

A Weekly E-newspaper Initiative of the HULAHUL FOUNDATION

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## BEYOND DIFFERENCES: A STEP TOWARDS A DISCRIMINATION-FREE WORLD

**Z**ero Discrimination Day is observed every year on March 1 to promote equality, fairness, and respect for every individual. It is an important global initiative started by UNAIDS in 2014. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness about discrimination and encourage people to create a society where everyone is treated equally, regardless of their background, gender, religion, race, health condition, or social status. This day reminds us that every person deserves dignity, freedom, and equal opportunities.

Discrimination is one of the biggest challenges faced by societies around the world. It happens when people are treated unfairly because of who they are or where they come from. Discrimination can occur in schools, workplaces, healthcare, and even within communities. For example, some students may be treated differently because of their financial status, while others may face rejection due to their appearance or beliefs. Such treatment can deeply hurt a person's confidence and mental well-being. It also prevents people from reaching their full potential and contributing positively to society.

Zero Discrimination Day promotes the message of inclusion, kindness, and acceptance. It encourages people to respect differences and understand that diversity is a strength, not a weakness. Every individual is unique, and these differences make the world more beautiful and meaningful. When people accept and support each other, it creates a peaceful and positive environment. Small actions, such as speaking respectfully, helping others, and standing against unfair behavior, can bring big changes in society.

The theme for Zero Discrimination Day is "We Stand Together" highlighting a particular aspect of discrimination. The day aims to promote the significance of collective action towards fighting discrimination.

Governments and international organizations, including the United Nations, work to protect people from discrimination. They create laws and policies that ensure equal rights in education, employment, healthcare, and justice. These efforts help create a fair and just society. However, real change begins with individuals. The symbol of Zero Discrimination Day is a butterfly, which represents transformation, hope, and freedom. Just as a butterfly grows and changes, society can also transform into a place where everyone is treated equally. This symbol reminds people that change is possible when we work together with understanding and compassion.

At last, Zero Day is a powerful reminder that all human beings are equal and deserves respect. Discrimination harms individuals and weakens society, while equality strengthens communities and promotes peace. By spreading awareness, educating others, and practicing kindness, we can help build a world free from discrimination. Everyone has a role to play in creating a fair and inclusive society. If we treat each other with respect and dignity, we can create a better future for everyone.

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Durgesh K. Dubey

## SWATANTRA VEER SAVARKAR: THE MAN WHO REFUSED TO BE BROKEN

In the small village of Bhagur in Maharashtra, a young boy once stood watching a funeral procession. It was not the first time he had seen death. Plague, poverty, and political oppression were part of daily life under British rule. But that day, something changed inside him. The boy was Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, and he silently resolved that his life would not be ordinary. He would live and if necessary, suffer for the freedom of his motherland.

Savarkar was not born into comfort. His childhood was marked by loss. His parents passed away early, and responsibility came quickly. But hardship did not weaken him; it sharpened him. He read history passionately and was deeply inspired by stories of Shivaji Maharaj and the 1857 uprising. Even as a student, he gathered young friends and formed a secret group called Mitra Mela, which later evolved into Abhinav Bharat. These were not mere discussion clubs. They were circles of discipline, sacrifice, and patriotic awakening.

Savarkar believed that freedom required preparation. He once told a hesitant young member, who feared British retaliation, that fear was natural but surrender was not. He explained that courage does not mean absence of fear; it means acting despite it. That young man later became one of the most dedicated revolutionaries in the group. Savarkar did not merely recruit followers; he built conviction.

When Savarkar went to London for legal studies, he carried more than books in his luggage. He carried revolutionary ideas. At India House in London, he delivered passionate speeches on independence and wrote extensively about the 1857 uprising, boldly describing it as India's First War of Independence. His book, banned by the British, travelled secretly across continents and inspired countless youth.

One evening in London, a young Indian student approached him privately and confessed doubt. He wondered whether violent resistance was justified, whether such struggle would only bring suffering. Savarkar did not answer emotionally. He spoke calmly about history, dignity, and self-respect. He said that a nation without self-respect cannot protect its culture or people. The struggle, he explained, was not for hatred, but for sovereignty and self-determination. That conversation changed the student's hesitation into clarity. Savarkar's strength lay not only in action but in intellectual firmness.

His arrest in 1910 marked a dramatic turning point. During his extradition voyage to India, Savarkar attempted a daring escape at Marseilles by jumping from the ship into the sea. Though he was captured again, the act itself became a symbol of indomitable spirit. It was not merely an escape attempt; it was a declaration that his will could not be chained.

Savarkar was sentenced to transportation for life and sent to

Andamans and later restrictions in Ratnagiri, he worked to promote social unity. He encouraged inter-dining and temple entry for all sections of society. For him, national freedom required internal reform. He believed that a divided society cannot become strong.

Savarkar's life preaching was rooted in three principles: courage, rational thinking, and national self-respect. He urged youth to cultivate physical strength along with intellectual clarity. He wrote about science, social reform, and history, encouraging critical thinking rather than blind imitation.

Even in later years, when political disagreements surrounded him, Savarkar remained firm in his convictions. He was neither seeking popularity nor fearing criticism. He believed that leadership requires standing by one's principles, even when misunderstood.

Savarkar's courage was not limited to battlefield heroism. It was visible in his mental resilience. To endure long years in Cellular Jail without surrendering hope required extraordinary strength. He once reflected that chains can restrain the body, but not the mind of a determined individual.

His life teaches that bravery is not loud anger; it is disciplined endurance. Patriotism is not emotional outburst; it is sustained commitment. Ethical living is not convenience; it is responsibility.

### Conclusion

The life of Swatantra veer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar reminds us that true freedom begins with courage of thought and firmness of character. He endured imprisonment, isolation, and criticism, yet remained intellectually active and morally committed to his vision of national dignity and social reform. His story teaches today's youth that bravery lies not only in dramatic acts, but in daily discipline, resilience, and unwavering commitment to principles. Savarkar's life demonstrates that when conviction is stronger than fear, and when purpose is greater than suffering, even the harshest prison cannot defeat the human spirit. His legacy challenges every generation to cultivate strength, self-respect, and responsibility toward society.

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the Cellular Jail in the Andaman Islands, known as Kala Pani. The conditions were harsh beyond imagination solitary confinement, hard labor, humiliation, and isolation. Many prisoners lost hope. Some lost sanity. But Savarkar refused to allow imprisonment to destroy his mind.

In the darkness of his solitary cell, he began composing poetry. With no paper available, he wrote verses on the prison walls using thorns and memorized thousands of lines so they could be preserved. His fellow prisoners often felt defeated. One young inmate, broken by torture, once expressed despair, saying freedom seemed impossible. Savarkar encouraged him by saying that even if they did not see independence in their lifetime, their suffering would become the foundation for future generations. He reminded them that sacrifice is meaningful when it serves a larger cause.

Savarkar also emphasized social reform. He strongly opposed untouchability and caste discrimination. After his release from the



Ravi Singh

## BEYOND FAILURE: HOW VEEBA BECAME INDIA'S HIDDEN FOOD GIANT

It is easy to look at a thriving brand and assume its rise to the top was a straight, uninterrupted line. But the story of Viraj Bahl is anything but linear. It is a candid, unfiltered masterclass in resilience, the agony of public failure, and the sheer audacity required to bet everything on yourself when you have nothing left to lose.

Viraj Bahl didn't start from scratch; he began his career in the shadow of his family's success. His father, Rajiv Bahl, was the founder of 'Fun Foods,' a highly successful Indian condiment brand. Desperate to prove his worth before joining the family empire, Viraj took a grueling job in the Merchant Navy, met his father's condition of earning ₹3 lakh a month independently, and finally earned his place at Fun Foods in 2002.

For six years, Viraj poured his soul into scaling the business, treating it as his life's work. But in 2008, his father made a practical business decision that shattered Viraj: he sold Fun Foods to the German giant Dr. Oetker for ₹110 crores. While the deal was financially lucrative, Viraj was emotionally devastated. He wanted to build an empire, not cash out. Suddenly, he was an entrepreneur without a company.

Armed with his share of the buyout and a burning desire to prove he could build something on his own, Viraj launched a quick-service restaurant chain called "Pocket Full" in 2009. He threw his energy, capital, and passion into the venture.

But passion does not always guarantee profit. Over the next four years, the business bled money. By 2013, the reality was undeniable: Pocket Full was a colossal failure, and Viraj was forced to shutter all six outlets.

As Viraj later reflected, the restaurant business is unforgivingly public. Empty tables are a glaring, visible sign of failure to your friends, family, and the market. At 33, he was out of business, financially drained, and grappling with immense self-doubt.

Most people in Viraj's position would have retreated, found a safe corporate job, and cut their losses. Instead, Viraj decided to double down on the industry he knew best: food processing.

The problem? He had no capital left. This is where his story shifts from a standard business



case study to a profound testament of partnership. He went to his wife, Riddhima, and proposed an unthinkable idea: Let's sell our house so I can start a sauce company.

Wima beat, she agreed. With ₹1 lakh from the sale of their home, Viraj founded a new company in 2013. He named it Veeba, after his mother, Vibha.

Scarred by his restaurant failure, Viraj made

a brilliant, counterintuitive strategic pivot. Instead of fighting established retail giants on supermarket shelves, Veeba started strictly as a

B2B (business-to-business) supplier. The goal was to provide high-quality, customized sauces to massive restaurant chains.

However, the initial days were a nightmare. For nearly two years, Veeba struggled to secure significant orders. Viraj was burning through his seed capital, spending sleepless nights agonizing over how he would pay his employees' salaries. He was staring down the barrel of bankruptcy for a second time.

Then, the breakthrough arrived. Domino's Pizza placed a massive order for 70 tons of pizza sauce. That single order was the lifeline Veeba desperately needed. Soon after, heavyweights like KFC, Burger King, Taco Bell, and Pizza Hut followed suit. Veeba quietly became the invisible hero behind the taste of India's favorite fast food.

Once Veeba hit the ₹100 crore revenue mark and established a flawless B2B manufacturing base, Viraj executed the final phase of his master plan: entering the retail market.

When Veeba finally hit supermarket shelves, it wasn't just another ketchup brand. Viraj introduced healthier, lower-fat, and better-tasting condiments tailored to the modern Indian consumer. Because they had already perfected their supply chain and recipes in the ruthless professional kitchen market, their retail expansion was unstoppable.

Today, Veeba is a household name with a valuation exceeding ₹1,000 crores. It is present in over 700 cities and 150,000 retail outlets. Viraj Bahl went from a failed restaurateur who had to sell his home to a respected judge on Shark Tank India, mentoring the next generation of founders.

**Viraj's journey leaves us with a few undeniable truths:**

- **Failure is the Best Instructor:** His failed restaurants taught him the art of extreme frugality, knowing exactly when and where to spend every single rupee.
- **Patience is a Strategy:** Passion wasn't enough for his restaurants. Strategic patience, conquering the B2B market before fighting the retail war, is what built Veeba.
- **You Support System is Everything:** Without his wife's unwavering belief and willingness to risk their home, Veeba would have never existed.

Viraj B's story is a powerful reminder that hitting rock bottom isn't the end of the road; sometimes, it is the exact foundation you need to build an empire.

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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 decade ago, entertainment meant buying movie tickets or DVDs, music meant purchasing albums, and software came as one-time purchases. Today, much of what we use from movies and music to learning, storage, shopping, and fitness comes through monthly plans. Platforms like Netflix, Spotify, and Amazon Prime have normalised the idea that we no longer need to own products we simply subscribe to access them.

This shift marks the rise of the subscription economy, where companies move from one-time sales to recurring payments. For businesses, it brings predictable revenue and customer loyalty. For consumers, it offers convenience and lower upfront cost. Yet the hidden reality remains: over time, many people spend more than they would under traditional buying models. Recurring payment models from streaming to memberships are reshaping spending, business strategy, and consumer behaviour. Understanding subscriptions is now essential for managing modern consumption and personal finances.

### From Ownership to Continuous Access

## THE SUBSCRIPTION ECONOMY: WHY YOU PAY MORE WITHOUT BUYING MORE

Earlier, consumers bought products once and used them until replacement. Today, they pay regularly to keep using them.

- Movies → Netflix subscription
- Music → Spotify streaming
- Software → monthly licenses
- Shopping → Prime membership

A family that earlier watched occasional films in theatres now subscribes to multiple OTT platforms. Each platform costs only a few hundred rupees monthly, but combined entertainment spending exceeds earlier occasional purchases. Ownership has quietly shifted into access.

### Why Subscriptions Feel So Affordable

Monthly pricing reduces psychological resistance. Paying ₹199 or ₹499 per month feels minor compared to spending several thousand rupees at once even if the annual total is higher. A college student subscribes to Netflix, Spotify, cloud storage, and an online learning app. Each costs less than a meal outside. Together, the total monthly subscription spending becomes substantial, yet feels manageable because payments are small and recurring. This is called payment smoothing spreading cost over time makes spending easier to accept.

### Why Companies Prefer Subscription Models

Subscriptions transform business economics. Instead of uncertain one-time sales, companies gain:

- Predictable monthly revenue
- Long-term customer relationships
- Usage data insights
- Upselling opportunities

Netflix analyses viewing behaviour to recommend shows. Personalisation keeps users engaged and reduces cancellations, ensuring continued subscription revenue. A subscriber paying ₹500 monthly for years is far more valuable than a one-time buyer.

### Why You Often End Up Paying More

Subscriptions extend payments beyond actual usage periods. A viewer subscribes to Netflix for one popular series. After finishing it, the subscription continues for months due to habit or auto-renewal. Total spending far

exceeds the value of that one show.

Similarly:

- Gym memberships unused
  - App trials forgotten
  - Premium plans rarely utilised
- Recurring payments accumulate silently.

### The Convenience and Lock-In Effect

Subscriptions succeed because they integrate deeply into daily routines.

They offer:

- Auto-renewal
- Stored preferences
- Personalised recommendations
- Seamless access across devices

Cancelling requires effort, while continuing is effortless. An Amazon Prime subscriber renews annually for fast delivery benefits even if streaming or music services are rarely used. Convenience outweighs cost evaluation.

### Convenience sustains subscriptions.

Subscriptions Are Expanding Everywhere  
What began with digital media now extends into physical goods and services:

- Food delivery memberships
- Beauty and grooming boxes
- Learning platforms
- Fitness apps
- Software tools
- Gadget rentals
- Vehicle subscriptions

Even traditional industries now prefer recurring revenue over one-time sales. Consumption is becoming service-based.

### Students: Why Subscription Economics Matters

Commerce and management students must understand subscription-driven markets because many modern companies operate on recurring revenue models.

Key business concepts include:

- Customer lifetime value
- Churn rate
- Retention strategy
- Tiered pricing
- Freemium conversion

Careers in marketing, analytics, finance, and product management increasingly involve

subscription metrics.

Understanding subscriptions means understanding modern business strategy.

### Consumers: The Hidden Subscription Burden

Most households underestimate subscription spending because costs are fragmented across services.

Common overlaps include:

- Multiple OTT platforms
- Music + video + gaming
- Storage + productivity tools
- Shopping memberships

Individually small, collectively significant. A typical urban household may spend thousands annually without noticing.

### Smart Subscription Management Tips

- List all active subscriptions
- Track total monthly subscription spending
- Review usage every few months
- Cancel inactive or redundant services
- Prefer annual plans only if regularly used
- Avoid overlapping platforms

Treat subscriptions like recurring bills, not casual expenses.

### The Structural Shift in Consumption

The subscription economy reflects a deeper economic change: products are becoming services. Technology enables continuous delivery, personalised experience, and automatic billing. Companies gain stable revenue streams. Consumers gain convenience but also continuous payment obligations. Ownership declines; access dominates.

### The Takeaway

Subscriptions feel affordable because payments are small but they rarely stop. Because in today's economy, you may stop buying products, but you rarely stop paying for them.

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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.*

## READER-RESPONSE THEORY

Reader-Response Theory emerged in the 20th century as a reaction against formalism and author-centered criticism. Instead of focusing solely on the text or the author's intention, this theory emphasizes the role of the reader in creating meaning.

### Key Thinkers

- Wolfgang Iser
- Stanley Fish
- Louise Rosenblatt

### Main Ideas

- A text does not have a single fixed meaning.
- Meaning is created through the interaction between reader and text.
- Different readers may interpret the same text differently based on their experiences, culture, and emotions.

For example, one reader may interpret "The Hippopotamus" as purely humorous, while another may see it as a powerful critique of religious institutions.

Importance: Reader-Response Theory democratizes literature. It values the reader's experience and emotional engagement. It recognizes literature as a living dialogue rather than a closed system.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

- The Constitution of India is the longest written constitution in the world. It originally contained 395 Articles, 8 Schedules, and 22 Parts when it came into effect on January 26, 1950.
- The United Nations was officially established on October 24, 1945, after World War II to promote international peace and cooperation. Today, it has 193 member countries.
- The Great Wall of China is not visible from the Moon with the naked eye, despite the popular myth. It is one of the most remarkable architectural achievements in human history.
- The first computer programmer in the world was Ada Lovelace. In the 1840s, she wrote an algorithm for Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine.
- The Olympic Games originated in ancient Greece around 776 BC and were held in Olympia in honor of the god Zeus.
- Toru Dutt wrote a novel in French titled *Le Journal de Mademoiselle d'Arvers*, making her one of the earliest Indian women to write fiction in French.
- The internet was originally developed as ARPANET in 1969 by the United States Department of Defense for secure military communication.

## GRAMMAR TIP

### 8 Ways to Use the Preposition "By"

1. By (Agent – Who did it)  
The book was written by her.
2. By (Method / Means)  
I travel by bus.
3. By (Deadline / Time limit)  
Finish the work by 5 PM.
4. By (Near / Beside)  
She was sitting by me.
5. By (Amount / Measurement)  
The price increased by 10%.
6. By (How something happens)  
He won by hard work.
7. By (Step / Process)  
Solve it step by step.
8. By (Author / Creator)  
This painting is by Picasso.

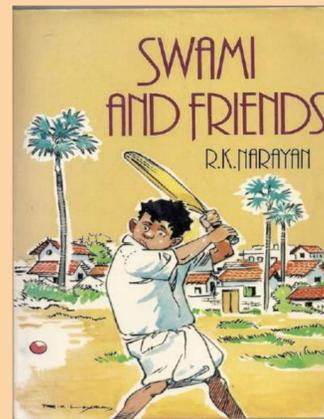
## WRITER OF THE WEEK

### Toru Dutt (1856–1877)

Toru Dutt was one of the earliest Indian poets writing in English. Despite her short life of just 21 years, she made a significant contribution to Indian English literature. Born in a cultured and progressive Bengali family, she was exposed to Western education and literature at a young age. She traveled to Europe and became proficient in French and English. Her major works include: *A Sheaf Gleaned in French Fields* (translations of French poetry) & *Ancient Ballads and Legends of Hindustan*. Toru Dutt is remembered for blending Indian mythological themes with Romantic sensitivity. Poems like "Our Casuarina Tree" reflect nostalgia, patriotism, and personal grief. Her poetry connects Indian tradition with Western literary forms, making her a pioneer of Indian English poetry. Her work stands as a bridge between cultures, Indian themes expressed through English lyricism.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Swami and Friends by R. K. Narayan



**S**wami and Friends is R. K. Narayan's debut novel set in the fictional town of Malgudi. The story follows Swaminathan, a young schoolboy navigating school pressures, strict teachers, and the joys of friendship with Rajam and Mani. The novel beautifully captures the innocence and emotional world of childhood. Swami's fears of exams, misunderstandings, and his involvement in political protests reflect both humor and realism. The friendship between Swami and Rajam forms the emotional core of the story. Narayan's simple language and gentle humor make the novel engaging and relatable. *Swami and Friends* is a timeless portrayal of childhood innocence, friendship, and growing up.

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

*"The only way to deal with this life meaningfully is to find one's passion and pursue it."*

— R. K. Narayan

## CREATIVE WRITING

### SITA

#### A Poem Inspired by Toru Dutt

In silent woods where shadows lie,  
Beneath the vast and watchful sky,  
She walked with grace, though torn by pain,  
A heart that bore love's endless strain.

No crown adorned her gentle head,  
No royal path before her spread,  
Yet strength within her spirit shone,  
A quiet power, softly known.

The forest heard her whispered sighs,  
The earth beheld her tear-filled eyes,  
But never once did courage part  
From Sita's pure and faithful heart.

Through trials deep and sorrow long,  
She stood in truth, in faith made strong,  
A flame that storms could not defeat,  
A lotus blooming at her feet.

O child of earth, so calm, so bright,  
You turned your grief to inner light,  
And in your silence, the world could see  
The face of strength and dignity.

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## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Serendipity (noun)

**Meaning:** The occurrence of happy or beneficial events by chance.  
**Example:** Discovering a rare first edition in a small bookshop was pure serendipity.

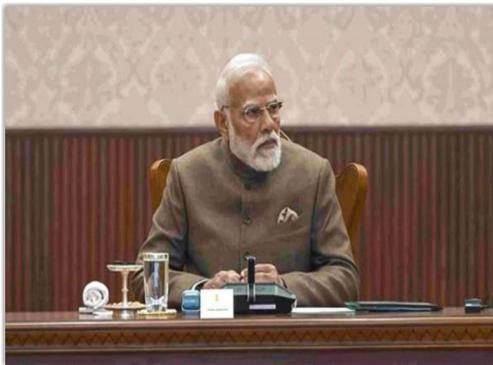
## IDIOM HIGHLIGHT

### A blessing in disguise

**Meaning:** Something that seems bad at first but turns out to be good.  
**Example:** The rejection of her first manuscript was a blessing in disguise, it motivated her to improve her writing.

## PM MODI EXPLORES AI'S POTENTIAL IN AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION WITH TECH LEADERS

Narendra Modi recently met CEOs of leading AI and deep-tech startups to explore how artificial intelligence can transform agriculture and education in India. He emphasized using AI-driven tools to improve farmers' decision-making, enhance productivity, and reduce inefficiencies across the agricultural value chain, particularly benefiting rural communities.



access and quality gaps. These innovations aim to enhance teacher effectiveness and equip students with skills aligned to future job markets.

Startup leaders highlighted the need for supportive policies, strong data infrastructure, public-private collaboration, ethical safeguards, and digital literacy initiatives. The meeting underscored India's commitment to responsible AI adoption as a catalyst for inclusive growth, higher incomes, improved learning outcomes, and global digital competitiveness.

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In agriculture, proposed AI applications include crop health prediction, real-time soil and weather monitoring, smart irrigation, and personalized advisory platforms. These data-driven solutions can help farmers optimize inputs, boost yields, and manage risks from pests and climate change. The Prime Minister stressed that such technologies must remain affordable and accessible, especially for small and marginal farmers.

In education, discussions focused on AI-powered personalized learning, adaptive curricula, intelligent tutoring systems, and digital platforms to bridge

Highlighting the persistent gap

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## FCI TO SUPPLY 200,000 TONNES OF RICE TO WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Food Corporation of India (FCI) will supply 200,000 tonnes of rice to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), reinforcing India's commitment to global food security. The rice will be sourced from FCI's buffer stocks and distributed to countries facing severe hunger due to conflict, climate change, and economic instability, particularly in parts of East Africa and other food-deficit regions.



This contribution is expected to support millions who rely on humanitarian assistance. Officials clarified that the allocation will not affect India's domestic food security obligations under the National Food Security Act, as adequate buffer stocks will be maintained. Rice was chosen given India's position as one of the world's largest producers and exporters of the staple grain.

The initiative reflects India's expanding role in multilateral food

relief and humanitarian cooperation. By channeling surplus stocks to global safety nets, India is helping bridge supply gaps in vulnerable nations during periods of crop failure and market disruption.

The phased delivery, coordinated with international partners, highlights how strong national food management systems can contribute to global solutions, strengthening India's standing in sustainable development and food systems resilience.

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## SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN QUESTIONS CONGRESS OBJECTIONS TO INDIA-US TRADE DEAL ON IMPORTS

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has challenged the Congress party's criticism of the proposed India-United States trade agreement, asking why the opposition is opposing the deal if imports are essential to meet domestic demand. Speaking at a press interaction, Chouhan stressed that trade agreements are negotiated based on mutual benefit and market complementarities, and maintained that India's interests particularly in agriculture and food security are being safeguarded.

Chouhan noted that India's agricultural framework already allows imports of food and agricultural products when needed to stabilise supplies or prices. He argued that when imports help bridge demand gaps and support consumer needs, they should not be rejected outright. The minister questioned why the Congress insists on resisting such engagements if they are meant to broaden market access and strengthen supply chains without undermining local producers.

Reinforcing the government's

position, he said sensitive sectors like dairy, pulses and key food staples are being protected, and that careful calibration of tariff lines ensures that domestic farmers are not exposed to unfair competition. Chouhan asserted that trade pacts create opportunities for Indian exports while maintaining policy space to uphold food security.

His remarks reflect the ongoing debate between the government and opposition on how to strike a balance between global trade integration and protection of domestic agriculture, with farm groups, political parties and industry stakeholders weighing in on the potential impacts of tariff concessions and market access under the India-US agreement.

Overall, Chouhan's comments aim to frame the trade deal as a measured, interest-aligned approach rather than a concession that would jeopardise India's farm economy.

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## TAMIL NADU ECONOMIC SURVEY FLAGS CRITICAL ISSUES IN AGRICULTURE

The latest Economic Survey of Tamil Nadu has highlighted several pressing challenges confronting the state's agriculture sector, urging prompt policy action and targeted interventions. While Tamil Nadu remains one of India's more industrialised states, its agricultural performance shows imbalances in productivity, cropping patterns and resource use that policymakers believe need urgent correction to ensure rural sustainability and farmer welfare.

One key concern highlighted in the survey is the uneven distribution of irrigated land. A few regions account for the majority of net irrigated acreage, leaving other districts heavily dependent on rainfall. This disparity affects cropping decisions and productivity, particularly for paddy the state's dominant crop which requires consistent water availability. The survey suggests that over-reliance on paddy cultivation in water-stressed zones is unsustainable and calls for diversification towards less water-intensive crops.

The report also points out that despite investment in irrigation and farm infrastructure, groundwater depletion remains a serious problem in many agricultural belts. This has consequences for crop yields and farm incomes, especially in dryland areas where farmers lack reliable access to water. Experts recommend accelerating adoption of micro-irrigation systems, water harvesting structures and climate-resilient cropping strategies to optimise water use efficiency.

Additionally, the Economic Survey emphasises the need to strengthen extension services, market linkages and value-addition facilities. By improving access to technology, quality inputs and information, farmers could enhance productivity and capture better price realisation for their produce. Enhanced focus on digitisation, crop forecasting and risk mitigation tools is also recommended to make agriculture more resilient to climate variability and market volatility.

Overall, the survey calls for a comprehensive, region-specific agricultural development strategy one that balances resource constraints with productivity goals, supports farmer incomes, and reduces environmental stress. Such proactive planning, the report argues, is crucial if Tamil Nadu's agriculture is to remain viable and competitive in the years ahead.

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Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay

## CBSE MANDATES MENTAL HEALTH & SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING FRAMEWORK IN SCHOOLS



wellness interventions, counselling referrals, and training activities.

CBSE has made structured career counselling compulsory, requiring qualified counsellors to guide students and parents on realistic academic expectations and diverse career pathways. Schools must additionally conduct parent sensitisation programmes to reduce academic pressure and promote empathetic responses to student stress.

The Board has urged institutions to embed emotional literacy, life-skills education, and awareness of support systems into classroom and orientation activities. It also advised periodic review of examination patterns to help students develop identity beyond marks and ranks, with greater emphasis on sports, arts, and personality development.

Through these measures, CBSE aims to build emotionally supportive school ecosystems where mental health, resilience, and holistic growth are treated as essential learning outcomes alongside academic achievement.

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The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has directed all affiliated schools to implement structured Mental Health and Wellness and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) measures, reinforcing student well-being as a core educational priority. The directive follows the Supreme Court's July 2025 judgment emphasising proactive psychological support in schools.

Under the new guidelines, all teaching and non-teaching staff must undergo mandatory mental-health training twice a year by certified professionals. Training will cover psychological first aid, recognising distress signals, responding to self-harm risks, and referral mechanisms. Schools must also maintain anonymous records and publish annual reports detailing

## IITS PLAN NATIONWIDE UG EXCHANGE WITH CREDIT TRANSFER ACROSS 23 CAMPUSES

Undergraduate education across India's IIT network is set to become more flexible and interconnected, as the institutes move toward allowing students to study across all 23 IIT campuses with seamless credit transfer. The IIT Council has recommended enabling about 5% of undergraduate students to take courses, electives, internships, or specialised training at another IIT without affecting their degree progress.

The proposed exchange aims to expand academic choice by giving students access to subject experts, niche electives, and facilities not available at their home campus. Students admitted under sports or cultural excellence categories could also spend a semester at IITs offering superior coaching or infrastructure in their field.

The initiative builds on curricular flexibility already introduced in some IITs, such as keeping a semester open for internships or electives. Inter-IIT mobility would allow students to use



this window for cross-campus learning rather than postponing coursework.

Implementation details are being finalised, with each IIT required to approve the framework through its Senate. Practical issues such as hostel capacity and balanced student flow are under review.

The Council has also proposed extending credit-sharing to NITs, IIITs, IISERs, and NLU—signalling a move toward a nationally networked, multi-campus higher education system.

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## RS. 4,000-CRORE MAHADRSHTI PLAN SET TO TRANSFORM SKILL TRAINING IN MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra is set for a sweeping transformation of its vocational education ecosystem after the Centre approved the state's ambitious Mahadrishti skill development project, unlocking nearly ₹4,000 crore in financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The initiative seeks to modernise training infrastructure, expand access to industry-relevant skills, and bridge persistent employability gaps—especially in rural and remote regions where opportunities remain limited.

Cleared by the Union Finance Ministry's screening committee, Mahadrishti focuses on upgrading Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), many of which currently operate with outdated equipment and weak placement outcomes. Under the project, institutes will be refurbished or rebuilt and equipped with advanced machinery aligned with contemporary manufacturing, services, and emerging technology sectors, ensuring trainees gain hands-on experience with industry-standard tools. State Skill Development Minister Mangal Prabhat

Lodha said the project aims to align training with real industry demand while improving access for disadvantaged groups. Dedicated provisions for women trainees are expected to boost workforce participation and promote inclusive economic growth.

Mahadrishti will also integrate existing initiatives such as the World Bank-supported Daksh project and the PM-SETU scheme under a unified framework to enhance efficiency, standardise certification quality, and strengthen employer confidence in vocational graduates.

The ADB-backed expansion is expected to train several lakh youth and shift Maharashtra's skilling model from certificate-based instruction to competency-driven employment, supporting manufacturing growth, investment, and long-term economic development.

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## IIT MADRAS-FINLAND LAUNCH VAYYU CENTRE FOR CLIMATE RESEARCH



In a major step toward global climate collaboration, IIT Madras and the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) have jointly launched the VAYYU (Vaayu) Climate Research Centre, aimed at advancing atmospheric and climate science through international research and academic exchange. The initiative is supported by a ₹107-crore "Cryosphere and Atmosphere" (CRYOSCOPE) project, focusing on air quality, climate change, and Himalayan environmental systems.

The VAYYU Centre will promote interdisciplinary research on aerosols, weather dynamics, climate modelling, and pollution patterns, particularly across South Asia's sensitive mountain and urban ecosystems. A key priority is

studying how atmospheric changes affect glaciers, water resources, and regional climate stability in the Himalayas—an area critical to India's long-term environmental security.

The partnership also includes faculty exchange programmes, joint doctoral supervision, shared research infrastructure, and collaborative field studies between Indian and Finnish scientists. Experts believe such cross-continental cooperation will strengthen data-driven climate solutions and build advanced research capacity in India.

IIT Madras noted that the centre will help train young researchers in cutting-edge climate science while supporting evidence-based policy and sustainable development strategies. By linking India's environmental challenges with global expertise, the VAYYU initiative positions the country at the forefront of collaborative climate research in the Global South.

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## PM INTERNSHIP SCHEME 2026: 1 LAKH CA FIRMS TO MENTOR YOUTH



India's flagship PM Internship Scheme is set to expand significantly in 2026, with nearly one lakh Chartered Accountant (CA) firms expected to offer structured internship opportunities to young aspirants. The initiative aims to bridge the persistent gap between academic learning and industry readiness by embedding practical training within professional education pathways.

Under the proposed expansion, CA firms across the country will onboard interns in areas such as accounting, auditing, taxation, compliance, financial reporting, and advisory services. The move is expected to open large-scale exposure opportunities, particularly for commerce and finance students seeking early career orientation in the professional services sector.

Officials indicate that the scheme will focus on hands-on learning, mentorship, and workplace experience, enabling youth to develop technical competencies alongside professional ethics and client-handling skills. The participation of small and mid-sized CA practices is also expected to strengthen regional access to internships, benefiting students beyond metropolitan centres.

The initiative aligns with the broader national push to integrate skilling with formal education and enhance employability among graduates. By mobilising India's vast network of accounting firms, the PM Internship Scheme seeks to create a decentralised training ecosystem that nurtures job-ready talent and supports the country's growing financial and compliance workforce needs.

If implemented at scale, the programme could become one of India's largest profession-linked internship platforms for youth.

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Durgesh K. Dubey

## FROM WARM GESTURES TO BIG TECH AMBITIONS: INDIA AND FRANCE LAUNCH A NEW INNOVATION CHAPTER

A short car ride through Mumbai on Tuesday became a quietly powerful symbol of where India–France relations are headed next. After a full round of bilateral meetings and formal engagements, the leaders of the two countries travelled together to the India–France Innovation Forum—an image that signalled more than personal comfort. It reflected a partnership that is increasingly moving beyond diplomacy into the everyday language of technology, industry, security and people-to-people opportunity.

The visit was anchored in a larger message: India and France want their relationship to operate at a global scale, with a sharper focus on innovation-led growth, strategic autonomy and practical cooperation. The two sides agreed to elevate their relationship to a “Special Global Strategic Partnership,” a step meant to guide joint work for decades rather than years. In a world shaped by uncertain alliances, supply-chain stress, and fast-moving technology, this upgraded framework aims to create predictability—both for governments and for businesses that need stable partners.

At the heart of this renewed push is the India–France Year of Innovation 2026, launched in Mumbai. The idea is not ceremonial. The plan is to connect startups, universities, research institutions and industry on both sides through high-impact collaborations across areas such as artificial intelligence, cyberspace, healthcare, climate solutions, sustainable development, education, and the cultural and creative economy. A digital bridge is also being planned through an innovation network designed to help innovators and investors find each other faster

and work together more easily.

Artificial intelligence emerged as a defining thread. The discussions highlighted the promise of AI in healthcare, agriculture, climate monitoring and productivity, while also recognising that public trust, safety and fairness will decide how useful AI ultimately becomes. Both sides underlined the importance of widening access to AI resources, bridging capability gaps, and building a model of AI that supports society rather than deepening inequality or dependence.

The partnership is also widening in hard strategic areas. Defence cooperation is being framed around co-design, co-development and co-production, with an emphasis on advanced platforms and emerging dual-use technologies. Collaboration in space is set to deepen further, including climate-focused satellite work and stronger capacity for space situational awareness. The leaders also signalled intent to build more resilient supply chains for critical minerals and rare earths—resources that are increasingly vital for green energy, electronics and next-generation manufacturing.

On the economic side, both countries spoke of accelerating trade, investment and trusted value chains. The focus is on strengthening “reliable” supply links, improving economic security, and supporting innovation-driven enterprises, including smaller firms and startups. Cooperation is also expanding in railways and next-generation mobility, including potential work in high-speed rail and even hydrogen-powered trains—an area where future infrastructure could align with sustainability goals.



Beyond high technology and geopolitics, the human dimension was placed firmly at the centre. Plans to expand student mobility, deepen academic partnerships, strengthen skill development, and widen cultural exchange featured prominently. Easier digital payments and smoother travel experiences are also expected to strengthen tourism and everyday connectivity, making the relationship more visible not just in official statements, but in ordinary lives.

Taken together, the Mumbai meetings and the Innovation Forum suggest a clear direction: India and France are trying to build a partnership that is warm in spirit, but also serious in outcomes—one that links science to society, industry to opportunity, and strategic cooperation to long-term stability.

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## INDIA'S AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026 SIGNALS A “THIRD PATH” FOR GLOBAL AI : BROADER AND MORE INCLUSIVE TECH FUTURE”



The India AI Impact Summit 2026 concluded in New Delhi with a clear message that the next chapter of artificial intelligence should not be shaped by only two power centres. Over five packed days at Bharat Mandapam, the event positioned India as a convenor for a wider AI conversation—one that gives equal importance to opportunity and safeguards, innovation and inclusion, speed and responsibility. The summit drew strong international participation, with leaders and ministerial delegations from across regions, and a noticeable emphasis on the priorities of developing economies.

Organisers described the gathering as a milestone in scale and reach. Large crowds visited the exhibition space, where global technology firms and a large number of young founders demonstrated applications ranging from agriculture and healthcare to accessibility tools for persons with disabilities and solutions for multilingual populations. The focus on “impact” was deliberate: instead of treating AI as a distant frontier topic, discussions repeatedly returned to how countries can adapt AI to local languages, cultures, public services, and small-business needs.

One of the summit's biggest outcomes was the volume of investment interest it attracted. Announcements and pledges around data infrastructure, computing capacity and AI-ready facilities were framed as long-term bets on India as a serious AI hub. Venture capital commitments toward deep-tech and early-stage innovation were also highlighted, signaling that investors are looking beyond consumer apps to longer-gestation research and product building. For India's startup ecosystem, this matters because AI innovation increasingly depends on expensive compute, patient capital, and access to real-world datasets and deployment environments.

The week was not without visible friction. With hundreds of thousands of registrations, the summit faced the familiar growing pains of mega-events: long lines, crowding complaints, traffic disruptions and travel-related hurdles for some participants. A few high-profile absences also drew attention, and a brief controversy around a misattributed

demonstration went viral—offering a reminder that credibility and transparency are as important as excitement in high-stakes technology gatherings. Yet even critics conceded that the event widened participation far beyond earlier, more exclusive global AI summits.

Diplomatically, the summit helped amplify a “third-path” framing: AI governance that is neither tightly centralised nor purely laissez-faire, but grounded in local context and social outcomes. Policy conversations expanded beyond headline risks to include jobs, labour transitions, data for measuring real economic impact, and improving model performance across languages and cultures. Voluntary commitments around impact measurement and linguistic inclusion underscored that “safety” is increasingly being interpreted as social resilience—not only cybersecurity.

Strategically, the summit also signaled India's intention to build stronger partnerships on critical AI inputs—especially computing hardware and resilient supply chains for key minerals and components. Technology cooperation announcements, new corporate partnerships, and the growing role of data centres were repeatedly framed as essential to building the full AI stack domestically.

For citizens, the implications are tangible: if follow-through matches ambition, the summit's momentum could translate into better digital services, smarter agriculture and health delivery, new jobs in data infrastructure and AI deployment, and a stronger pipeline for homegrown solutions that work in Indian languages and real-life conditions. For the world, the event offered a broader proposition—that AI's future can be competitive without being confrontational, and global without ignoring the Global South.

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Dr. (Mrs) Chandra Hariharan Iyer

EXPERT



dilemmas, often emerges from fear, uncertainty, or the desire to avoid conflict. Employees may worry about retaliation, harming relationships, or overstepping authority. However, as the Subhashitam “धर्मेण हि मानवाः संज्ञन्ते, अन्यथा तु विनश्यन्ति” reminds us, human systems and social structures endure only when guided by dharma. In organizations, dharma translates to adherence to ethical norms, accountability, and mutual responsibility. Failing to report misconduct, therefore, not only compromises organizational integrity but also undermines the very framework that allows work environments to function harmoniously. Silence becomes complicity, allowing wrongdoing to continue unchecked and potentially emboldening unethical behavior.

Ethical culture in the workplace thrives on clarity, communication, and empowerment. Employees must know not only what constitutes ethical behavior but also the appropriate steps to address violations. The Subhashitam “स्वभावो नोपदेशेन शक्यते कर्तुमन्यथा; सुतप्तमपि पानीयं पुनर्गच्छति शीतताम्” teaches that understanding human tendencies is essential; guidance alone cannot ensure ethical behavior. Practical training, scenario-based discussions, and clear escalation procedures equip employees to act decisively. In the Wells Dairy case, the director's post-incident meetings with staff to clarify steps highlight the necessity of education and explicit instructions. Organizations must ensure that employees know how to approach offenders respectfully, escalate issues to the appropriate authority, and document incidents—transforming potential silence into informed action.

Gossip and rumor often fill the void created by silence. When employees are unsure how to respond to misconduct, discussions behind the scenes can shift from concern to speculation, creating distraction, mistrust, and decreased productivity. The Subhashitam “कृतज्ञता एव साधूनां भूषणं हि परं स्मृतम्; अकृतज्ञः पुरुषः पापी लोकद्विष एव च” highlights the virtue of responsibility and acknowledgment in maintaining harmony. Applying this wisdom to workplace ethics, addressing issues openly and constructively fosters transparency, discourages gossip, and strengthens relational trust. Employees who act responsibly enhance collective morale, while those who remain silent—intentionally or unintentionally—erode ethical cohesion.

Silence also affects the development of ethical leadership within organizations. Leaders are often judged not just by their actions but by how others in the organization respond to ethical challenges. Employees who speak up when necessary contribute to a culture of accountability, reinforcing the ethical vision of leadership. Conversely, pervasive silence signals tacit

approval of misconduct, undermining leaders' authority and weakening organizational norms. Ethical leadership is thus inseparable from a workforce empowered and willing to voice concerns responsibly. Psychologically, silence can create internal conflict and stress for employees who witness wrongdoing but feel unable to act. The Subhashitam “क्षमा बलं अशक्तानां, शक्तानां भूषणं मतम्” emphasizes that strength lies in patience and moral courage. Remaining silent may temporarily avoid confrontation but accumulates inner tension, guilt, and anxiety. By contrast, taking informed action following established protocols and ethical guidance—transforms potential stress into proactive engagement, aligning personal integrity with organizational responsibility. Employees who learn to act ethically, even in difficult situations, develop confidence, resilience, and moral clarity.

Ethical dilemmas often involve nuanced decisions rather than clear-cut right and wrong choices. subhashitam such as “फलमूलाश्रिता नित्यं नापि मूलफला वनाः; संगमूलाश्रिता नित्यं नापि मोक्षफला नराः” remind us that attachment to outcomes without understanding principles leads to failure. When addressing misconduct, employees should focus on following the correct ethical process rather than predicting the result or fearing backlash. Reporting an issue may initially create tension but ultimately safeguards the organization, colleagues, and the individual's integrity. Properly framed policies and education provide this procedural clarity, transforming uncertainty into ethical action.

Organizations must cultivate a culture that reduces the barriers to reporting and ensures protective mechanisms for whistleblowers. subhashitam teach that a duty-bound individual prioritizes collective wellbeing over personal convenience. The Subhashitam “अन्येभ्यः परं कर्तव्यम्, स्वार्थं परित्यजेत् शीलवान्” reiterates that self-interest should not outweigh responsibility. By implementing anonymous reporting channels, clear escalation procedures, and regular reinforcement of ethical expectations, companies empower employees to act without fear. A culture that encourages action over silence signals that ethical vigilance is valued, and misconduct will not be ignored.

Finally, silence undermines accountability at every level. The Subhashitam “मन एव मनुष्याणां कारणं बन्धमोक्षयोः; बन्धाय विषयासक्तं मुक्त्यै निर्विषयम् स्मृतम्” reminds us that the mind governs both bondage and liberation. In workplace terms, failure to act ethically—through silence—binds employees, teams, and organizations to preventable consequences. Conversely, informed and timely action liberates the organization from potential harm and reinforces a culture of integrity. Silence, even with good intentions, becomes a

passive endorsement of wrongdoing, while deliberate action upholds ethical principles and sustains trust.

In conclusion, silence in the face of ethical dilemmas does more harm than good. Ancient wisdom, expressed in subhashitam such as “अन्येभ्यः परं कर्तव्यम्, स्वार्थं परित्यजेत् शीलवान्,” “धर्मेण हि मानवाः संज्ञन्ते, अन्यथा तु विनश्यन्ति,” and “क्षमा बलं अशक्तानां, शक्तानां भूषणं मतम्,” emphasizes duty, moral courage, and the importance of action over inaction. Organizations that equip employees with knowledge, clear procedures, and supportive culture transform silence into ethical engagement. Staff members who act responsibly when faced with dilemmas prevent gossip, reinforce trust, and strengthen organizational integrity. Ethical awareness, combined with procedural guidance, ensures that individuals know how to respond, escalating concerns appropriately while safeguarding themselves and the organization. Ultimately, speaking up and taking informed action fosters a culture of accountability, resilience, and moral clarity, proving that silence, while tempting, cannot replace the enduring value of ethical responsibility.

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### Q. Is Silence Helping or Hurting Your Workplace Ethics?

Ans. Silence in the workplace can often be mistaken for neutrality, patience, or tolerance, but when it comes to ethical conduct, silence is rarely harmless. In organizational contexts, failing to speak up against misconduct or unethical behavior can create a cascade of negative consequences, from eroded trust and diminished morale to legal liabilities and reputational damage. The story of Wells Dairy, where a network employee violated company policy by installing inappropriate content, demonstrates the dangers of silence. Colleagues observed the wrongdoing but did not escalate it promptly, leading to wasted time, gossip, and eventual organizational harm. Ancient Indian wisdom, expressed through subhashitam, emphasizes that inaction in the face of wrongdoing allows ethical decay to take root.

Silence, when confronted with ethical

Ravi Singh

## BEYOND CONTACTS: THE POWER OF MEANINGFUL NETWORKING



based on trust, mutual respect, and shared value. True networking is not transactional; it is transformational. It is about creating bonds where people support each other's growth rather than using each other for temporary gain.

Many students believe that networking is something required only in corporate life. However, the foundation of networking begins in college. Classmates become colleagues, project partners become co-founders, professors become mentors, and event collaborations become career opportunities. Every interaction matters. The relationships built during academic years often open doors in unexpected ways later in life.

One important principle of networking is giving before expecting. When you help others, share knowledge, guide juniors, or support peers, you build goodwill. This goodwill becomes your invisible asset. In professional environments, referrals, recommendations, and collaborations usually come from trusted connections rather than strangers. Employers and business leaders prefer working with people who come through reliable networks.

Mentorship is another powerful dimension of networking. A mentor's guidance can save years of trial and error. Learning from someone's experience accelerates personal and professional development. At the same time, being a mentor to someone else strengthens leadership qualities and builds credibility. Networking, therefore, is not just about horizontal connections; it is also about vertical growth through mentorship.

In the digital era, networking has expanded beyond physical meetings. Platforms like LinkedIn and professional forums provide global

exposure. However, digital presence must reflect authenticity and professionalism. A strong digital identity enhances visibility and strengthens one's network. Yet, even in the age of technology, personal interaction, empathy, and communication skills remain irreplaceable.

Networking also enhances emotional intelligence. When interacting with diverse individuals, one learns patience, adaptability, and communication skills. Understanding different perspectives improves problem-solving abilities and broadens thinking. A strong network exposes individuals to opportunities, ideas, partnerships, and innovations that may otherwise remain inaccessible.

Importantly, networking is not about quantity but quality. Having hundreds of superficial contacts adds little value compared to a few strong, trustworthy connections. Meaningful conversations, consistent follow-ups, and genuine interest in others build lasting relationships. Trust is the true currency of networking.

In conclusion, networks are indeed net-worth because relationships are assets that appreciate over time. Knowledge may give you a qualification, but connections give you opportunities. Skills may make you capable, but networks make you visible. In a world where collaboration drives progress, those who build and nurture strong relationships create a foundation for sustained success. Ultimately, your net worth is not just measured in money; it is measured in the strength of the people who stand beside you on your journey.

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In today's competitive and fast-moving world, success is no longer defined only by degrees, marks, or technical expertise. While knowledge remains important, relationships often determine opportunities. This is why the phrase "Networking is Net-Worth-ing" has become more relevant than ever. Your network—the people you connect with, learn from, and collaborate with—directly influences your growth, exposure, and long-term success.

Networking is not merely exchanging visiting cards or adding contacts on social media platforms. It is about building meaningful relationships

## BEYOND IQ: THE SUPERPOWER THAT TRULY SHAPES SUCCESS

In a world that celebrates high grades, technical expertise, and professional achievements, one powerful quality often remains unnoticed: emotional intelligence. While intelligence quotient (IQ) may help a person solve mathematical problems or crack competitive exams, emotional intelligence (EQ) determines how well a person handles life, relationships, pressure, and leadership. In reality, emotional intelligence is the real superpower.

Emotional intelligence refers to the ability to understand, manage, and express emotions effectively while also being sensitive to the emotions of others. It is about self-awareness, self-control, empathy, motivation, and social skills. A person with high emotional intelligence does not react impulsively; instead, they respond thoughtfully. They understand that emotions are natural, but managing them wisely is a choice.

In classrooms and workplaces, we often see individuals who are academically brilliant but struggle with teamwork or communication. On the other hand, some average students excel as leaders because they know how to inspire, listen, and build trust. This difference is not about intelligence; it is about emotional maturity. Emotional intelligence helps in conflict resolution, relationship building, and effective communication—all of which are essential for long-term success.

One of the most important aspects of emotional intelligence is self-awareness. When individuals recognize their strengths and weaknesses, they become more confident and less defensive. They accept criticism as feedback rather than as a personal attack. This mindset leads to continuous growth. Self-regulation, another component, helps people stay calm during stressful situations. Instead of reacting in anger or frustration, emotionally intelligent individuals pause, reflect, and respond with clarity.

Empathy perhaps the most beautiful dimension of emotional intelligence. It allows us to step into someone else's shoes and understand their feelings. In today's competitive world, empathy builds stronger communities. A teacher who understands a student's anxiety, a leader who values employees' concerns, or a friend who listens without judgment all demonstrate emotional intelligence in action.

Emotional intelligence also plays a vital role in leadership. True leaders do not command respect through authority; they earn it through understanding and connection. They motivate teams not by pressure but by encouragement. In fact, many successful entrepreneurs and public figures attribute their achievements to strong interpersonal skills rather than just technical knowledge.

For students and young professionals, developing emotional intelligence is crucial. It improves decision-making, reduces stress, enhances academic performance, and strengthens personal relationships. Simple habits such as active listening, mindful reflection, journaling emotions, and practicing gratitude can significantly improve emotional awareness.

In conclusion, emotional intelligence is not a soft skill; it is a life skill. It shapes our character, influences our relations, and defines our leadership potential. Degrees may open doors, but emotional intelligence keeps them open. In a fast-changing world filled with challenges and competition, those who master their emotions truly possess the real superpower.

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Afreen Mazgaonkar & Mosina

## NASA'S ARTEMIS II MOON MISSION DELAYED AFTER LAST-MINUTE ROCKET ISSUE

NASA has postponed its Artemis II Moon mission because of a last-minute rocket problem which emerged during final testing of the rocket system. NASA has postponed its Artemis II mission which planned to send astronauts on a crewed flyby mission around the Moon because engineers found a technical problem with the rocket during final launch tests. The Space Launch System (SLS) rocket showed operational problems which forced engineers to cancel the planned launch date while they worked to fix the technical problems. NASA plans to use Artemis II as its first mission which will take astronauts to depths beyond low Earth orbit since the Apollo missions. The crew consists of astronauts who have complete their

training to become qualified for this historic mission while the delay serves as a necessary safety measure to protect the crew and ensure mission success. NASA officials will conduct a complete examination of the rocket anomaly together with further testing until they find the main reason behind the rocket problem. Space professionals emphasize that complex space missions face various difficulties which exist between levels of natural disappointment. The setback underscores the technical difficulty of deep space exploration, but is not expected to derail the overall Artemis timeline. NASA aims to achieve its lunar mission goals while maintaining maximum mission safety and operational effectiveness.

## UNESCO URGES INDIA TO REVIEW THE ENVIRONMENT IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

A recent report says India really needs to pay attention to the environmental impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This tech is popping up everywhere these days right from education and healthcare to business and even government services. But running AI systems guzzles a ton of electricity and relies on massive data centers, which crank up carbon emissions and energy use big time. According to the report, if AI keeps growing without any planning, it could seriously harm the environment. Cooling those data centers alone takes huge amounts of water and power. Developing countries like India, where climate change and pollution are already serious problems, we absolutely need sustainable AI policies. That doesn't mean we stop AI development cold. Instead of this, the focus should be on ramping up renewable energy, building green data centers, and making AI tools more energy-efficient. The government firstly needs to step with solid rules and monitoring for balance between technology and the environment. In the end, progress of AI matters a lot, but protecting our planet is just as vital. The smart way forward is to engage both together.



## HUMANOID ROBOTS, MULTILINGUAL AI AND MORE UNVEILED ON DAY 2 OF INDIA AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026

The India AI Impact Summit 2026 showed its second day through multiple advanced technologies which developed from India's artificial intelligence research that has become an international power. Researchers studied humanoid robots which featured the ability to interact with people through their operational demonstrations of customer service and industrial operations. The robots equipped with artificial intelligence demonstrate advancements in machine perception and natural language comprehension and independent operation. This shows that intelligent machines will eventually work together with humans in various fields of work. The event showcased multilingual AI models which could

comprehend and produce written material in multiple Indian languages. The AI technologies users in India can access through these models enable people from different language backgrounds to communicate with each other. Developers plan to advance digital accessibility by creating AI solutions which support regional languages. This approach will enable artificial intelligence to reach users who live outside major metropolitan areas. The conference attendees examined ethical AI development because they wanted to create systems which protect user rights while enabling organizations to create AI systems. The talks established the requirement for policies which protect user rights while enabling technological progress. This need applies to AI technologies which now extend into healthcare education, agricultural research and government operations. Business leaders together with academic researchers and startup founders presented case studies which showed how artificial intelligence transforms organizational workflows. The summit established India as an active center for artificial intelligence research which combines technical knowledge with practical applications.

## INDIA-FRANCE DEFENCE TIES: BEGINNING OF A NEW PHASE WITH HAMMER MISSILES AND HELICOPTER

The headline itself makes it clear: deals for "Hammer missiles and choppers" are pushing relations into a whole new phase. It's not just about weapons, it's a big signal of strengthening their strategic partnership. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called France India's oldest strategic partner. He said the relationship is built on trust and a shared vision. The business relationship between India and France extends beyond commercial activities because they aim to establish permanent security partnerships which will contribute to international peace. The present geopolitical situation requires this alliance because current international tensions have reached increased levels. Advanced stuff like Hammer missiles will make India's defense system even more powerful. The chopper deal will boost the Army and Air Force's operational capabilities. It will help with border security and emergency responses. France has already been a partner through Rafale jets, and these new deals are taking things to the next level. Overall, this is not just a defense agreement but a solid step in India's foreign policy. It shows that India is serious about its security and builds trust partnerships on the global stage. This is a new chapter for India & France. Their ties could open doors for even stronger cooperation down through line.



## SHAKIRA ANNOUNCES INDIA TOUR 2026 — FIRST VISIT IN 19 YEARS



Shakira will perform her first concerts in India during 2026 which marks her first return to the country in 19 years according to international pop fans who await her upcoming shows. The Grammy-winning singer will bring her global hits, high-energy performances and signature stage presence to Indian audiences across multiple cities. The India tour will include major performances at leading concert halls because the schedule has been set and the ticket information has been made public. Shakira makes her long-anticipated return to India after more than 19 years since her previous visit. Audiences can watch her popular tracks, performed at energetic live shows infused with music, dance and visual effects that create a concert experience. Music fans can select from different ticket categories that include both early-bird and VIP packages to choose their preferred way of purchasing tickets. The organisers are working together with local partners to create safe high-capacity events which comply with international standards for live entertainment. The public considers Shakira's upcoming India tour as one of the major music shows which will occur in 2026 because it brings global pop culture to Indian stages while satisfying fans who have been waiting for her return. The concerts will offer fans across the country three different musical experiences which combine dance anthems with emotional ballads and an extraordinary live performance.

## ADVANCED UNANI CO-TREATMENT CENTER LAUNCHED AT JJ HOSPITAL MUMBAI

The launch of the Advanced Unani Co-Treatment Center at Mumbai's Sir J.J. Hospital is being hailed as a fresh and positive step for healthcare. The whole idea is to blend traditional Unani medicine with modern allopathic treatments, so patients get better, more holistic care. These days, people aren't just popping pills, they want treatments that truly boost their overall health. Unani has been a go-to in India for years, and tons of folks trust it deeply. At this new center, you'll get modern diagnostics right alongside Unani therapies and consultations. So if someone's dealing with a chronic issue, docs can mix both approaches for a super personalized fix. There's been solid investment poured into this project, showing the government's dead seriousness about integrated healthcare. Experts say when traditional and modern meds team up, the results can be way more effective. Bottom line, this isn't just a new department, it's about making healthcare more inclusive and accessible. For Mumbai patients, it's bringing both hope and real convenience.



Afreen Mazgaonkar & Mosina

## INDIA INDIA'S TOP RIFLE SHOOTERS ARRIVE IN NAVI MUMBAI FOR LAKSHYA CUP INVITATIONAL



The competition will demonstrate precision and skill because India's top rifle shooters will compete against each other while national selectors watch their performance. The Lakshya Cup maintains its reputation of high-level shooting competitions which require shooters to demonstrate their ability to perform at national and international shooting events. The competition will examine accuracy skills of India's top-ranked athletes through various rifle disciplines which include 10m air rifle and 50m rifle events. The shooters have arrived before the opening round because they need to train at the venue to develop their skills and prepare themselves for competition. Elite athletes need to compete in high-level competitions because their experience will help them develop

better competitive skills according to the coaches and support staff. The shooting fan base eagerly anticipates the competition between established shooters and emerging talents because the outcomes will determine which athletes will participate in international competitions for India. The Lakshya Cup serves two purposes because it recognizes shooting excellence and demonstrates India's increasing dominance in the sport through their top shooters who challenge each other to achieve greater success.

## INDIA KISHAN'S BRILLIANT 77 POWERS INDIA TO ANOTHER DOMINANT WIN OVER PAKISTAN IN T20 WORLD CUP

In the T20 World Cup 2026, the two teams faced off again, and this time India came out on top. The star of the show was Ishan Kishan, who smashed a wonderful 77 under pressure and stole everyone's hearts in the stadium. When India came out to bat, they started off a bit cautious. Pakistan's bowling was aggressive as always, but Ishan showed real patience and picked his shots smartly. His innings had those classy cover drives mixed with powerful pulls. Every boundary crashed the stadium vibe more. For fans, this wasn't just a game but purely emotions. In the middle overs, when things got tense, Ishan kept rotating the strike and attacking loose balls to stay in control. His 77 put India in a solid spot. Then the bowlers tightened things up and didn't let Pakistan chase it down. It was another unforgettable win for India, making their head-to-head record 8-1. The India-Pakistan rivalry will always be something special. This match proved once again how crucial it is to stay calm on this big stage. Ishan Kishan's knock wasn't just about the runs but a story of confidence and faith. Fans will remember this win for a long time period.



## INDIA CLINCHES TOP SPOT WITH 43 MEDALS AT DUBAI PARA ATHLETICS GRAND PRIX

The Dubai Para Athletics Grand Prix showed India achieving outstanding results by winning 43 medals from different competitions. The Indian team proved their athletic abilities through their powerful performance at the event which included track events, field events and throwing competitions. The participants showed their best abilities throughout the competition which proved that India has developed into a powerful force in para athletics at the international level. The team achieved its medal success through multiple medal wins which included gold, silver and bronze medals that displayed their skill across different classifications. The Indian team achieved victory through their established para athletes and their new athletes who performed exceptionally well during the difficult competition. The team officials and coaches expressed their approval of the athletes' training work because it produced these results which occurred through their dedicated practice. The team's success results from better support systems which provide improved coaching access and more competitive chances for disabled athletes to participate in international events. The Indians victory in Dubai will increase team spirit before the important upcoming competitions which include regional championships and international qualification tournaments. The performance demonstrates the country's determination to develop para sports excellence while building its international presence. Fans and supporters celebrated the achievement, recognising it as a significant milestone for Indian para athletics.



## 15-YEAR-OLD ARSHIYA DAS MAKES HISTORY AS NORTHEAST INDIA'S FIRST WOMAN INTERNATIONAL MASTER

Arshiya Das who is a fifteen-year-old chess prodigy has become the first Woman International Master from Northeast India. The achievement establishes a crucial landmark for the region's chess scene because it shows how emerging players from previously underrepresented areas have progressed to compete at elite levels. Arshiya achieved her WIM title through outstanding international competition performances which allowed her to fulfill the international chess federation's required performance benchmarks and rating requirements. She demonstrates peak performance through their tactical abilities which combine with their understanding of game dynamics and their advanced competition skills that exceed their current age bracket. The title of Woman International Master places her among the most promising young players in the country. The coaches and supporters recognize Arshiya's mental strength and dedication to her strategic development work. Her story provides the inspiration for the new generation of young chess players in the Northeastern United States who have witnessed through her example that with determination and hard work anyone can achieve levels of unexpected achievement if they put their minds to it. As Arshiya develops her abilities, she will be taking part in International events as she seeks to earn the title of Woman Grandmaster. She became the first US-born Indian woman to achieve this title which brings recognition to her home region and demonstrates India's increasing competitiveness in worldwide chess.



## INDIA HAS LOST THEIR FIFTH CONSECUTIVE MATCH AFTER FACING SPAIN IN THEIR LATEST GAME



The Indian team fought hard and showed competitive performance. However, they could not reach the tactical execution and offensive capabilities which Spain demonstrated. The Indians generated several scoring chances through their ball possession efforts during the match but they failed to convert these opportunities into goals. Spain established control of the game by using their experience to create scoring opportunities which enabled them to apply constant pressure on India throughout most of the match. India has achieved yet another disappointing result which introduces doubts about their ability to maintain consistent performance while executing tactical plans and protecting their goal. According to fans and analysts who study the team, the squad possesses individual players who possess talent but they need to improve their ability to work together during important game situations. India aims to end their current losing streak by developing a strategy which will help them maintain offensive pressure while protecting their goal. The team's coaching staff will reevaluate their current game plans and player selection as they get ready for their next matches, because they need to enhance their team's confidence and achieve a critical victory. The team needs to handle their current string of defeats, which creates difficulties for them while also providing a chance to enhance their playing approach and improve their execution during upcoming games.

## WTT CHENNAI: HARMEET & YASHASWINI SNAG SILVER, MAKING INDIA PROUD

The WTT final in Chennai was nail-biting stuff as Indian duo Harmeet and Yashaswini nailed silver in mixed doubles. Everyone watching was on an emotional high, total proud vibes. These two came out swinging from the start, fighting tooth and nail for every point. Just reaching the final is huge with that insane international competition. Their on-court chemistry was like fire and one could see the perfect mix of attack and defense. There were moments where it felt like the match could flip their way, but the opponents held tough too. Silver might not have been the dream, but man, it screams hard work paying off. Every tourney teaches you something, and this'll fuel their next big wins. Chennai fans' cheers kept them going strong. This win's injecting fresh energy into Indian table tennis. For young players, it's a proof to grind consistently, team up right, and can shine globally. Harmeet and Yashaswini's journey is just the start of even bigger things.



Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay & Ajab Tinwala

## RBI ASSISTANT RECRUITMENT 2026



Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's central banking authority, invites online applications from eligible Indian citizens for Assistant posts in various regional offices under Panel Year 2025. This is an excellent opportunity for fresh graduates to join India's premier financial institution. Online registration is open from 16 February 2026 to 08 March 2026 at [opportunities.rbi.org.in](https://opportunities.rbi.org.in).

### Vacancy Details

- Post: Assistant
- Total Vacancies: 650
- Job Location: RBI Offices across India
- Major Offices: Mumbai (249), Chennai (53), Kanpur-Lucknow (50), New Delhi (49), Guwahati (36) & others

### Salary & Benefits

- Basic Pay: ₹29,000/month
- Gross Emoluments: ≈ ₹58,514/month (without HRA)
- Pay Scale: ₹29,000–78,640 + allowances, medical, pension & RBI benefits

### Eligibility

- Age: 20–28 years (as on 01 Feb 2026; relaxations applicable)
- Qualification: Bachelor's Degree with ≥50% marks (pass for SC/ST/PwBD)
- Skills: Word processing knowledge + proficiency in local language of applied office

### Selection Process

- Preliminary Exam (Online)
- Main Exam (Online)
- Language Proficiency Test (LPT)
- Document Verification & Medical

### Important Dates

- Application Window: 16 Feb–08 Mar 2026
- Prelims Exam: 11 Apr 2026
- Mains Exam: 07 Jun 2026
- Print Application: till 23 Mar 2026

### Application Fee

- Gen/OBC/EWS: ₹450 + GST
- SC/ST/PwBD/Ex-Servicemen: ₹50 + GST
- RBI Staff: Nil

### How to Apply

- Visit [opportunities.rbi.org.in](https://opportunities.rbi.org.in) → RBI Assistant 2026 → Register → Fill form → Upload documents → Pay fee → Submit.

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

## CHHATTISGARH VYAPAM RECRUITMENT 2026 – APPLY ONLINE FOR 200 SUB INSPECTOR POSTS



The Chhattisgarh Vyavsayik Pariksha Mandal has released the Sub Inspector Recruitment 2026 notification. Online applications are invited from eligible local residents of Chhattisgarh for direct recruitment under the Chhattisgarh State Agricultural Marketing (Mandi)

- Years
- Maximum Age: 35 Years
- (As on 01 January 2026)
- Age Relaxation: Applicable as per Government of Chhattisgarh rules.
- Educational Qualification: Candidates must

Board. This is a great opportunity for graduates seeking a permanent government job in Chhattisgarh.

- **Organization:** Chhattisgarh Vyavsayik Pariksha Mandal (CG VyaPaM)
- Post Offered: Sub Inspector
- Total Vacancies: 200 Posts
- Job Location: Chhattisgarh
- Work Type: Permanent

### Eligibility Criteria

- Age Limit:
- Minimum Age: 21

possess a Graduation Degree from a recognized university.

### Selection Process:

- Written Competitive Examination
- Document Verification
- Medical Examination

### Important Dates:

- Online Application Starts: 06 February 2026
- Last Date to Apply: 27 February 2026
- Application Mode: Online Only

### How to Apply:

- Candidates must apply online through the official website of
- Chhattisgarh Vyavsayik Pariksha Mandal
- Complete the online registration, fill out the application form carefully, upload required documents, and submit the form before the closing date.
- For complete details, candidates are advised to refer to the official recruitment notification available on the CG VyaPaM website.

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

## INDIAN ARMY AGNIVEER RECRUITMENT 2026 – APPLY ONLINE FOR 25,000+ VACANCIES

Indian Army invites online applications from eligible male and female candidates for Agniveer Recruitment 2026-27 under the Agnipath Scheme. This is a prestigious opportunity for youth to serve the nation across multiple technical and combat roles. Online registration is open from 13 February to 01 April 2026 at the official portal [joinindianarmy.nic.in](https://joinindianarmy.nic.in).

### Vacancy & Posts

- Total Vacancies: 25,000+
- Categories:
- Agniveer General Duty (GD)
- Agniveer Technical
- Clerk / Storekeeper Technical
- Tradesman
- Soldier Technical Nursing Assistant
- Soldier Pharma
- Women Military Police

### Salary & Benefits

- 1st Year: ₹30,000/month (₹21,000 in-hand)
- 2nd Year: ₹35,000
- 3rd Year: ₹40,000
- 4th Year: ₹40,000 (₹28,000 in-hand approx.)
- 30% contribution to Agniveer Corpus Fund (matched by Govt.)
- Seva Nidhi Package after 4 years + skill certification

### Eligibility

- Age: As per Agnipath norms (17½–21 years



- approx., post-wise)
- Qualification: 10th / 12th / Science / ITI / Diploma (role-wise)
- Medical & Physical Standards: As per Army rules

### Selection Process

- Computer-Based Test (CEE) – GK, Science, Maths, English, Reasoning
- Recruitment Rally – 1.6 km run, pull-ups, balance & ditch tests
- Medical & Document Verification

### Important Dates

- Registration Start: 13 Feb 2026
- Last Date: 01 Apr 2026
- CEE Exam: As scheduled by Army

### How to Apply

- Visit [joinindianarmy.nic.in](https://joinindianarmy.nic.in) → Agniveer 2026 Registration → Fill form → Upload documents → Submit online.

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

Deepika Singh

## QUIZ TIME

1. Which country topped the Winter Olympics 2026 medal table?
2. Who won the women's halfpipe gold at the 2026 Winter Olympics?
3. Which country won men's ice hockey gold at the 2026 Winter Olympics?
4. Which natural disaster recently hit Madagascar?
5. Which country held a major general election in February 2026?
6. What is India's new CPI base year adopted recently?
7. Which major global sporting event concluded last week in Italy?
8. Which global security conference was held in Munich recently?
9. Which term sparked controversy in Gujarat's marriage registration debate?
10. Which Swiss city hosts the International Olympic Committee headquarters?

## RIDDLES

1. I give sweet red fruit and keep the doctor away. Who am I?
2. I am tall and slim, and my fruit gives you water on the beach. Who am I?
3. My leaves look like hands, and I am a symbol on Canada's flag. Who am I?
4. I am known as the king of fruits and grow in summer. Who am I?
5. I have thorns and beautiful flowers, but I am not a tree — still people call me one. Who am I?
6. I am very strong wood and used for furniture and ships. Who am I?
7. I shed my leaves in autumn and grow them again in spring. Who am I?

1. Apple
2. Coconut
3. Maple
4. Mango
5. Banana
6. Teak
7. Oak

### ANSWERS

10. Lausanne
9. Jihad
8. MSC
7. Olympics
6. 2024
5. Japan
4. Cystone
3. USA
2. Eileen Gu
1. Norway

### QUIZ TIME

### ANSWERS



## CREAMY TOFU TIKKA MASALA

This Week, We're Relishing Creamy Tofu Tikka Masala – Earthy, Aromatic, and Comfortingly Traditional!

**C**reamy Tofu Tikka Masala is a delicious vegetarian alternative to the popular butter chicken. This dish captures the same rich, creamy texture and bold Indian flavors while replacing chicken with protein-rich tofu. Perfect for weeknight dinners or special occasions, it offers a satisfying and wholesome meal that pairs beautifully with Indian breads and rice.

### Ingredients:

- 250 grams firm tofu (cut into cubes), 2 medium tomatoes (pureed), 1 medium onion (finely chopped), 1 tablespoon ginger-garlic paste, 10–12 cashews (soaked in warm water), 1 teaspoon garam masala, 1 teaspoon red chilli powder, ½ teaspoon turmeric powder, 2 tablespoons butter or oil, 2 tablespoons fresh cream, Salt to taste

### Preparation

- Lightly pan-fry tofu with a little oil, turmeric, and salt until slightly golden. Keep aside.
- Heat butter/oil in a pan and sauté onions until soft.
- Add ginger-garlic paste and cook for 1 minute.
- Add tomato puree, turmeric, chilli powder, garam masala, and salt. Cook until thick and oil separates.
- Blend cashews into a smooth paste and mix into the gravy.
- Add fried tofu and simmer for 5–7 minutes.
- Stir in fresh cream, cook for another minute, and switch off the heat.



### Serving Tip:

Serve hot with naan, roti, or jeera rice.

### 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](mailto:thehulahultimes@gmail.com)
- Subject Line: ARTWORK
- Include: Your Name, Age, School/College Name, and Phone Number

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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+91-7977005423

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For free subscription of e-newspaper mail on

[thehulahultimes@gmail.com](mailto:thehulahultimes@gmail.com)

### For Internship

Please mail your updated CV on [hr.hulahulfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:hr.hulahulfoundation@gmail.com)

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