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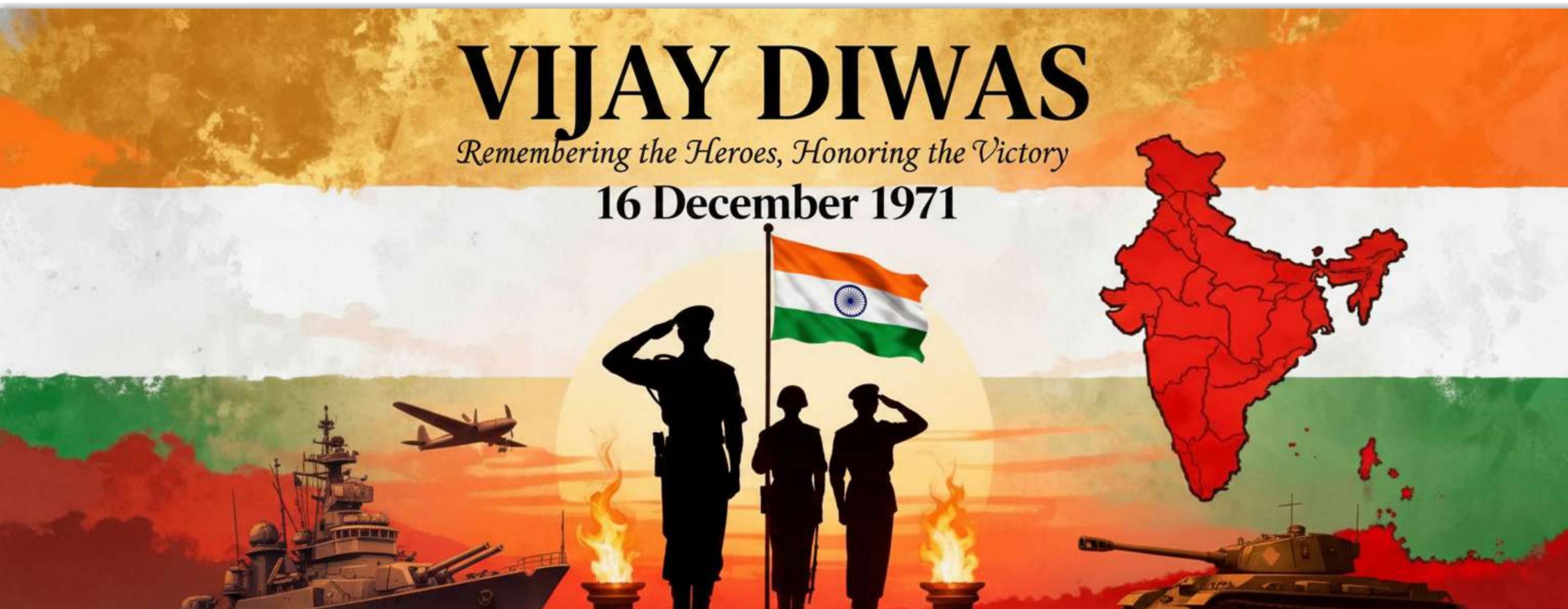
Ravi Singh & Naaz

REMEMBERING THE HEROES, HONORING THE VICTORY

VIJAY DIWAS

Remembering the Heroes, Honoring the Victory

16 December 1971



Vijay Diwas in India, is celebrated every year on 16 December. It reminds us of the historic win of India over Pakistan in the war that broke out between India and Pakistan in 1971; eventually leading to the liberation of Bangladesh, former East Pakistan. This war went on for 13 consecutive days and culminated with Pakistan's surrender of a total of 93,000 soldiers. Vijay Diwas is the day that sheds light on India's military strength, commitment to justice and humanitarian values.

On Vijay Diwas, we Indians are reminded of the sacrifices made by our soldiers, who fought selflessly and courageously. The valor displayed by these heroes during the 1971 war continues to inspire generations of Indians. The sacrifices made by the soldiers, many of whom laid down their lives in the line of duty, ensure that the legacy of the 1971 war remains etched in history.

The story of Vijay Diwas revolves around the War between India and Pakistan in 1971, where India endorsed Bangladesh's liberation. It is widely considered and remembered as the day of victory for Indians and freedom for Bangladeshis.

The war began as a civil conflict in East Pakistan, where citizens demanded independence from the West Pakistan due to political and economic disparities. The war intensified after an Operation named Searchlight was launched by Pakistan to suppress the Bengali freedom movement.

India decided to intervene, and under the leadership of

Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, the Indian Armed Forces launched a well-planned military campaign. The collaborative endeavors of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force led to the surrender of Pakistani troops on 16th December 1971, making it a historical event. Indo- Pak war victory was led by our leaders like Indira Gandhi, Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw and Lt. General Jagjit Singh Arora.

The war witnessed a significant number of military operations, especially by the Indian Navy and Air Force. These operations played a vital role in India's victory.

Operation Trident was launched by the Indian Navy on 4th December 1971, this operation targeted the Karachi Harbor. It resulted in the sinking of several Pakistani ships and destroyed fuel storage facilities, causing a significant setback to Pakistan's naval strength.

Operation Python was a follow-up naval operation launched on 8th December 1971, where Indian Navy forces further attacked Karachi harbor, inflicting severe damage. The success of Operation Trident and Python established the Indian Navy's dominance at sea.

Vijay Diwas is celebrated across the country and includes many events, like commemorative ceremonies that include Wreath-laying ceremonial events which are held at the National War Memorial in Delhi and the Vijay Smarak in Kolkata to honor the fallen soldiers.

Several military events are organized as well. The

Eastern Command in Kolkata organizes parades and a grand military tattoo to showcase the strength and spirit of the armed forces. Cultural Observances, such as tributes and events are conducted nationwide to highlight the war's significance and honor the sacrifices of the soldiers. Educational Initiatives including sharing of stories of courage and heroism to inspire and educate future generations.

Celebrated on 16 December every year, Vijay Diwas is significant for the various reasons, honoring bravery and sacrifice is one of them. The day commemorates the courage and strategic excellence of the Indian Armed Forces for playing an important role in ending oppression and restoring peace in the region. It is considered a symbol of national pride, as the day reflects India's unwavering commitment to opposing tyranny and championing humanitarian causes. It is seen as an element of strengthening India-Bangladesh relations. The victory marked a milestone in India-Bangladesh bilateral relations, with Bangladesh recognizing India's invaluable contribution to its liberation.

Vijay Diwas serves as a reminder of India's military prowess, the courage and sacrifice of its soldiers, and the power of unity. This day is not only significant for the Indian Armed Forces but also for the people of Bangladesh, who gained independence on this day.

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FROM PRISONER TO PROTECTOR: THE JOURNEY OF HARIHARA I

Long before stone temples touched the sky and bustling markets filled the banks of the Tungabhadra, there lived a man who understood one simple truth a nation is built not only by swords, but by faith, courage, and service to people. His name was Harihara I, the founder of the mighty Vijayanagara Empire. His story is not only the story of an empire. It is the story of a human being who fell, suffered, learned, and rose again stronger, wiser, and more compassionate.

A Humble Beginning

Harihara was born in the early 14th century, along with his brother Bukka, in a respected but modest family of warriors and administrators in South India. They were not born kings. They were men of duty loyal to their land, their people, and their traditions. From a young age, Harihara believed that dharma righteous conduct was the backbone of society. He spent time with farmers, traders, temple priests, and soldiers, listening more than speaking. He understood that power without people is empty, and rule without justice is short-lived.

The Fall That Changed Everything

Fate tested Harihara and Bukka harshly. During the expansion of the Delhi Sultanate, the brothers were captured in battle and taken far away from their homeland. They were imprisoned, humiliated, and forced to abandon their faith. For many, this would have been the end a life broken by defeat. But for Harihara, this suffering became a teacher. In loneliness and pain, he reflected deeply. He realised how fragile kingdoms were when rulers forgot their roots, their people, and their culture. He also realised something more powerful identity cannot be destroyed by force if the soul remains awake. When the brothers finally escaped and returned to the south, they were no longer the same men. They had seen the worst of power misused. Now, they wanted to build something different.

The Guidance of a Saint

On their return, Harihara and Bukka met the great sage Vidyaranya, a spiritual leader with sharp wisdom and deep compassion. The sage listened quietly to their story and said something that would shape history: "Empires rise and fall. But when rulers protect dharma and people together, civilisation lives on." Under Vidyaranya's guidance, Harihara understood that his mission was not revenge, but reconstruction rebuilding a land where people could live without fear, where faith and freedom could coexist.

The Birth of Vijayanagara

In 1336 CE, on the banks of the Tungabhadra River, Harihara laid the foundation of a new kingdom Vijayanagara, meaning

"City of Victory." But this victory was not over an enemy alone. It was a victory over despair, division, and chaos. Harihara was crowned king not with arrogance, but with humility. He did not build his palace first. He built roads, irrigation systems, temples, and markets. He strengthened forts, protected villages, and encouraged trade. He welcomed people of different faiths and

Defender of Dharma

Harihara also understood the need for strength. He organised a disciplined army, not to terrorise, but to defend. When invaders tried to disrupt the southern regions, he stood firm. Yet, he avoided unnecessary bloodshed. War, to him, was the last option not the first. He believed true victory lay in stability, education, and culture. Temples became centres of learning. Art, music, and literature flourished. Farmers prospered. Traders from distant lands visited Vijayanagara, amazed by its order and fairness.

Human Leadership

Unlike many rulers, Harihara never forgot his past suffering. It made him gentle toward the weak and firm toward injustice. He respected women, encouraged scholars, and rewarded honest service. He never ruled with fear. He ruled with example. When his brother Bukka asked how he managed power without pride, Harihara replied: "I remember the days when I had nothing. Power is borrowed. Humanity is permanent."

Legacy Beyond His Life

Harihara ruled for only a few years, but his vision lived on. After him, Bukka I and later rulers expanded Vijayanagara into one of the greatest empires in Indian history — lasting over 300 years. The empire protected Indian culture, knowledge systems, and economic strength during difficult times. All this began with one man who chose wisdom over bitterness.

Moral of the Story

The life of Harihara I teaches us that failure is not the end — it is often the beginning of wisdom. True leadership is not about domination, but about service. Power without compassion destroys; power with dharma builds civilisations. Harihara shows us that even deep suffering can become a source of strength if one remains rooted in values.

Conclusion

Harihara I was not just the founder of Vijayanagara he was a builder of hope. He turned personal loss into public good, pain into purpose, and faith into governance. In a world often driven by greed and ego, his life reminds us that humanity, humility, and righteousness are the strongest foundations of any nation. Empires may crumble, stones may fall, but the values he lived by still stand tall whispering to every generation: "Serve people. Protect dharma. And history will remember you."



communities, believing that unity was strength. He often said to his ministers: "A king does not own the land. He only guards it for future generations."

A King Among People

Harihara was known for walking among common people without royal pride. He listened to farmers who worried about crops, traders concerned about safety, and widows seeking justice. Once, when an officer punished a poor farmer for failing to pay tax during drought, Harihara reversed the order and said: "If the earth does not give grain, how can the ruler ask for gold?" This simple act made people trust him deeply. Vijayanagara slowly became a kingdom of hope, where people felt protected, not oppressed.

Ravi Singh & Naaz

DR. URVASHI SAHNI: REWRITING THE CLASSROOM, REWRITING SOCIETY

Imagine a classroom where the lessons include not just math problems, but also how to challenge injustice. A place where students learn to read books, and also how to read the unfair rules that society has written for them. This is the world built by Dr. Urvashi Sahni. For over three decades, she hasn't just been running schools; she's been leading a transformation, using education as a powerful instrument to fight for social justice and equality for millions of children across India.

Dr. Urvashi Sahni stands out as a visionary educationist, social entrepreneur, and women's rights activist who has dedicated more than three decades to leveraging education as a powerful tool for social and political transformation. As the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Study Hall Educational Foundation (SH), she has created a system for empowering children, especially girls from disadvantaged communities. Since starting SHEF in 1986, her efforts have transformed the lives of over 5 million children and trained more than 1 lakh teachers. Her goal is to make sure that every child gets an education that teaches them about their rights and prepares them to challenge injustice.

At the heart of Dr. Urvashi Sahni's educational model is her unique concept, the Critical Feminist Pedagogy. This approach, inspired by the famous Brazilian educator Paulo Freire, changes the traditional classroom into a "special place for possibility." The aim is to teach students much more than just school subjects. They learn how to analyze and question the unfair traditions and power structures in society, especially those based on gender, class, or caste.

The teaching method is based on open discussions. Students are guided to spot discrimination in their daily lives and are encouraged to speak up, and challenge. The aim is to ensure that every girl and boy realizes they are an equal, valuable person with the absolute right to participate fully in society. This focuses on building confidence and awareness of their rights.

Dr. Urvashi Sahni's educational path was sparked by her earlier activism for women's rights. Back in 1983, she founded an organization called Suraksha to support women facing violence and dowry demands. She noticed that many of these women, even those who were educated, didn't have the strength or knowledge to take control of their own lives. This realization caused her to create a school system that would directly address these life

Foundation created a series of powerful outreach programs designed to reach every corner of society. The Aarohini Initiative, launched in 2011, is a key program that aims to empower girls by training teachers and involving the entire community. Recognizing that teachers hold the power to change minds, Aarohini equips them to challenge gender stereotypes in the classrooms and neighborhoods. It functions to remove all forms

skills, and important health and social awareness sessions for mothers.

Dr. Sahni has also used technology to expand her foundation's reach through the Digital Study Hall. Since 2005, it has been making free, high-quality video lessons that show the SHEF way of teaching, fun, and rights-focused. These videos are shared with thousands of teachers and students in remote schools across India, overcoming geographical barriers. The Digital Saathi initiative supports this by training community facilitators with technology, making sure every student has access to online learning and resources, especially those who might otherwise be left behind in the digital world.

Beyond her programs, Dr. Sahni's ideas influence government decisions at the highest levels. Her knowledge of curriculum design and teacher training is recognized globally, earning her titles like the Ashoka Fellow. She has worked on major government groups, including the Steering Committee for putting the National Education Policy of India 2020 into effect in Uttar Pradesh. Programs like SHEF-UDAY show her ability to partner with the government to improve public schools, helping them raise their basic learning standards through training and support.

In her books, such as *Reaching for the Sky: Empowering Girls through Education*, Dr. Sahni states that if education is to truly change a girl's life, it must focus on her real-life challenges and her rights. Dr. Urvashi Sahni's work stands as a powerful example that by putting fairness and equality at the very heart of learning, we can raise a generation of citizens who are not only smart and educated, but also deeply aware and equipped to create a better world for everyone.

challenges.

This vision gave birth to Study Hall Educational Foundation and model institutions like the Prerna Girls School. Prerna is exclusively for girls from low-income families and serves as a framework for putting Critical Feminist Pedagogy into practice. Here, girls learn to articulate their rights clearly and are encouraged to have ambitions that go far beyond what society typically expects. She also co-founded DiDi's, a social business that helps women earn a reliable income, leading to their financial independence.

To spread these transformative teaching methods widely, Study Hall Educational

of gender bias, helping girls achieve success in life and raising boys to be true allies for gender fairness.

To reach the most underprivileged children who are not in school, there is GyanSetu, meaning "Bridge of Learning". This program runs small, local education centers, sometimes set up in a single room or even under a city flyover. These centers cover children from extremely poor or migrant labor families, teaching them the skills they need to reach the right grade level so they can join the regular government school system. GyanSetu is a community center, offering more than just academics; it provides early education for toddlers, literacy classes for adults, computer



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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.

A few years ago, spending money required effort visiting stores, comparing options, and standing in queues. Today, a reel, a flash sale notification, or a single click is enough to trigger a purchase. From midnight food orders to impulse fashion buys, digital platforms have transformed shopping into an instant, effortless habit. This new reality is known as the Click Economy where speed, convenience, and smart design quietly push consumers toward spending more, often without planning or pause.

The Rise of the 'Just Buy It' Moment

Picture this: a student scrolling through Instagram between lectures. A 20-second reel shows trendy sneakers, upbeat music, glowing reviews, and a bold caption "Only today. 50% off." The link opens instantly. Payment is saved. One tap, and the order is placed.

No budgeting, No comparison & No second thought

This is impulse buying the act of purchasing without prior planning, driven by emotion rather than necessity. Digital

THE CLICK ECONOMY: WHY ONLINE SPENDING FEELS HARD TO CONTROL

platforms are perfectly designed to trigger this behaviour.

Why Digital Platforms Fuel Impulse Buying

Modern e-commerce doesn't just sell products; it sells urgency, excitement, and fear of missing out (FOMO).

Here's how:

1. Short-form content (Reels & Shorts)
Fast visuals, influencers, and "before-after" stories create instant desire. The product feels trendy, relatable, and essential even if it's not.

2. Flash sales & countdown timers
"Only 10 minutes left." "Last 3 pieces." These messages pressure buyers to act quickly, shutting down rational thinking.

3. One-click checkout & saved payments
When effort is removed, resistance disappears. The easier it is to pay, the more likely you are to spend.

4. Personalised algorithms
Platforms track browsing history and show products tailored to your taste making temptation hard to avoid.

In short, The smarter the algorithm, the weaker our self-control.

Students' vs Professionals: Same Trap, Different Reasons

For students, impulse buying often comes from trends and peer influence gadgets, fashion, accessories, or online courses. Discounts feel like savings, even when money is spent unnecessarily.

For professionals, the trigger is convenience and stress. After long workdays, quick online purchases feel like rewards food deliveries, gadgets, subscriptions, or lifestyle upgrades.

In both cases, emotions drive decisions more than logic.

Real-Life Example: Small Clicks, Big Impact

Consider Neha, a 21-year-old college student. She buys a ₹499 phone cover during a flash sale. A week later, a ₹799 planner. Then ₹1,299 earbuds. Each purchase feels "small." At the end of the month, she realises she spent over ₹6,000 without remembering where it went.

Or Rahul, a 32-year-old professional, who frequently orders late-night food and gadgets using saved cards. Convenience masks spending, until the credit card bill arrives.

Impulse buying doesn't hurt instantly it hurts silently.

The Psychology Behind the Click

- Impulse buying is rooted in psychology:
- Instant gratification: Buying releases dopamine, giving a short-term happiness boost.
- Social proof: Likes, comments, and influencer endorsements create trust.
- Scarcity effect: Limited-time offers increase perceived value.
- Decision fatigue: After long days, the brain chooses the easiest option buying.
- Digital platforms understand this psychology well and use it strategically.

The Hidden Cost of Convenience

While impulse purchases may seem harmless, they can lead to:

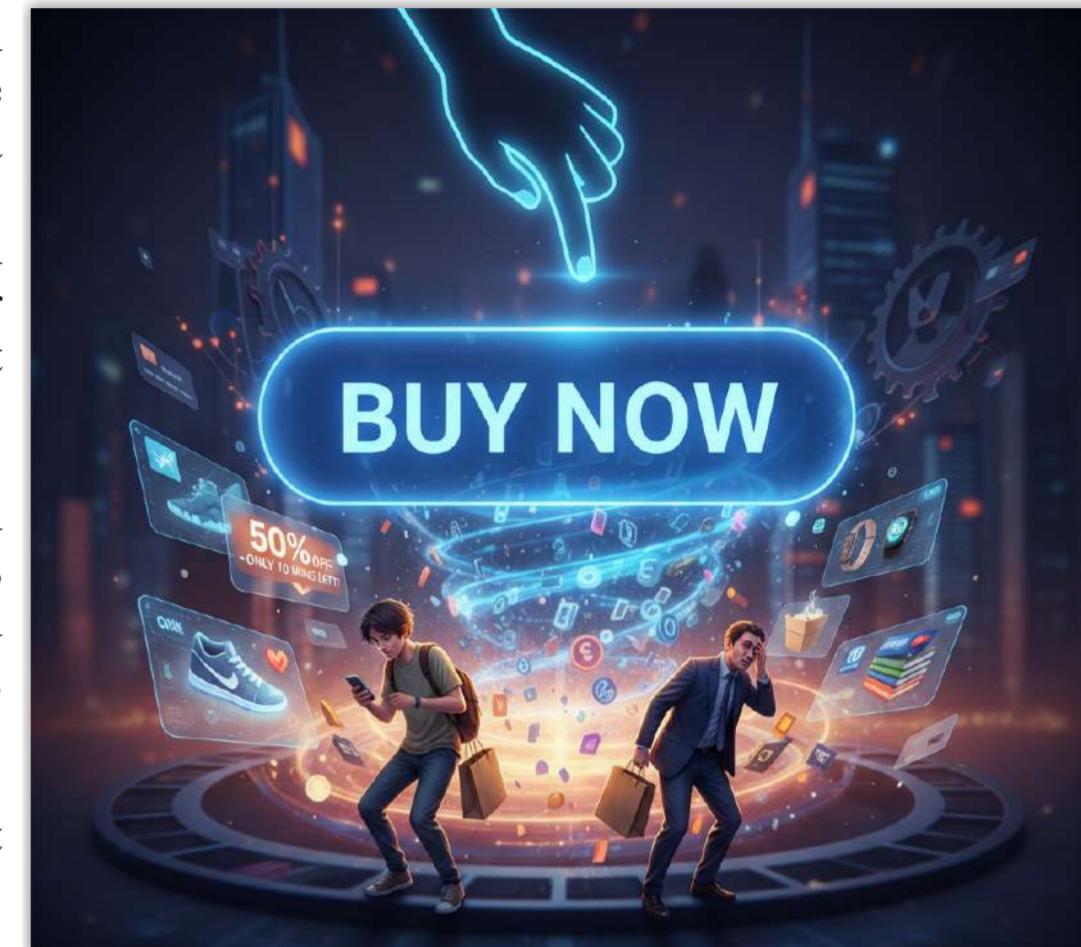
- Poor savings habits
- Rising credit card debt
- Financial stress
- Regret purchases
- Clutter and waste

Over time, frequent impulsive spending affects long-term financial goals education, travel, investments, and emergency funds.

Smart Tips to Control Impulse Buying

Impulse buying cannot be eliminated but it can be managed.

1. Follow the 24-hour rule: Wait a day before buying non-essential items. If you still want it, buy it.
2. Disable one-click payments: Adding one



extra step brings back conscious decision-making.

3. Track small expenses: Daily tracking reveals where money actually goes.

4. Set a 'fun money' limit: Allow guilt-free spending but within boundaries.

5. Unfollow temptation triggers: Too many influencer pages often mean too many purchases.

6. Ask one question before buying: "Do I need this, or do I just want it right now?"

A Skill Every Student Should Learn

In the digital age, financial discipline is a life skill. Understanding impulse buying helps students become smarter consumers and future professionals more aware marketers. For commerce students, this behaviour is also a lesson in consumer psychology how emotions, technology, and marketing intersect to influence decisions.

Impulse buying is no longer accidental it is engineered. Reels, flash sales, and one-click checkouts are designed to make spending effortless. But awareness is power. In a world where buying takes seconds, thinking must take priority. The smartest consumers are not those who never spend but those who know when and why they spend. Because in the digital age, control not convenience defines financial fitness.

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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.

IMPORTANCE OF HOBBIES IN THE JOURNEY OF LIFE

Hobbies play a vital role in shaping a balanced and fulfilling life. They provide relief from stress, enhance creativity, and promote mental well-being. Engaging in activities such as reading, painting, music, gardening, or sports helps individuals discover their interests beyond academics or professional responsibilities.

In the long journey of life, hobbies act as companions that nurture discipline, patience, and self-confidence. They also encourage lifelong learning and personal growth, reminding us that happiness often lies in pursuing what we love.



QUOTEABLE QUOTES

"If you fell down yesterday, stand up today."

— H. G. Wells

WORD OF THE WEEK

Word: Serendipity (noun)

Meaning: The occurrence of pleasant or valuable things by chance.

Example: Finding that old book in the library was pure serendipity.

IDIOM HIGHLIGHT

A blessing in disguise

Meaning: Something that seems bad at first but turns out to be good later.

Example: Missing the train was a blessing in disguise, as it gave me time to rethink my decision.

DID YOU KNOW?

- There is an official "International Space Station (ISS) clock"? Because the ISS orbits Earth every 90 minutes, experiencing 16 sunrises and sunsets a day, the station officially operates on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) to keep crew schedules consistent.
- The word "literature" comes from the Latin word *littera*, meaning letter of the alphabet. Originally, literature referred to anything written, but today it specifically denotes works with artistic, intellectual, and cultural value.
- The dot over the letters 'i' and 'j' is officially called a tittle? The word comes from the Latin *titulus* meaning "inscription or title."

GRAMMAR TIP

Avoid double negatives in a sentence.

Incorrect: I don't need no help.
Correct: I don't need any help.

Using two negatives in the same sentence makes it grammatically incorrect and confusing.

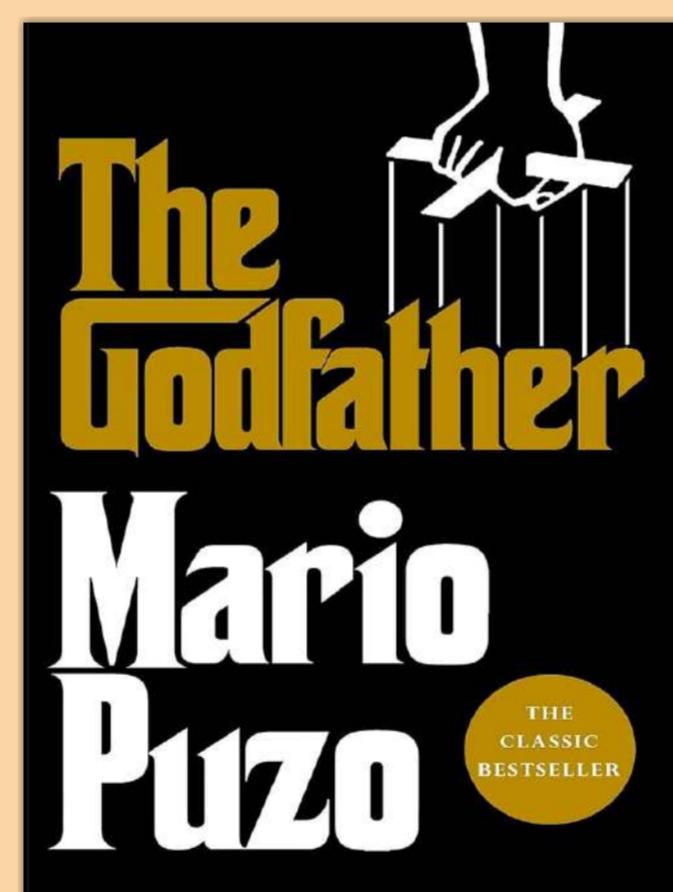
WRITER OF THE WEEK

H. G. Wells (1866–1946)

Herbert George Wells is regarded as the father of modern science fiction. His works combine imaginative storytelling with scientific speculation and strong social commentary. Through his novels, Wells explored themes such as technological progress, class struggle, time, evolution, and human morality. Some of his most celebrated works include *The Time Machine*, *The War of the Worlds*, *The Invisible Man*, and *The Island of Doctor Moreau*. Wells's writing not only entertained readers but also encouraged them to reflect on the future of humanity and the responsibilities that come with scientific advancement.

BOOK REVIEW

The Godfather – Mario Puzo



The Godfather is a powerful novel that explores themes of family, loyalty, power, and morality within the world of organized crime. Set in post-war America, the story revolves around Don Vito Corleone, the head of a powerful Mafia family, and his son Michael, who is gradually drawn into the criminal empire. Mario Puzo presents crime not merely as violence but as a complex system governed by traditions, honour, and emotional bonds. The novel raises thought-provoking questions about justice, authority, and the price of power, making it both gripping and intellectually engaging.

CREATIVE WRITING

To A Skylark by Percy Bysshe Shelley

Hail to thee, blithe Spirit!
Till the world is wrought
To sympathy with hopes
and fears it heeded not:
Like a high-born maiden
In a palace tower,
Soothing her love-laden
Soul in secret hour
With music sweet as
love, which overflows
her bower:
Like a glow-worm golden
In a dell of dew,
Scattering unbehilden
Its aerial hue
Among the flowers and
grass, which screen it
from the view:
Like a rose embower'd
In its own green leaves,
By warm winds
deflower'd,
Till the scent it gives
Makes faint with too
much sweet those heavy-wingèd thieves:
Sound of vernal showers
On the twinkling grass,
Rain-awaken'd flowers,
All that ever was
Joyous and clear and
fresh thy music doth
surpass.
Teach us, Sprite or Bird,
What sweet thoughts are
thine:
I have never heard
Praise of love or wine
That panted forth a flood
of rapture so divine.
Chorus Hymeneal,
Or triumphal chant,
Match'd with thine
would be all
But an empty vaunt
A thing wherein we feel
there is some hidden
want.
What objects are the
fountains
Of thy happy strain?
What fields, or waves, or
mountains?
Like a Poet hidden
In the light of thought,
Singing hymns
What love of thine own
(This poem reflects
Shelley's Romantic
belief in nature as a
source of inspiration and
spiritual truth, making it
one of the most admired
poems of English
Romantic literature.)

Ravi Singh & Kailashkumar Gaunder

EMPOWERING KENYAN WOMEN IN AGRO-PROCESSING

Kenyan women engaged in agro-processing are receiving vital support through a new initiative led by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) under the World Bank-backed AICCRA project. The programme focuses on enhancing climate resilience and economic opportunities in Kenya's dryland regions by providing practical value-addition training and distributing modern energy-efficient ovens to women's groups.



across Kenya's semi-arid landscapes. Women's groups with improved tools and expertise are expected to grow stronger community-based enterprises and contribute to more resilient local food systems.

This effort aligns with broader efforts to promote drought-tolerant crops across Africa's drylands, which are critical in combating hunger, malnutrition, and climate-related agricultural challenges. Strengthening women's roles in food processing and entrepreneurship is central to building a more food-secure future in the region.

ICRISAT's leadership emphasizes that equipping rural women with value-addition skills and technology fosters real economic opportunity while supporting healthier diets for families

INDIA'S PRECISION FARMING GETS A BOOST WITH NEW BACKPACK-SIZED SPRAYING DRONE BY AVIRONIX



per charge compared to many existing platforms.

Engineered with safety and precision in mind, the drone features a high-efficiency hexacopter design, swappable chemical tanks, multiple nozzle configurations, terrain-following radar, and collision-avoidance systems all tailored for Indian farm conditions such as heat, dust, humidity, and varied terrain.

In addition to the technology, AviDrone is rolling out a support model via a national network of trained "AgriDrone Experts," offering pilot training, maintenance, and on-ground support aiming for consistent performance and reduced downtime for farmers.

Overall, AviSpray-10c marks a shift in how crop spraying could be done making drone-based spraying more accessible, affordable, and practical for small and marginal farms, potentially accelerating adoption of precision agriculture across India.

Extensively tested over more than 6,000 acres including challenging crops like paddy and sugarcane AviSpray-10c reflects real-world adaptability. Among its benefits are lower upfront and operational costs, reduced manpower needs, and efficient coverage it can spray up to five acres on a single battery charge, which is around 60% more area

UNISEM AGRITECH LTD SME IPO, WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW?

Unisem

Agritech Ltd has opened its SME-IPO on 10 December 2025, aiming to raise ₹ 21.45 crore by offering 33 lakh fresh equity shares at a price band of ₹ 63-65 per share.



The subscription closes on 12 December, with allotment expected by 15 December and listing on BSE SME tentatively scheduled for 17 December.

The minimum application for retail investors is 2,000 shares (₹ 1.26 lakh), while for HNIs the minimum is 6,000 shares (₹ 3.9 lakh).

Funds raised will go partly toward working capital (₹ 11.06 crore) and repayment of borrowings (₹ 5.75 crore); the rest will be used for general corporate purposes.

Financially, the company saw its

net profit nearly double in FY25 to ₹ 4.27 crore versus ₹ 2.15 crore in FY24. Its revenue rose to ₹ 58.38 crore in FY25 from ₹ 50.31 crore in FY24. For FY25, it posts a P/E ratio of 12.22x and an EPS of ₹ 5.32.

Unisem specialises in developing, processing, and selling hybrid seeds for vegetables, flowers and field crops using conventional breeding methods to enhance yield, quality and disease/pest resistance over natural varieties.

KERALA DEMANDS FULL FERTILISER ALLOCATION TO SUPPORT RABI FARMING



Kerala has urgently requested that the central government supply the entire quantity of fertiliser allocated to the state to ensure farmers can meet the demands of the upcoming Rabi cropping season. Reports indicate that recent federal quotas for fertilisers such as urea and potash have been significantly reduced, prompting concern among agricultural stakeholders about timely access to essential inputs. Kerala has repeatedly appealed for the government to fulfil its allotment promises, but the monthly fertiliser quotas continue to be slashed, exacerbating shortages for growers ahead of critical sowing and early crop development stages.

The shortfall comes at a time when nationwide efforts are underway to boost fertiliser support for Rabi crops. The Union Cabinet recently approved a substantially higher nutrient-based subsidy of around ₹ 37,952 crore for phosphatic and potassic fertilisers to stabilise prices and maintain supply levels for farmers across India. This allocation is about 55% more than last year's and aims to ensure that key inputs like DAP and TSP remain available at controlled retail rates despite global market volatility.

Kerala's plea reflects broader concerns over distribution equity and supply reliability for agricultural inputs, as timely fertiliser access is crucial for soil nutrient management and optimal yields in the Rabi season. Continued dialogue between the state and centre is expected as the sowing period progresses.

INTEGRATED FARMING AND REFORMS DRIVE GROWTH IN INDIAN AGRICULTURE



increases, agricultural productivity per hectare must improve to sustain growth and support rural prosperity.

Regulatory reforms have also shaped the sector's progress. The number of compliant producers of bio-inputs has been reduced drastically, from 30,000 to 8,000, to ensure safe and responsible use of farm inputs, prevent soil degradation, and secure long-term sustainability.

According to a recent address at the "Agribusiness Summit 2025," agriculture in India has witnessed significant growth and transformation under the current government. Shivraj Singh Chouhan noted a 44 percent rise in sugarcane production since 2014, underscoring a broader upswing across the farm sector.

The push towards integrated farming models has been emphasised especially for small land-holders averaging under one hectare combining crops with livestock, fisheries or allied activities to boost income. Chouhan underlined that alongside production

Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay & Gargi Date

ASSAM MANDATES STATE HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY; CABINET CLEARS SAINIK SCHOOL AND COE



the Cabinet approved the establishment of a new Sainik School in Assam. The institution is expected to provide high-quality residential education with a focus on discipline, leadership, and character-building, creating pathways for students aspiring to join the armed forces.

In a landmark move to strengthen regional awareness in school education, the Assam Cabinet has decided to make Assam's history and geography compulsory subjects for students of Classes 6 to 8. The decision aims to help young learners develop a deeper understanding of the state's heritage, culture, geography, and socio-economic evolution.

Officials said the curriculum reform is intended to foster regional identity and pride while ensuring that students are better connected to their local context alongside national and global perspectives. The revised syllabus will be introduced in government and aided schools across the state.

Alongside the curriculum changes,

CENTRE CLEARS 11 NEW MEDICAL COLLEGES THROUGH DISTRICT HOSPITAL UPGRADES

In a major boost to India's healthcare and medical education infrastructure, the Central government has approved 11 new medical colleges by upgrading district hospitals in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Arunachal Pradesh. The approval comes under the Centre's ongoing initiative to expand medical education facilities, particularly in underserved and aspirational regions.

According to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, these medical colleges will be developed by strengthening existing district hospitals, ensuring optimal use of infrastructure while improving access to quality healthcare services. The move is expected to significantly enhance both medical training capacity and patient care at the district level.

Out of the 11 approved colleges, Uttar Pradesh will get the largest share, followed by Jharkhand and Arunachal Pradesh, addressing long-standing regional disparities in doctor availability and healthcare education. Several of these colleges are being set up under the Public-Private Partnership

(PPP) model, encouraging private participation while maintaining public oversight.

Each new medical college will add 100 MBBS seats, contributing to the Centre's goal of increasing the doctor-to-population ratio and strengthening India's healthcare workforce. The initiative also aligns with the government's broader mission to make affordable and accessible healthcare available across the country.

By integrating medical colleges with district hospitals, the Centre aims to create a dual benefit model improving clinical exposure for students while upgrading healthcare services for local communities. This expansion marks another step toward building a robust, regionally balanced medical education ecosystem in India.

HECI RENAMED AS VIKSIT BHARAT SHIKSHA ADHIKSHAN

The Union Cabinet has approved the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) Bill, 2025, renaming the proposed regulator as Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhikshan (VBSA). The move marks a major step toward overhauling India's higher education governance in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The new framework aims to replace multiple regulatory bodies with a single, streamlined system, bringing institutions such as the University Grants Commission (UGC), AICTE, and NCTE under one overarching structure. The objective is to reduce regulatory overlap, enhance transparency, and improve accountability across universities and colleges.

Under the proposed model, regulation, accreditation, funding, and academic standard-setting will function through distinct verticals, ensuring a clear separation of powers and minimizing conflicts of interest. The government believes this structure will encourage institutional autonomy, promote innovation, and focus on



outcomes rather than compliance-driven controls.

Renaming HECI as Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhikshan reflects the broader national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, positioning education as a key driver of India's social and economic transformation. The bill also emphasizes quality assurance, global competitiveness, and learner-centric education.

With Cabinet approval secured, the bill will be introduced in Parliament for discussion and passage. If enacted, it is expected to reshape India's higher education ecosystem, fostering flexibility, excellence, and global relevance while ensuring strong regulatory oversight.

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN CALLS FOR BLENDING ANCIENT INDIAN KNOWLEDGE WITH MODERN AI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has emphasised the need to meaningfully link ancient Indian knowledge systems with modern technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to build a value-driven and future-ready education system. Speaking at an event in Madhya Pradesh, the minister said India's civilisational wisdom must play a central role in shaping contemporary learning frameworks.

Highlighting the spirit of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Pradhan noted that the policy is deeply rooted in Indian ethos while encouraging innovation, critical thinking, and multidisciplinary learning. He stressed that AI and emerging technologies should not be taught in isolation, but guided by India's rich intellectual traditions in philosophy, science, mathematics, and ethics.

The minister pointed out that integrating ancient wisdom with modern tools can ensure the ethical and socially responsible use of AI,

preparing students to solve complex challenges while remaining grounded in human values. He also referred to initiatives such as PM SHRI Schools, Sandipani Vidyalayas, and PM Colleges of Excellence, which aim to combine traditional learning with global best practices and advanced technologies.

Pradhan urged educators and institutions to actively explore ways to incorporate Indian Knowledge Systems into curricula, pedagogy, and research. According to him, such integration will help students understand India's past while equipping them to lead in a technology-driven future.

By advocating this balanced approach, the minister reaffirmed the government's vision of an education system that is globally competitive, culturally rooted, and ethically strong, enabling India to lead responsibly in the age of AI.

IIM JAMMU HOSTS BASOHLI ART WORKSHOP LED BY GI-CERTIFIED WOMEN ARTISTS



The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu has launched a week-long Basohli painting workshop, celebrating India's rich artistic heritage while empowering GI-certified women artists from the region. The initiative underscores the institute's commitment to cultural preservation, inclusivity, and experiential learning.

Basohli painting renowned for its bold colours, expressive forms, and mythological themes—is a Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged art form from the Jammu region. By inviting master women artists to lead the workshop, IIM Jammu created a platform for authentic knowledge transfer and recognition of traditional craftsmanship.

Participants, including students, faculty, and staff, received hands-on training in the history, motifs, techniques, and natural pigments unique to Basohli art. The interactive sessions allowed learners to engage directly with artisans, gaining insight into the cultural context and meticulous processes behind the paintings.

Institute officials noted that the workshop aligns with IIM Jammu's broader vision of integrating Indian Knowledge Systems with management education, fostering creativity, empathy, and cultural awareness among future leaders. The programme also highlighted the role of women artisans in sustaining traditional art forms and promoting livelihoods.

Scheduled to conclude on December 14, the workshop is part of IIM Jammu's efforts to bridge academia and indigenous arts, ensuring that heritage practices thrive alongside modern education. By spotlighting GI-certified women artists, the institute reaffirmed its support for cultural sustainability, community engagement, and inclusive growth.

Durgesh K. Dubey

INDIGO ACCELERATES REFUNDS AFTER DECEMBER DISRUPTIONS, PASSENGER COMPENSATION LIKELY TO CROSS ₹500 CRORE

India's largest airline is moving swiftly to rebuild passenger trust after a turbulent start to December that saw widespread flight cancellations and delays across major airports. Following operational disruptions caused by crew shortages, the airline has announced an aggressive push to clear pending refunds through the rest of the month, while preparing a structured compensation programme that could result in payouts exceeding ₹500 crore.

The disruptions, which peaked between December 3 and 9, led to thousands of passengers facing last-minute cancellations, long delays, and extended hours stranded at airports such as Delhi and Bengaluru. For many travellers, the experience disrupted business plans, family commitments, and holiday travel, creating frustration and uncertainty at a scale rarely seen in recent years.

In response, the airline has prioritised refund processing as its immediate focus for December. Most affected customers have already received refunds for cancelled flights, and remaining cases are expected to be resolved shortly. The carrier has emphasised that clearing financial dues swiftly is essential to restoring confidence among passengers who were impacted during the crisis.

Beyond refunds, attention is now turning to compensation for travellers who bore the brunt of the disruption. The airline has begun identifying flights where passengers were most severely affected, particularly those whose journeys were cancelled within 24 hours of

departure or who were left stranded for prolonged periods at airports during the peak disruption window from December 3 to 5. These passengers are expected to be contacted directly in January 2026, when a dedicated compensation process will formally begin.

Preliminary estimates suggest that total compensation payouts could exceed ₹500 crore, making it one of the largest passenger relief exercises undertaken by an Indian airline. The compensation will be over and above refunds and will align with regulatory requirements that mandate payments for short-notice cancellations. The airline has indicated that the process will be designed to minimise paperwork and confusion, aiming for a transparent and hassle-free experience for affected customers.

As an interim measure, earlier in the week the airline had announced travel vouchers worth ₹10,000 for impacted passengers, valid for future bookings within a year. It also temporarily waived rescheduling and self-cancellation charges until mid-December, allowing customers flexibility in adjusting their travel plans without additional financial burden. Full refunds were assured for all airline-initiated cancellations.

The scale of the disruption prompted intervention from aviation authorities, who directed the airline to initiate automatic refunds and ordered a detailed review of the operational failure. Temporary relaxations in crew duty norms were introduced to stabilise flight schedules, while a broader probe was launched to examine how rostering issues escalated into a nationwide crisis.

For passengers, the episode has underscored how vulnerable travel plans can be to systemic failures in high-volume aviation networks. Many stranded travellers shared stories of missed connections, overnight waits at terminals, and uncertainty over rebookings. Against this backdrop, the airline's decision to prioritise refunds first and compensation next reflects an attempt to address not just regulatory obligations, but also the emotional toll experienced by customers.

As operations gradually stabilise, the coming weeks will be crucial in determining whether the airline can fully restore confidence ahead of the busy year-end and early 2026 travel season. While financial compensation cannot undo the inconvenience faced by passengers, a timely and transparent resolution could go a long way in repairing strained relationships.

The December disruption may well serve as a turning point, highlighting the importance of operational resilience, workforce planning, and customer-centric crisis management in an industry where trust is built flight by flight.

MAHARASHTRA SETS THE STAGE FOR ASIA'S LARGEST GLOBAL CAPABILITY CENTRE WITH \$1 BILLION PUSH

Maharashtra is preparing to take a decisive leap in the global services economy with plans to develop what is being described as Asia's largest Global Capability Centre (GCC). The ambitious project, backed by an international investment major, is expected to draw investments exceeding \$1 billion and create large-scale employment, reinforcing the state's growing reputation as a preferred destination for global corporate operations.

The proposed GCC, spread across nearly two million square feet, is projected to generate around 45,000 jobs, combining direct and indirect employment. Of these, approximately 15,000 positions will be created within the centre itself, while another 30,000 opportunities are expected to emerge through allied services such as facilities management, logistics, technology support, and ancillary business activities. A formal agreement for the project is expected to be signed shortly, signalling the start of what could be a transformative phase for Maharashtra's urban and economic landscape.

This development aligns with the state government's broader vision to position Maharashtra as the "GCC capital" of India. Over the past few years, Global Capability Centres—set up by multinational corporations to handle technology, finance, analytics, research, and operations—have become a major driver of high-quality employment. Unlike traditional outsourcing models, GCCs allow global firms to directly manage critical functions from India, ensuring tighter integration with global business strategies.

Mumbai and its extended metropolitan region, including Navi Mumbai, are expected to play a central role in this expansion. The state has already begun engaging with multiple global corporations, including

those in logistics and advanced services, to explore the establishment of additional GCCs. Authorities have indicated that initial focus will remain on established tier-1 cities such as Mumbai and Pune, where infrastructure, talent availability, and connectivity are strongest. Over time, the expansion is expected to extend to tier-2 cities, spreading economic opportunities more evenly across the state.

The scale of ambition is significant. Maharashtra has earlier outlined plans to facilitate the creation of nearly 400 GCCs across the state over the next five years. Pune has been identified as a key growth hub, given its strong base in engineering, information technology, and higher education. With the addition of mega projects like the proposed facility, the state aims to move beyond being just a back-office destination and instead become a global nerve centre for innovation, analytics, and enterprise decision-making.

Industry observers note that India is witnessing a structural shift in how global companies manage their operations. Rising confidence in India's skilled workforce, combined with cost efficiencies, has encouraged firms to bring critical functions in-house through GCCs rather than relying solely on third-party service providers. As a result, the GCC workforce in India is expected to grow exponentially over the coming years, potentially reaching tens of millions as more companies adopt this model.

For Maharashtra, the benefits go beyond numbers. Large GCCs tend to attract high-value talent, boost demand for commercial real estate, and



stimulate growth in urban infrastructure, housing, transport, and social services. They also help build a deeper ecosystem of innovation, start-ups, and specialised service providers.

As the state moves closer to formalising this landmark investment, expectations are high that the project will not only redefine Maharashtra's role in the global services economy but also set new benchmarks for scale, employment, and value creation in Asia's GCC landscape.

Dr. (Mrs) Chandra Hariharan Iyer

EXPERT



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Q. Acting ethically is deeply connected to emotional balance, really?

Ans. Ethics and emotions are often considered distinct domains—ethics being the realm of rules, duties, and principles, and emotions being the sphere of feelings, impulses, and moods. Yet, ancient Indian wisdom shows that these two spheres are deeply interconnected. Acting ethically is not merely about following moral codes; it is intrinsically linked to emotional balance. Emotional balance—stability, resilience, and clarity of mind—is both a foundation for ethical action and a natural outcome of it. When actions align with virtue, the mind experiences coherence and harmony, whereas unethical behavior generates inner conflict, guilt, anxiety, and agitation. As the verse “अकृत्यं मनुष्यस्य दुःखमूलं, कृत्यं सुखस्य आधारः” reminds us, inaction or unethical behavior is the root of human suffering, whereas action aligned with duty and righteousness forms the foundation of

happiness. Ethical action functions as a stabilizing force, reducing emotional turbulence and fostering mental clarity.

One of the most common sources of emotional imbalance is regret, arising from actions that contravene moral principles. “अकृतज्ञः पुरुषः पापी लोकद्विष एव च” highlights that the ungrateful or unethical person is despised by the world and suffers inner torment. When individuals act dishonestly, selfishly, or harmfully, they often experience guilt, shame, or anxiety. These emotions disturb inner peace, impair judgment, and trigger stress-related disturbances. Ethical behavior minimizes such negative emotions, cultivating calm, resilience, and a balanced psyche.

Ethical conduct also requires self-discipline, which directly contributes to emotional equilibrium. The verse “शीलवान् पुरुषः सर्वत्र विजयी भवति, आसक्तिमुक्तः सदा सुखी” teaches that a virtuous person prevails in all situations and remains happy when free from attachment. By prioritizing ethical values over emotional impulses, one prevents reactions that could create internal conflict or social discord. Emotional regulation emerges naturally from consistent ethical practice, resulting in patience, poise, and clarity. Moreover, ethical action often involves considering the welfare of others, cultivating empathy and compassion. “अन्येभ्यः परं कर्तव्यम् स्वार्थं परित्यजेत् शीलवान्” emphasizes that a virtuous person places duty to others above self-interest. By acting with compassion and ethical concern, individuals develop connection, gratitude, and fulfillment, which counteracts fear, anger, and frustration, promoting emotional stability. Truthfulness, a core aspect of ethical behavior, further supports this balance. “सत्यं वद, धर्मं चर, न हि विनश्यति आत्मा” shows that truthful action aligns behavior with conscience, reducing mental strain and fostering confidence, clarity, and calm.

Unethical behavior induces fear—fear of punishment, retribution, or social disapproval—which disrupts emotional health. “अधर्मेण पापं कुर्वन्, भयभीतः मनुष्यः दुःखितः” warns that those who commit unrighteous deeds live in fear and suffer. Ethical conduct eliminates the source of such fear, creating emotional security and enabling calm responses to challenges. Over time, consistent ethical behavior builds emotional resilience, as explained in “धैर्यं सर्वसिद्धिप्रधानं, न हि शीघ्रं लभ्यते सुखम्.” Patience and adherence to virtue strengthen the mind, supporting persistence and poise in adversity. Social support, reinforced through ethical living, is another key factor in emotional stability. “सत्येन सह मित्रता, धर्मेण सह सहयोगः” reminds us that friendship and cooperation are strengthened by truth and righteousness. Ethical behavior fosters trust, respect, and reliability, creating supportive relationships that validate emotions and enhance inner balance. Acting ethically is both a cause and consequence of emotional stability. By reducing internal conflict, cultivating empathy, building resilience, and promoting trustworthy relationships, ethical living nurtures a stable mind capable of responding wisely to life's challenges.

Beyond individual emotional stability, acting ethically also nurtures long-term psychological resilience. Life is full of challenges—conflicts, setbacks, and temptations—that test both morality and emotional balance. Ethical principles act as an anchor in these turbulent moments. The verse “अकृत्यं मनुष्यस्य दुःखमूलं, कृत्यं सुखस्य आधारः” not only emphasizes immediate peace but also highlights the enduring benefit of ethical conduct. When one consistently aligns action with values, ethical behavior becomes a stabilizing habit, creating a baseline of calmness that is not easily shaken by external circumstances. Emotional balance is reinforced by the repeated practice of virtue, as habits rooted in dharma cultivate inner strength, patience, and equanimity. Furthermore, ethical behavior nurtures self-respect and self-trust, which are essential pillars of emotional stability. When individuals know that they act honestly, fairly, and compassionately, they develop confidence in their decisions and interactions.

Finally, the connection between ethics and emotional balance is profoundly spiritual. Ancient Indian thought views the mind as the seat of both bondage and liberation: “मन एव मनुष्याणां कारणं बन्धमोक्षयोः। बन्धाय विषयासक्तं मुक्त्यै निर्विषयं स्मृतम्।” The mind's attachment to selfish desires or impulsive emotions leads to turmoil and unethical behavior, whereas disciplined, virtuous living brings clarity, peace, and freedom. Acting ethically is thus both a psychological and spiritual practice: it nurtures inner harmony, cultivates emotional resilience, and aligns human life with higher principles of dharma. In essence, ethical action is inseparable from emotional balance. The verses highlight that virtue fosters inner harmony, self-discipline, and compassion, while emotional stability reinforces the capacity to act righteously. Ethical living is thus not only morally right but psychologically and emotionally wise—a holistic approach where virtue sustains emotional equilibrium, and a balanced mind strengthens ethical practice. By integrating these principles into daily life, one can cultivate emotional balance, resilience, and inner peace while fulfilling both personal and social responsibilities.

In conclusion, acting ethically and maintaining emotional balance are mutually reinforcing. Ethical behavior stabilizes the mind by reducing guilt, fear, and inner conflict while cultivating patience, self-discipline, empathy, and resilience. Emotional balance, in turn, supports morally sound decisions and consistent virtuous action. Truthfulness, compassion, fairness, and detachment—core elements of ethical living—strengthen emotional equilibrium, fostering clarity, calm, and long-term well-being. By integrating these principles into daily life, individuals cultivate a life where virtue and emotional stability coexist, ensuring personal peace, harmonious relationships, and societal welfare. The ancient verses remind us that ethics is not merely an abstract moral code but a practical foundation for balanced living, demonstrating that inner harmony and righteous action are inseparable companions on the path of life.

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Ravi Singh

IMPOSTER SYNDROME: THE UNSPOKEN ADULT STRUGGLE

Adulthood arrives quietly. One day you are chasing dreams, and the next you are living them or at least standing close enough to touch them. You earn degrees, take on responsibilities, build careers, raise families, lead teams, or serve communities. From the outside, it looks like progress. From the inside, however, many adults carry a persistent, unsettling thought: What if I don't actually belong here?

This feeling has a name imposter syndrome. It is the inner voice that whispers that your success is accidental, temporary, or undeserved. It tells you that you are one mistake away from being exposed as a fraud. Strangely, imposter syndrome does not target the unprepared or the incapable. It most often affects those who care deeply, work sincerely, and hold themselves to high standards.

In adult life, imposter syndrome wears many masks. For a professional, it appears as over-preparation before meetings and sleepless nights after small errors. For an academic or researcher, it emerges as self-doubt despite publications, degrees, or recognition. For parents, leaders, and caregivers, it shows up as the constant fear of "not doing enough." Even in personal relationships, adults sometimes feel unworthy of love, trust, or stability, questioning how long acceptance will last.

One reason imposter syndrome intensifies with age is responsibility. As adults, our roles expand: employee becomes manager, learner becomes teacher, follower becomes decision-maker. With each transition, expectations rise. There is no formal ceremony that declares us "ready." We simply step into new roles and hope we do not fall short. The absence of reassurance creates space for doubt.

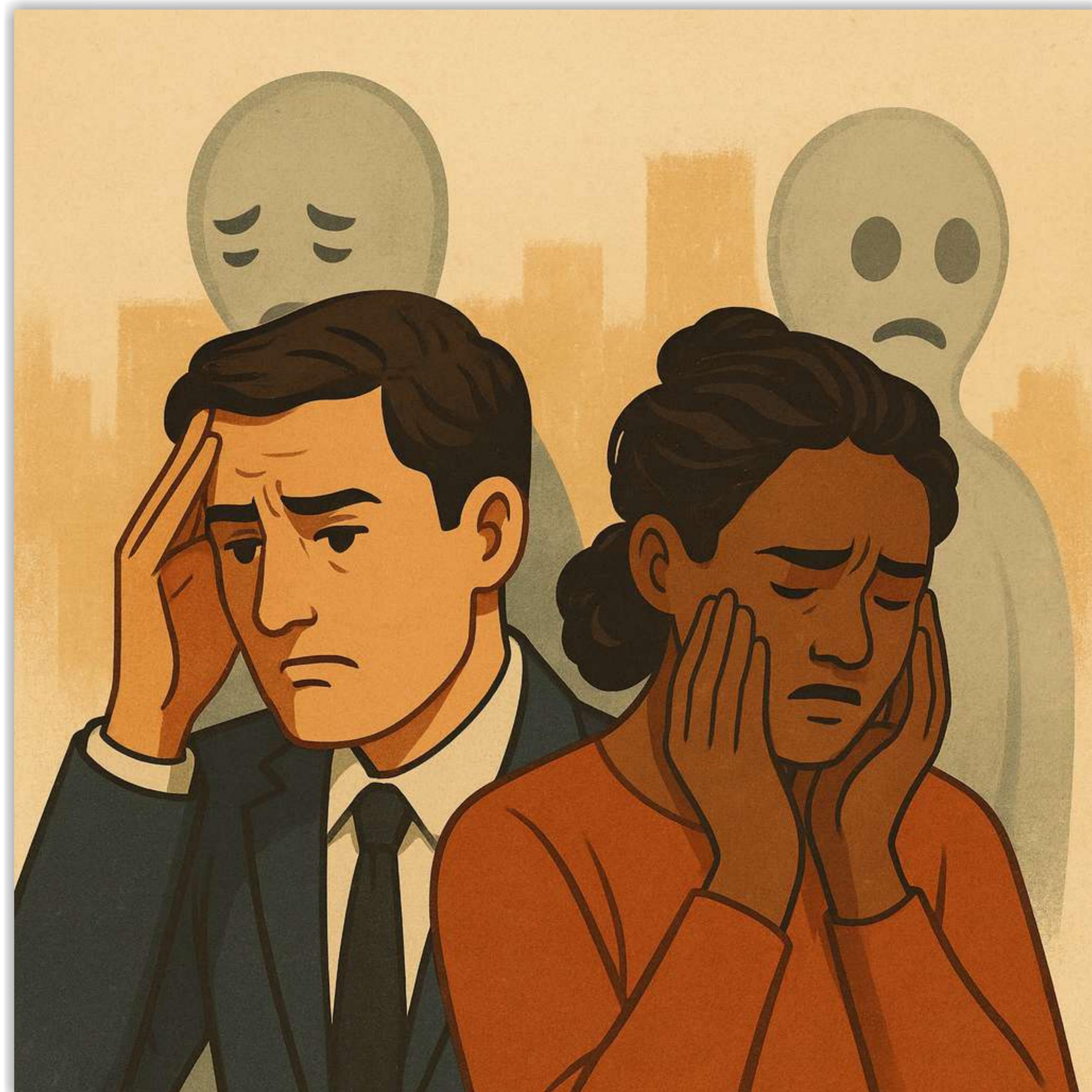
Social comparison further fuels this struggle. In a world dominated by curated success stories, adulthood feels like a race with invisible competitors. We compare our unfinished journeys with others' polished milestones. Promotions, publications, wealth, and happiness are displayed without the failures, rejections, or insecurities behind them. The result is a distorted belief that everyone else is confident and competent, while we alone are pretending.

Imposter syndrome also thrives on perfectionism. Many adults believe that mistakes are proof of inadequacy rather than evidence of learning. They set unrealistic standards and then punish themselves for falling short. Praise feels uncomfortable, even suspicious. Compliments are dismissed as politeness, luck, or misjudgment. Success is never fully owned; it is always explained away.

Living under this constant self-doubt is exhausting. It leads to burnout, anxiety, and emotional isolation. Adults struggling with imposter syndrome often work harder than necessary, not out of passion, but out of fear. Ironically, this overwork can reinforce the cycle: achievement raises expectations, which then deepens the fear of failure.

Yet, healing begins with recognition. The first step in dealing with imposter syndrome is acknowledging its presence without shame. Feeling like an imposter does not mean you are one. It means you are operating at the edge of your comfort zone, where growth naturally feels uncomfortable. Confidence does not precede competence; it often follows repeated effort and experience.

Another powerful step is learning to separate feelings from facts. Emotions can be intense, but they are not always accurate. When doubt arises, returning to evidence: qualifications earned, challenges overcome, feedback received helps ground reality. Writing down achievements, however small, can slowly retrain the mind to see progress instead of inadequacy.



Equally important is conversation. Imposter syndrome feeds on silence. When adults speak openly about their doubts, they often discover that others feel the same way. Leaders, mentors, and seniors those we assume are immune frequently admit to moments of self-doubt. These conversations normalize uncertainty and remind us that adulthood is not about having all the answers, but about learning to navigate questions with courage.

Ultimately, dealing with imposter syndrome requires compassion toward oneself. Growth does not demand perfection. It asks for honesty,

effort, and resilience. Adulthood is not a performance to be perfected but a journey to be lived uneven, evolving, and deeply human.

Imposter syndrome may never disappear completely. It may resurface at every new beginning. But when we stop treating it as an enemy and start seeing it as a sign of growth, its power diminishes. You are not an imposter in your own life. You are a learner, still becoming and that is more than enough.

Afreen Mazgaonkar & Nancey Kujur

INDIA, EU STEP UP FTA NEGOTIATIONS AHEAD OF YEAR-END DEADLINE



The European Union (EU) Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic and his team began two days of important talks in New Delhi with India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. Both sides want to speed up negotiations for the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and hope to finish it by the end of the year. Before the main talks, Sefcovic also met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. India and the EU restarted discussions on a comprehensive FTA in June 2022. Along with the main agreement, they are also working on Geographical Indications and an Investment Protection deal. The FTA includes 23 chapters, and 11 of them have already been completed. However, some key topics are still under

negotiation. These include market access for cars, steel, services, investments, and technical trade rules. The EU wants India to reduce import duties on automobiles, medical devices, wine, spirits, meat, and poultry, and to strengthen intellectual property rules. India, on the other hand, wants easier entry for its labour-intensive products and new sectors like electronics and automobiles. The EU is India's largest trading partner, with goods trade worth \$136.2 billion and services trade reaching \$70 billion. A successful FTA is expected to boost trade and investment for both sides.

INDIA CALLS FOR GLOBAL COLLABORATION ON WILDFIRE PREVENTION AT UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

India has challenged the international community to enhance mutual cooperation, while addressing the issue of wildfires at the UN Environment Assembly. India pointed out that climate change has led to the increase in the number and intensity of wildfires, hence no nation is able to bear the burden alone and proposed that the task be shared among all, establishing a dialogue, and giving a coordinated response. The Indian delegation pointed out the necessity of setting up better early warning systems, using advanced monitoring technologies, and developing firefighting strategies well ahead of time as main measures to mitigate the impact of smoke on ecosystems, human lives, and diversity of species. They suggested that the union of local wisdom and modern science should be particularly applied in forest management and community prevention strategies. India not only called for general assistance to strengthen the capacities of the less developed countries but also pointed out that wildfires mainly affect the regions with the least resources and are thus more vulnerable. The country also disclosed its practices in forest fire management, among others, the use of satellite alerts, participation of communities, and restoration programs. This call is in line with India's general environmental commitments, which include sustainable land management and climate resilience. While calling for collective action on the global scale, India underlined its stance that the prevention of wildfires is a global issue that can't be solved otherwise than through organizational methods, long-term planning, and continued international cooperation.



GUJARAT'S AI AND 5G APPLY GUJARAT LEADS WAY IN INDIA'S SMART BLUE HARBOURS REVOLUTION



Gujarat has made the big step of making the first step in the India's Smart Blue Harbours project through the use of techs like AI and 5G that modernise the shipping industry. The state applies AI-powered observing, instantaneous data processing, and speedy 5G connection at its ports basically for the purpose of providing greater operational efficiency, security, and environmental protection. The smart technologies facilitate and manage ship movements, carry out maintenance predictions, and speed up cargo handling among others; thus, the time spent at the port is drastically cut down. Environmental monitoring is another area of concern that has been made possible through the use of

sensors and digital tools that are able to detect water quality and, at the same time, safeguard marine habitats. The whole exercise is justified as it is based on data as the ports will be able to use their resources more efficiently and at the same time lower their risks. Gujarat wants to be a world investment magnet through smart harbour solutions, create a pool of skilled workers, and help India's maritime trade competition grow stronger. By doing this, the port also aligns with the country's plan to digitally transform infrastructure and thus elevate Gujarat to the rank of other coastal states that would emulate it in making ports that are ready for the future.

INDIA TO HOLD GLOBAL SUMMIT ON TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

Experts and researchers from more than 100 countries will take part in the 2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, which will be held at Bharat Mandapam from December 17 to 19. Union Minister of State for Ayush, Prataprao Jadhav, said the summit is an important step toward making traditional medicine a part of mainstream healthcare across the world. He said India believes that health should be accessible, holistic, and a mix of ancient knowledge and modern science. This year's theme is "Restoring balance: The science and practice of health and well-being." It focuses on preventive healthcare and people-centred treatment. Jadhav said traditional medicine is becoming more important as countries look for safe, reliable and affordable health options. A special session on Ashwagandha will also be held, where global experts will share the latest scientific information about its benefits. Jadhav added that India's Ayush systems—Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy—have a long history of helping people and are now respected worldwide. The WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Jamnagar shows this growing trust. He also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend the closing ceremony. WHO's Dr Poonam Khetrapal said the summit will help shape the future of traditional and Indigenous medicine and improve research, safety and regulation globally.



ISRO WILL SEND HEAVIEST US COMMERCIAL SATELLITE BLUEBIRD-6 INTO SPACE ON DECEMBER 15



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has planned the launch of BlueBird-6, a 6.5 tonnes commercial communications satellite made for the American company AST SpaceMobile, on December 15, 2025, at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. The mission will signify the heaviest American commercial satellite launched by India with its LVM3 "Bahubali" rocket, thereby asserting the nation's ascending role in the international commercial space industry. BlueBird-6 is included in AST SpaceMobile's forthcoming age Block-2 satellite constellation and is to facilitate mobile broadband connectivity in islands and underprivileged areas directly to the person using no special ground equipment. The satellite has one of the biggest phased-array antennas ever put into orbit in low Earth with its benefits of high bandwidth, large area, and data capacity increase. The launch will be done by

NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), ISRO's commercial venture. If the mission is successful, it will not only improve India-US space partnership but also establish ISRO's image as a trustworthy associate for complicated, lucrative commercial satellite launches.

'DHURANDHAR' STORMS GLOBAL BOX OFFICE, BECOMES 5TH HIGHEST GROSSER OF 2025

Ranveer Singh's action-packed entertainer 'DHURANDHAR' is continuing its impressive journey at the global box office, and it has even been regarded as one of the biggest commercial successes of 2025. The Film has already crossed the global earnings of 'War 2' after its eighth day in theaters, thus it has established itself as the fifth highest-grossing film of the year. The film has maintained a very positive trend in domestic as well as overseas markets, mainly due to the good word of mouth, the presence of high-octane action sequences, and the intensity of Ranveer Singh as a performer. Among the overseas collections, North America, the Middle East, and certain parts of Europe have been significant in boosting the film's global tally. Even during weekdays, multiplexes and mass belts have kept the audience positive and the footfalls steady. The film, made on a grand scale, is a combination of stylised action and emotional depth, which consequently, attracts a wide audience base. With its sustained momentum and festive advantage, trade analysts think the film can go up further in the 2025 box-office rankings, thereby strengthening Singh's status as a huge crowd-puller in today's Indian cinema.



Afreen Mazgaonkar & Nancey Kujur

SENTHILKUMAR, ANAHAT WIN SQUASH INDIAN TOUR



National champions Velavan Senthilkumar and Anahat Singh won the men's and women's titles at the Squash Indian Tour 4, held at the Indian Squash Academy on Friday. Top seed and World No. 46 Velavan beat Egypt's Adam Hawal 11-7, 11-9, 9-11, 11-4, showing great control in the final stages. In the women's final, 17-year-old Anahat Singh, World No. 29 from Delhi, defeated former World No. 10 Joshna Chinappa in a close five-game match. Anahat won 11-8, 11-13, 11-13, 11-6, 11-8, earning her second straight win over Joshna. Both players, along with Joshna and Abhay Singh, will represent India at the upcoming Squash World Cup. In football, Newcastle and Tottenham drew 2-2 after Cristian Romero scored a dramatic overhead kick in the final minutes. Newcastle had led twice, with goals from Bruno

Guimaraes and Anthony Gordon, but Spurs came back both times. Newcastle's manager Eddie Howe called the late equalizer "heartbreaking." Meanwhile, Everton beat Bournemouth 1-0 thanks to a goal from Jack Grealish, who is on loan from Manchester City. In another match, Manchester City defeated Fulham but again showed weak defense after almost losing a big lead.

INDIA VS PAKISTAN U19 ASIA CUP 2025: SCHEDULE, DATE, TIME, AND VENUE HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC

The confrontation between India and Pakistan in the U19 Asia Cup 2025 is to be one of the major attractions of the tournament, which has been anticipated for a long time. The youth match, on the other hand, continues the fierce rivalry between the two countries, besides, it also shows the world the next generation of cricketing stars. As per the official schedule, the U19 Asia Cup 2025 will be played in T20 format and the India-Pakistan group-stage match is scheduled to be very early on in the tournament. The confrontation will be at a neutral venue in accordance with ACC rules, making it very easy for all teams to participate. The match has been fixed for prime-time viewing hours, which means fans throughout Asia can watch the live action. It is at the moment that both teams are going to be quite strong with India being one of the favourites according to their recent junior level performance while Pakistan's U19 side is famous for its fast bowling strength and winning mentality. The match is likely to be very decisive in terms of group standings and may also greatly influence the semifinals.



ANTIM PANGHAL AND AMAN SEHRAWAT THE STARS OF WRESTLING NATIONALS AS HARYANA PARTY AGAIN

Antim Panghal, an Indian wrestling icon and Olympic player, has kept on amazing her world by taking the gold medal at the Senior National Wrestling Championships. Panghal's victory was one of the highlights of the competitions, which proved her quite at home in the new weight class and also confirmed her status of being in the top bracket among Indian women wrestlers. Furthermore, Aman Sehrawat contributed his part to Haryana's golden run, as he also won gold in his new weight class, presenting a calm and highly skilled performance all through the competition. Sehrawat's victory was a great turning point, as he was able to go through a category change with such ease and giving proof of his being one of the men's wrestling circuit's deepest and most versatile. Haryana was the best team at the championships, as it was positioned first in the team standings with many podium finishes in various categories. The wrestlers of the state demonstrated their fighting and tactical skills and, at the same time, their endurance, thus confirming Haryana's position as a stronghold in Indian wrestling. The championships also played an important role in providing the athletes a training ground before the international tournaments. Mainly, India's wrestling talent pool is continually widening, as the already acknowledged names are joined by the upcoming ones, which gives a good prospect for the coming world events.



SURUCHI SINGH PHOGAT WINS GOLD AS INDIA SECURES 1-2 FINISH IN WOMEN'S 10M AIR PISTOL

Teenager Suruchi Singh Phogat created history by winning the women's 10m air pistol title at the ISSF World Cup Final in Doha. The 19-year-old Indian shooter performed brilliantly in a very strong competition that included several Olympic medal winners. It became an even happier moment for India when another Indian shooter, Sainyam Vij, won the silver medal. Their 1-2 finish made the event very special for the Indian shooting team. Suruchi defeated some of the world's best shooters on her way to the gold. This included India's double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker, Paris Olympic champion Oh Ye-jin from Korea, Tokyo Olympics mixed team champion and individual bronze medallist Jiang Ranxin, and world number one Yao Qianxun of China. Competing against such top-level shooters and still winning showed Suruchi's confidence, focus, and strong mental strength. Her father, Inder Singh Phogat, said she wanted to finish the year on a positive note by winning a gold medal at the World Cup Final—and she achieved exactly that. Suruchi's performance has made India proud and proved that young shooters are rising quickly on the world stage. Her victory also gives hope for India's future in international shooting competitions.



INDIA RALLY FROM 0-2 DOWN TO DEFEAT ARGENTINA 4-2 AND WIN JUNIOR HOCKEY WORLD CUP BRONZE



The Indian junior hockey team produced a stunning comeback to win the bronze medal at the Junior Men's Hockey World Cup in Chennai. India defeated Argentina 4-2, returning to the tournament podium after nine years. The match seemed lost when India trailed 0-2 early in the fourth quarter, but the team scored four goals in just 11 minutes to seal a memorable win. Argentina took an early lead through Nicolas Rodriguez in the 3rd minute and later doubled it when Santiago Fernandez scored in the 44th minute. India kept fighting, creating chances but could not score in the first half. The comeback began in the 49th minute when Anmol Ekka's drag-flick was deflected in by Ankit Pal. Just three minutes later, another penalty-corner move helped Manmeet Singh score and make it 2-2. India then earned a

penalty stroke, and Shardanand Tiwari calmly scored to give India the lead. In the 58th minute, Ekka scored again from a penalty corner to secure the victory. This is India's fourth medal at the Under-21 World Cup. They earlier won gold in 2001 and 2016 and silver in 1997. Hockey India announced cash rewards for the players and support staff. In the final, Germany beat Spain in a shootout to win the title.

SANSKAR SARASWAT WINS MAIDEN SUPER 100 CROWN; TANVI SHARMA FINISHES RUNNER-UP AT GUWAHATI MASTERS

Sanskars Saraswat of India won his first Super 100 badminton title by defeating fellow Indian player Mithun Manjunath in the men's singles final at the Guwahati Masters. The 19-year-old from Jodhpur showed great skill and power throughout the match. He won the final 21-11, 17-21, 21-13 in a 50-minute contest. Even though his right leg was heavily taped, Saraswat controlled the game well and played smartly. He started strongly, maintained small leads, and used powerful cross-court and down-the-line smashes to trouble his opponent. Saraswat trains at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati and has been improving steadily. He earlier won national titles in both junior and senior categories. In the women's singles, India's Tanvi Sharma finished as runner-up. The 16-year-old, who is a World Junior Championships silver medallist, lost to Tung Ciou-Tong of Chinese Taipei 18-21, 18-21. Tanvi has been in good form recently, reaching the semifinals of the Syed Modi International and finishing as runner-up in several international events. In the men's doubles final, India's Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and Sai Pratheek K finished second after losing 13-21, 18-21 to Malaysian pair Kang Khai Xing and Aaron Tai. Overall, Indian players produced strong performances at the Guwahati Masters.



Job Junction

Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay & Ajab Tinwala

NAINITAL BANK RECRUITMENT 2026



The Nainital Bank Limited has officially released a recruitment notification for 187 vacancies for Customer Service Associates (CSA), Probationary Officers (PO – Generalist & Specialist) and Specialist Officers (SO) Scale-I & Scale-II. This recruitment drive offers a golden opportunity for graduates and postgraduates aspiring to build a secure and rewarding career in the banking sector.

Recruitment Highlights

- Organization: Nainital Bank Limited
- Posts: CSA, PO (Generalist & Specialist), SO (Scale-I & II)
- Total Vacancies: 187
- Application Mode: Online
- Job Location: As per Bank requirement

Important Dates

- Online Registration Starts: 12 December 2025
- Last Date to Apply: 01 January 2026
- Last Date for Fee Payment: 02 January 2026
- Tentative Exam Date: 18 January 2026

Eligibility Criteria

- Nationality: Indian
- Educational Qualification: Graduation / Post-Graduation (as per post requirement)
- Age Limit: 21 to 45 years (varies post-wise; age relaxation as per bank norms)

Selection Process

- Online Written Examination
- Total Marks: 200
- Duration: 145 minutes
- Personal Interview

Application Fee

- Customer Service Associate (CSA): ₹1,000/-
- PO & SO (Scale-I & II): ₹1,500/-
- Payment Mode: Online (Debit/Credit Card, Net Banking, UPI)

How to Apply

- Visit www.nainitalbank.bank.in → Careers → Recruitment
- Click on the relevant post notification from 12.12.2025.
- Register and complete the online application form.
- Upload Photograph, Signature, Left Thumb Impression & Handwritten Declaration.
- Pay the application fee online.
- Submit the form and take a printout for future reference.

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

JKSSB ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT RECRUITMENT 2025

The Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) has officially released a recruitment notification for 600 Accounts Assistant vacancies in the Finance Department. This is an excellent opportunity for graduates aspiring to secure a stable government job in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Recruitment Overview

- Organization: Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB)
- Department: Finance Department
- Post Name: Accounts Assistant
- Total Vacancies: 600
- Job Location: Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
- Application Mode: Online

Application Dates:

- Start Date: 08 December 2025
- Last Date: 06 January 2026

Eligibility Criteria

- Domicile: Candidates must be domiciled in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
- Educational Qualification: Graduation in any discipline from a recognized university with minimum 50% marks

- 45% marks for reserved category candidates
- Candidates with Post-Graduation (50%) or Ph.D. are also eligible

Age Limit

- OM Category: Up to 40 years
- SC/ST/RBA/ALC/IB/EWS/OBC: Up to 43 years
- PwBD: Up to 42 years
- Ex-Servicemen: Up to 48 years
- Candidates must not be born after 01.01.2007

Selection Process

- Written Examination (Objective Type – MCQs, OMR based)
- Document Verification

Application Fee

- General/All Other Categories: ₹600
- SC/ST-1/ST-2/EWS/PwBD: ₹500
- Payment Mode: Online (Net Banking / Debit Card / Credit Card)

JKSSB Account Assistant Recruitment 2025



How to Apply

- Visit the official JKSSB portal
- Complete One-Time Registration (OTR)
- Select Accounts Assistant – Finance Department notification
- Fill the application form and upload documents
- Pay the fee online and submit
- Take a printout for future reference

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

BOMBAY HIGH COURT RECRUITMENT 2026 | APPLY ONLINE FOR 2381 POSTS

The High Court of Judicature at Bombay has officially released a major recruitment notification inviting online applications for 2381 vacancies on its establishment at the Principal Seat at Bombay and Benches at Nagpur and Aurangabad. This recruitment drive offers a prestigious opportunity to work in the judicial system of Maharashtra.

Online Application Period: 15 December 2025 to 05 January 2026

Mode of Application: Online only

Job Location: Mumbai, Nagpur & Aurangabad

Marathi

- Driver: 10th Pass + Valid LMV Licence + 3 years' experience
- Stenographer (LG): Graduation + Shorthand 80 WPM + Typing 40 WPM
- Stenographer (HG): Graduation + Shorthand 100 WPM + Typing 40 WPM

Pay Scale (7th CPC)

- Peon: ₹19,900 – ₹63,200 (S-3)
- Clerk / Driver: ₹29,200 – ₹92,300 (S-10)
- Stenographer (LG): ₹49,100 – ₹1,55,800 (S-18)
- Stenographer (HG): ₹56,100 – ₹1,77,500 (S-20) (Plus admissible allowances)



Salary: Rs 29200-155800
Age Limit: 18 to 38 years

Selection Process

- Written Examination
- Skill Test (Typing / Shorthand / Driving as applicable)
- Personal Interview
- Document Verification & Medical Examination

Application Fee

- ₹1000/- for all candidates
- Payment Mode: Online via SBI Collect

How to Apply

- Visit the official Bombay High Court recruitment portal from 15/12/2025 (11:00 AM)
- Register and complete the online application
- Upload documents, photograph & signature
- Pay the fee online
- Submit and print the application before 05/01/2026 (5:00 PM)

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

Deepika Singh

QUIZ TIME

1. The rare migratory bird Pallas's Gull (or Great Black-headed Gull), the world's largest black-headed gull, was recently spotted after nearly a decade in which Indian state's bird sanctuary?
2. NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO, functions under the administrative control of which Indian government department?
3. Which international organization recently released the report titled "Right to Education: Past, Present and Future", reviewing progress since the 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education?
4. Which Indian festival was recently inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity?
5. NASA recently lost contact with its MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution) spacecraft. What planet has the MAVEN mission been orbiting since 2014?
6. What is the core objective of the Human-rating process for a launch vehicle?
7. The SAMPANN Portal, which was recently in the news for onboarding MTNL pensioners, functions under which Union Ministry?

RIDDLES

Bollywood Movie Riddles

1. I am a college where three friends, one a snake charmer, challenge the system. I teach the lesson: pursue excellence, and success will follow. My signature object is a broken pen. What film am I?
2. My protagonist sells an item that is illegal in Mumbai, leading to a clash with a corrupt politician. I am known for my title character's unique vision and iconic spectacles. What film am I?
3. My hero is a runaway bride. She travels aimlessly across North India by train, finding freedom and healing while helping a lonely Sikh man. What film am I?
4. I am a time-travel film where the hero swaps a microchip between two generations. The villain's lair is a futuristic version of a clock tower. What film am I?

1. 3 Idiots
2. Reees
3. Highway
4. Love Story 2050

II RIDDLES

7. Ministry of Communications

5. Mars
6. To ensure acceptable risk

3. UNESCO

2. Department of Space (DOS)

1. Jharkhand

II QUIZ TIME

ANSWERS

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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CHANDRAKALA / SURYAKALA – ROYAL, FESTIVE, AND IRRESISTIBLY



This Week, We're Indulging in Chandrakala / Suryakala – Royal, Festive, and Irresistibly Traditional!

Chandrakala (moon-shaped) and Suryakala (sun-shaped) are classic North Indian festive sweets, especially popular in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Made with a crisp outer shell, rich khoya-based filling, and soaked gently in sugar syrup, these delicacies symbolize celebration, abundance, and heritage. Often prepared during Diwali, weddings, and special occasions, each bite carries the warmth of tradition and craftsmanship.

Ingredients:

- For the Dough - Maida (all-purpose flour) – 1 cup, Ghee – 2 tbsp, Salt – a pinch, Water – as required.
- For the Filling - Khoya (mawa), grated – 1 cup, Desiccated coconut – $\frac{1}{4}$ cup, Sugar – $\frac{1}{2}$ cup, Cashews & almonds (chopped) – 2 tbsp, Raisins – 1 tbsp, Cardamom powder – $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp.
- For Sugar Syrup - Sugar – 1 cup, Water – $\frac{1}{2}$ cup, Cardamom powder – $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp, Saffron strands – a few (optional), For Frying Ghee or oil – as required

Preparation

1. Prepare the dough by mixing maida, ghee, and salt; add water gradually and knead into a firm, smooth dough. Cover and rest for 15 minutes.
2. Heat a pan on low flame and lightly cook the khoya until soft. Add coconut, sugar, nuts, raisins, and cardamom powder. Mix well, cook briefly, and allow the filling to cool completely.
3. Divide the dough into small portions and roll each into a thin disc. Place a spoonful of filling in the centre. Fold into a half-moon shape for Chandrakala or create decorative pleats around the edges for Suryakala. Seal the edges well.
4. Heat ghee or oil on medium-low flame and fry the prepared sweets slowly until golden and crisp. Remove and set aside.
5. Prepare the sugar syrup by boiling sugar and water until one-string consistency is achieved. Add cardamom powder and saffron.
6. Dip the hot fried Chandrakala / Suryakala into warm sugar syrup and let them soak for 10–15 minutes. Remove and allow excess syrup to drain.



Serving Tip:

Serve Chandrakala or Suryakala slightly warm or at room temperature as a festive dessert. Garnish with chopped nuts and enjoy with family and guests, this timeless sweet is perfect for celebrations, gifting, and moments that call for something truly special.