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Ravi Singh & Naaz

## GURU GOBIND SINGH JAYANTI: THE BIRTH OF COURAGE, FAITH, AND THE KHALSA SPIRIT



As we step into the first week of January 2026, a sense of spiritual preparation begins to settle over many households across the country. On 6th January, 2026, the air will be filled with the sound of hymns as the nation observes Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti. This is not just a simple day, it is a celebration of the birth of the tenth and final human Guru of the Sikhs, who became a champion of justice and equality, and whose life was a testament to the courage and faith.

The story of Guru Gobind Singh Ji began in Patna, Bihar, where he was born as Gobind Rai. He was the only son

of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, the ninth Sikh Guru, and Mata Gujri Ji. Even as a young child, it was clear that he possessed an exceptional spirit. He grew up during a time of challenges, witnessing the difficulties people faced while trying to practice their faith freely. His early years were a blend of spiritual learning, learning multiple languages, and training in martial arts.

A turning point in his life, and a significant moment in history, came when he was only nine years old. His father, Guru Tegh Ji, sacrificed his life to protect the religious freedom of others. Following this loss, young Gobind Rai was formally

considered as the tenth Sikh Guru, and he embraced it with a wisdom and determination that was far beyond his age. He realized that his community needed guidance and strength to deal with the challenging times ahead.

Throughout his life, Guru Gobind Singh Ji made contributions that changed the world around him. He wasn't just a spiritual leader; he was a poet, a philosopher, and a warrior who taught his followers to live with honesty and compassion. One of his most famous actions was the creation of the Khalsa in 1699. He envisioned this as a special brotherhood of Sikhs who lived by a strict code of conduct, an army of saint-soldiers ready to defend the truth. This move gave the Sikh community a unified identity and the courage to stand up against any form of oppression.

To make this identity clear, he introduced the Five Ks: Kesh (uncut hair), Kangha (a wooden comb), Kara (an iron bangle), Kirpan (a short sword), and Kac (cotton undergarments). These are not just objects; they are symbols of a person's commitment to their faith and their duty to protect the weak. For example, the Kirpan represents the dignity and the need to defend the innocent, while the Kara serves as a constant reminder of one's connection to the divine.

Before he passed away, Guru Gobind Singh Ji made a decision defining the future of the faith. He declared that there would be no more human Gurus after him. Instead, he named the holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib as the eternal Guru. This book contains the hymns and teachings of the Gurus and other saints, offering a source of wisdom for everyone. By doing this, he ensured that the core values of equality and faith would remain pure and accessible to everyone.

Today, the way we celebrate Guru Gobind Singh Ji reflects the significance of his teachings. Gurdwaras become centers of community life, filled with the singing of Kirtan. One can observe processions called Nagar Kirtans moving through the streets, where people sing and display martial arts. It's a pure celebration of faith that brings people together in a joyful way. These events are not just for the Sikh community; they are open to everyone, reflecting the Guru Gobind Singh Ji's belief that all people are equal.

One of the most significant parts of the celebration is the Langar, or the free community kitchen. Volunteers spend hours preparing vegetarian meals that are served to everyone, no matter what their background is. This practice truly resembles Guru Gobind Singh Ji's message of selfless service. As we observe Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti on January 6, it's a chance for all of us to think about how we can be a little more courageous and kind in our own lives. His legacy continues to remind us that standing up for what is right is a duty that belongs to everyone.

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Durgesh K. Dubey

## THE NAVRATNA OF VIKRAMADITYA: NINE HEARTS, ONE PURPOSE

In the radiant court of Emperor Vikramaditya of Ujjain, nine extraordinary men worked together not to seek fame, but to serve knowledge, truth, and humanity. They were called the Navratna: The Nine Gems. Each of them had a special gift, a unique strength, and a deep sense of responsibility toward society. Their lives teach us that greatness shines brightest when talent is joined with humility and purpose.

### Kalidasa: The Poet Who Spoke from the Heart

Kalidasa was the jewel of poetry and imagination. His words were soft like moonlight yet powerful like truth. He wrote about nature, love, devotion, and human emotions with such purity that people found peace in his verses. His strength was sensitivity and emotional wisdom. Through poetry, he reminded the court that a kingdom is not only built with stone walls, but also with compassionate hearts. Kalidasa taught that beauty is not a decoration, it is a bridge between the soul and the world.

### Varahamihira: The Wise Master of the Stars

Varahamihira studied the stars, planets, weather, and time. He was calm, observant, and humble. His strength was scientific insight and patience. He helped farmers predict seasons, advised the king on climate and agriculture, and guided sailors and travellers with astronomical knowledge. He proved that true knowledge is not superstition, it is careful observation, reason, and responsibility. His wisdom protected lives and strengthened the kingdom.

### Dhanvantari: The Healer Who Served Life

Dhanvantari, the royal physician, saw medicine as service, not profession. He treated the poor and rich alike, believing every life was sacred. His strength was compassion, healing skills, and ethical duty. He introduced herbal treatments, preventive care, and public health practices. Whenever disease spread, he walked into villages himself instead of sending others. He believed that health is the greatest wealth of a nation, and a healer must heal with both skill and kindness.

### Amarasimha: The Guardian of Language and Knowledge

Amarasimha compiled words, meanings, and knowledge into great lexicons. His strength was clarity of thought and intellectual discipline. He believed that language builds understanding, and understanding builds harmony. His work helped students,

scholars, priests, and common learners. He showed that education is not only about learning new things it is about organising wisdom so that generations can benefit from it. Through him, knowledge became accessible, structured, and meaningful.

### Vararuchi: The Scholar of Grammar and Logic

Vararuchi was the master of grammar, logic, and reasoning. His strength was precision and analytical thinking. He taught that clear speech leads to clear thinking, and clear thinking leads to right action. He helped the court solve complex disputes through logic and fairness. Vararuchi taught that words must be used carefully, truthfully, and respectfully because speech has the



power to heal or hurt, unite or divide.

### Shanku: The Architect Who Shaped Dreams

Shanku was the master architect and town planner. His strength was creativity joined with practicality. He designed temples, bridges, roads, and public spaces where people could live, pray, work, and celebrate safely. He believed that buildings should not only look beautiful — they should serve people and stand in harmony with nature. Through him, architecture became a blend of art, science, and social responsibility.

### Kshapanaka: The Seeker of Spiritual Wisdom

Kshapanaka was a philosopher and ascetic scholar. His strength was inner reflection and spiritual depth. He guided the court in questions of ethics, morality, and righteous conduct. He reminded everyone that power must bow before dharma, and success must remain humble. Through meditation, discipline, and moral inquiry, he taught that leadership begins within the self and that a calm mind creates a just world.

### Ghatakarpara: The Thinker Who Questioned Fearlessly

Ghatakarpara was a bold thinker and poet. His strength was courage of thought and sharp intelligence. He questioned injustice, challenged blind traditions, and encouraged rational thinking. He believed that society grows only when people dare to ask questions. He showed that loyalty does not mean silence, it means speaking truth for the greater good, even when it is uncomfortable.

### Vetala Bhatta: The Voice of Ethics and Conscience

Vetala Bhatta guided the king on matters of justice, law, and human behaviour. His strength was moral courage and ethical clarity. He taught that judgement must never be driven by anger, greed, or ego. He insisted that justice must balance truth, compassion, and responsibility. Through him, the court learned that governance is not about ruling people, it is about protecting fairness, dignity, and trust.

### The Spirit That United Them

Though each Navratna was different in talent, they shared one purpose — to use knowledge for the welfare of society. They respected each other, learned from one another, and turned diversity into strength. Together, they proved that a civilisation grows only when minds shine with wisdom and hearts remain rooted in humanity.

### Conclusion

The Navratna of Vikramaditya remind us that true greatness does not lie in power or brilliance alone, but in humility, unity, and the responsible use of knowledge. Each of them had a unique strength: poetry, science, healing, philosophy, architecture, language, and ethics but what made them truly precious was that they used their talents to uplift society, guide the king with wisdom, and serve humanity with compassion. Their lives teach us that knowledge must walk with kindness, talent must remain grounded in moral values, and wisdom must always aim toward the greater good. A kingdom and a society shine brightest not through armies or wealth, but through minds that think truthfully, hearts that feel deeply, and people who dedicate their gifts to justice, harmony, and the welfare of all.

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Ravi Singh & Naaz

## GANGADHAR TILAK KATNAM: THE MAN WHO HEALS ROADS



In the middle of Hyderabad's chaotic traffic, where most people are rushing to get to work or complaining about the state of the roads, you might spot an elderly man leaning over to fix a big hole in the road. This is Gangadhar Tilak Katnam. At an age of 77 years, while most people of his age prefer retirement with rest, he is found on the streets, often under a scorching sun, filling potholes with his hands. He is not a government employee, nor he is being paid. In fact, he uses his own pension money to do it. He has become a local legend, a man who decided that instead of waiting for the world to change, he would simply pick up a shovel and start the change himself.

The story of how he became the "Pothole Man" is truly inspiring. After a long career as an engineer with the Indian Railways, Mr. Gangadhar

Tilak Katnam took a job at a software company. But his daily commute became a source of sadness. He witnessed a tragic accident where a young person lost their life because of a massive crater in the road, and he saw countless others swerving and crashing. It shook him to his core. He realized that while the government was slow to act, people were suffering every single day. He could not just drive past those holes considering them death traps.

He started with small efforts. He began carrying gunny bags of gravel and stone dust in the back of his old car. Whenever he saw a pothole, he would get out and fill it. In the beginning, people thought he was strange. Some mocked him, and others assumed he was a laborer who had lost his way. It's hard for many to understand why a retired professional would spend his time doing backbreaking manual labor in the dirt. Initially, even his own

family was worried about his health, and the fact that he was spending his savings on roads. But he was strongly determined, and told his wife that if he could prevent even one accident in his life and his money were well spent.

Mr. Gangadhar Tilak Katnam eventually quit his job because it was taking up too much time that he felt should be spent on the roads. He started an initiative called "Shramadaan," which is all about the "donation of labor." His philosophy is simple: we all use the roads, so we all have a responsibility to take care of them. He doesn't blame the system or protest, instead, he believes in civic duty. He feels that if every citizen took care of the patch of road in front of their house or office, the country would be transformed.

This is something very beautiful about the way he works. He treats the road almost like a

doctor treats a patient. He carefully removes the mud, layers the stones, and packs it until the surface is smooth again. He calls it "healing the road". Over the years, he has fixed thousands of potholes. What started as a secluded mission has turned into a small movement. Students and young professionals inspired by his selfless spirit, sometimes join him. They see this elderly man working tirelessly and feel a sense of shame for their own indifference. He has become a grandfather figure for the whole city, showing everyone that you are never too old to serve your community.

His relationship with the local government has also changed over time. Initially, they ignored him or were embarrassed by his work, but as his story disseminated, they began to respect him. Sometimes they even provide the materials he needs. He has shown that one person's persistence can eventually force a system to move. He is not interested in awards or fame and just wants to make sure a mother gets home to her children safely or a student does not fall off their bike on the way to school.

Writing about Mr. Gangadhar Tilak Katnam reminds us that the most powerful tool for change is not a social media post, it's a pair of willing hands. He reminds us that we have more power than we think. We don't have to wait for permission to be kind or to make things better.

As you walk or drive through your own neighborhood today, think of Mr. Gangadhar Tilak Katnam. Think of the man who decided that his retirement would be spent in the dust, making life a little smoother, making the world a little better. His story is a challenge to all of us to stop looking away from the potholes and to start doing the small work of fixing them. He is a proof that a single individual, driven by true spirit, and empathy can truly pave the way for a better world.

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## EDITORIAL NOTE

*Commerce Connect is a student-friendly column that turns money, markets, and management into everyday lessons. From canteen economics to digital wallets, it bridges classroom theory with real-world trends, making commerce not just a subject, but a life skill.*

**T**he biggest job boom of this decade may not come from technology alone it is coming from the planet. Climate concerns, ethical consumption and green innovation are no longer side conversations. They are shaping how businesses operate, how investors allocate capital and how careers are built.

From solar energy to eco-friendly fashion, sustainability has moved from being a “good cause” to becoming a core business strategy. And with it comes a wave of new professional opportunities for students and working adults who are willing to align profit with purpose. The economy of tomorrow will reward those who can grow profits without shrinking the planet.

## When Environmental Care Becomes Commercial Strategy

Walk into any modern store or browse any online marketplace and you will notice it instantly: recyclable packaging, carbon-neutral claims, cruelty-free labels and energy-efficient manufacturing promises. These are not public-relations tricks; they are competitive tools. Take Tata Power's renewable energy division.

# GREEN IS THE NEW GOLD: HOW SUSTAINABILITY IS CREATING NEW CAREERS

What started as an environmental initiative has grown into a revenue powerhouse, creating demand for solar engineers, ESG auditors, carbon-credit analysts and sustainability reporting professionals. Similarly, IKEA India now sources the majority of its energy from renewables, requiring specialists in green supply chains, energy optimisation and waste reduction. The Companies that protect the planet don't compromise on profit they create new value streams.

### The Rise of Green Job Titles

A decade ago, most companies had no sustainability department. Today, entirely new career paths have emerged:

- ESG Analyst
- Sustainability Auditor
- Carbon Footprint Consultant
- Circular Economy Manager
- Renewable Energy Project Planner
- Green Marketing Strategist

These roles merge business knowledge with environmental responsibility. For students of commerce, accounting, finance and marketing, this is not a separate industry it is the next version of their own careers.

### From classroom project to climate career

Riya, a B.Com student, chose environmental accounting for her final-year project. Today she works with a consulting firm helping manufacturing companies measure emissions and prepare sustainability disclosures for investors. Aman, an MBA graduate, focused his internship on green logistics and now works with an e-commerce company redesigning packaging to reduce waste. Their success proves that the green economy is not about activism it is about building efficient, responsible business models.

### Why Employers Now Seek Sustainability Thinkers

Investors today evaluate ESG performance, environmental, social and governance factors before funding businesses. A company's carbon footprint can now influence its share price. That is why organisations want professionals who can:

- Reduce waste without increasing costs
- Integrate renewable energy into operations
- Communicate environmental impact transparently
- Balance growth with responsibility

Sustainability is no longer the job of CSR teams alone. It has entered finance, operations, marketing and human resources.

### Green Skills That Command Strong Salaries

Sustainability is no longer a feel-good career choice it is financially rewarding. Green professionals earn competitive salaries by combining finance with climate data, marketing with ethics, and operations with environmental science. These hybrid skills help organisations cut costs, meet global standards, attract responsible investors and build brand trust. As ESG reporting becomes mandatory, green skills will soon be as valuable as digital skills.

### The Consumer Has Changed And Careers Are Following

Modern consumers care deeply about how products are made. A backpack crafted from recycled plastic or a shampoo made without toxins sells not just on performance, but on values. This change is driving demand for careers in:

- Ethical branding
- Sustainable product development
- Eco-packaging design
- Impact reporting and compliance

Every time a consumer chooses a greener option, a greener job is created somewhere in the supply chain.

### Tips For Students: Building Your Green Pathway

- Select sustainability-based topics for college projects.
- Learn ESG frameworks such as GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) and BSR (Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting).



- Follow green startups and climate-tech trends.
- Pursue internships in clean energy, waste management or ethical sourcing.
- Understand green finance tools like carbon credits and green bonds.

Your textbooks may not yet demand sustainability, but recruiters already do.

### The Bigger Picture

Sustainability is not about sacrifice. It is about smarter growth. Companies that adopt clean energy, minimise waste and operate ethically are more resilient, more trusted and better prepared for global change. And in that future, the most valuable professionals will not be those who chase profits blindly but those who know how to create wealth while protecting the world. Because today, green isn't just good for the planet it is truly gold for your career.

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# Echoes of Expression

Prof. Dr. Savita Kishan Pawar

## EDITOR



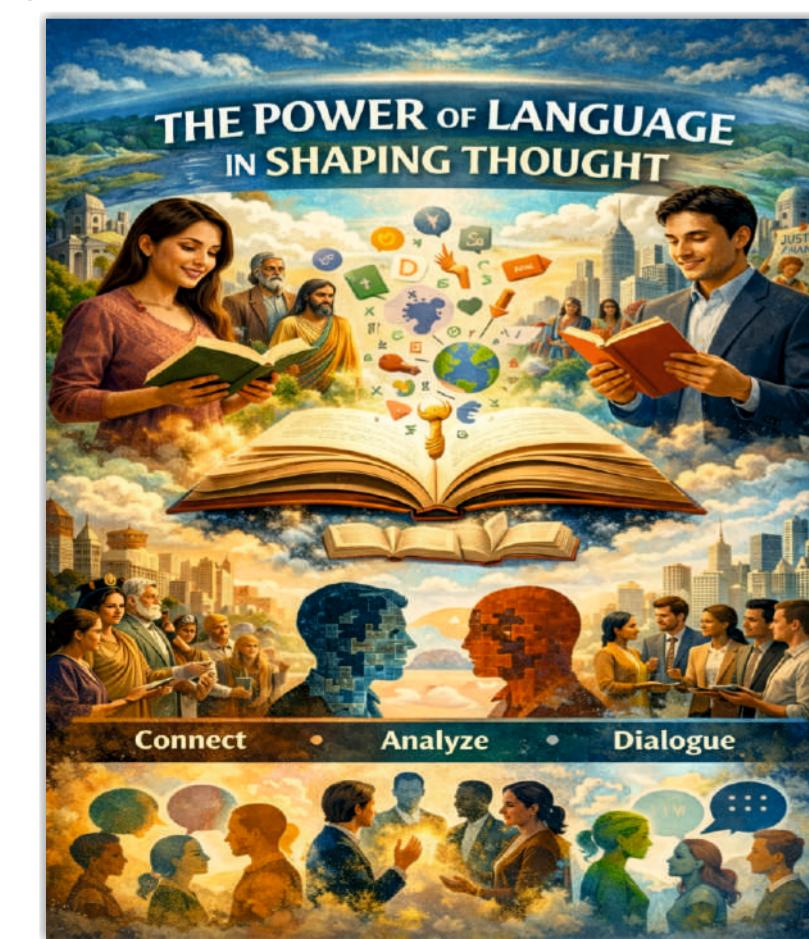
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## EDITORIAL NOTE

*The study of language and literature is not just an academic pursuit, but a journey into the world of imagination, critical thinking, and cultural exchange. This page celebrates creativity, knowledge, and expression by bridging the classics with contemporary voices.*

## THE POWER OF LANGUAGE IN SHAPING THOUGHT

Language is far more than a means of communication; it is a powerful force that shapes how individuals perceive the world, form identities, and connect with society. The words we use influence our thoughts, beliefs, and emotions, guiding the way we understand experiences and interpret reality. Through language, cultures preserve traditions, share values, and pass knowledge from one generation to another.



## GRAMMAR TIP

### Use of "Although" vs "Though"

Although is more formal and is commonly used in academic writing.

Though is informal and often used in spoken English.

#### Examples:

- ✓ Although he was tired, he completed the assignment.
- ✓ He was tired, though he continued working.

Ravi Singh &amp; Kailashkumar Gaunder

## UPL EARNS RECOGNITION FOR BEST PATENT PORTFOLIO AT CII INDUSTRIAL IP AWARDS 2025

UPL Ltd, a major global agri-input and sustainable agriculture solutions company, has been honoured with the Best Patent Portfolio Award at the 11th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Industrial Intellectual Property (IP) Awards 2025. This accolade recognises UPL's strong commitment to innovation through the development, protection, and strategic use of intellectual property assets in life sciences and agriculture.



priorities for farmers and the broader food system. While detailed company figures for 2025 were not specified in the award announcement, UPL's earlier disclosures noted thousands of pending and granted patents as part of its intellectual property strategy.

Acceptance of this award underscores UPL's role in advancing agricultural innovation and sustainability through proprietary technologies and reinforces its position as a leader in intellectual property creation within the agro-science sector.

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## NEW FERTILIZER EQUIPMENT OFFERS PRECISION AND DUAL-APPLICATION CAPABILITIES



spread two different fertilizers or combine fertilizer with lime in a single pass. This capability cuts down the number of field trips required, saving time and fuel while maintaining accurate placement. Wider spread widths—up to 120 feet on some models mean more ground is covered faster, particularly beneficial for large farms.

Innovations also extend to hybrid systems such as enhanced anhydrous ammonia applicators that merge tillage and nutrient delivery in one operation, significantly streamlining fieldwork. Apart from performance, many manufacturers are focusing on rugged design features like sealed hubs and corrosion-resistant components to lower maintenance needs.

Prices reflect these high-tech integrations with ranges from basic units around \$60,000 to advanced, multi-row precision planters that may exceed \$400,000 a reflection of both cutting-edge capability and the growing demand for efficient, data-driven fertilizer application.

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A major trend is the rise of dual-product application machinery, which allows operators to simultaneously

## PUNJAB'S AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION ACCELERATES, SAYS CHIEF MINISTER

Punjab's Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has declared that an agricultural revolution is underway in the province, driven by a series of ambitious reforms and support programmes aimed at empowering farmers and modernising the farming sector. According to official statements, the government's initiatives are reshaping traditional agricultural practices and reducing farmers' reliance on exploitative middlemen.

Central to this transformation is the Kissan Card scheme, which has already been issued to more than 800,000 farmers, marking a historic milestone in Pakistan's agricultural history. The digital card allows farmers to directly purchase critical inputs such as fertiliser, certified seeds, and pesticides from registered dealers, bypassing intermediaries and ensuring fairer prices. It also provides access to Rs 250 billion in interest-free agricultural loans, helping farmers avoid high-interest debt and improve financial stability.

Officials report that nearly 20 per cent of Kissan Card holders have utilised the facility to buy diesel for their



machinery, further reducing debt burdens and supporting year-round farming operations. These measures aim to boost productivity and enhance the economic welfare of rural communities across Punjab.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz highlighted the importance of agriculture to the national economy, emphasising the government's commitment to ensuring farmers have the resources they need to thrive. She stated that all available resources are being mobilised to take agricultural development to its highest potential, reflecting a long-term vision for a prosperous and self-reliant farming sector in the region.

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## NEW LAW TO CRACK DOWN ON SPURIOUS SEEDS AND PESTICIDES WITH CRIMINAL PENALTIES



Pesticide Law aims to make regulatory action more effective by holding manufacturers and sellers legally liable for poor-quality seeds and pesticides, thereby strengthening accountability across the sector.

The Indian government is preparing a stringent new law to combat the widespread sale of spurious and substandard seeds and pesticides, Union Agriculture Minister Shrikrishna Singh Chouhan announced at a farmer outreach event in Maharashtra. Under this proposed legislation, companies and individuals found responsible for producing or distributing fake agricultural inputs could face penal and criminal action, including compensation obligations if crop failures arise due to their products.

By combining tougher legal measures with support for quality inputs and producer protection, the government aims to safeguard farmers' interests and improve the overall reliability of agricultural supplies in India.

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## STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN TO UNLOCK BIHAR'S TURMERIC POTENTIAL



A recent agri-business strategy review highlights how a focused action plan could help Bihar harness the full potential of turmeric cultivation, boosting farmer incomes and strengthening the state's agricultural economy. While the full article from The Hindu BusinessLine wasn't accessible, the broader context of Bihar's crop diversification and spice cultivation efforts reflects this thrust. Bihar has been encouraging spice crops such as turmeric, ginger, and other high-value products under government-backed schemes to improve rural livelihoods and add value to traditional farming systems.

Turmeric a spice with growing domestic and international demand due to its culinary use and health-oriented market presents an opportunity for farmers in parts of Bihar suited to its cultivation. By integrating cultivation with value chain development, processing, and market linkages, the state could help farmers capture better prices, reduce post-harvest losses, and access premium markets. This includes extension support, quality seed distribution, agronomic training, and infrastructure for processing spice products.

Earlier efforts to promote spice and alternate crop cultivation in Bihar align with the action plan's goals, including incentives for farmers and technical support for diversified agriculture. These broader policies suggest that targeted interventions, when combined with market orientation and value addition, can help transform turmeric from a traditional crop into a commercially viable agricultural enterprise in the state, benefitting producers and strengthening the rural economy.

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## Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay & Gargi Date

### NCERT POISED TO BECOME DEEMED UNIVERSITY BY JANUARY-END



The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is likely to be granted deemed-to-be-university status by the end of January 2026, nearly two years after the proposal was first announced by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. According to education ministry officials, all preparatory work has been completed and the final decision is expected within the next 15 to 20 days, following a crucial meeting with the University Grants Commission (UGC).

The proposed status will be conferred under the 'de-novo' category, a special provision meant for institutions that focus on teaching and research in unique and emerging areas

of knowledge. Under UGC guidelines, de-novo institutions are selected after a rigorous review process to ensure academic innovation and national relevance. NCERT, which is best known for developing school textbooks and curriculum frameworks, is expected to take on a much larger role once it becomes a deemed

university. It will be able to launch academic programmes, deepen research activity, and collaborate with global institutions.

Education Minister Pradhan has said that this transition will support India's shift from degree-centric education to a skills-based learning ecosystem, as envisioned in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The move is also expected to strengthen teacher education and pedagogy research. If cleared, NCERT's new status will mark a

turning point, positioning it as a national and global hub for educational innovation and research.

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### SRINAGAR TO GET FIRST STATE-OF-THE-ART SCHOOL FOR SPECIALLY-ABLED CHILDREN

Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, announced the establishment of the Abhinandan School, the first state-of-the-art institution in the Kashmir division dedicated to children with special needs. This school aims to provide specialized education for students with visual and hearing impairments and represents a significant advancement in the region's infrastructure for inclusive education.

The upcoming institution will be equipped with modern infrastructure, specialised classrooms, therapy rooms, assistive technologies, and barrier-free access, ensuring a supportive learning environment for children with diverse physical and cognitive challenges. Officials said the school will follow an integrated model combining academics, therapy, skill development, and life-skills training.

The facility is designed to cater to children with hearing, visual, locomotor, intellectual, and learning disabilities, offering tailored teaching methodologies and individualised

education plans. Trained special educators, therapists, and counsellors will form part of the multidisciplinary team.

District authorities highlighted that the initiative addresses a long-standing gap in the region, where families previously had limited access to specialised educational institutions. The school will also function as a resource centre, providing guidance, parental counselling, and community outreach programmes to raise awareness about inclusive education.

By creating this dedicated space for specially-abled learners, Srinagar takes a decisive step toward educational equity and social inclusion. The project reflects the administration's commitment to ensuring that every child, regardless of ability, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in a safe and empowering environment.

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### IIT HYDERABAD LAUNCHES CENTRE FOR CREATIVE ARTS TO BLEND ART WITH TECHNOLOGY

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad has launched a new Centre for Creative Arts (CCA) to formally integrate creativity, liberal arts, and artistic practices into technical education. Established within the Department of Liberal Arts, the centre aims to bridge engineering and science with the expressive power of the arts.

Creative and liberal arts have been part of IIT Hyderabad's academic framework for more than a decade. The initiative began in 2014 with heritage walks for first-year students and gradually expanded into credited courses. Today, nearly 10 per cent of the undergraduate curriculum includes creative and liberal arts components such as photography, fine arts, crafts, and performing arts.

The CCA will now offer one to three credit courses for undergraduate and postgraduate students and appoint performing artists as adjunct faculty and distinguished professors. Plans also include Artist-in-Residence programmes, encouraging sustained



interaction between students and professional artists. Visiting practitioners may co-supervise doctoral research, linking practice-based knowledge with academic inquiry.

The Centre will promote doctoral studies in the arts and collaborate with cultural organisations such as SPIC MACAY to strengthen campus cultural life.

Beyond IIT Hyderabad, the Centre will conduct outreach programmes for school students and art teachers, nurturing early exposure to creative disciplines and reinforcing the institute's engagement with the wider community.

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### PUNJAB GOVERNOR CALLS FOR STRONG PUSH TO GIRLS' EDUCATION IN BORDER COLLEGES

Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria has urged higher education institutions in the state's border districts to place special emphasis on girls' education, academic mentoring, and faculty development, stressing the need to bridge learning gaps in geographically sensitive regions.

Addressing educators and administrators, the Governor noted that colleges located near the international border face unique challenges, including limited infrastructure, shortage of experienced faculty, and lower enrolment of female students. He said focused academic support and institutional backing are essential to ensure that students in these areas receive opportunities equal to their urban counterparts.

Kataria highlighted the importance of digital learning tools and technology-enabled classrooms to overcome physical and resource constraints. He encouraged colleges to adopt online platforms, virtual laboratories, and blended learning models so that students can access high-quality

academic resources irrespective of location.

Underscoring the social impact of educating girls, the Governor said that higher participation of women in higher education strengthens families, communities, and the nation as a whole. He also advocated for structured mentoring systems, career counselling, and leadership programmes to build confidence among young women in border districts.

By calling for a renewed focus on academic support, digital learning, and inclusive policies, Kataria reaffirmed the government's commitment to building an equitable and regionally balanced higher education system, ensuring that talent from border areas is nurtured and empowered to contribute meaningfully to Punjab's growth.

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### IGNOU'S NEW REGIONAL & SKILL CENTRE INAUGURATED BY PRESIDENT MURMU IN TRIBAL ODISHA



President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated a new Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) regional and skill center in Rairangpur, Mayurbhanj district, Odisha, aimed at improving access to higher education, skill development, and livelihood opportunities in a predominantly tribal area. The center will offer programs in agriculture, food processing, tourism, hospitality, retail, IT and IT-enabled services, and entrepreneurship, promoting sustainable career paths and supporting local business expansion.

The center is positioned as a key hub for northern Odisha, focused on enhancing employability through skill-based education and training support. The inauguration event was attended by prominent figures including Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education.

This initiative aligns with the government's strategy to prepare India's workforce for an AI-driven future, overseen by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). During the ceremony, President Murmu launched the #SkillTheNation campaign to encourage youth participation in skill development and awarded AI diplomas to learners, including students and members of parliament. In collaboration with Google, a special "AI for Beginners" seminar was held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

In his speech, Dharmendra Pradhan emphasized the importance of effectively integrating AI into the educational system and announced that India would host an AI impact conference later this year.

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Durgesh K. Dubey

# POWER SHIFT IN THE GLOBAL EV RACE AS CHINESE AUTOMAKERS OVERTAKE A SLOWING AMERICAN PIONEER



The global electric vehicle landscape is undergoing a dramatic realignment, with a leading Chinese manufacturer emerging as the world's largest seller of electric vehicles and signaling a broader shift in industrial power, technology maturity, and consumer trust. Over the past year, the Chinese firm strengthened its momentum in both production and delivery volumes, while its long-time American rival recorded its first meaningful decline in annual sales and manufacturing output, reflecting a challenging mix of competitive pressure, policy changes, and brand-related headwinds.

Industry data show that the American company delivered just over 1.6 million vehicles in 2025, marking a year-on-year fall in both production and sales. The downturn comes after years of market dominance, when the brand virtually defined the modern EV era. Its production levels also slipped, pointing to operational strains at a time when competitors particularly from China and South Korea are rapidly scaling up capacity, refining technology, and offering a wider choice of

models across price segments. For a business long viewed as the pace-setter of the industry, the slowdown signals a new phase in which innovation leadership no longer guarantees commercial supremacy.

In contrast, the Chinese automaker ended the year with strong growth across its electric vehicle portfolio, crossing more than two million fully electric deliveries and benefiting from a broader product pipeline, cost-efficient supply chains, and a vast domestic market that increasingly drives global EV economics. The company's performance reflects the rise of China's new-energy ecosystem one powered by deep-rooted manufacturing networks, integrated battery production, a dense vendor base, and sustained investment in research and development. Analysts note that this industrial depth enables Chinese manufacturers to scale faster, manage costs more effectively, and respond flexibly to market conditions.

Another factor reinforcing China's advantage is the strength of its home market, which continues to serve as a testing ground for new models, software systems, and production efficiencies. The country's supportive policy environment, wide charging infrastructure, and consumer acceptance of EVs have created an environment where innovation translates swiftly into volume growth. Even global brands, including the American automaker, rely heavily on Chinese manufacturing hubs to meet delivery commitments underlining how strategic the region has become to the global EV supply map.

The American manufacturer, meanwhile, faced a confluence of

external and internal pressures through the year. The expiry of federal tax credits in the United States reduced price competitiveness just as global rivals intensified discount-led competition. Political controversies around corporate leadership also fed uncertainty, triggering customer resentment and workforce unease in some markets. Despite these challenges, investor confidence has not entirely evaporated, with markets still betting on the company's long-term bets on autonomous mobility, robotics, and next-generation EV platforms. At the same time, the company has begun rolling out more affordable vehicle variants to reclaim ground in price-sensitive regions, particularly Europe and Asia, where Chinese brands have gained share rapidly. Supporters argue that the transition phase may eventually strengthen its strategic focus, though regulatory scrutiny and product-safety debates continue to shape public perception especially in key U.S. markets where licensing and compliance issues have surfaced.

The changing leaderboard in the global EV sector is more than a corporate rivalry story it reflects a deeper transformation in industrial capability and economic geography. The rise of Chinese manufacturers underscores how strong domestic ecosystems, scale-driven efficiency, and policy-aligned investment can reshape global competition in emerging technologies. For the American pioneer, the coming years may represent a test of resilience, adaptability, and the ability to reinvent value propositions in a market no longer defined by a single dominant player.

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# DEBATE DEEPENS OVER INDIA'S GIG ECONOMY AS PLATFORMS DEFEND FLEXIBILITY AND WORKERS SEEK FAIRER PROTECTIONS

India's rapidly expanding gig and quick-commerce sector has once again moved to the centre of public discussion, as contrasting perspectives emerge on how delivery-based work is shaping livelihoods, earnings, and labour security. On one side, platform operators highlight rising incomes, flexible working hours, and welfare initiatives that they say make gig work a viable earning opportunity for millions. On the other, worker collectives argue that the ground reality remains far more demanding, with inconsistent payouts, limited safety nets, and the absence of social-security protections that are normally associated with formal employment.

According to figures shared by one major food-delivery and quick-commerce platform, delivery partners have seen improvement in average hourly earnings over the past year, with performance-linked payouts, customer tips, and region-specific incentives contributing to income growth. The company pointed out that gig roles are designed to be flexible rather than full-time employment tracks, allowing individuals to log in for selected hours, work closer to home, and balance income generation with studies, caregiving, or other occupations. Many partners, it said, work intermittently through the year, reinforcing the claim that the model is built around autonomy rather than compulsion.

The platform also emphasised that faster delivery commitments are enabled largely by hyper-local networks and shorter distances, rather than time pressure on riders. It stressed that the operating system does not display countdown timers to partners and that safety remains a shared responsibility. Alongside earnings, the company highlighted welfare initiatives such as accident and medical insurance, emergency assistance, financial-literacy support, and access to voluntary pension schemes measures that, in its view, reflect a maturing ecosystem gradually moving

toward greater social protection.

However, worker groups representing delivery partners present a sharply different narrative. They argue that once fuel, vehicle maintenance, and other incidental costs are deducted, actual take-home earnings are significantly lower than headline figures. For those who depend on gig work as their primary source of income, the absence of paid leave, fixed wages, or statutory benefits can create uncertainty and financial stress, especially during lean-order periods or health emergencies. Some groups also point out that only a small share of orders attract tips, meaning that the supplementary income showcased by platforms may not be uniform across riders or cities.

Unions and worker-rights advocates further contend that frequent changes in incentive structures, long working hours for full-time earners, and the risks associated with road-based work demand clearer standards and stronger safeguards. They are calling for greater transparency in earnings data, formal recognition of platform workers within labour frameworks, and minimum protection thresholds that ensure dignity and stability without undermining the flexibility that many riders value.

Supporters of the current model maintain that gig work has opened millions of livelihood opportunities that did not exist a decade ago, especially for first-generation earners, migrants, and youth seeking quick entry into the workforce. Critics respond that growth alone is not enough unless it translates into secure, sustainable, and humane working



conditions.

The conversation unfolding around the sector reflects a broader transition in India's labour landscape one where technology-enabled platforms, evolving employment preferences, and expectations of social protection must find a workable balance. As participation in gig work continues to rise, the path ahead will likely depend on collaborative solutions that protect workers' welfare while preserving the flexibility and opportunity that drew many to the ecosystem in the first place.

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Q. Is Respecting Others' Opinions  
Always Possible?

Ans. Respecting others' opinions is often considered a hallmark of social maturity and emotional intelligence. It fosters dialogue, nurtures relationships, and encourages collaboration. However, the question arises: is it possible or even advisable to respect every opinion unconditionally? Ancient Indian wisdom provides a nuanced perspective, emphasizing discernment alongside respect. The verse "सत्यं वद, धर्मं चर, न हि विनश्यति आत्मा" teaches that truth and righteousness must guide our actions. Respect for others' opinions does not imply blind acceptance of falsehood, unethical behavior, or actions that contradict moral principles. True respect is a balance between empathy, openness, and ethical discernment.

Respecting opinions begins with self-awareness.

The verse "स्वभावो नोपदेशेन शक्यते कर्तुमन्यथा; सुतप्तमपि पानीयं पुनर्गच्छति शीतताम्" highlights that understanding one's own nature and limitations is the foundation for interacting with others. By reflecting on our biases, prejudices, and emotional triggers, we cultivate the patience and humility necessary to engage with differing viewpoints. Without self-awareness, respect may be superficial, reactive, or selective. A balanced approach allows one to appreciate the perspective behind an opinion, even if one ultimately disagrees with it. Even though you may not agree, they are entitled to their own opinion which may vary from yours. That is okay. If everyone agreed that blue was the best color, then everything would be blue, which would get boring after a while. Empathy is central to respecting opinions. The verse "अन्येभ्यः परं कर्तव्यम्, स्वार्थं परित्यजेत शीलवान्" emphasizes prioritizing the welfare of others through virtuous conduct. When we strive to understand the reasoning, experience, or context that shapes someone else's opinion, we practice empathy. This does not necessitate agreement, but it fosters meaningful dialogue, reduces conflict, and encourages cooperative problem-solving. Respect rooted in empathy also strengthens social bonds and cultivates an environment where diverse perspectives can coexist.

However, respect must be tempered by ethical discernment. The verse "अतिवृष्टिः पयः पीतं, अत्यल्पं च न जीवति; अत्यन्तं सर्वमत्यन्तं न वरं न च शोभनम्" teaches moderation in all aspects of life. Respecting opinions does not require unconditional acceptance of harmful, unethical, or misleading views. For instance, respecting a viewpoint that endorses injustice, dishonesty, or violence would conflict with dharma. True respect recognizes the boundary between appreciating the right to an opinion and condoning its content. It is possible—and necessary—to challenge harmful perspectives while maintaining composure and ethical clarity.

Emotional balance is another crucial factor. The verse "क्षमा बलं अशक्तानां, शक्तानां भूषणं मतम्" highlights that patience and forgiveness are strengths for both the weak and the strong. Respecting differing opinions often tests emotional stability, especially when confronted with provocative, erroneous, or offensive viewpoints. A balanced mind enables one to listen without defensiveness, respond without aggression, and express disagreement without disrespect. This equilibrium transforms potentially contentious encounters into opportunities for learning, reflection, and growth.

Mindful communication enhances respect. The verse "सत्यं ब्रूयात् प्रियं ब्रूयात् न ब्रूयात् सत्यमप्रियम्; प्रियं च नानृतं ब्रूयात् एष धर्मः सनातनः" teaches that speech should harmonize truth and kindness. When expressing disagreement with an opinion, one must do so with tact, clarity, and respect. Ethical articulation preserves relationships, maintains dignity, and fosters understanding. Respect does not mean passivity; it means responding thoughtfully, combining honesty with empathy.

Detachment is vital for sustainable respect. The verse "फलमूलाश्रिता नित्यं नापि मूलफला वनाः; संगमूलाश्रिता नित्यं नापि मोक्षफला नराः" reminds us that attachment to outcomes can lead to disappointment and imbalance. Respecting others' opinions should be practiced without expectation of reciprocal approval or validation. One may present reasoned arguments, offer insight, or maintain composure, but one cannot control how others receive or internalize it. Detached respect protects emotional well-being and sustains ethical conduct. Respecting opinions also involves humility. The verse "मन एव मनुष्याणां कारणं बन्धमोक्षयोः; बन्धाय विषयासक्तं मुक्त्यै निर्विषयं स्मृतम्" teaches that the mind is the source of bondage and liberation. Humility allows us to acknowledge the limitations of our own knowledge and remain open to learning. By combining humility with discernment, one can respect differing perspectives while critically evaluating their validity. Respect is thus a conscious, ethical stance rather than a reflexive or superficial courtesy.

Practical application of these principles requires balance between openness and assertiveness. The verse "वृथा बुद्धिर्विनाऽभ्यासं वृथा अभ्यासो विनाऽधिना; यो हि संयोजयेदेतदुभयं स विजानती" emphasizes that knowledge without practice is ineffective, and practice without guidance is futile. Respecting opinions is meaningful only when it integrates understanding with discernment, reflection with action. One listens attentively, evaluates ethically, and responds constructively. In this way, respect becomes both principled and practical, fostering dialogue without compromising integrity.

Finally, long-term perspective is essential. The verse "शीलवान् पुरुषः सर्वत्र विजयी भवति, आसक्तिमुक्तः सदा सुखी" highlights that virtue and detachment ensure sustained happiness and success. Respecting others' opinions nurtures patience, empathy, and social harmony, contributing to enduring relationships and community cohesion. By practicing thoughtful respect, one models ethical engagement, encourages reciprocal civility, and fosters environments conducive to collective growth. Even when immediate reciprocity is absent, consistent respectful behavior cultivates moral authority, trust, and influence over time.

In conclusion, respecting others' opinions is both desirable and possible, but not unconditionally or indiscriminately. Ancient wisdom teaches that respect must be grounded in ethical discernment, emotional balance, humility, and mindfulness. Verses such as "स्वभावो नोपदेशेन शक्यते कर्तुमन्यथा," "अतिवृष्टिः पयः पीतं, अत्यल्पं च न जीवति," and "सत्यं ब्रूयात् प्रियं ब्रूयात् न ब्रूयात् सत्यमप्रियम्" illuminate that respect is compatible with discernment, critique, and principled disagreement. True respect is not blind deference; it is a conscious practice of empathy, patience, and ethical engagement. By harmonizing self-awareness, emotional equilibrium, and moral clarity, one can honor differing perspectives while upholding integrity and wisdom. Respect, therefore, is not absolute compliance with every opinion but the balanced capacity to engage with others thoughtfully, ethically, and compassionately, transforming dialogue into mutual growth and understanding. Stay blessed!

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Ravi Singh

# SUCCESS BUILDS STATUS, CHARACTER BUILDS HISTORY



In a world driven by achievements, numbers, and public recognition, success often takes center stage. We admire people for their degrees, job titles, wealth, and influence. Social media

celebrates milestones, promotions, and possessions, reinforcing the belief that success is the ultimate measure of a meaningful life. While success can indeed inspire and motivate, it is often temporary and situational. What truly endures, long after applause fades, is character.

Success is visible; character is felt. Success may open doors, but character determines what happens once those doors are opened. A person may rise quickly through talent, intelligence, or opportunity, but without integrity, humility, and empathy, that rise rarely lasts. History and everyday life offer countless examples of individuals who achieved remarkable success but lost trust due to unethical choices. In contrast, people of strong character are remembered not just for what they achieved, but for how they treated others along the way.

Character reveals itself in moments when no one is watching. It shows in honesty during difficult decisions, kindness in moments of frustration, and courage when standing for what is right feels uncomfortable. Unlike success, which can be influenced by external factors such as resources, privilege, or timing, character is built through consistent choices. It grows quietly through discipline, accountability, and compassion.

The true legacy of a person is not measured by awards or wealth, but by impact. Teachers who shape minds, leaders who uplift others, parents who raise responsible citizens, and professionals who work ethically may not always receive public applause. Yet their influence lives on in the lives they touch. Character creates ripple effects: one act of integrity inspires trust, one moment of kindness fosters hope, and one ethical stand sets a powerful example.

In professional spaces, character has become more valuable than ever. Employers may hire for skills, but they promote and retain for values. Trustworthiness, teamwork, emotional intelligence, and responsibility cannot be taught as easily as technical skills. In times of crisis, organisations rely on people of character to lead with clarity and conscience. While success might bring recognition, character builds credibility.

On a personal level, character shapes relationships. Success may attract attention, but character builds lasting bonds. People feel safe around those who are honest, respectful, and dependable. In families and friendships, it is character that sustains trust during conflict and strengthens connections during hardship. Long after achievements are forgotten, people remember how someone made them feel.

Success is not unimportant; it reflects effort and ambition. However, success without character is fragile. When success fades and it inevitably does, character remains. It becomes the foundation upon which resilience, self-respect, and inner peace are built.

Ultimately, success may impress the world for a moment, but character leaves a legacy that time cannot erase. It is the quiet force that shapes lives, communities, and futures. In choosing character over shortcuts, and values over vanity, we do more than succeed; we leave behind something meaningful, something lasting, and something truly worthy of remembrance.

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## BOUNDARIES, RESPECT AND EMOTIONAL BALANCE!

Healthy relationships are not built by chance; they are shaped through conscious effort, understanding, and emotional maturity. At the heart of every strong relationship—whether with family, friends, colleagues, or oneself lie three essential pillars: boundaries, respect, and emotional balance. When these elements work together, relationships become sources of strength rather than stress.

Boundaries are the invisible lines that define where one person ends and another begins. They are not walls meant to isolate, but guidelines that protect individuality and emotional well-being. Setting boundaries means knowing your limits, what you are comfortable with, what you can give, and when to say no without guilt. In healthy relationships, boundaries are acknowledged and honoured. They prevent resentment, reduce misunderstandings, and create a safe space where people can express themselves honestly. Without boundaries, relationships often turn overwhelming, leading to emotional exhaustion and conflict.

Respect is the foundation that gives boundaries meaning. It is reflected in how we listen, speak, and respond to others, especially during moments of disagreement. Respect means valuing another person's feelings, opinions, time, and personal choices even when they differ from our own. In relationships rooted in respect, individuals feel seen and heard, not judged or dismissed. Respect fosters trust, and trust strengthens emotional security. When respect is absent, even the strongest connections begin to weaken.

Together, boundaries, respect, and emotional balance create relationships that are healthy and sustainable. They encourage mutual growth rather than control, connection rather than dependency. In professional settings, these values promote teamwork, productivity, and mutual trust. In families, they nurture understanding across generations. In friendships, they deepen bonds. Most importantly, in self-relationships, they lead to self-respect, confidence, and inner peace.

Emotional balance brings harmony to relationships. It involves understanding and managing one's emotions while remaining empathetic toward others. Emotional balance does not mean suppressing feelings; rather, it means expressing them thoughtfully and constructively. A person with emotional balance can communicate needs calmly, handle conflict without aggression, and avoid emotional dependency. Such balance helps relationships grow steadily, without dramatic highs and damaging lows.

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Afreen Mazgaonkar & Nancey Kujur

## INDUS WATERS TREATY ON HOLD AS INDIA PUSHES AHEAD WITH NEW HYDEL PROJECT ON CHENAB



India has decided to move forward with a new hydroelectric power project on the Chenab River, even though the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan is currently not working smoothly due to ongoing political and security tensions between the two countries. Senior government officials said that India has started the process to build another run-of-the-river hydropower project in Jammu and Kashmir. With this step, India wants to fully use its share of river waters under the Indus river system. Although the Chenab River is mainly meant for Pakistan under the treaty, India is allowed to build hydroelectric projects on it as long as they do not store or block water.

This decision comes a few months after India officially informed Pakistan that it wants to review and change parts of the Indus Waters Treaty. India says this is needed because Pakistan has often raised objections to Indian hydropower projects, which has caused delays. India also believes that the situation today is very different from what it was when the treaty was signed in 1960. The Indus Waters Treaty has been one of the most important agreements between India and Pakistan, even during difficult times. However, recent developments show that India is now taking a stronger stand to protect its interests while still staying within the rules of the treaty.

## AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH EARNINGS SURGE DESPITE DHURANDHAR FEVER, EYES RS 150 CRORE AT INDIAN BOX OFFICE



James Cameron's Avatar series has a strong fan following in India, and this is clearly seen in its box office performance. Even though Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar has dominated cinemas and pushed aside many recent releases, Avatar: Fire and Ash is still doing well and earning steady collections even after 10–11 days of release. The film has become the highest-grossing Hollywood movie of 2025 in India, beating Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning. This is impressive because the movie was released on limited screens, received mixed reviews, and faced tough competition from big Indian films. Avatar: Fire and Ash opened in India on December 19 with a collection of ₹19 crore. Its earnings increased over the weekend, collecting ₹22.5 crore on Saturday and ₹25.75 crore on Sunday. By the end of its first week, the film had crossed ₹100 crore at the Indian box office. The movie continued to perform steadily in its second week. So far, it has earned ₹137.81 crore in India and is expected to reach ₹150 crore soon. Globally, the film has collected around \$760.4 million. The movie stars Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Kate Winslet, and others. James Cameron has confirmed that more Avatar films are coming, including Avatar 4 and Avatar 5.

## AFTER PINAKA, DRDO CONDUCTS LAUNCH OF TWO PRALAY MISSILES



India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested two Pralay missiles on Wednesday. Both missiles were fired one after the other from the same launcher in a salvo launch. This important test took place a day after the successful first flight of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket. According to the Ministry of Defence, both Pralay missiles followed their planned paths and met all test goals. The launch was conducted around 10.30 am off the coast of Odisha as part of user trials. Sensors at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur tracked the missiles and confirmed their performance. Pralay is an indigenously developed missile that uses solid fuel and modern guidance systems to hit targets with high accuracy. It can carry different types of warheads and strike various targets.

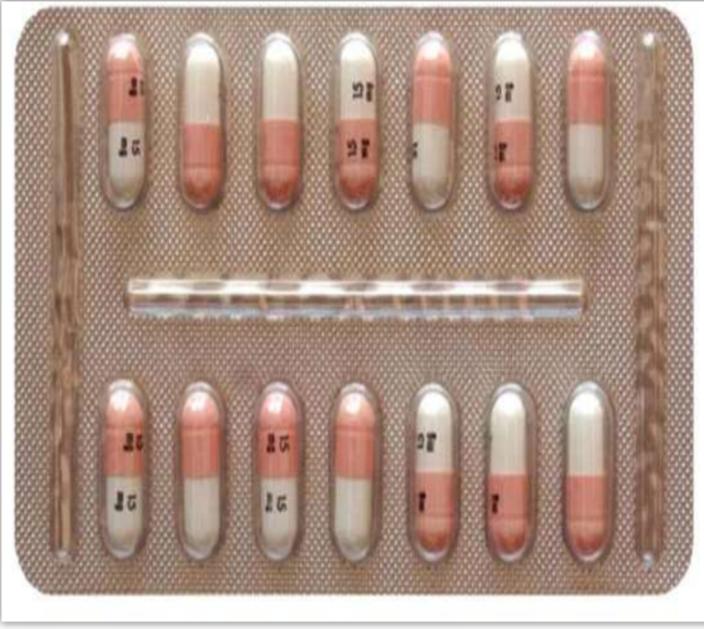
The missile was developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat in Hyderabad, with support from several other DRDO laboratories. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the test proved the reliability of the Pralay missile system. DRDO Chairman Dr Samir V. Kamat said the missile is now close to being inducted into the armed forces. Earlier, DRDO also successfully tested the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket with a range of 120 km. The rocket hit its target accurately and can be fired from the existing Pinaka launcher. The Indian Army plans to expand its Pinaka regiments by 2026.

## INDIA'S TOXIC AIR: A SILENT ECONOMIC TAX

The air pollution problem in India has become a significant drain on the economy, which the public does not directly experience and is not just related to health. The high levels of the Air Quality Index (AQI) have been like a stealthy tax on families, companies, and the nation's economy. Increased pollution-related illnesses such as asthma, heart disease, and lung infections are forcing people to spend more on doctor consultations, air purifiers, masks, and medicines. The productivity of the workforce takes a hit because of poor air quality that always leads to high absenteeism, tired workers, and lower efficiency. The outdoor industries such as construction, transportation, and street vendors suffer from severe pollution cases that lead to workers stopping working for long periods. Increased absenteeism at schools is a result of this while exposure over a longer period is denying children their cognitive and physical development, which will lead to economic losses in the future. The impact of air pollution on tourism and city commerce is that the polluted cities lose their attractiveness to visitors and thus are not visited by tourists. Pollution is viewed as a silent economic tax and if it is not dealt with immediately, India will continue to suffer from slow growth. Fighting toxics in the air is both an environmental must and an economic necessity for sustainability.



## INDIA BANS HIGH-DOSE NIMESULIDE FORMULATIONS OVER SERIOUS HEALTH RISKS



Nimesulide high-dose formulations which is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) have been banned, warning of serious health risks related to its use. Nimesulide is widely used in the treatment of pain and inflammation, however, studies have associated the higher amounts with liver damage, gastrointestinal bleeding, and other dangerous reactions which made regulators take action for public safety. Health professionals said that misuse and overuse of high-strength formulations were the main causes of adverse reactions, particularly among people with chronic illnesses and those on multiple drugs. The government policy aimed at restricting narcotic use is just another step toward a considerable reduction in drug-related liver injuries and other complications that are reported in hospitals and clinics across the country. From now on, doctors and pharmacists will have to either change the patient's medication to a safer one or give nimesulide only at lower dosages as approved by the health authorities. The medical professionals have given a nod to the authorities saying it will be beneficial in preventing health risks that are otherwise unavoidable and at the same time will promote the prudent use of analgesics. This ban demonstrates India's continuous dedication to patient safety and the logical use of drugs. Furthermore, it sends a strong signal regarding the necessity for health providers to weigh and measure the benefits versus harms of the medication treatments.

## INDIA TO OPEN FOUR SEMICONDUCTOR PLANTS FOR COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION IN 2026

India's semiconductor manufacturing capabilities will soon be powered by four new semiconductor fabrication plants that are to commence commercial production in 2026. This event is a major breakthrough in the country's campaign to cut down on imports of electronic components and to secure a larger share of the electronics supply chain globally. The factories symbolize India's greater development plans to be the center of semiconductor fabrication and cutting-edge electronics manufacturing. The government incentives and investment promotions have therefore made the semiconductor sector forecasted to be a job creator, a means of transfer of technology, and an economic growth stimulator. These manufacturing sites will be mainly producing chips that are simply needed in various electronic items, mobile phones, car electronic systems, and other high-tech applications. In this way, the Indian market will be supplied with the required amount of chips, and at the same time, the country will be open to selling some of them abroad. The rising global semiconductor demand is a good reason for the upcoming production from the semiconductor plants in India to be strategically guided and low in risk. Plus, this step contributes to the country's government initiatives aimed at developing innovation and self-sufficiency in important strategic sectors.



Afreen Mazgaonkar & Nancey Kujur

## 14-YEAR-OLD TANVI PATRI EARNS PRAISE DESPITE LOSS AT BADMINTON NATIONALS



The 2025 Senior National Badminton Championships in Vijayawada became very special, especially in women's singles. Indian star PV Sindhu closely followed the final and shared her excitement on social media. She supported Surya Charishma Tamiri, also called "Cherry," while praising 14-year-old Tanvi Patri for her fighting spirit. Sindhu said it was wonderful to see both young players push each other on such a big stage. In the final, 19-year-old Surya Charishma defeated Tanvi Patri in a thrilling three-game match, winning 17-21, 21-12, 21-14. Tanvi, who was hoping to become the youngest national champion, impressed everyone with her performance and earned special praise from Sindhu, who called her a future star of Indian badminton.

Surya changed the match in the second game by winning seven points in a row. In the deciding game, she played long rallies, and Tanvi began to tire. Surya finished strongly by winning the last six points to take the title. In men's singles, Rithvik Sanjeevi S won the championship by beating Bharat Raghav 21-16, 22-20. He showed great calm and strong defence throughout the tournament. In women's doubles, Shikha Gautam and Ashwini Bhat K won the title. The men's doubles crown went to Hariharan Amsakarunan and R Ruban Kumar. In mixed doubles, Sathwik Reddy K and Radhika Sharma emerged champions.

## FIDE WORLD RAPID CHAMPIONSHIPS: KONERU HUMPY SETTLES FOR BRONZE; ARJUN ERIGAISI FINISHES THIRD

Indian chess star Koneru Humpy faced a heartbreaking finish at the FIDE World Rapid Championships, settling for a bronze medal in the women's section. Humpy, who won the world rapid title in 2019 and 2024, came very close to winning her third title. After the final round, she was tied at the top with China's Zhu Jiner and Russia's Aleksandra Goryachkina, with all three scoring 8.5 points. However, the final rankings were decided by tie-break rules set by FIDE. Based on these calculations, Humpy finished third, while Zhu and Goryachkina took the top two spots. Goryachkina later defeated Zhu in the tie-break match to win her first world rapid title and a prize of 40,000 euros. In the last round, Humpy drew her game against young Indian player B. Savitha Shri. If Humpy had won that match, she would have finished with nine points and created history by becoming the first woman to win three world rapid titles. Savitha finished fourth with eight points, while R. Vaishali placed fifth. Divya Deshmukh finished eighth, and D. Harika ended in 19th place. In the Open category, world number one Magnus Carlsen won his sixth World Rapid title. India's Arjun Erigaisi won the bronze medal, making it a proud moment for Indian chess.



## WOMEN'S HOCKEY INDIA LEAGUE: GORZELANY SHINING BUT INDISCIPLINE COSTING TIGERS VERSUS SG PIPERS

In a very thrilling match of the Women's Hockey India League, the star player of the Tigers was Agustina Gorzelany who again displayed her talent with very strong techniques, tactical understanding, and a highly energetic style of playing. Her contributions not only kept the Tigers in the match but also were very attractive to the spectators showing their intention to attack and control the ball. Nevertheless, the Tigers were not able to get a win with full points despite Gorzelany's exceptional performance, mostly because of the discipline problems on the field. Penalty corners awarded at the wrong times and unnecessary fouls played disrupted India's flow and allowed the SG Pipers to take advantage of the situations. These discipline errors became expensive, eventually causing the Tigers to lose a point as the match ended in a tie. The outcome was a reminder of the narrow margins in competitive hockey - an individual's exceptional performance can affect a game, but a team's calmness and discipline often win the day. The Tigers will aim to come back, strengthen their defense, and improve their tactics before upcoming league matches. The supporters appreciated Gorzelany's performance and still have the hope that the team will soon turn such shows into regular wins.



## SHAFALI VERMA BREAKS RECORD OF SCORING MOST RUNS IN A T20I SERIES FOR INDIA

Shafali Verma is in great form right now. The 21-year-old cricketer from Rohtak, Haryana, is opening the batting for the Indian women's cricket team in the ongoing five-match T20I series against Sri Lanka. In the four matches played so far, she has scored a total of 236 runs. Shafali began the series in Visakhapatnam on December 21 with a quick 9 runs from just 5 balls. After that, she played three brilliant innings. She scored an unbeaten 69 off 34 balls, followed by an unbeaten 79 off 42 balls, and then another strong 79 from 46 balls in the fourth match. Her performance in the fourth T20I, played at the Greenfield International Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram on December 28, helped her reach this record total. With 236 runs, Shafali has now set a new Indian record for the most runs scored by an Indian batter in a women's T20I series. Earlier, this record belonged to Smriti Mandhana, who scored 221 runs in a five-match T20I series against England in mid-2025. Shafali now has a chance to create history. If she scores at least 75 runs in the fifth and final T20I against Sri Lanka on December 30, she will break the world record. Currently, the world record is held by West Indies captain Hayley Matthews, who scored 310 runs in a T20I series in 2023.



## MANIPUR'S DIKASH WINS BRONZE IN COMEBACK WEIGHTLIFTING EVENT



Weightlifter Dikash from Manipur brought home a bronze medal from a national-level weightlifting competition which took place recently in Chandigarh. It was a remarkable comeback for him. He was among the strongest lifters but he managed to reach the podium and make his state proud by lifting the total weight that was his. Dikash, after a break from the competitive scene, delivered a great performance that mirrored his resilience and dedication. He was performing with very good technique in both snatch and clean and jerk disciplines and was not only cheered by some but also supported by some fellow athletes. The bronze medal is an important mark in Dikash's comeback to the sport, signifying that his hard work and patience during training are paying off. His having won the medal also contributed to the already

large number of sports talents coming out of Manipur, which is known to produce athletes of great caliber in various

areas like weight lifting, boxing, or archery, etc. The successful return has given Dikash a good start in his future

competitions and he will not only be working on his performance but also on taking higher positions on the podium

in the coming tournaments.

## GUJARAT CLINCHES GOLD AT KHELO INDIA; SHOOTER DHRUVI PANCHAL SHINES

Gujarat rejoiced with a gold medal in shooting at Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2025, as 19-year-old Dhruvi Panchal made a remarkable display. Competing in the rifle events, Dhruvi displayed her remarkable talent of being consistent and controllable; she also showed she could perform precisely under the pressure of competition as she went to the top of the podium by surpassing the competitive field. Her performance was not only a big contribution to the medal tally of Gujarat but also an indicator of the quality of young shooting talent that is coming up in the state. Dhruvi's calmness, sharpness, and disciplined technique were already seen throughout the contest and were the reasons for the coaches' and spectators' applause. The gold medal win has already become a part of Gujarat's increasing reputation in university sports, as the sportsmen from various disciplines have delivered impressive performances at the KIUG. Dhruvi's success is said to be a source of inspiration for the other participants and the aspiring shooters across the country, thus reiterating the role of grassroots events like Khelo India in the making of future champions. With the Games on, Gujarat will try to gain more from this victory, with Dhruvi's acting being one of the unforgettable moments of the event.



# Job Junction

Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay & Ajab Tinwala

## LATUR DCC BANK RECRUITMENT 2026



### Latur DCC Bank Recruitment 2026

The Latur District Central Cooperative Bank Limited (Latur DCC Bank) has announced a major recruitment drive for 375 vacancies in Clerical and Support Staff categories. This is an excellent opportunity for candidates domiciled in Latur District, Maharashtra, to secure a stable career in the cooperative banking sector.

#### Vacancy Details

Clerk (Writer – Clerical)- 250, Subgrade / Multipurpose Support Staff (Peon)- 115, Driver- 10

#### Eligibility Criteria

##### Clerk (Clerical):

- Graduation from UGC-recognized University
- Knowledge of Marathi (Read, Write, Speak)
- CCC-level Computer Certificate mandatory

##### Subgrade / MPSS (Peon):

- SSC / 10th Pass
- Marathi language proficiency
- CCC-level Computer Certificate mandatory

##### Driver:

- SSC / 10th Pass
- Valid LMV Driving Licence with minimum 3 years experience
- Marathi language proficiency
- CCC-level Computer Certificate mandatory

**Compulsory:** Candidate must be a resident of Latur District with a valid Domicile Certificate.

#### Age Limit (as on 01.12.2025)

- Clerk: 21 to 30 Years
- Peon/Driver: 19 to 28 Years

#### Selection Process

- Written Examination
- Skill Test (where applicable)
- Interview
- Document Verification

#### Important Dates

- Online Application Starts: 18 December 2025 (11:00 AM)
- Last Date to Apply & Pay Fee: 21 January 2026 (5:30 PM)

#### How to Apply

- Read the official notification carefully.
- Visit the Apply Online link from 18 Dec 2025.
- Complete registration and fill in the application form.
- Upload photograph, signature & required documents.
- Pay the application fee (if applicable) and submit the form before the deadline.
- Save User ID & Password and take a printout for reference.

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

## OSSC CGLRE RECRUITMENT 2025-26 – APPLY ONLINE FOR 1,576 GROUP B & C POSTS

The Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) has released the official notification for the Combined Graduate Level Recruitment Examination (CGLRE) 2025-26 to fill 1,576 Group-B and Group-C vacancies across various departments of the Government of Odisha. This recruitment offers a golden opportunity for graduates to secure prestigious state government positions.

#### Recruitment Overview

- Organization:** Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC)
- Exam Name:** Combined Graduate Level Recruitment Examination (CGLRE) 2025-26
- Advertisement No.:** 5751/OSSC
- Total Vacancies:** 1,576
- Job Location:** Odisha
- Pay Scale:** Group-B – Level-9 | Group-C – Level-4 (ORSP Rules 2017)

#### Post Highlights

- Key posts include Junior Assistant (1137), Junior Clerk (255), Block Social Security Officer (146), Auditor, Inspector of Supplies, GPDO, CCA, and others.

#### Eligibility Criteria

- Qualification:** Bachelor's Degree in any discipline
- Computer Skills:** Knowledge of Internet, Email, MS Word, Data Analysis & Presentation
- Odia Language:** Must be able to read, write & speak Odia with prescribed qualification proof.
- Age Limit (as on 01-01-2025):** 21–42 Years
- Relaxation:** SC/ ST/ SEBC/ Women – 5 yrs, PwD – 10 yrs

#### Selection Process

- Stage-I:** Preliminary Exam – 150 Marks
- Stage-II:** Main Exam – 200 Marks (+ Computer Skill Test if applicable)
- Stage-III:** Certificate Verification

#### Application Fee

- General/SEBC:** ₹500
- SC/ST/PwD:** Nil
- Mode:** Online

#### Important Dates

- Registration Starts:** 19 December 2025
- Last Date to Register:** 18 January 2026

## OSSC CGL

1570 + Vacancies

Salary: Upto Rs.58,000/-  
Apply Now !!!

## Recruitment 2025

- Last Date to Submit Form:** 21 January 2026 (11:59 PM)
- Correction Window:** Up to 24 January 2026

#### How to Apply

- Apply online at [www.ossc.gov.in](http://www.ossc.gov.in) → Register → Fill form → Upload documents → Pay fee → Submit & print.

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

## BSSC INTER LEVEL RECRUITMENT 2025 – APPLY ONLINE FOR 24,492 POSTS

# BIHAR BSSC

23000+ Inter Level Posts

AGE LIMIT: 18-42 YEARS

NOTIFICATION OUT !!!



बिहार सरकार

APPLY NOW



The Bihar Staff Selection Commission (BSSC) has released the Inter Level Recruitment Notification 2025 for filling 24,492 vacancies across various departments under the General Administration Department, Bihar. This massive recruitment drive offers an excellent opportunity for 10+2 (Intermediate) pass candidates seeking stable government jobs in Bihar.

#### Recruitment Overview

- Organization:** Bihar Staff Selection Commission (BSSC)
- Post Name:** Inter Level Various Posts (LDC, Panchayat Secretary, Revenue Staff, etc.)

- Total Vacancies:** 24,492
- Pay Scale:** Pay Level-2 to 4
- Job Location:** Bihar
- Advertisement No.:** 02/23 (A)

#### Eligibility Criteria

- Educational Qualification:** 10+2 (Intermediate) from a recognized board.
- Additional Skills:** Computer knowledge and typing skills where required; Science stream preferred for Filaria Inspector.

#### Age Limit (as on 01/08/2025)

- UR Male:** Max 37 years

- UR Female / BC / EBC:** Max 40 years
- SC/ST:** Max 42 years
- Minimum Age:** 18 years
- Relaxation as per Bihar Government rules.

#### Selection Process

- Preliminary Examination
- Main Examination
- Interview / Skill Test (if applicable)
- Final Merit List & Document Verification

#### Application Fee

- All Categories:** ₹100/-
- Mode:** Online (Debit/Credit Card, Net Banking, UPI)

#### Important Dates

- Online Registration Start:** 15 October 2025
- Last Date for Registration & Fee Payment:** 13 January 2026
- Final Submission Date:** 15 January 2026
- Preliminary Exam:** To be notified

#### How to Apply

- Apply online through [www.bssc.bihar.gov.in/onlinebssc.com](http://www.bssc.bihar.gov.in/onlinebssc.com)
- Register → Fill application → Upload documents → Pay fee → Submit form → Save confirmation page.

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

Deepika Singh

## QUIZ TIME

- Which international space agency successfully landed the "Lunar-Pulse" probe near the Moon's South Pole in December 2025 to search for water ice?
- Which major regional trade bloc officially expanded its membership to include three new Southeast Asian nations on January 1, 2026?
- The COP30 Climate Summit was recently held in which Brazilian city, focusing heavily on the protection of the Amazon rainforest?
- What is the name of the new high-speed "Maglev" rail corridor that just opened its first phase between Tokyo and Nagoya?
- Which country is currently hosting the 2026 AFC Asian Cup?
- Which European nation held a snap general election in late 2025, resulting in a surprising coalition government led by the Green-Liberal alliance?
- The WHO recently declared a "Success Milestone" for the global eradication of which tropical disease, following a massive 5-year vaccination campaign?
- Which film took home the "Best Picture" award at the Golden Globes held earlier this week?

## RIDDLES

### Bollywood Movie Riddles

- I am the definitive "Masala" western. My story revolves around two small-time crooks hired by a retired policeman to capture a ruthless dacoit. I am famous for a coin with the same face on both sides and a friendship so strong it has its own anthem. What film am I?
- I am a psychological horror-comedy set in a royal palace. A psychiatrist is called in to help a woman who is seemingly possessed by the spirit of a court dancer named Manjulika. My most iconic moment involves a yellow saree and a haunting song about a "thousand-year" wait. What film am I?
- I am based on a real-life story of a young man from a small town who fails his exams but refuses to give up. I show the harsh reality of the "Aata Chakki" (flour mill) of competitive exams. My message is simple: even if you fail, you can "Restart" your life with honesty. What film am I?

I) QUIZ TIME  
ANSWERS

- Sholay
- Bhool Bhulaiyaa
- 12th Fail

II) RIDDLES

- Horizon
- Filariasis
- Germany
- Saudi
- Maglev
- Belém
- RCEP
- ISRO



## TIL GUD AND TRADITIONS: A TASTE OF MAKAR SANKRANTI

This Week, We're Relishing Til Gud – Simple, Nourishing, and Warmly Traditional!

**T**il Gud (also known as Tilgul) is a classic Indian winter sweet, deeply associated with Makar Sankranti and widely enjoyed across Maharashtra and other regions. Made with roasted sesame seeds and jaggery, this humble delicacy is celebrated for its earthy flavours, wholesome nutrition, and symbolic message of sweetness and harmony. Prepared especially during colder months, Til Gud provides warmth, energy, and a comforting taste of tradition in every bite.



### Ingredients:

- White sesame seeds (Til) – 1 cup
- Jaggery (Gud), grated –  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup
- Ghee – 1 tbsp
- Cardamom powder –  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp

### Optional Add-ins (Home-Style Enhancements)

- Roasted peanuts, crushed – 2 tbsp
- Dry coconut (grated) – 2 tbsp

### Preparation

- Dry roast the sesame seeds on low flame until they turn light golden and aromatic. Remove from heat and keep aside to cool.
- Heat ghee in a heavy-bottom pan. Add grated jaggery and melt it gently on low flame, stirring continuously until it becomes soft and slightly bubbly. Do not overcook.
- Add roasted sesame seeds, cardamom powder, and optional peanuts and dry coconut to the melted jaggery. Mix thoroughly to combine.
- Switch off the flame. While the mixture is still warm, grease your palms lightly with ghee and shape the mixture into small, round ladoos.
- Allow the ladoos to cool completely and set. Store in an airtight container.

### Serving Tip:

Traditionally shared with the saying: "Til Gud ghya, god god bola" – Eat sweet and speak sweetly. Serve Til Gud ladoos at room temperature as a winter treat or festive offering. Perfect for sharing with family, friends, and neighbours, this timeless sweet beautifully blends nutrition, culture, and warmth.

### 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

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