधर्मे आत्मनं समृद्धिं लभेत् कर्मणा यः सदैवा धर्मेण समाश्रित्य कार्ये सदा समृद्धिं प्रपद्यते॥". "By aligning with one's purpose and consistently working towards growth, an individual creates a fulfilling career, not just a job."— Bhagavad Gita. This verse encourages the pursuit of long-term growth and fulfillment, both personally and professionally. Create clear pathways for career development and advancement to show employees that they are valued for the long term.

12) **Paid Competitively:** Fair compensation is key to attracting and retaining top talent. A healthy workplace culture ensures that employees are paid competitively according to their skills, experience, and the value they bring to the company. "यः कर्मणा समृद्धिं लभेत् सदा। न्यायेन समर्पणं कर्म, मूल्यवर्धनं श्रेच्छया॥". "A leader who ensures fair compensation based on work will create an environment of mutual respect and satisfaction."— Mahabharata. This verse speaks to the importance of just compensation and fair rewards for contributions. Regularly assess compensation packages to ensure they remain competitive within the industry.

13) **Do Meaningful Work:** Employees in a healthy workplace feel that their work is meaningful and that they are contributing to something greater than themselves. Meaningful work enhances engagement and satisfaction, motivating employees to give their best. "धर्मेण कर्मणा कार्यं सदा शान्तं सुखं प्रपद्यते। कान्तारं हरितं तप्तं यः शान्तं समाश्रितम्॥". "Work with purpose, knowing that it contributes to the greater good and brings peace to your heart." — Bhagavad Gita. This verse highlights the importance of performing meaningful work that contributes to a greater purpose. Align the company's goals with employees' values, and show them how their work impacts the community or larger society.

14) **Value Job Stability:** Job stability is vital for employee peace of mind. A healthy workplace culture provides job security, allowing employees to plan for the future without constantly worrying about their job status. "वृद्धिं कर्मणं प्रवर्तयेत् स्वधर्मे वर्धयेत्। सदा कार्ये स्थिरं समृद्धिं प्राप्नोति॥". "Job security and stability, when coupled with consistent growth, lead to a fulfilling career."— Bhagavad Gita. This verse emphasizes the importance of stability in one's career for lasting success. Build a reputation as an organization that prioritizes employee well-being by providing stable employment opportunities.

15) **Value Job Security:** Employees need to feel that they have a future with the company. A culture that fosters job security enables them to focus on growth rather than worrying about losing their job. "कान्तारं हरितं तप्तं यः शान्तं समाश्रितम्॥""True stability in work creates peace of mind and ensures commitment from all." — Bhagavad Gita. This verse encourages leaders to foster an environment where employees feel secure and dedicated to their work. Provide clear communication regarding job security, offering peace of mind to your employees.

16) **Feel Valued:** Feeling valued is one of the core pillars of a healthy workplace culture. Employees who feel that their contributions are important are more likely to be engaged and motivated. "सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे सन्तु निरामयः" "May all be happy and free from ailments, may all feel valued and appreciated." This verse calls for a culture that values each individual's contributions. Show employees that their work is essential by regularly acknowledging their contributions and offering constructive feedback.

17) **Feel Respected:** Respect is essential for a healthy workplace

culture. A respectful environment nurtures collaboration and encourages employees to perform to the best of their abilities. "न हि कर्मणि सुखं स्यात् जडवृत्तिर्न सिद्ध्ये। न्यायपूर्णं कार्यं यत्र कार्यं शान्तं समाप्नुयात्॥" "A respected leader always works with integrity, ensuring that respect is upheld in all aspects of work."— Mahabharata. This verse highlights the significance of mutual respect in fostering a successful workplace. Cultivate an environment of respect by practicing active listening and addressing issues with fairness and empathy.

A healthy workplace culture is not just a luxury but a necessity for both organizational success and employee well-being. By focusing on values like clear communication, respect, fairness, job stability, and personal growth, you create an environment where employees thrive. Through the lens of Sanskrit slokas, we have explored these foundational elements, providing timeless wisdom to guide the way we approach building and nurturing workplace culture. Let us pray that the leaders of our mother nation be graceful and fair at workplace! Stay blessed!

AN INTIATIVE OF
HULAHUL FOUNDATION

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH
ANCIENT INDIAN WISDOM

ARE YOU FINDING
DIFFICULTY IN LEARNING?
NEED A SOLUTION

Ask the
EXPERT

The HULAHUL Times is giving an opportunity to our readers who finds difficulty in learning and needs professional help; can ask maximum two(2) questions to our panel of professional experts and counselors and get advice and tips from them.

Every Monday you will get answers to your questions which will be published in our E-newspaper without revealing your identity.

Just get ready with your questions and email it on
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Please note:
Only selected questions
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FROM REELS TO REALITY: SOCIAL MEDIA FAME VS TRUE TALENT

In this digital era, social media platforms are growing at an exceptional rate, and thus so is the so-called social media talent. The reel talent is overshadowing the real talent, which takes years and years of consistent hard work, determination, blood, and sweat. But unfortunately, it goes unnoticed just because of people who lack the ability to notice the right and the real talent.

Social media is a pool of people from across the globe with varying skills, where everyone is trying to find a spot to fit in the race for popularity.

Most of the people who get famous or get noticed on social media are the ones who are good-looking. They are winning over the internet just because of their looks and not what they portray as talent on social media. It is easier to catch people's eyes with some dance moves, fashionable clothing, vulgar language, and fights.

Many of the YouTubers who have subscribers in the millions, when you get to see their content, it's nothing but roasting and the use of abusive language. Whereas people who have genuine talent have less to almost no one to root for them, because people nowadays root for show-offs rather than reality.

Nowadays, social media is not just a platform to showcase talent but also a means to earn money. Social media gave birth to endless creators and gave them a chance to showcase whatever skills they possess. But most of the real talent took a back seat after struggling a lot to rise and shine in this digital age.

From struggling a lot to securing a place in any specific niche, many talented people just give up, and the real talent succumbs to death. Many

times, the people on social media rise to fame but for a very less and short period of time till there is hype about their content.

The real talent is eternal and evergreen and is based on hard work, whereas the reel talent is temporary and short-lived and is mostly based on attention until there is a hype about it. Social media followers or engagement doesn't define the fineness you possess in your skill.

The recognition a real talent deserves is far more than some likes and comments on social media. You are the master of your own skill or talent; keep enhancing it as per the latest upgrades in your industry. It may take some time, but real talent outshines every other thing.

True ability isn't based on luck like social media fame, which doesn't last long. Instead, it's built on hard work, dedication, and honesty.

Real talent takes time, practice, patience, consistency, and failure to actually be seen and admired. Whereas dancing for just 15 seconds on a trending song is making people go viral and famous overnight, fame is just a swipe away for such Instagram or YouTube stars who haven't actually tasted the real fruit of struggle and hard work.

The constant mental juggle to keep up with the changing algorithm of social media: the social media influencers keep posting to not stay behind in the race for fame, while doing so, the quality of the skill that they showcase is almost zero because they are just performing for the likes and for the sake of keeping up rather than creating content with purpose.

Short-lived fame often comes with the feeling of unworthiness and



drags people into depression when their content doesn't get the recognition it used to.

Root for the real talent; learn from the people who are still authentic and remain true to the talent that they possess.

FUTURE OF EDUCATION: HYBRID LEARNING BEYOND CLASSROOMS



Learning and teaching today is not just confined to four walls, but it has moved beyond. All credit to online and hybrid learning models that have evolved and have changed the way people look at learning and acquiring knowledge. With the blend of online and the traditional classroom teaching, students can acquire knowledge from wherever they wish to.

The pandemic brought about this revolution in the

education industry and the rise of online learning platforms, which somehow made students love the way of acquiring knowledge other than the traditional method of physically attending the classes.

The practice, which started to combat the spread of a virus, is now widespread and is the most convenient way of learning for many students across the globe.

The perfect example of hybrid learning is the classes of Physics Wallah and Khan Sir on YouTube; they teach the students in person and also record it simultaneously for the students who can't attend the classes physically.

Benefits of Hybrid Learning:

- **Saves Time:** Traveling to and fro consumes a lot of time, which in turn makes the students feel low on energy and demotivated. Hybrid learning is a saviour of time and resources, which is beneficial for the

students who live far from the area where the classes are conducted. Saved time can be wisely utilised in learning new concepts or revising the old ones.

- **Accessible to Everyone:** Through a hybrid learning model, even students who are in a different state or country can learn from a particular tutor or a particular academy.

Gone are those days when students used to wish to study under tutors of their choice but weren't able to due to their inability to travel to other places to study. But now it has become easier than ever before to avail the benefits from the comfort of their homes through the hybrid learning model.

- **Saves Money:** I have come across a lot of courses that charge differently for online students; sometimes it's totally half the cost when compared to that for the offline students. So, it becomes feasible for everyone to avail the advantage of what is being taught.
- **Offers Flexibility:** If the online students can't attend the class when it is being taught, they can totally watch it at their preferred time, as they get the recordings of the lectures.

This also helps in referring back to the same lecture whenever we feel the need to clear our doubts.

- **Resource Vastness:** Apart from traditional books,

students have plenty of resources to gain knowledge, from various learning tools to digital libraries; all these things come in handy to them.

- **Balancing Studies and Work:** Hybrid learning is also beneficial for the employees of the corporate world who want to upskill and stand out among the crowd. Balancing between work and up-skilling courses becomes easier, when the learning is feasible at our own time and pace.

This method of learning does not limit the students in having their doubts cleared, because the attention is equally distributed for both online and offline students.

A dedicated doubt-clearing session by the tutor helps the students in clearing their doubts and also acquiring some additional knowledge by learning from others' doubts as well.

This method of learning has paved the way to success for many students by bridging the gap between the traditional face-to-face learning method and online learning.

INDIA SIGNS APPREHENSION OVER MOBILITY AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS IN EU



India has raised critical issues regarding hurdles faced by its exporters in the European Union (EU), especially in Germany. Challenges related to migration rules, mobility restrictions, complex visa procedures, and Non-tariff barriers that are showing down trade opportunities for Indian businesses. In the recent discussions with Germany, India has made note of how these barriers are highlighting and concerns for exporters who want to access the EU market efficiently. While tariffs are one part of global trade, Non-tariff barriers such as lengthy documentation, differing standards, and cumbersome procedures often act as hidden obstacles, particularly for small and medium-scale exporters. India pointed out the need to make processes smoother and more effective that create a win-win situation for both economies and also boosts the Trade. Germany, on its part, has shown willingness to work closely with India in finding solutions. The discussion comes at a time when India is consistently fortifying and strengthening its global trade partnerships. By focusing on such Non-tariff barriers and mobility concerns both nations aim to enhance commercial linkages and ensure that trade flows remain reliable and profitable. The development brought into focus India's broader commitment to make international trade more approachable, fair, and transparent for its exporters.

GREEN CREDIT ONLY AFTER 40% CANOPY OVER 5 YEARS: ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY

The Union Environment Ministry has announced new guidelines for the Green Credit programme, linking it directly to the survival and growth of plantation efforts. According to the notification Green Credit will only be granted once a plantation achieves a canopy density of at least 40% after five years of restoration. This step has been introduced to ensure that the scheme does not become a mere plantation drive on paper but truly contributes to ecological balance. The ministry explained that the methodology for calculating Green Credit will focus on long-term growth, survival rate of trees, and the ability of the plantation to create real green cover. Officials highlighted that this decision will encourage accountability among agencies and individuals taking part in the programme. Instead of counting saplings planted, the emphasis will now be on how many survive and grow to form a healthy canopy. As it is the larger climate strategy, India has launched the Green Credit initiative to double up the carbon sequestration and advance sustainable development according to experts, this practice will promote real ecological gains and prevent tokenistic plantation efforts. By setting up a five-year benchmark, the government hopes to build resilient green zones that can stand the test of time.



LEGIBLE MEDICAL PRESCRIPTION DECLARED A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT BY PUNJAB AND HARYANA HAC

In a significant ruling, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has declared that every patient has the fundamental right to receive a legible Medical Prescription and diagnosis. The judgement was delivered on August 27, while hearing an anticipatory bail plea in an alleged rape case reported in Haryana. During the proceedings, the court examined the medico-legal recovery of the accused and found that not even a word or letter was legible. Taking action on this, the bench ruled that illegible prescriptions compromise their safety on this and also deny patients their rights to proper treatment. The court emphasized that clear writing is necessary to enable accurate diagnosis, dispensing of medicines and avoiding medical errors, in addition, it found the availability of intelligible medical records to be directly linked the right to health and life under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. As a reminder to the doctors and the hospitals, the judgement serves that the patients rights cannot be overlooked in the name of medical practice. By holding legible prescriptions as a fundamental right, the court has set a strong reference point for accountability and transparency in healthcare.



KULASEKARAPATTINAM TO HOST ISRO'S SSLV LAUNCHPAD



On 27th August 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) achieved another milestone in India's space journey by laying the foundation stone of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) launched at Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu. The ceremony was led by Dr. V. Narayanan, Chairman of ISRO and Secretary of the Department of Space. The new launch facility, named as the SSLV Launch Complex (SLC), is expected to significantly enhance India's capability in deploying small satellites into space. "Designed for satellites up to 500 kilograms, the SSLV provides on-demand space access while remaining cost-effective and versatile for global and domestic users. Kulasekarapattinam's strategic coastal location permits direct southward trajectories over the sea, boosting safety and efficiency. This enhancement will lower the burden on Sriharikota's existing launchpads, controlling risks and maximizing output. New setup in this will reduce the load of work on Sriharikota, making it smoother launches. Boosts in demand for small satellites makes this a crucial step forward, enhancing India's self-reliance in space technology and its standing in the worldwide space sector.

UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD'S DEEP-TECH STARTUP BREAKS NEW GROUND IN SCANNING INNOVATION

The University of Hyderabad has taken a major breakthrough in the field of deep technology by rolling out a venture that could transform the way we look at food freshness. This creativity focuses on using advanced scanning techniques to assess the excellences and purity of food items ranging from a glass of milk at breakfast to vegetables and fruits on our plates. Food safety and quality have always been a major concern for consumers as well as producers. With rising demand for transparency and healthier choices, this new Deep-Tech initiative aims to provide quick and reliable solutions. Utilizing the latest technology, the structure is able to identify the levels of freshness, which ultimately assists households and industries in knowing that what they are consuming is safe and high quality. In addition to helping the consumer, the project supports farmers, retailers and food processors in minimizing waste and maximizing efficiency. At a time when food security is a global priority, such efforts pointed out India's growing role in technology-driven agriculture and consumer safety. The University's fulfillment marks a milestone, opening new possibilities at the intersection of agriculture, technology, and human health.



DEMON SLAYER INFINITY CASTLE'S INDIA PRE-REGISTRATION AND AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENT CONFIRMED

Anime fans in India have a reason to celebrate, as the much-awaited Demon Slayer: India Castle is all set to hit theatres with early reservations which are already officially open. The film, which continues the gripping journey of Tanjiro and his companions, has made people almost a wave of excitement across the globe, and India is no exception. Distributors have officially announced that along with a scheduled monitoring, a video has already been created, where popular voices and stars connected with the film will interact with fans. The step highlights the rising popularity of anime across India, with Demon Slayer being one of the most iconic franchises among young audiences. Infinity Castle is expected to showcase some of the most gorgeous imagery and intense battles in the series so far. With its high emotional stakes and stunning animation, fans are eagerly waiting to witness the climatic fight against Muzan Kibitauji on the big screen. Early trend with advance bookings points to massive audience interest, indicating packed theatres on the first day of release. For Indian anime devotees, this is far from being just another release, this film is a climatic milestone. It's a cultural moment that brings the anime fandom closer together around the globe.



Afreen Mazgaonkar & Khushi Sharma

INDIA CLINCHES 4TH ASIA CUP TITLE WITH 4-1 WIN OVER SOUTH KOREA, SECURES SPOT IN 2026 HOCKEY WORLD CUP



through every stage, which saw China humiliated 7–0 in the Super 4s and Japan put up a tough fight. Now, the head coach, Craig Fulton, along with the entire Indian squad, prepares their minds for the challenges ahead, including the possibility of reshuffling the team to accommodate new talent in time for the double blasts on the hockey calendar. With the fourth Asia Cup trophy now at home and a berth for the World Cup sealed, it looks like India hockey is on a fast ascension.

GUKESH HITS BACK AT THE COMMENT MADE BY THE UZBEK GM ABOUT LOSING THE TITLE OF WORLD CHESS CHAMPION

In a session on FIDE social media during the event of FIDE Grand Swiss 2025, Uzbek GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov predicted that D. Gukesh will lose his title of World Chess Champion in the upcoming year 2026. Later, in a press remark during the tournament, the Uzbek GM was questioned about the same and he affirmed and admitted yes for sure he indeed made this prediction. D. Gukesh responded firmly that Nodirbek Abdusattorov is a great player and very capable, but in the tournament he can only qualify for the Candidates, so it is one more step ahead to become a World Champion.D. Gukesh underlined that Abdusattorov still has to qualify for the FIDE Candidates 2026, which will eventually produce the World Title challenger. The FIDE Grand Swiss 2025 is underway on Thursday, offering two direct spots in the Candidates 2026. So far, only Fabiano Caruana has qualified for the 8-player Candidates Tournament. Being the World Champion, Gukesh is not in the race to qualify for the Candidates, but in order to prove himself, he is still taking part in the tournament and showcasing his expertise in the field.



NOVAK DJOKOVIC MAKES HISTORY BY BREAKING ROGER FEDERER'S WORLD RECORD IN TENNIS

Novak Djokovic made his name in history by continuing a flawless run at the 2025 U.S. Open, defeating Jan-Lennard Struff in the Round of 16 at Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York on Sunday, August 31. A 38-year-old Novak Djokovic, aiming for his 25th major title, has reached the quarter-finals and will now face Taylor Fritz. He is the fifth oldest to achieve the feat, and broke Roger Federer's 2019 record of 38 years and 14 days for being the oldest quarterfinalist in the 21st century. Djokovic's recent run in the 2025 U.S. Open has been historic. He not only wins and makes history, but he also breaks multiple long-standing records, creating his own legacy in this athletic field. Djokovic's recent run in the year 2025. He is now the owner of the most Grand Slam semifinal appearances in the Open Era, male. Additionally, because of his consistent hard work, he also became the oldest man to reach all four Slam semifinals in a single year. Their consistent and dedicated efforts helped them win the event and marked a historic moment and encouraging the youth to follow this path.



INDIA TOPS MEDAL TALLY WITH 40 MEDALS AT 25TH COMMONWEALTH SENIOR WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Indian athletes showed excellent weightlifting performance and finished on top in the Commonwealth Senior Weightlifting Championships. The Championships was held in Ahmedabad, India. India bagged a total of 13 medals at the 25th edition, including 4 gold, 6 silver, and 3 bronze. Overall, India won 40 medals across the senior, junior, and youth categories at the 25th Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships. Tushar Choudhury was the highlight of the championship, winning two gold medals in the youth boys' +94 kg and junior men's 110 kg categories with a total lift of 285 kg. Ajaya Babu Valluri won the gold medal in the senior men's 79 kg category with a flawless total of 335 kg. Mehak Sharma set a new personal best to secure silver in the women's +86 kg division. India's strength is now evident not only in individual performances but also in team results. Chief National Coach Vijay Sharma stated the priorities of youth and junior athletes, including getting good results, and showing future success at the global multi-sport events. Their combined efforts helped them win the event, and their performance also marks the beginnings of a new and pivotal historic moment for the development of the sport in the country.



INDIA RULED THE ASIAN SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP 2025 AND BROKE THE RECORD WITH 50 GOLDS



In Asian Shooting Championship 2025 in Kazakhstan, India marks history by delivering its best-ever performance in the tournament's history. Over 12 days, Indian players won a total of 99 medals, including 50 gold, 26 silver, and 23 bronze. India dominated and finished as the top country in the games, followed by Kazakhstan with 21 golds (70 total medals) and China with 15 golds (37 total medals). India fielded 182 athletes in the championship. The championship, organized by the Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC), feature both individual and team competitions across Olympic and non-Olympic categories, a platform for athletes to showcase their skills and improve their international rankings. The star performer of the event is Elavenil Valarivan, who broke the Asian record in the women's 10m air rifle and won gold in the mixed team event with Arjun Babuta. Neeru Dhanda clinched her first gold in women's trap. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar claimed gold in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions with a final score of 462.5 followed by many talented and hardworking athletes. Their consistent and dedicated efforts helped them win the event and marked a historic moment.

BADMINTON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TO RETURN TO INDIA IN 2026 AFTER 17 YEARS

A landmark announcement has been made that the Badminton World Championships will return to India after 17 long years. The announcement was held during the closing ceremony of the ongoing Badminton World Championships in Paris, where BWF president Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, Frank Laurent, president of the Federation Francaise de Badminton, and Badminton Association of India (BAI) general secretary Sanjay Mishra shared that the next championship will be held in New Delhi. The dates of the event are 17 to 23 August 2026 at the Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi. The first hosting of the Championship was in 2009 in Hyderabad. The location of the BWF Championship is assigned through a formal bidding process, where countries must convince the BWF that they can handle sponsorship, audience demand, and the facilities needed to successfully host the championship. In the last 17 years, other nations such as China, Spain, Denmark, and Japan were more aggressive in bidding. The BWF Championship seems to be the right time to come back, as India is now both a top market in sports and has good infrastructure and facilities to sponsor it.



BPSC AEDO RECRUITMENT
2025 – APPLY ONLINE FOR 935
VACANCIES

BPSC Recruitment 2025

935 Vacancy
Apply Online


Bihar Public Service
Commission

Check Notification

The Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) invites online applications for 935 permanent posts of Assistant Education Development Officer (AEDO) under Advt. No. 87/2025. This is a golden opportunity for graduates aspiring to build a career in government service and contribute to the development of education in Bihar.

- Important Dates**
- Notification Release: 22nd August 2025
 - Online Application Start: 27th August 2025
 - Last Date for Application: 26th September 2025 (11:59 PM)
 - Exam Date: To be notified

- Vacancy Breakup (935 Posts)**
- General: 374, EWS: 93, EBC: 168, BC: 112, BC (Female): 28, SC: 150 & ST: 10

- Eligibility Criteria**
- Qualification: Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from a recognized university.
 - Age Limit (as on 01/08/2025): 21–37 years (Relaxation as per BPSC norms).

- Pay Scale**
- AEDO: ₹29,200 – ₹92,300 (Level-5 Pay Matrix) + allowances.

- Application Fee**
- General / Other State: ₹100/-
 - SC / ST / PH / All Female Candidates: ₹100/-
 - Mode: Online payment only.

- Selection Process**
- Written Examination
 - Document Verification
 - Medical Examination

- How to Apply**
1. Visit the official portal: onlinebpsc.bihar.gov.in.
 2. Register and log in to fill in personal, educational, and experience details.
 3. Upload scanned documents and certificates.
 4. Pay the required fee through online mode.
 5. Submit the form by 26th September 2025 (11:59 PM).

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

IBPS RRB XIV RECRUITMENT 2025 – 13,217+ VACANCIES

The Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) has released the official notification for IBPS RRB XIV Recruitment 2025 to fill 13,217+ vacancies across Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in India. This is a golden opportunity for graduates to secure government banking jobs and serve in rural financial institutions.

- Important Dates**
- Online Registration: 1st September 2025 to 21st September 2025
 - Preliminary Exam: November–December 2025
 - Main/Single Exam: December 2025–February 2026
 - Interview: January–February 2026
 - Provisional Allotment: February–March 2026

- Vacancy Breakup**
- Office Assistant (Multipurpose): 7972+
 - Officer Scale-I (Assistant Manager): 3907+
 - Officer Scale-II (Specialist & GBO): 1139+ (IT, Law, CA, Treasury, Marketing, Agriculture)
 - Officer Scale-III (Senior Manager): 195+

- Eligibility**
- Qualification: Bachelor's Degree in any discipline (specialized fields required for certain posts).

- Age Limit (as on 01/06/2025)**
- Office Assistant: 18–28 yrs
 - Officer Scale-I: 18–30 yrs
 - Officer Scale-II: 21–32 yrs
 - Officer Scale-III: 21–40 yrs
 - Relaxation: SC/ST – 5 yrs, OBC – 3 yrs, PwBD – 10 yrs.
 - Local language proficiency is mandatory.
 - Salary Attractive pay as per RRB norms with allowances and benefits.
- Application Fee**
- General/OBC: ₹850/-
 - SC/ST/PwBD/EXSM: ₹175/-
 - Mode: Online (Net Banking, Cards, UPI).

Selection Process

IBPS RRB XIV

Institute of Banking Personnel Selection



Total
13217
Vacancies

- Preliminary Exam (for Scale-I & Office Assistant)
- Main Exam (for all posts)
- Interview (for Officers)
- Final allotment on merit

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

LIC HFL APPRENTICESHIP RECRUITMENT 2025 – APPLY ONLINE FOR 192 VACANCIES

LIC HFL
RECRUITMENT 2025

POST NAME: APPRENTICE
TOTAL POSTS: 192

APPLICATION START
02 SEPTEMBER 2025

APPLY NOW



LIC Housing Finance Limited (LIC HFL) has announced its Apprenticeship Program-004 Notification for 2025, inviting applications for 192 apprentice posts across multiple states. This program is ideal for fresh graduates looking to gain hands-on experience in the financial sector.

Vacancy Details (192 Posts)

- any stream (completed between 01/09/2021 and 01/09/2025) from UGC/AICTE-recognized institutions.
- Age Limit: 20–25 years as on 01/09/2025 (relaxation as per LIC HFL rules).
- Condition: No prior apprenticeship contract completed/terminated.

- Karnataka – 28 , Maharashtra – 25 , Andhra Pradesh – 14
 - Madhya Pradesh – 12, Kerala – 06 , Gujarat – 05
 - Delhi / Haryana / Chhattisgarh – 03 each
 - Assam / Bihar / J&K / Odisha – 01 each
 - Other states with smaller distributions are included in the detailed notification.
- Eligibility Criteria**
- Qualification: Graduation in

- Stipend**
- Apprentices will receive a monthly stipend of ₹12,000/- for 12 months.
 - Application Fee
 - Exam fee details will be notified by BFSI Sector Skill Council of India.
 - Payment mode: Online.
- Selection Process**
- Entrance Exam (BFSI SSCI).
 - Document Verification.
 - Personal Interview at LIC HFL offices.

- How to Apply**
- Register on the NATS portal, complete the online form, upload documents, and pay the exam fee.
 - Submit before 22nd September 2025.

- Important Dates**
- Application Period: 2nd September 2025 – 22nd September 2025
 - Last Date for Fee Payment: 24th September 2025
 - Entrance Examination: 1st October 2025
 - DV & Interviews: 8th – 14th October 2025 (Tentative)
 - Offer Letters: 15th–20th October 2025
 - Training Start: 1st November 2025

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



1. Which country has hosted the 2025 Cricket Champions Trophy?
2. Who is the current Secretary-General of the United Nations (as of 2025)?
3. What is the national currency of Japan?
4. In computing, what does “AI” stand for?
5. Which organ in the human body is responsible for pumping blood?
6. Who painted the famous artwork The Last Supper?
7. What is the boiling point of water at sea level in Celsius?
8. Which planet in our solar system is the largest?
9. What is the smallest prime number?
10. Which is the longest river in the world?



1. I arrive without being summoned, sit where I please, and leave when the sun rises. I can be loud or silent. What am I?
2. Two bodies have I, joined in one; backward and forward my path is run. One end is child, the other a king, what am I?
3. I have teeth but never bite, I run but never walk, I have a bed but never sleep. What am I?
4. You see me once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years. What am I?
5. I shine, but I'm not a star; I'm in your pocket but not your hand; I tell you the time without a face. What am I?
6. The more you fill me, the lighter I get. What am I?
7. I stand on one leg in a green field, I wave without hands, and birds rest on me. What am I?

1. Night (or darkness)
2. A seesaw
3. A river
4. The letter “M”
5. A phone (showing time)
6. A balloon
7. A tree

10 RIDDLES

10. The Nile River
9. 2
8. Jupiter
7. 100°C
6. Leonardo da Vinci
5. The heart
4. Artificial Intelligence
3. Japanese Yen (JPY)
2. Antonio Guterres
1. Pakistan

10 QUIZ TIME

ANSWERS



Paneer Lababdar
Rich & Creamy
Without Onion &
Garlic

This Week, We're Relishing Paneer Lababdar – A Royal Treat Without Onion & Garlic

A rich and creamy North Indian curry, Paneer Lababdar is a classic dish made with cottage cheese, tomatoes, and aromatic spices. This no onion, no garlic version is sattvik yet indulgent, retaining all the flavor and creaminess of the original. Perfect for festive meals, family gatherings, or simply when you crave restaurant-style paneer at home, this dish pairs beautifully with rotis, naans, or rice.

Ingredients:

Paneer (200–250 g, cubed, with a little grated for garnish), Tomatoes (3 large, roughly chopped), Cashews (10–12, soaked), Green chilies (1–2), Ginger (1-inch), Ghee or oil (2 tbsp), Bay leaf (1), Cinnamon (small stick), Green cardamoms (2), Cloves (1–2, optional), Cumin seeds (½ tsp), Turmeric powder (½ tsp), Coriander powder (1 tsp), Kashmiri red chili powder (1 tsp), Garam masala (1 tsp), Kasuri methi (1 tsp, crushed), Milk or cream (½ cup milk or ¼ cup cream), Water (½–1 cup), Salt (to taste), Fresh coriander leaves (for garnish).

Steps:

1. Make the Base: Blend tomatoes, soaked cashews, green chilies, and ginger into a smooth paste.
2. Cook the Masala: Heat ghee, add bay leaf, cinnamon, cardamoms, cloves, and cumin. Sauté for a few seconds. Add the tomato-cashew paste and cook till the oil leaves the sides.
3. Spice it Up: Stir in turmeric, coriander powder, and Kashmiri red chili powder. Cook for 2–3 minutes.
4. Adjust Consistency: Add water to reach the desired thickness. Lower flame and mix in milk or cream slowly.
5. Add Paneer: Gently add paneer cubes and a little grated paneer. Simmer for 3–4 minutes.
6. Finish: Stir in garam masala and kasuri methi. Adjust salt. Garnish with coriander and a swirl of cream if desired.

Serve hot with naan, roti, or jeera rice for a luxurious meal. Paneer Lababdar, even without onion and garlic, is silky, flavorful, and utterly satisfying a true royal delight for your table.

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone
+91-7977005423

Email
thehulahultimes@gmail.com

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