

A Weekly E-newspaper Initiative of the HULAHUL FOUNDATION

THE HULAHUL TIMES

Evolving Today For A Better Tomorrow



Ravi Singh & Delisha Gupta

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CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES: THE SPIRIT OF WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

21 MARCH | **World Down Syndrome Day**
Together Against Loneliness



Earlier, people with this condition were often misunderstood and excluded from mainstream society. Today, thanks to awareness campaigns, inclusive education, and supportive communities, individuals with Down syndrome are increasingly participating in schools, office, and public services. Many have become successful artists, athletes, actors, chartered accountants, and advocates, proving that limitations are often created by society rather than by the individual.

Everyone feels lonely sometimes. But for many people with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities, loneliness is a more common and painful experience. Their families can feel lonely too, and feel cut off from support. Loneliness can feel like different things - Not having a group of friends or a community to belong to. Not having a close, special person to share your feelings with.

One of the most popular initiatives associated with World Down Syndrome Day is the "Lots of Socks" campaign. On this day, people across the world wear colorful or mismatched socks to spark conversations about Down syndrome. The socks resemble the shape of chromosomes and serve as a playful yet powerful way to encourage discussions about diversity and inclusion. What begins as a small act of wearing bright socks can lead to meaningful conversations and greater awareness.

Wear Blue and Yellow are the official colors of Down syndrome awareness. Show your support by wearing these colors throughout the month, whether through clothing, accessories, or ribbons

The global significance of this day increased when the United Nations officially recognized World Down Syndrome Day in 2012. Since then, governments, organizations, schools, and communities around the world have used this day to advocate for the rights and well-being of individuals with Down syndrome. Events, workshops, campaigns, and social media movements all contribute to spreading knowledge and encouraging acceptance.

It is also important to recognize the role of families, teachers, and caregivers who provide continuous support and encouragement. Their dedication helps individuals with Down syndrome develop confidence and skills to navigate the world. Society, in turn, must ensure that these individuals are not treated with pity but with respect and equality.

In a society that often celebrates perfection, people with Down syndrome gently remind us of something far more important: the beauty of acceptance, the strength of resilience, and the joy of being unapologetically human.

World Down Syndrome Day is a global healthcare event observed every year on the 21st of March to raise awareness about the disease and voice in support of friends and family of the person affected by Down Syndrome. More than just an awareness campaign, the day serves as a reminder that every individual deserves dignity, opportunities, and acceptance in society.

Down syndrome occurs when a person is born with an extra copy of chromosome 21. This additional genetic material can influence physical development and learning abilities. The date 21/3 itself symbolizes this condition representing the triplication of the 21st chromosome. While the condition may present certain challenges, it does not define the value, potential, or happiness of a person.

A common activity is wearing colorful or mismatched socks, to show support for people with Down syndrome. Socks are shaped somewhat like chromosomes.

An , Freebird, was created to recognize World Down Syndrome Day in 2021. The film, written and directed by Michael Joseph McDonald, was set to the song, "Freedom" by Jordan Hart, and won the Chicago International Children's Film Festival in 2021.

Over the years, perceptions about Down syndrome have gradually begun to change.



Durgesh K. Dubey

PRATAPARUDRA DEVA OF THE KAKATIYA DYNASTY: A KING WHO CHOSE HONOUR ABOVE ALL

In the fertile plains of the Deccan, where the city of Warangal once stood as a symbol of prosperity and strength, the Kakatiya dynasty ruled with a vision of justice, courage, and cultural pride. Among its most remembered rulers was Prataparudra Deva, a king whose life reflected both the glory and the trials of leadership. He inherited a legacy built by great rulers like Ganapati Deva and the legendary queen Rudrama Devi. But Prataparudra's story is not remembered only for power; it is remembered for the values he carried during the most difficult moments of his life.

Prataparudra was raised in an atmosphere where courage and responsibility were considered the true ornaments of a ruler. As a young prince, he was trained not only in warfare but also in governance, literature, and the ethical principles of kingship. The Kakatiya kingdom was known for its strong fortifications, efficient irrigation systems, and patronage of arts and temples. When Prataparudra ascended the throne, he inherited a prosperous kingdom but also a time of growing political challenges from powerful forces beyond the Deccan.

Despite his youth, the king displayed remarkable maturity. He believed that a ruler must first serve his people before seeking glory for himself. Farmers, artisans, and soldiers alike felt protected under his administration. Historical accounts mention that Prataparudra paid great attention to irrigation and agriculture, ensuring that the tanks and reservoirs built by his predecessors continued to support the prosperity of the land.

The Test of Courage

However, history often tests leaders not during peace but during crisis. During Prataparudra's reign, the powerful armies of the Delhi Sultanate began expanding toward the south. Warangal, the proud capital of the Kakatiya kingdom, soon became their target.

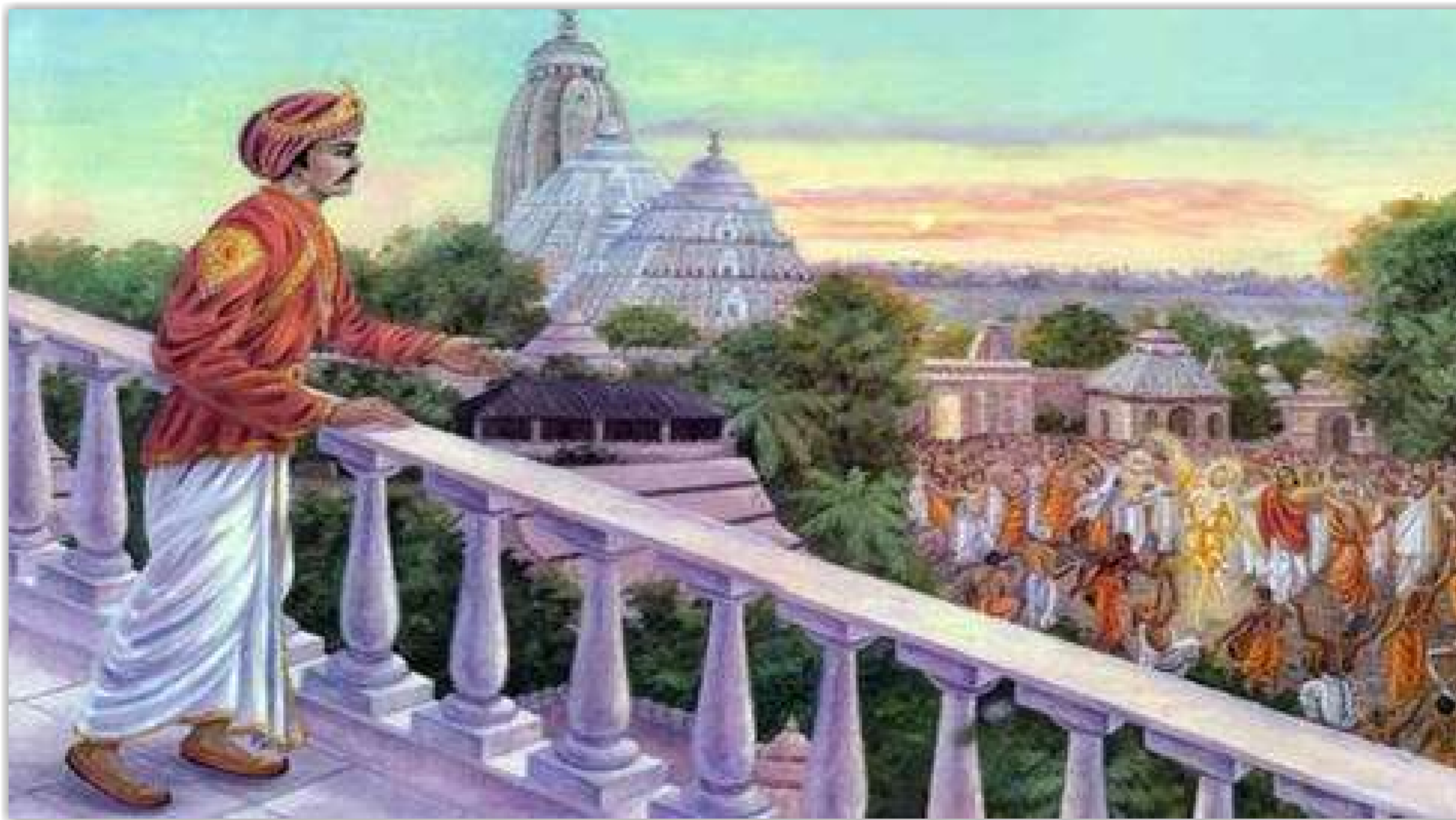
The invasions were not simple skirmishes. They were massive campaigns that threatened the very independence of the region. Many rulers in similar circumstances surrendered quickly to protect their power, but Prataparudra believed that a king must defend the dignity of his land.

When the invading armies first reached the borders of his kingdom, Prataparudra did not respond with panic. Instead, he gathered his commanders and addressed them calmly. He reminded them that kingdoms rise and fall, but honour remains the true measure of a ruler. He urged his soldiers to fight not for revenge but for the protection of their people and traditions.

The fortress of Warangal became the centre of resistance. Its walls echoed with the determination of warriors who knew they were defending more than a city—they were defending their identity.

Leadership in Adversity

During the siege, Prataparudra showed the qualities of a true leader. He did not hide behind palace walls while soldiers fought outside. Instead, he personally supervised the defence of the fort and ensured that supplies were distributed fairly among the people. The citizens of Warangal saw their king standing beside



them, sharing both hope and hardship.

One story often told in local traditions describes how the king encouraged a young soldier who had lost confidence during the siege. Instead of criticizing him, Prataparudra reminded the young warrior that courage does not mean absence of fear. Courage means standing firm even when fear exists. Those words strengthened the soldier, who later fought bravely in the defence of the city.

Such moments reveal the human side of Prataparudra's leadership. He understood that armies are not moved by commands alone; they are moved by trust and inspiration.

The Fall of Warangal

Despite the courage of the defenders, the power of the invading armies eventually proved overwhelming. Warangal, after long resistance, fell to the Delhi forces. This was one of the most painful chapters in the history of the Kakatiya dynasty.

Yet even in defeat, Prataparudra's dignity did not fade. When he was captured and taken northward as a prisoner, he faced his fate with calm acceptance. Chronicles suggest that he refused to live a life of humiliation after having ruled with honour. His final moments became a symbol of a ruler who valued self-respect above personal survival.

For the people of the Deccan, the fall of Warangal was not merely the end of a kingdom. It was the end of an era that had nurtured prosperity, culture, and regional identity. Yet the memory of Prataparudra Deva lived on as an example of leadership rooted in integrity.

A Legacy Beyond Power

Prataparudra's legacy extends beyond the battlefield. The Kakatiya rulers, including him, left behind a tradition of public welfare that shaped the region for centuries. The large irrigation tanks built during their rule continued to nourish agriculture long after the dynasty disappeared. Temples and monuments constructed under their patronage remain architectural treasures of the Deccan.

More importantly, Prataparudra's story teaches that true leadership is not measured only by victories. Sometimes the greatest test of character appears when defeat becomes unavoidable. In those moments, the way a leader chooses to stand or fall defines the true meaning of courage.

Moral and Conclusion

The life of Prataparudra Deva teaches that leadership is not merely about ruling a kingdom but about protecting dignity, inspiring courage, and standing by one's principles even in adversity. His story reminds us that honour and integrity are greater than temporary success. In modern times, when individuals often seek power and recognition without responsibility, the example of Prataparudra encourages us to cultivate resilience, ethical leadership, and devotion to the greater good. His life shows that a person who stands firm for justice and self-respect leaves behind a legacy far stronger than any throne or fortress.

Ravi Singh & Delisha Gupta

THE SHAH BANO CASE: A LANDMARK MOMENT IN THE FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

In the history of India's legal and social development, the Shah Bano case stands as one of the most debated and significant judgments related to women's rights. The case not only highlighted the struggles of divorced Muslim women but also ignited a nationwide discussion on gender justice, religious laws, and the idea of a Uniform Civil Code in India.

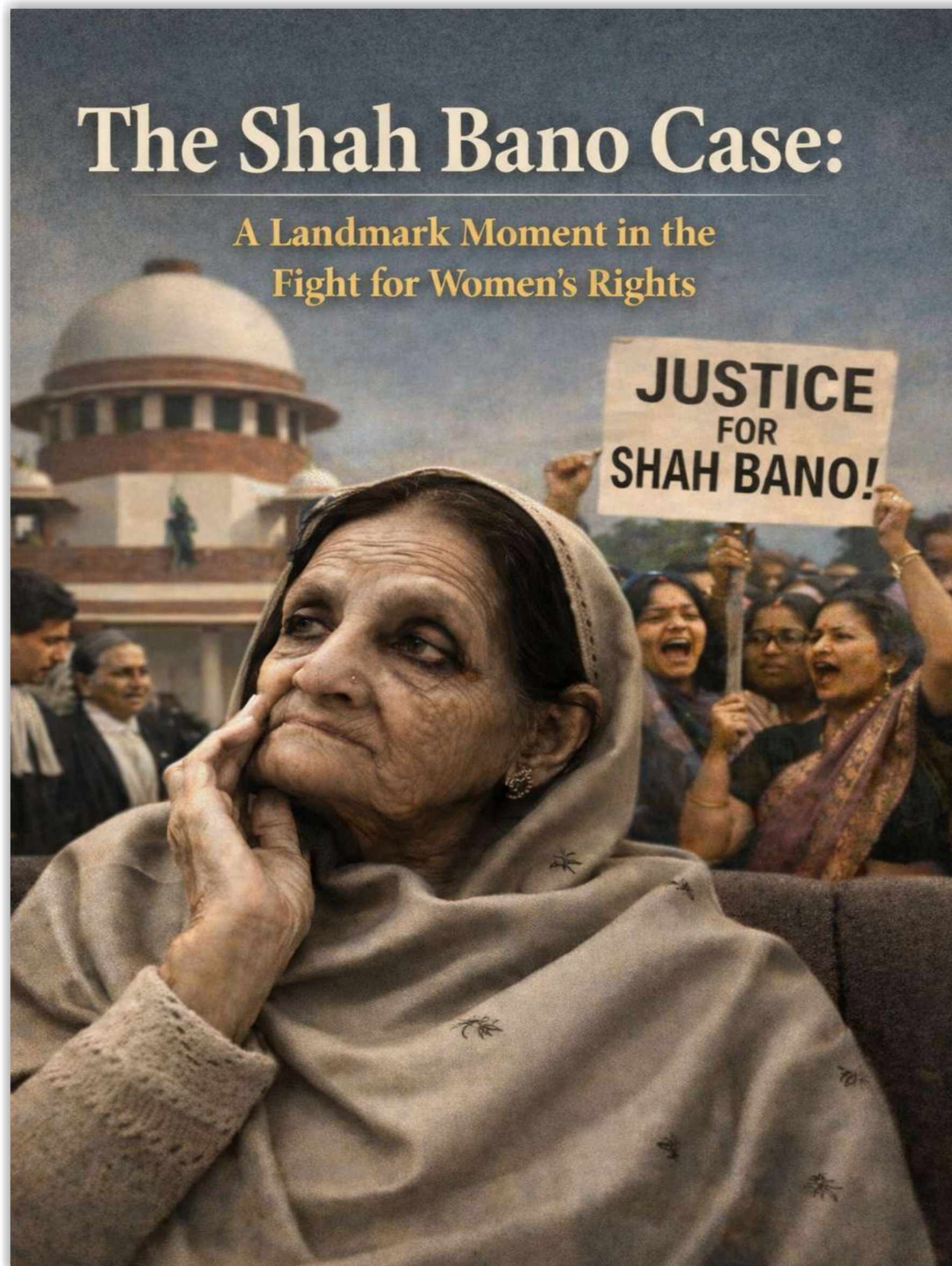
The case revolves around a long battle fought by a Muslim woman, Shah Bano (appellant) against the system of triple talaq for the price of hatred by the community as well as her husband. The appellant got married to the respondent in 1932, who happened to be a renowned advocate in Indore. 14 years after marriage the respondent got married to another woman younger to him and disowned the appellant and his 5 children that he had with her. Three years later to be disowned the appellant brought a petition for maintenance under Sec. 125 of the CrPC, 1973 because the respondent kept her deprived of the monthly maintenance of 200 rupees which he had promised to pay. In the same year he divorced her pronouncing talaq three times instantaneously which could not be revoked. He took the defence that since she does not remain to be his legal wife anymore he was not obliged to provide her maintenance of monthly alimony. At the instant the magistrate directed the respondent to pay her a monthly amount of 25/- after which she pleaded before the Madhya Pradesh HC to increase that amount up to 179 rupees. The court enhanced the amount to 179.20/-. The respondent filed a petition in the Apex court challenging the verdict of the HC pleading that the Islam or Islamic law does not permit to keep a connection with a spouse after divorce and therefore he is not liable to pay her maintenance on a monthly basis.

In this particular case clause 1 of Section 125 mentions about individuals who can claim maintenance, namely:

A wife from the husband. A minor child (whether legitimate or illegitimate) from the father. A minor child (whether legitimate or illegitimate) who is suffering from physical or mental anomaly, from the father. Parents from their son or daughter.

The legal battle eventually reached the Supreme Court of India. In 1985, the Court delivered a historic judgment in favor of Shah Bano. It ruled that a divorced Muslim woman

was entitled to maintenance under Section 125 principles of equality. The Supreme Court also



of the Criminal Procedure Code if she was unable to support herself. The Court emphasized that this law was a secular provision meant to prevent destitution and applied to all citizens regardless of religion.

The judgment was widely seen as a progressive step toward protecting women's rights. It highlighted the need for gender justice and raised questions about the coexistence of religious personal laws and constitutional

principles of equality. The Supreme Court also mentioned the importance of implementing a Uniform Civil Code, a provision mentioned in the Indian Constitution to ensure equal laws for all communities.

However, the decision sparked intense political and religious debates across the country. Some Muslim organizations felt that the judgment interfered with Islamic personal law and religious practices. Amid growing protests and political pressure, the government

led by Rajiv Gandhi took a controversial step. In 1986, Parliament passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986. This law limited a husband's responsibility to provide maintenance only during the iddat period, effectively overturning the broader implications of the Supreme Court's judgment.

After a few years, in 1992, Shah Bano tragically passed away, without knowing that the court decision was overturned once again, and it became a historic moment for women's rights in India. She died after suffering from a fatal brain haemorrhage, nine years before her lawyer re-appealed to the Supreme Court, winning her case.

The passing of this Act became a subject of intense criticism from women's rights activists, legal scholars, and many sections of society. Critics argued that the legislation weakened the progress made by the Supreme Court in ensuring financial security for divorced Muslim women. At the same time, supporters of the Act believed it protected the autonomy of religious personal laws.

Despite facing huge criticism and disagreement from the Muslim community, the Honourable SC played a remarkable role in upholding the decision in the favour of Muslim women's rights. But the aftermath involved the nullifying of the decision by the enactment of the "Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986" by the Congress government. Under immense pressure placed by the Muslim community, the Act said that the Muslim husband's duty to maintain his wife shall extend only to the period of the 'iddat' or 90 days after the divorce and in case a child takes birth up to the period of 2 years since the birth of the child. This brought the culture of Muslim women demanding a one-time lump sum amount of alimony for a lifetime but most of the women who were illiterate or unaware still remained in a helpless condition.

Today, Shah Bano's story is remembered not just as a legal case but as a symbol of resilience. She was an elderly woman who dared to challenge injustice and stand up for her rights. Her struggle showed that even a single voice can influence a nation.

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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.

The future of banking may depend less on who you are and more on how you manage money. For decades, banks understood customers through broad categories such as salary account holders, senior citizens, business clients, high-net-worth customers, students, or loan seekers, offering similar products, services, and communication within each segment. That model is now changing rapidly. Artificial intelligence is enabling banks to understand customers as unique financial profiles shaped by spending behaviour, transaction history, repayment patterns, savings habits, and digital transactions. Banking is becoming increasingly individual, predictive, and data-driven, with decisions now shaped less by labels and more by actual financial behaviour and long-term financial discipline.

From Segments to Financial Profiles

Traditional banking relied on customer segmentation, where groups received standard products and communication. AI now focuses on individual financial habits through real-time behaviour analysis to create individual profiles. Two salaried customers with similar incomes may receive different loan offers because one

SMART BANKING: HOW AI IS REDEFINING CUSTOMER UNDERSTANDING

shows strong savings discipline while the other has irregular spending and delayed repayments. The same category no longer means the same treatment.

How AI Reads Financial Behaviour

Modern banking systems analyse signals such as spending patterns, savings habits, bill payments, loan repayment history, and digital transactions. AI detects patterns that manual review often misses. A customer who regularly pays school fees, insurance premiums, and home loan instalments on time while maintaining stable balances may receive pre-approved credit at better terms. Banking decisions are increasingly behaviour-based, not merely profile-based.

Why Banks Prefer Personalisation

Personalised banking improves both customer experience and bank efficiency by making offers more relevant, improving risk assessment, increasing retention, and strengthening fraud detection. A young professional who frequently books travel and uses international transactions may receive a travel-focused card instead of a generic credit product. A customer responds better when banking offers match actual financial behaviour.

AI and Smarter Lending

Traditional lending depended on fixed eligibility rules, but AI now adds behavioural intelligence by assessing income consistency, transaction regularity, digital payment discipline, and expense patterns. A self-employed professional with irregular monthly income may still qualify for credit if digital inflows show reliable long-term cash patterns. Lending decisions now extend beyond conventional paperwork.

Fraud Detection Is Becoming Personal

AI also improves fraud detection by learning what is normal for each customer.

The system identifies:

- Unusual locations
- Sudden spending spikes
- Abnormal transaction timing

- Unusual merchant activity
A customer who usually makes daytime domestic transactions suddenly shows high-value overseas activity at midnight. The bank flags the transaction immediately. Fraud detection now depends on behavioural deviation.

Faster Customer Service

AI-driven systems also improve service quality through intelligent support.

Banks now use:

- Smart chat support
- Predictive reminders
- Automated financial alerts
- Personal spending insights

A customer receives a reminder before EMI dates because previous balance patterns suggest possible shortfall. Banking is becoming anticipatory.

New Career Roles for Students

As banking becomes data-driven, new roles are emerging for commerce and finance students.

- Career opportunities now include:
 - Digital Banking Analyst
 - Credit Risk Associate
 - Fraud Monitoring Executive
 - Banking Data Analyst
 - Customer Insight Specialist
 - Fintech Operations Executive

Future banking careers will increasingly combine finance, technology, and behavioural analysis, as routine roles shrink and analytical roles expand.

For Professionals: Staying Relevant

Banking professionals must now move beyond routine process knowledge and understand digital systems.

Useful growth areas include:

- Learn AI-supported banking tools.
- Strengthen digital credit analysis skills.
- Understand fraud analytics dashboards.
- Build comfort with data interpretation
- Adapt to customer behaviour-based service models



Professionals who combine banking experience with digital adaptability will remain valuable as systems evolve.

Personalised Banking for Customers

- Customers should expect:
- More relevant product offers
 - Faster decisions
 - Behaviour-based credit opportunities
 - Smarter fraud alerts

But they should also understand that digital behaviour increasingly shapes financial access.

Practical Banking Awareness Tips

- Maintain disciplined digital transaction records
- Avoid irregular repayment patterns
- Monitor account alerts carefully
- Use digital banking responsibly
- Understand that behaviour affects future offers

Your financial habits now speak before you do.

The Structural Shift in Banking

Banking is moving from institution-centred systems to customer-centred intelligence. AI allows banks to understand millions of customers individually while operating at scale. This is not just digital banking—it is predictive banking.

The Takeaway

Banks now want to understand how you behave financially. Because in the future of banking, your financial habits may matter more than your customer

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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.

LITERARY CONCEPT: INTERTEXTUALITY



Intertextuality refers to the relationship between literary texts in which one text echoes, references, or influences another. The concept was widely developed by Julia Kristeva in the 1960s.

In intertextual reading, no text is considered completely independent; rather, every literary work interacts with earlier texts, cultural traditions, myths, or historical narratives. For example, modern novels frequently reinterpret classical myths or earlier literary works.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1. On 16 March 1926, the famous children's book Winnie-the-Pooh by A. A. Milne was first published in London.
- 2. On 21 March, the world observes World Poetry Day, established by UNESCO in 1999 to promote the reading, writing, and teaching of poetry worldwide.
- 3. On 7 February 1812, the famous English novelist Charles Dickens was born. His works such as Oliver Twist, Great Expectations, and A Tale of Two Cities remain some of the most widely read novels in world literature.
- 4. On 23 April, the world celebrates World Book and Copyright Day, organized by UNESCO to encourage reading, publishing, and the protection of intellectual property through copyright. The date also marks the death anniversary of William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes.

GRAMMAR TIP

8 Ways to Use "Would"

- 1. Polite Requests**
 - Would you help me?
 - Would you open the door?
- 2. Offers / Invitations**
 - Would you like some tea?
 - Would you like to join us?
- 3. Future in the Past**
 - He said he would call me.
 - She promised she would help.
- 4. Imaginary Situations (Conditional)**
 - I would travel the world if I had money.
 - She would buy the car if it were cheaper.
- 5. Past Habits**
 - When we were kids, we would play outside.
 - My grandfather would tell stories at night.
- 6. Preference (Would rather)**
 - I would rather stay home.
 - She would rather read a book.
- 7. Advice (Would recommend)**
 - I would recommend this book.
 - I would suggest trying again.
- 8. Guess / Expectation**
 - That would be John at the door.
 - This would be the correct answer.

Tip:
"Would" is commonly used for politeness, imagination, past habits, and preferences.

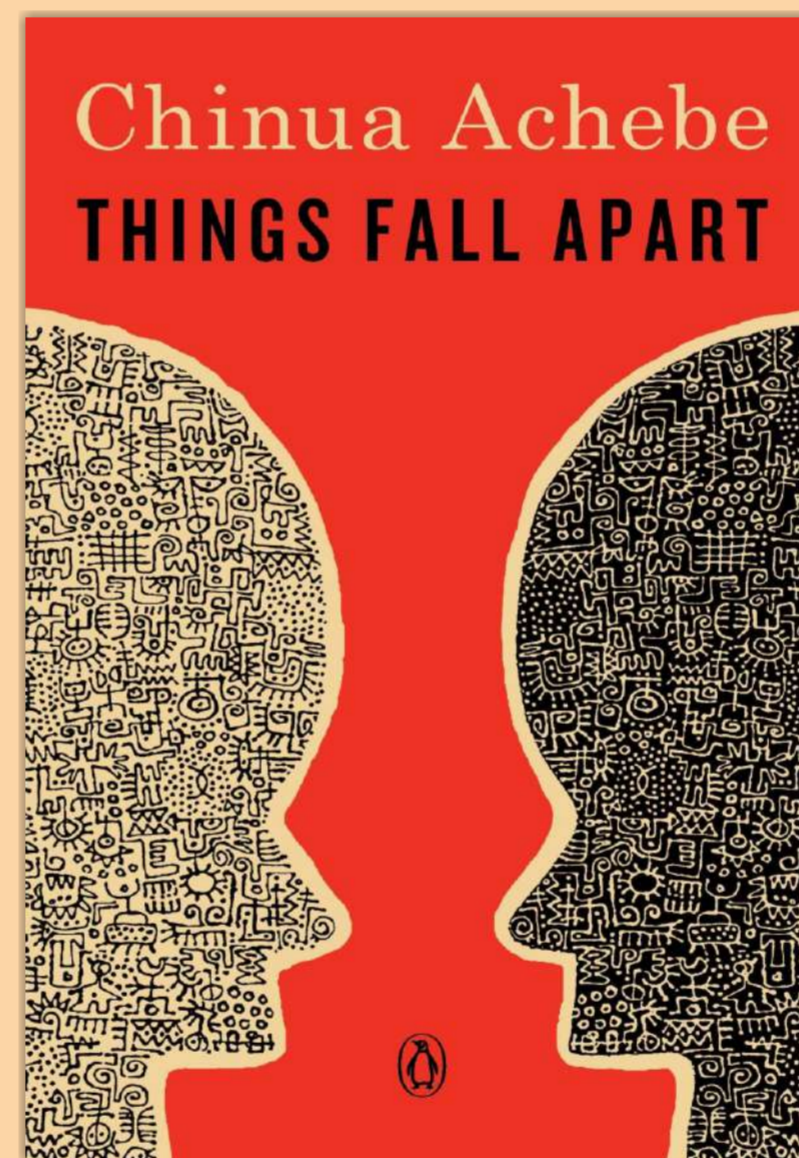
WRITER OF THE WEEK

Toni Morrison (1931–2019)

Toni Morrison was one of the most influential voices in modern American literature. Her works explore themes of identity, race, memory, and the legacy of slavery in the United States. Morrison's narrative style combines poetic language with deep historical and cultural insight. Her most celebrated novel, *Beloved*, examines the psychological trauma of slavery through the story of Sethe, an escaped enslaved woman haunted by her past. In 1993, Morrison received the Nobel Prize in Literature, becoming the first African American woman to receive this honor.

BOOK REVIEW

Things Fall Apart – by Chinua Achebe



This seminal African novel portrays the life of Okonkwo, a respected warrior in an Igbo village, and the cultural transformation brought by colonialism. Achebe's narrative provides a powerful perspective on indigenous African traditions and the disruptive effects of imperial rule.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"The limits of my language mean the limits of my world."

— Ludwig Wittgenstein

CREATIVE WRITING

The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;
Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,
And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.
I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I
Took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Poetry by
Robert Frost

Literary Insight: The poem metaphorically represents the choices individuals make in life. Frost uses the image of diverging roads to symbolize decisions that shape one's destiny.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Ubiquitous (adjective)

Meaning: Present, appearing, or found everywhere.
Example: Digital technology has become ubiquitous in contemporary education, transforming the ways in which knowledge is created and share.

IDIOM HIGHLIGHT

Burn the midnight oil

Meaning: To work or study late into the night.
Example: The research scholars had to burn the midnight oil to complete their papers before the conference deadline.

MAHARASHTRA'S AGRI-AI POLICY: TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE OF FARMING

The Government of Maharashtra has introduced a new Agri-AI policy aimed at transforming the agricultural sector through advanced technologies. According to state minister Dattatreya Bharane, this policy is expected to revolutionise farming by using artificial intelligence and digital tools to improve productivity and support farmers.



The policy focuses on integrating modern technologies such as Generative AI, drones, robotics, and data-driven advisory systems into farming practices. These technologies will help farmers predict weather changes, identify pest attacks, and manage crops more efficiently. By analysing large amounts of agricultural data, AI systems can provide accurate recommendations on irrigation, fertilisers, and crop management.

platforms, and applications that will deliver real-time information directly to farmers.

Experts believe that this initiative will modernise the agricultural ecosystem and make farming more efficient and sustainable. By combining technology with traditional agricultural knowledge, the policy aims to strengthen food production and increase farmers' income.

Overall, Maharashtra's Agri-AI policy represents an important step toward smart agriculture, where innovation and technology play a major role in securing the future of farming in India.

Another key objective of the policy is to reduce risks caused by climate change and crop diseases. AI-based tools can detect problems in crops at an early stage and suggest solutions, helping farmers prevent losses and improve yield. The government also plans to promote mechanisation, digital

TECHNOLOGY AND IMPROVED SEEDS DRIVING GROWTH IN INDIA'S WHEAT AND RICE PRODUCTION

India's wheat and rice production has significantly increased due to the adoption of modern agricultural technologies and improved seed varieties. These two crops are the backbone of India's food security and play a crucial role in feeding millions of people across the country. Recent advancements in farming practices have helped farmers achieve higher productivity and better crop quality.

help reduce labor, save time, and improve efficiency in crop cultivation. These innovations make farming more productive and environmentally sustainable.

Furthermore, research institutions and agricultural universities continue to develop climate-resilient crop varieties that can withstand heat, pests, and diseases. Such innovations are helping farmers maintain stable production even under changing weather conditions.

Overall, the combination of improved seeds, technological advancements, and agricultural research is strengthening India's wheat and rice production, ensuring food security and supporting the country's agricultural economy.

One of the major reasons for the growth in production is the use of high-yielding seed varieties (HYVs). These improved seeds are designed to produce higher yields, resist diseases, and adapt better to changing climatic conditions. For example, modern rice and wheat varieties developed through scientific breeding methods help farmers harvest more grain per hectare compared to traditional seeds.

Technology adoption has also played an important role. Farmers are increasingly using advanced machines, better irrigation systems, and modern farming techniques. Equipment such as seeders and precision farming tools

FARMERS EXPRESS DISAPPOINTMENT OVER LACK OF MSP EXPANSION AND DEBT WAIVER

Farmer organisations in Punjab have voiced strong dissatisfaction with the recent state budget, stating that several key agricultural concerns were ignored. Among their primary grievances is the absence of any clear mention of Minimum Support Price (MSP) procurement for crops other than wheat and paddy, as well as the lack of a comprehensive farm debt waiver. Farmer leaders argue that these issues have been repeatedly raised with the government but remain unresolved.



Before coming to power, the ruling government had promised to ensure MSP procurement for a wider range of crops, including maize and moong, to encourage crop diversification and reduce dependence on traditional crops. However, farmer representatives claim that while MSP procurement was announced in previous seasons, only a limited quantity of these crops was actually purchased at the promised price. As a result, many farmers were forced to sell their produce in the open market at lower rates.

Farmer union leaders also highlighted the worsening financial

condition of small and marginal farmers, many of whom are struggling with mounting debts. They stressed that the absence of a loan waiver or substantial financial relief in the budget will continue to put pressure on rural households.

According to farm groups, addressing MSP coverage and debt burdens is essential for stabilising farm incomes and preventing further distress in the agricultural sector. They have urged the government to revisit these demands and take concrete steps to support the farming community in the coming policy decisions.

FARMART REPORT HIGHLIGHTS GROWING IMPACT OF AI IN AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY CHAINS

A recent report by agri-technology platform Farmart has highlighted how artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming agricultural supply chains and improving efficiency across the food ecosystem. According to the report, AI-driven technologies are helping streamline the movement of agricultural produce from farms to markets by improving transparency, forecasting demand, and reducing operational inefficiencies.

The report explains that AI tools can analyse large volumes of agricultural and market data to provide insights on crop availability, logistics planning, and price trends. This enables better coordination between farmers, traders, processors, and retailers, ensuring that agricultural commodities reach markets more quickly and with fewer disruptions. As a result, supply chains become more reliable and cost-effective.

Another important benefit highlighted in the report is the reduction of food losses and wastage. By using predictive analytics and digital tracking

systems, stakeholders can monitor produce during transportation and storage, allowing them to respond quickly to potential delays or quality issues. AI also supports more accurate demand forecasting, which helps balance supply with market requirements.

Experts believe that the integration of AI into agri-supply chains can significantly improve market access for farmers while increasing overall efficiency in the food distribution network. Digital platforms can connect producers directly with buyers, reducing the number of intermediaries and ensuring better price realisation for farmers.

Overall, the Farmart report suggests that AI-enabled supply chains will play a crucial role in modernising agriculture, improving transparency, and building a more resilient food system capable of meeting future demand.

ACCELERATING AGRIVOLTAICS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND CLEAN ENERGY IN INDIA



Agri-voltaics, the integration of solar power generation with agricultural land, is emerging as a promising solution to address both energy and agricultural challenges in India. During the World Sustainable Development Summit 2026, the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) presented new research and innovative tools to promote the large-scale adoption of agrivoltaic systems across the country.

The initiative highlights how solar photovoltaic panels can be installed above or alongside farmland, allowing farmers to produce crops while also generating renewable electricity. This dual-use approach helps optimize land utilization, increase clean energy production, and support rural livelihoods simultaneously.

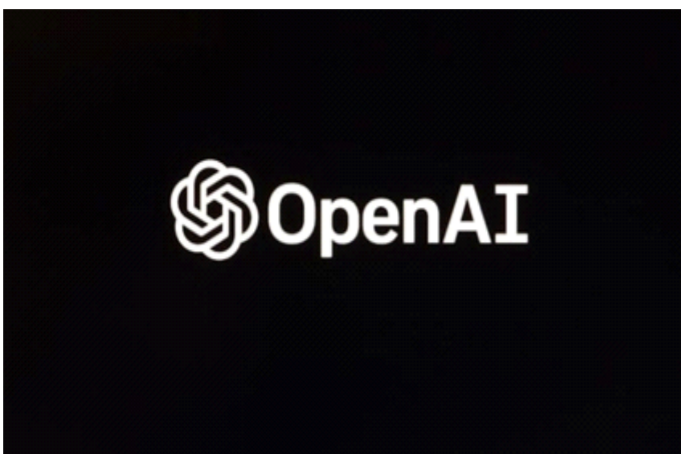
At the summit, TERI launched several key resources to strengthen India's agrivoltaics ecosystem. These included two Responsible Agri-PV Baseline Assessment Reports from projects in Madhya Pradesh and Telangana, an Agri-PV Detailed Project Report (DPR) framework, and a digital business model selection tool. These resources aim to guide policymakers, developers, and investors in planning viable agrivoltaic projects and scaling them responsibly.

Experts at the summit emphasized that agrivoltaics can help address the food-energy-land nexus, ensuring that renewable energy expansion does not reduce agricultural productivity. By combining scientific research, supportive policies, and farmer-centric business models, agrivoltaics can enhance farm incomes, improve climate resilience, and accelerate India's transition toward sustainable development.

Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay

CHATGPT GETS INTERACTIVE VISUAL TOOLS FOR MATH AND SCIENCE LEARNING

OpenAI has introduced interactive visual learning features in ChatGPT to make mathematics and science learning more engaging and concept-driven for students worldwide. The new modules allow learners to explore formulas, variables, and scientific relationships through dynamic visuals instead of only text-based explanations.



Launched on March 10, the feature covers more than 70 core math and science concepts, enabling users to interact directly with equations and observe how changing variables affects outcomes in real time. Students can now experiment with graphs, formulas, and scientific models, making abstract concepts easier to understand.

According to OpenAI, nearly 140 million users each week already use ChatGPT for learning, homework support, and concept clarification in subjects such as algebra, physics, chemistry, and statistics. The company says the new visual modules are designed to improve conceptual understanding by encouraging active exploration rather than passive reading.

Research referenced by OpenAI suggests that interactive learning improves comprehension because students immediately see the effect of each input, helping them connect theory with application more effectively.

The feature is available globally across all ChatGPT plans, allowing both students and educators to access these tools easily. By combining AI explanations with visual interaction, ChatGPT aims to transform digital learning into a more intuitive, experiment-based experience—especially for learners who struggle with traditional textbook methods.

UGC ASKS COLLEGES TO BUILD STUDENT SERVICE CENTRES AND STRENGTHEN CAMPUS WELLNESS

University Grants Commission has directed higher education institutions across the country to establish Student Service Centres and strengthen physical fitness support systems as part of a broader effort to improve student well-being, mental health, and campus support services.



Under the new guidelines, colleges and universities must create dedicated Student Service Centres to provide integrated assistance on academic concerns, counselling, grievance handling, career guidance, and emotional support. These centres are expected to function as single-point help desks where students can access institutional services more easily and confidentially.

The guidelines also emphasise mental health support through regular counselling, awareness programmes, and referral mechanisms, including online counselling facilities where required. Institutions have been advised to ensure trained personnel are available to respond to student stress, anxiety, and adjustment challenges in a sensitive and timely manner.

Alongside psychological support, UGC has introduced measures promoting physical fitness as an essential component of campus life. Colleges are encouraged to organise regular fitness activities, sports participation, yoga sessions, and health awareness programmes to foster healthier daily routines among students.

The Commission noted that holistic student development depends on both emotional resilience and physical well-being. By integrating counselling, service access, and fitness initiatives within campus governance, the new framework seeks to build more responsive, supportive, and student-friendly higher education environments across India.

KARNATAKA TO SET UP EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR SPECIALLY-ABLED CHILDREN IN EVERY DISTRICT



Karnataka has announced that District Early Intervention Centres (DEICs) for specially-abled children will be established in all districts by next year under the Rashtriya Bala Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), strengthening early diagnosis and support for children with developmental and health challenges.

State Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said the centres will focus on early screening, diagnosis, and intervention for children with disabilities, developmental delays, and medical conditions that require timely attention. Each centre will include specialists such as paediatricians, staff nurses, cardiologists, ophthalmologists, and in some cases psychologists to provide comprehensive support.

At present, Karnataka has 17 operational DEIC centres, with another coming up in Koppal. The government now plans to expand the network statewide so that families in every district can access specialised care closer to home.

The move follows concerns raised over low registration of specially-abled children despite higher estimated numbers, especially in rural areas where access to treatment remains limited. Officials noted that many families currently travel long distances to cities for therapy and diagnosis, delaying intervention during crucial developmental years.

The expanded network is expected to improve early care, reduce treatment gaps, and support long-term inclusion by ensuring that children with special needs receive timely medical, psychological, and developmental assistance within their own districts.

UP TO LAUNCH SCHOOL CHALO ABHIYAN 2026 TO BRING EVERY CHILD BACK TO SCHOOL

Uttar Pradesh will launch School Chalo Abhiyan 2026 from April 1, a large-scale enrolment drive aimed at bringing dropout and out-of-school children back into the education system. The campaign focuses on ensuring universal school access, especially for vulnerable children, girls, and those with special needs.



encourage retention.

The state government plans to conduct door-to-door outreach to identify children who are not attending school and motivate families to enrol them in nearby government institutions. Special emphasis will be placed on children who discontinued education due to economic hardship, migration, social barriers, or lack of access to schooling.

Officials said the campaign will prioritise girl students, children from disadvantaged communities, and children with disabilities by linking them to free education facilities, learning support, and welfare schemes. Schools will also ensure age-appropriate admissions, textbooks, uniforms, and other essential support to

Teachers, local administration, village committees, and community volunteers will jointly participate in awareness drives, public meetings, and local mobilisation efforts to make enrolment universal before the new academic session begins.

The initiative reflects Uttar Pradesh's broader goal of reducing dropout rates and strengthening foundational education. By reconnecting children with classrooms at the start of the academic year, School Chalo Abhiyan seeks to ensure that no child is left behind in the state's expanding education framework.

NCERT'S NEW CLASS 9 ENGLISH BOOK 'KAVERI' GIVES GREATER SPACE TO INDIAN WRITERS

NCERT has introduced a new Class 9 English textbook, Kaveri, to be implemented from the 2026–27 academic session, replacing Beehive and Moments, which had remained part of the curriculum for nearly two decades. The revision reflects NCERT's effort to make English learning lighter, more focused, and culturally relevant.



A major change is the reduction in content. The earlier two textbooks together contained 29 texts, while Kaveri includes only 16 carefully selected lessons, allowing teachers and students more time for comprehension, discussion, and deeper literary engagement. The move also simplifies learning by bringing all content into one integrated textbook.

The new book gives greater space to Indian writers, with eight texts by Indian authors, balancing Indian and international literary exposure. Included are works by Sudha Murty, Subramania Bharati, Rabindranath Tagore, Tamsila Ao, and Mitra Phukan, offering students literary voices from diverse regions of India.

The opening lesson is taken from Sudha Murty's How I Taught My Grandmother to Read, presenting a warm and relatable story rooted in family and learning. The textbook also includes an interview-based lesson featuring Deepa Malik and a reflective poem titled Gifts of Grace: Honouring Our Vocations.

Prepared under the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023, Kaveri incorporates elements of Indian Knowledge Systems, aiming to make English education more meaningful, balanced, and connected to Indian realities.

Durgesh K. Dubey

GLOBAL TENSIONS SHAKE MARKETS: OIL FEARS, STOCK VOLATILITY AND INVESTOR ANXIETY

Rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East are casting a long shadow over global financial markets, and India is no exception. Escalating conflict involving Iran and the United States has triggered fresh concerns about global oil supplies, sending tremors through commodity markets and equity indices. The developments have raised fears about higher energy prices, currency pressures and increased volatility in financial markets.

At the centre of the concern is Iran's key oil export hub, which handles a major share of the country's crude shipments to the world. Any potential disruption to oil infrastructure in the region could significantly affect global energy supply. Analysts believe that if tensions escalate further, crude oil prices could rise sharply when markets reopen, as investors react to the possibility of supply disruptions in one of the world's most important energy corridors.

For India, which imports nearly 85 percent of its crude oil requirement, such a scenario can have wide-ranging consequences. A sustained rise in crude prices increases the country's import bill, puts pressure on the rupee and raises the risk of inflation. Higher fuel costs often ripple through the economy, affecting transportation, manufacturing and household expenses. As a result, financial markets typically react quickly to geopolitical developments that threaten energy stability.

Recent weeks have already shown signs of investor nervousness. Indian stock markets have experienced a period of intense selling pressure, with benchmark indices declining sharply over multiple sessions. Within a single week, investors saw a massive erosion of wealth as overall market capitalisation fell significantly. Major indices slipped by more than two percent in a single trading session, while mid-cap and small-cap stocks recorded even steeper declines.

The broader market has been struggling to generate momentum for some time. For nearly eighteen months, many investors have seen limited returns as stock indices moved within a narrow range. The latest geopolitical developments have further intensified uncertainty, adding to existing concerns about global growth, trade tensions and rising energy costs.



If oil prices surge sharply due to disruptions in the Gulf region, market experts believe equity markets could face additional short-term pressure. Higher crude prices typically weaken the domestic currency because more dollars are required to pay for imports. A weaker rupee, combined with rising inflation risks, can affect investor sentiment and corporate profitability.

While equity markets may struggle during such periods, precious metals often move in the opposite direction. Gold and silver are traditionally viewed as safe-haven assets during times of global

uncertainty. As geopolitical tensions rise and investors seek protection against volatility, demand for these metals usually strengthens, potentially pushing prices higher.

Despite the current turbulence, market regulators and financial experts continue to stress that volatility is a natural part of modern financial systems. Global markets are increasingly interconnected, and geopolitical events can quickly influence investor sentiment across continents. Rapid information flows, technological trading systems and algorithm-driven transactions often amplify market reactions.

However, historical experience suggests that such phases of uncertainty do not last forever. Markets have repeatedly recovered after geopolitical shocks, sometimes rebounding strongly once tensions ease and economic fundamentals regain focus. Long-term investors are often advised to remain patient during turbulent phases rather than making impulsive decisions based on short-term news.

India's capital markets, meanwhile, continue to evolve and deepen in scale. With increasing participation from domestic investors, improved regulatory oversight and expanding financial infrastructure, the market is gradually becoming more resilient to external shocks.

For investors, the current situation serves as a reminder of how closely global politics and financial markets are intertwined. A conflict thousands of kilometres away can influence oil prices, currency values and stock portfolios at home. Yet history also shows that markets eventually stabilise — and those who stay disciplined through uncertain times often benefit when the cycle turns.

INDIA EASES IPO SHAREHOLDING RULES TO BOOST CAPITAL MARKETS AND MEGA LISTINGS

India has introduced significant changes to its public listing rules, aiming to make the country's capital markets more flexible and attractive for large companies seeking to raise funds through stock exchanges. The revised framework modifies the minimum public shareholding requirements for companies launching initial public offerings (IPOs), creating a tiered structure that adapts to the size and valuation of firms entering the market.

Under the updated rules, the minimum percentage of shares that companies must offer to the public during an IPO has been rationalised. Previously, listed companies were generally required to maintain at least 5 percent public shareholding at the time of listing. The new framework lowers the threshold to 2.5 percent in certain cases, especially for very large companies with high valuations. The revised structure introduces a graded system where the percentage of shares offered to the public depends on the company's post-listing market value.

For smaller companies with post-issue capital up to around ₹1,600 crore, the requirement remains relatively high, with at least 25 percent of shares required to be offered to the public. However, as company valuations increase, the shareholding requirement becomes more flexible. Firms with valuations between ₹4,000 crore and ₹50,000 crore will now be able to list by offering around 10 percent public shareholding initially, provided they increase it to 25 percent within three years. For even larger companies with valuations exceeding ₹1 lakh crore, the rules allow a

significantly smaller initial public float, with gradual increases required over time.

The changes reflect a recognition that extremely large companies often face practical challenges when offering large share percentages at the time of listing. By allowing a lower initial public shareholding while maintaining timelines for gradual expansion, the policy aims to strike a balance between market accessibility and investor participation.

The new rules are expected to encourage several major corporations to consider stock market listings. Some large technology and financial market entities have long been anticipated to enter the public markets but have been constrained by earlier shareholding norms. With the updated framework in place, these companies may now find it easier to move forward with their IPO plans.

Market observers believe the policy shift could inject fresh momentum into India's IPO landscape. After witnessing record activity in previous years, the IPO market has recently shown signs of slowing, partly due to global uncertainty and investor caution. By making listing requirements more practical for large enterprises, the revised norms could help revive investor interest and attract new issuers.

Beyond individual listings, the reform is also seen as part of India's broader effort to strengthen its financial ecosystem. A vibrant IPO market

allows companies to raise capital for expansion while providing investors with opportunities to participate in the growth of emerging businesses and established enterprises alike. It also deepens the stock market by increasing the diversity and scale of companies available for investment.

For entrepreneurs and corporate groups, the flexibility offered by the revised rules could improve access to long-term funding without forcing promoters to dilute large stakes immediately. At the same time, the requirement to gradually increase public shareholding ensures that the market eventually gains wider participation and improved liquidity.

Overall, the policy represents an attempt to align regulatory frameworks with the evolving scale of India's corporate sector. As businesses grow larger and more global in nature, capital market regulations must adapt accordingly. By recalibrating IPO rules, India aims to create a more dynamic investment environment while maintaining transparency and investor protection.

In the long run, these reforms could contribute to transforming India's stock exchanges into preferred destinations for some of the world's largest and most innovative companies seeking public capital.

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Disgracefully?Ans. Understanding Human Conduct
through Indian Wisdom

Many readers often ask a similar question: Why do some people behave in ways that are rude, humiliating, or disgraceful? Why do certain individuals abandon dignity and kindness, even when they know such behavior hurts others? This question is not merely about social etiquette—it touches the deeper nature of human psychology and ethics. Indian philosophical traditions, especially the teachings of the Vedas, Upanishads, and Subhashitams, provide profound insights into the roots of such behavior and the path toward graceful living.

Understanding Grace and Disgrace

To begin, we must understand what grace truly means. Grace is not simply politeness or refined manners. In Indian

philosophy, grace represents a state of inner balance, compassion, humility, and dignity. A graceful individual treats others with respect, remains calm in difficult situations, and acts with integrity. Such grace is often associated with the Sanskrit concepts अनुग्रह (Anugraha) meaning divine kindness, and कृपा (Krupa) meaning compassion.

Disgraceful behavior, in contrast, arises when a person acts in ways that bring shame, harm, or disrespect to others. It reflects actions driven by arrogance, anger, greed, or ignorance. Such conduct stains one's character and disturbs harmony in society.

Ancient wisdom repeatedly reminds us that true respect in life is not based on appearance, status, or age, but on virtue. A celebrated Subhashitam beautifully expresses this idea: “गुणाः पूजास्थानं गुणेषु न च लिङ्गं न च वयः।” Virtues alone deserve reverence; neither gender nor age determines true respect.

This verse teaches us that dignity comes from character. When virtues weaken, disgraceful behavior becomes more likely.

The Role of the Three Gunas

Indian philosophy explains human behavior through the doctrine of the three gunas, the fundamental qualities that influence the mind: Sattva, Rajas, and Tamas. Sattva represents harmony, wisdom, clarity, and self-control. When sattva dominates a person's mind, their actions are calm, thoughtful, and compassionate. Rajas represents passion, ambition, and restless activity. While rajas can motivate achievement, excessive rajas can also lead to ego, competitiveness, and selfish behavior. Tamas represents ignorance, confusion, laziness, and destructive tendencies. When tamas dominates, individuals may act carelessly, without awareness of consequences. Disgraceful behavior often arises when rajas and tamas overpower sattva. Under such influence, people become driven by impulses rather than wisdom. These impulses manifest in various forms described in Indian philosophy:

- अविद्या (Avidya) – ignorance or lack of self-awareness
- काम (Kama) – uncontrolled desires
- क्रोध (Krodha) – anger
- अहंकार (Ahamkara) – ego and arrogance

When these forces dominate the mind, individuals may behave disrespectfully or harmfully, often without realizing the deeper consequences of their actions.

When Emotions Control the Mind

Many disgraceful actions originate from

uncontrolled emotions. Anger, jealousy, greed, or resentment can cloud judgment and cause people to act impulsively. Indian wisdom therefore teaches the importance of mastering one's emotions.

A timeless teaching reminds us: “अक्रोधेन जय क्रोधम्।” - Conquer anger with calmness. This simple yet powerful guidance reveals that emotional discipline is essential for graceful living. When anger is answered with patience and calmness, destructive behavior is prevented before it arises.

Dharma and Adharma

Another key concept in Indian philosophy is Dharma, the principle of righteousness, duty, and moral order. Dharma guides individuals toward actions that maintain harmony within themselves and within society. When people ignore dharma and act purely out of selfish desires, they fall into Adharma, which leads to imbalance and suffering. Disgraceful behavior often emerges when individuals prioritize personal gain over ethical responsibility. Such behavior may temporarily satisfy desires but ultimately harms both the individual and the community.

Why Do People Behave Disgracefully?

There are several common reasons why people sometimes behave in ways that degrade dignity and respect.

Lack of Self-Reflection: Many individuals never pause to examine their own thoughts and actions. Without introspection, they remain unaware of their weaknesses. Indian wisdom encourages स्वाध्याय (Swadhyaya)—the practice of self-study and reflection—to cultivate awareness.

Uncontrolled Desires: Excessive attachment to power, wealth, recognition, or pleasure can drive individuals to unethical behavior. When desires dominate the mind, moral judgment becomes weakened.

Influence of Negative Emotions: Emotions such as anger, jealousy, and greed often push people toward harmful actions. These emotions distort perception and create impulsive reactions.

Environmental Influence: Human behavior is also shaped by surroundings. Toxic environments, social pressure, or unhealthy competition can encourage negative conduct if individuals lack strong ethical grounding.

Recognizing Disgraceful Behavior: Identifying disgraceful conduct can sometimes be challenging, but certain patterns are often visible.

Individuals who frequently behave disgracefully may prioritize self-interest over the

well-being of others. They may lack empathy and disregard the feelings of people around them. Such individuals often manipulate situations for personal advantage, show little remorse for harm caused, and react defensively when confronted about their actions. Their words may promise kindness, yet their actions reveal selfish motives. Such inconsistency between speech and behavior is often a clear sign of moral imbalance.

Ancient Wisdom for Personal Growth: While Indian philosophy explains why such behavior arises, it also offers practical solutions for personal transformation.

Practice Self-Reflection: Regular introspection helps individuals recognize their emotions and motivations. By observing one's thoughts, negative tendencies can gradually be corrected.

Cultivate Sattva: Nurturing harmony, wisdom, and self-control strengthens the sattvic quality of the mind. Reading uplifting knowledge, practicing meditation, and maintaining balanced habits can help cultivate this quality.

Develop Mindfulness: Being aware of one's thoughts and actions before reacting helps prevent impulsive behavior. Awareness creates space between emotion and action.

Practice Forgiveness: Forgiveness dissolves anger and resentment. A wise Subhashitam teaches: “कृते प्रतिक्रियाकृत्यं मूर्खैः परिभूष्यते।” - Revenge is considered an ornament only by fools. This teaching reminds us that retaliation rarely restores dignity. Graceful individuals rise above such impulses.

Grace as a Conscious Choice: Ultimately, disgraceful behavior is not an unavoidable destiny. It arises from imbalance within the mind. When ignorance, ego, and uncontrolled desires dominate, dignity fades. But when wisdom, compassion, and self-awareness guide our actions, grace naturally emerges.

Indian philosophy therefore teaches that grace is not merely an external quality it is an inner discipline. By cultivating awareness, controlling emotions, and aligning actions with dharma, individuals can transform their conduct and contribute positively to society. The message is simple yet profound: Grace is cultivated through wisdom, humility, and self-control. When individuals choose dignity over ego and compassion over anger, society becomes more harmonious and human life more meaningful. Let us therefore strive to remain graceful, even when circumstances challenge us. Stay blessed, and stay graceful.

Ravi Singh

DREAMS VS. EXPECTATIONS: THE BATTLE YOUNG MINDS FACE



significant challenges faced by young minds today.

From an early stage, many young people are encouraged to follow paths that are considered safe, stable, and socially approved. Parents and guardians, with the best intentions, often guide their children toward careers that promise financial security and social respect. Professions such as engineering, medicine, law, or government service are frequently viewed as ideal choices. While these careers are indeed valuable and respectable, the challenge arises when the personal interests of a young individual differ from the expectations placed upon them.

This difference creates an internal struggle. On one side lies the dream a personal vision shaped by passion, talent, and curiosity. On the other side stand expectations voices that emphasize practicality, stability, and societal approval. Young individuals often find themselves standing between these two forces, unsure of which direction to choose. Pursuing their dreams may bring excitement and fulfillment, but it may also carry risks and uncertainty. Following expectations may offer stability, yet it might suppress creativity and personal satisfaction.

In many cases, this battle remains silent. Young people may hesitate to openly express their aspirations for fear of disappointing their families or facing criticism from society. As a result, they may begin to doubt their abilities or question the value of their dreams. Over time, this pressure can lead to stress, confusion, and a sense of being trapped between what they truly want and what they are expected to become.

However, it is important to recognize that dreams and expectations

do not always have to be in conflict. With understanding and communication, both can coexist. Families and mentors play a crucial role in this process. Instead of imposing rigid expectations, they can encourage young individuals to explore their interests, develop their talents, and make informed decisions about their future. Supportive guidance allows youth to balance their ambitions with practical considerations.

At the same time, young individuals must also approach their dreams with dedication and responsibility. Dreams require effort, discipline, and perseverance. Passion alone is not enough; it must be supported by hard work and a willingness to learn from challenges. When dreams are pursued with commitment and realistic planning, they can transform into meaningful achievements.

Ultimately, the journey of youth should not be defined solely by societal expectations or by unrealistic fantasies. Instead, it should be guided by a balanced understanding of passion, responsibility, and opportunity. When young minds are allowed to pursue their aspirations while receiving supportive guidance, they gain the confidence to shape their own paths.

The battle between dreams and expectations is therefore not merely a conflict but an opportunity for growth. When handled with understanding and courage, it can lead young individuals toward a future where their ambitions align with their values and abilities, creating lives that are both successful and fulfilling.

A LEADER'S TIME VS. EVERYONE'S TIME: RETHINKING ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

Time is one of the most valuable and irreplaceable resources in any organization. Unlike other resources, time cannot be stored, recovered, or expanded once it passes. Every individual within an institution whether a leader, manager, or subordinate operates within the same twenty-four hours each day. Yet in many organizational cultures, a subtle but powerful hierarchy of time exists. The time of leaders is often considered extremely valuable, while the time of others is treated as flexible or easily expendable. This imbalance raises an important question about professionalism and respect within workplaces.

In several organizations, it is common for a senior authority to schedule a meeting or ask a junior employee or colleague to wait for a discussion. The subordinate arrives punctually, often adjusting their schedule, postponing other tasks, and ensuring they are available at the designated time. However, the leader may arrive late, be engaged elsewhere, or sometimes fail to appear altogether. In some cases, there is no communication or explanation for the delay. While such situations may appear minor, they often reveal deeper patterns in organizational culture.

The act of making someone wait without proper communication can send unintended messages. It may imply that the leader's time is inherently more important than that of others. Over time, this perception can create feelings of frustration, discouragement, and inequality among employees. When individuals repeatedly experience such situations, it may affect their motivation, productivity, and sense of belonging within the organization.

Leadership, however, is not merely about authority or designation. True leadership lies in setting standards of conduct that others can respect and follow. Leaders are expected to demonstrate responsibility, discipline, and consideration in their daily interactions. Respecting the time of colleagues and subordinates is an important aspect of this

responsibility. Punctuality and communication are not simply professional formalities; they are expressions of respect and accountability.

A healthy organizational culture recognizes that every individual's time holds value. When leaders acknowledge this principle, they contribute to an environment built on mutual respect. Even when unexpected circumstances arise, a simple message informing others of a delay or rescheduling can preserve professional courtesy. Such gestures may appear small, but they reflect a leader's awareness and sensitivity toward the people they work with.

Furthermore, when leaders demonstrate respect for time, they set an example that influences the behavior of the entire organization. Employees are more likely to adopt punctuality, discipline, and respect in their own work practices when they see these values practiced consistently by those in leadership positions. In this way, leadership behavior shapes the overall culture of an institution.

Organizations today are increasingly emphasizing efficiency, productivity, and teamwork. However, these goals cannot be achieved without a foundation of mutual respect. Respecting each other's time is a simple yet powerful step toward building a professional and supportive workplace.



Ultimately, leadership should not be measured by the authority to make others wait. Instead, it should be reflected in the ability to value the time, effort, and dignity of every individual within the organization. When leaders treat everyone's time as equally important, they foster trust, strengthen relationships, and cultivate an organizational culture rooted in professionalism and respect.

Afreen Mazgaonkar & Mosina

'MINI AND THE ROCKSTARS' SHOWS WHY ROCKS ARE VITAL TO THE ECOSYSTEM



The animated film Mini and the Rockstars highlights the often-overlooked role of rocks in maintaining healthy ecosystems, presenting the subject through a colourful and engaging story aimed primarily at children. The movie follows Mini, a young character who explores an imaginary world to learn about the vital role of rocks in sustaining Earth's life and their importance for environmental systems. The film demonstrates through its colorful animation and basic plot that rocks have an impact on how soil develops and water movement occurs and how plants and animals create their natural environments. The material demonstrates that rocks function as vital components which determine landforms while delivering essential minerals and maintaining

environmental equilibrium. The film presents scientific information in a fun way for young viewers by showing rocks as natural "rockstars" which display their scientific characteristics. The story presents educational content through an exciting journey which uses humor and music and creative visual effects to teach viewers about environmental protection. The program teaches children to observe natural phenomena while they learn to recognize natural patterns which people usually underestimate. Mini and the Rockstars shows that animated movies serve as effective instruments to teach people about environmental protection. The film combines scientific elements with storytelling to create an experience which teaches viewers about nature while showing them why people must protect ecosystems for future generations.

EXTREME HEAT SEVERELY RESTRICTS DAILY ACTIVITIES IN INDIA

The study demonstrates that India experiences the most severe daily activity limitations from extreme heat. The research team discovered that increased temperatures and higher humidity levels create hazardous conditions which prevent millions from completing their daily activities that include walking and outdoor work and manual labor. Climate change presents expanding health hazards which particularly affect densely populated tropical areas according to the research results. The study shows that extreme heat conditions in India create more than 19 million people-hours of movement restrictions during hot weather. Scientists estimate that younger adults in the country lose around 100 billion people-hours annually due to heat stress while the figure exceeds one trillion people-hours for older adults. The Indo-Gangetic Plain and eastern lowlands experience their most dangerous outdoor working conditions because high temperatures and humidity create extreme limitations for work activities. The impact shows uneven effects across different populations. The highest danger comes from extreme heat to elderly people and outdoor laborers and street vendors and low-income communities who lack access to cooling and healthcare and flexible work schedules. Extreme heat conditions lead to decreased productivity which affects livelihoods and increases the probability of heat-related health problems. Researchers predict that rising global temperatures will create an even more dangerous situation. The study demonstrates that cities need to implement adaptation solutions through improved urban design and establishment of cooling facilities and development of heat management strategies and workplace safety measures.



GOVERNMENT DEFERS PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE FREE DRUGS UNDER CSR RULES

The Indian government has postponed a proposal which required pharmaceutical companies to provide free medicines as their corporate social responsibility (CSR) duties. The Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) examined a proposal which sought to change the Drugs Rules of 1945 after their discussions. The amendment required pharmaceutical companies to donate 1% of their net profits for establishing a central "medicine bank" which would distribute free medicines. The proposed medicine bank would serve as a resource for government health services to deliver essential medicines during emergencies and disasters and other critical situations. The advisory board chose to postpone the proposal because CSR issues are governed by the Companies Act while the Drugs and Cosmetics Act governs other business operations. The regulations therefore need to establish separate provisions which must follow drug control standards. Industry groups had also raised concerns about the proposal. The existing CSR guidelines prevent companies from using their regular business activities which include supplying medicines as CSR expenditures. Experts pointed out that the requirement for mandatory free drug distribution would create a conflict with marketing regulations which control the distribution of free medicine samples. Under the Companies Act companies must allocate 2% of their average net profits to CSR activities when their financial performance reaches specific benchmarks. The proposal has been suspended which means that free medicine distribution needs to receive approval from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs before drug authorities can include it under CSR regulations.

ISS SHARES STUNNING NIGHTTIME VIEW OF INDIA FROM SPACE

The International Space Station (ISS) shared an amazing nighttime image of India which shows the entire subcontinent being lit by thousands of city lights. The space station captured the image when it flew over the Arabian Sea and headed toward the Himalayas to show a complete view of India from outer space. The photograph displays a shining network of lights which extends through densely populated areas to show the location of main cities and their connecting urban routes. The bright light clusters show the boundaries of metropolitan regions while the highways and infrastructure show their connections through the plains as continuous lines. The visual effect between the lighted urban areas and the dark Arabian Sea waters creates a strong visual impact. The ISS satellite system showed bright plains which turned into dark regions when it reached the Himalayan area. The two areas show distinct urban development patterns which create a visual contrast between highly developed cities and remote mountain regions. Astronauts aboard the space station capture such images using specialised cameras with long-exposure settings that can record Earth's city lights even while travelling at nearly 28,000 kilometres per hour in orbit. Researchers and scientists examine these nighttime images to understand how cities expand and how people use electricity and move through urban spaces. The bright view of India from space demonstrates how human development has created a massive network of lights which people can see from space above Earth.



INDIA, INDONESIA SIGN DEAL FOR BRAHMOS SUPERSONIC CRUISE MISSILES



India and Indonesia have signed an agreement for the procurement of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system which establishes a major defense partnership between their two nations. With this deal Indonesia becomes the second foreign buyer of the missile after the Philippines which demonstrates India's increasing presence in the international defense export industry. The BrahMos missile which India and Russia developed together has achieved supersonic speed while allowing precise targeting and delivering advanced strike capabilities. It can travel at nearly three times the speed of sound and is considered one of the most powerful cruise missiles in its class. Indonesian officials confirmed that the country will acquire the equipment as part of its project to update military weapons which includes improvements to its ability to protect its waterways throughout its extensive island network that contains

over 17000 islands. The missile system will provide Indonesia with improved protection for its coastal areas and enhanced capability to deter potential threats. The agreement lacks complete financial information however earlier discussions estimated the deal value between \$200 million and \$350 million. The agreement marks a strategic turning point for India defense exports while it demonstrates closer military collaboration between New Delhi and Southeast Asian countries during changing security conditions that affect the Indo-Pacific region.

INDIA MOVING TOWARDS DESIGN-LED SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING: IESA

The India Electronics and Semiconductor Association IESA President shows that India now directs its semiconductor manufacturing operations through design-based methodologies. The method uses the nation's current expertise in chip design to develop its semiconductor manufacturing capabilities which will create a complete semiconductor manufacturing system. Industry experts report that India maintains a strong position in global semiconductor design because thousands of engineers work for international chip companies. The next phase, they say, is to connect this design strength with manufacturing, assembly, testing, and packaging facilities within the country. The process will enable India to achieve higher value in semiconductor production while decreasing its need for imported products. The transition process receives essential support from government projects and business investments which drive their country forward. The industry currently establishes multiple semiconductor facilities which include ATMP plants as part of its mission to build an all-encompassing chip manufacturing ecosystem. The upcoming changes will increase domestic production capabilities while generating fresh possibilities for advanced electronics production. Experts believe that combining India's established design expertise with new manufacturing capabilities will strengthen the country's position in the global semiconductor supply chain. The design-driven approach will position India as a major center for semiconductor development and manufacturing capabilities.

Afreen Mazgaonkar & Mosina

YOUNG WOMEN SHINE AT POLO TOURNAMENT IN JAIPUR



A polo tournament in Jaipur recently witnessed an exciting and refreshing moment as young women players took centre stage, showcasing their skill and passion for the traditionally male-dominated sport. The match, held at the Rajasthan Polo Club during the ongoing Jaipur Polo Season, attracted considerable attention from spectators and polo enthusiasts who gathered to watch the energetic display on the field. The young riders showed exceptional coordination and speed and control as they rode their horses across the field to create exciting moments which occurred throughout the entire match. The competition with their participation brought a new exciting element to the tournament because it showed how women athletes increasingly compete in polo and other equestrian sports

throughout India. The event demonstrated how the sport has started to develop because more women have begun to compete in professional competitions. The audience showed their appreciation for the players because of their dedication and athletic skills which created an exciting performance that inspired viewers to experience the game. Many attendees described the match as a refreshing change and an encouraging sign for the future of women's polo in the country. The current events provide support for bringing more people into equestrian sports because they motivate young girls to participate in these activities. The growing number of chances which women players receive together with the backing from various organizations will help women players establish their presence in polo while the sport develops and maintains its traditional heritage in Jaipur.

MAYANK CHAKRABORTY BECOMES INDIA'S 94TH CHESS GRANDMASTER, FIRST FROM NORTHEAST

The Indian chess system reached another crucial achievement when Mayank Chakraborty from Assam achieved his position as the 94th Grandmaster of India. He became the first player from India's Northeast region to achieve this prestigious title. International Master Chakraborty acquired his final Grandmaster norm at the 8th GM Tournament which took place in Stockholm Sweden. Chakraborty produced an excellent display at the competition which resulted in him earning 7 points through his participation in 9 rounds. He achieved strong results by defeating opponents who held higher ratings than him and he completed the crucial final rounds without losing any matches. He achieved this performance by reaching the required FIDE rating of 2500 which included all necessary criteria to obtain Grandmaster status. Chakraborty developed his chess skills from his Guwahati hometown while he maintained strong ties to the Silchar chess community. Many experts see him as the top upcoming chess player who will emerge from his home region. The historic achievement established a new standard for Assam and the entire Northeast region which had developed increasing chess popularity until this achievement produced its first Grandmaster. The region has entered into a state of celebration because players and coaches and sports officials have chosen to honor the youths' hard work and dedication. Many believe his success will inspire a new generation of young chess players in the Northeast and further strengthen India's rapidly growing presence in global chess.



SABALENKA AND SINNER REACH BNP PARIBAS OPEN SEMIFINALS

Top tennis players Aryna Sabalenka and Jannik Sinner advanced to the semifinals of the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells with impressive victories in their respective matches. Sabalenka, the world No. 1 in women's tennis continued her strong tournament performance by defeating Victoria Mboko from Canada through a straight sets victory which ended 7-6 (0), 6-4. The Belarusian star showed great composure during a tight first set, dominating the tiebreak before maintaining control in the second to secure her place in the final four. Jannik Sinner from Italy won his match against American player Learner Tien with a score of 6 1 6 2. Sinner's powerful serves and aggressive baseline play kept his opponent under constant pressure throughout the match. The Italian player controlled the tempo from the start and sealed a comfortable victory to move into the semifinals. Daniil Medvedev advanced to the next round after defeating Britain Jack Draper in straight sets. The match included a controversial moment involving a disputed call, but Medvedev maintained his focus and eventually secured the win. The tournament reaches its exciting conclusion at Indian Wells because multiple top players have advanced to the next round.



SHAILESH KUMAR WINS GOLD AT WORLD PARA ATHLETICS GRAND PRIX

Indian para-athlete Shailesh Kumar achieved his first victory of the season by winning gold in the men's high jump T63 event at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix which took place in New Delhi. The reigning world champion cleared a best height of 1.84 metres to finish at the top of the podium and secure another major international victory. Shailesh felt unhappy about the event's competition level because he won the gold medal. He perceived that the event became less difficult to him because several top competitors failed to attend including his regular international rivals. Strong competition helps the athlete reach his peak performance because he can face his most challenging opponents. Shailesh began his first competitive season at the New Delhi Grand Prix competition to prepare for upcoming international competitions. The high jumper who has a personal best of 1.91 metres aims to enhance his performance through technique development and competition practice. Shailesh Kumar has been one of India's leading para-athletes in recent years. He won gold at the Asian Para Games and also claimed the world title in the high jump T63 category. The Indian athlete intends to achieve stronger results at the Asian Para Games because he wants to face tougher competitors at the upcoming competition.



RADHAMANI, SAHIL SECURE WINS FOR INDIA AT WORLD BOXING FUTURES CUP



The World Boxing Futures Cup in Bangkok Thailand saw Indian youth boxers Radhamani Longjam and Sahil Duhan achieve victories for their country. The tournament held between 2023 and 2026 includes talented young boxers from all over the world who use it as a platform to develop their international skills. Radhamani Longjam fought against her opponent from Uzbekistan in the women's 57kg weight class. She fought her opponent from the beginning of the match until she won through a Referee Stopped Contest (RSC) victory in the third round because of her outstanding fighting skills. Sahil Duhan demonstrated his fighting abilities through his boxing display at the 60kg weight class. The Indian boxer achieved a 5-0 victory through unanimous decision against his Turkmenistan opponent while continuing his successful tournament performance. He used his attacking style in the match to score points which permitted him to control the fight. The overall performance of the Indian team produced mixed results for the day. Udham Singh, another Indian boxer, fought vigorously in the men's 55kg category but lost to a Japanese opponent through a 3-2 split decision. The World Boxing Futures Cup in Bangkok runs from March 8 to 15 and features top youth boxers who compete in Youth Olympic weight categories. The event provides Indian athletes with essential international exposure which helps them prepare for upcoming competitions while they develop their skills on the world stage.

INDIA THRASH WALES 4-1 IN WOMEN'S HOCKEY WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

The 17-year-old prodigy from Mumbai, Aarav Dengla, has achieved his status as India's 93rd chess Grandmaster, which creates a significant achievement in his rapidly developing career. The prestigious GM title was awarded to Dengla after he achieved his final norm and reached the 2500 Elo rating requirement through his participation in European international tournaments. His stable performances against experienced players demonstrated his developed skills which enabled him to progress through international competitions. The teenager has achieved his elite title through a pattern of successful performances which he maintained throughout several seasons by achieving exceptional results at norm events and showing distinct progress in classical chess. His coaches attribute his success to three main factors, which include his organized study methods, his advanced endgame skills, and his ability to remain composed during critical situations. The emergence of Dengla as a third Grandmaster from Mumbai demonstrates how the city is expanding its influence within Indian chess. His achievement adds to the legacy popularised by Viswanathan Anand and signals the continued depth of young talent in the country.



Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay & Ajab Tinwala

NFSU ASSISTANT & OFFICER RECRUITMENT 2026 – APPLY ONLINE FOR 51 POSTS

National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) has announced recruitment for Section Officer, Deputy Section Officer and Assistant posts. This is a good opportunity for graduates who want to work in a prestigious national university specializing in forensic science and investigation studies.

Organization: National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)

Posts Offered:

- Section Officer
- Deputy Section Officer
- Assistant

Total Vacancies: 51 Posts

Job Location: Gujarat (Gandhinagar & other NFSU campuses)

Eligibility Criteria

- Age Limit: 21 – 40 Years (Post-wise)
- (Age relaxation applicable as per Government rules.)
- Educational Qualification:
- Bachelor's Degree from a recognized university.

Selection Process

- Candidates will be selected through:
- Screening Test / Written Test
- Skill Test (wherever applicable)
- Document Verification

Important Dates

- Opening Date for Online Application: 23 February 2026 (12:00 PM)
- Last Date for Online Application: 23 March 2026 (11:59 PM)
- Date of Written / Skill Test: To be notified later

Application Fee

- General / EWS / OBC: ₹500 + GST & Transaction Charges
- SC / ST / PwBD / Women: Nil (Fee Exempted)
- Mode of Payment: Online

How to Apply

- Candidates must apply online through the Samarath Portal.
- Visit the portal and register using a valid email ID and mobile number.
- Login and select the desired post, then fill the online application form carefully.
- Upload scanned copies of Photograph, Signature and required documents.
- Pay the application fee online (if applicable) and submit the application form.
- Take a printout of the final submitted application for future reference.

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

PUNJAB POLICE CONSTABLE RECRUITMENT 2026 – APPLY ONLINE FOR 3,298 POSTS

Punjab Police has started the online recruitment process for 3,298 Constable posts in District Police Cadre and Armed Police Cadre, offering a major opportunity for youth aspiring to join the police force in Punjab. Online applications are open from 10 March 2026 to 30 March 2026 through the official portal.

Vacancy Details

- Total Vacancies: 3,298
- District Police Cadre: 2,522 posts
- Armed Police Cadre: 776 posts

Eligibility Criteria

- Educational Qualification:
- General Candidates: 10+2 (12th Pass) from recognized board
- Ex-Servicemen: Matriculation (10th Pass)
- Language Requirement: Punjabi must be studied in Matric or equivalent exam

Selection Process

- Computer-Based Test (CBT)
- Paper I: Merit-based objective exam
- Paper II: Punjabi language qualifying test
- Physical Screening Test (PST)
- Physical Measurement Test (PMT)

ID ready before applying.

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



- Document Verification

Application Fee

- General Category: ₹1,200
- SC/ST/BC/OBC (Punjab): ₹700
- Ex-Servicemen: ₹500

Important Dates

- Application Start: 10 March 2026
- Last Date to Apply: 30 March 2026

How to Apply

- Visit punjabpolice.gov.in → Recruitment Section → Punjab Police Constable Recruitment 2026 → Register → Fill application form → Upload documents → Pay fee → Submit online.

Important Note

- Candidates should keep scanned copies of photograph, signature, educational certificates, and valid

INDIAN AIR FORCE AGNIVEERVAYU (SPORTS) RECRUITMENT 2026 – APPLY ONLINE

The Indian Air Force has released the Agniveervayu (Sports) Intake 02/2026 notification under the Agnipath Scheme.

This recruitment is for unmarried Indian male candidates who are outstanding sportsmen and want to serve the nation while building a career in the defence sector. Selected candidates will be recruited as Agniveervayu (Sports) and may be posted at different Air Force establishments across India.

Organization: Indian Air Force

- Scheme: Agnipath Scheme
- Post: Agniveervayu (Sports)
- Job Location: Across India

Eligibility Criteria

- Who Can Apply: Unmarried Indian male candidates who are outstanding sportsmen in notified sports disciplines.
- Educational Qualification: Candidates must have passed 10th / 12th / Diploma / Vocational Course from a recognized board or institution.
- Age Limit: As per the official notification of the Indian Air Force.

Selection Process

- Selection will be based on:
- Physical Fitness Test (PFT)
- Sports Skill Trials
- Medical Examination
- Document Verification



Important Dates

- Application Start: 23 March 2026 (10:00 hrs)
- Last Date: 29 March 2026 (17:00 hrs)
- Recruitment Trials: 08–10 April 2026
- Medical Documentation: 13 April 2026
- Medical Examination: From 14 April 2026

Application Fee

- ₹100 + applicable taxes, payable online.

How to Apply

- Candidates must apply online through the IAF

Agniveer portal by registering with a valid email ID and mobile number, filling the application form, uploading required documents and sports certificates, paying the fee, and submitting the form. Candidates must carry original documents to the trial venue in New Delhi for verification.

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

Deepika Singh

QUIZ TIME

1. On which date is International Women's Day celebrated every year?
2. Which Indian city recently hosted the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026?
3. On which date is International Mathematics Day celebrated?
4. Which mathematical constant is associated with Pi Day?
5. Which Indian space agency is responsible for the Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission?
6. Which sport is associated with the All England Open tournament?
7. Which organization in India works on defense research and recently conducted research on antidotes for toxic compounds?
8. Which technology is currently leading global innovation and development in 2026?
9. Which rocket mission is part of India's plan to send astronauts into space under the Gaganyaan program?
10. Which country is among the global leaders in developing Artificial Intelligence technologies?

RIDDLES

1. Which Greek mathematician gave the theorem about right-angled triangles?
2. Which mathematical constant is about 3.14 and celebrated on 14 March?
3. Who is known as the Father of Geometry?
4. Which country first introduced the concept of zero?
5. Which Indian mathematician is famous for the number 1729?
6. What number system uses I, V, X, L, C, D, M?
7. Which mathematician introduced coordinate geometry?
8. Which Indian mathematician wrote Aryabhata?

- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 8. | Aryabhata |
| 7. | René Descartes |
| 6. | Roman Numerals |
| 5. | Srinivasa Ramanujan |
| 4. | India |
| 3. | Euclid |
| 2. | Pi (π) |
| 1. | Pythagoras |
- (II) RIDDLES**
- | | |
|-----|-------------------------|
| 10. | United States (USA) |
| 9. | Gaganyaan Mission |
| 8. | Artificial Intelligence |
| 7. | DRDO |
| 6. | Badminton |
| 5. | ISRO |
| 4. | Pi (π) |
| 3. | 14 March |
| 2. | New Delhi |
| 1. | 8 March |
- (I) QUIZ TIME**
- ANSWERS**



A TASTE OF ASSAM: TRADITIONAL KHAR RECIPE

This Week, We're Relishing Traditional Assamese Khar!

Khar is a unique and traditional dish from the northeastern state of Assam. It is one of the most important preparations in Assamese cuisine and is usually served at the beginning of a meal. The special ingredient in this dish is khar, an alkaline extract made from dried banana peel ash, which gives the curry its distinctive taste and aroma.

Ingredients:

1 cup raw papaya (peeled and cubed), 1 tablespoon khar (alkaline water made from banana peel ash), 1 teaspoon mustard oil, ½ teaspoon mustard seeds, 1–2 dried red chillies, 2 cloves garlic (crushed), salt to taste, 1–1½ cups water.

Preparation

1. Prepare Vegetable: Peel the raw papaya and cut it into small cubes. Wash thoroughly.

2. Heat Oil: Heat mustard oil in a pan and add mustard seeds and dried red chillies. Let them splutter.

3. Add Garlic: Add crushed garlic and sauté for a few seconds until aromatic.

4. Cook Papaya: Add the papaya cubes and stir for a minute. Pour in water and cook until the papaya becomes soft.

5. Add Khar: Add khar and salt, then simmer for a few minutes so the flavors blend well.

6. Adjust Consistency: Cook until the curry reaches a light, slightly thick consistency.

7. Serve: Turn off the flame and serve hot.

Serving Tip:

Khar is traditionally served with steamed rice at the start of an Assamese meal. Its mild and earthy flavor pairs well with dal, vegetables, or other traditional Assamese dishes.



Introducing Our New Column

ARTWORK OF THE WEEK

We invite all young artists to showcase their talent in our weekly e-newspaper, The HULAHUL Times. Submit your hand-drawn artwork to be featured!

CRITERIA

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

SUBMISSION DETAILS

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

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