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Ravi Singh & Delisha Gupta

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY: EMBRACING DIFFERENCES



mainly as a supplement to previous UN initiatives to improve human rights.

In 2014, World Autism Awareness Day coincided with Onesie Wednesday, a day created by the National Autistic Society to encourage people in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to show their support for autistic people. By wearing a onesie or pajamas, participants are saying, "It's all right to be different".

World Autism Awareness Day helps to change this. It helps people talk about autism spectrum disorder in a way. We want people to accept and include those with autism spectrum disorder. Knowing about Autism Spectrum Disorder is one thing. Accepting people with autism spectrum disorder is what really matters. One important thing is to help children with autism spectrum disorder in school. Schools need to be safe and welcoming. Teachers need to know how to help these children. Simple things like being patient and flexible can make a difference. When kids learn to be kind and understanding it helps to create a world where everyone feels included.

Families of people with autism spectrum disorder are very strong. They deal with challenges. They have small victories that mean a lot to them. On World Autism Awareness Day, we should thank these families. Support them. Technology and therapy have also helped people with autism spectrum disorder. These tools help with communication and daily life. Not everyone has access to these things. We need to make sure everyone

World Autism Awareness Day is a day when people around the world come together. This day is on April 2 every year. It is a day to think about people who have autism spectrum disorder. We want to make sure these people feel included and accepted. Being different is not a thing. Every person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. We want to give people with autism spectrum disorder the chance to do their best.

The 2026 observance of World Autism Awareness Day, held under the theme "Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value," highlights and affirms the dignity and worth of all autistic people as part of our shared human future. At a time when misinformation and regressive rhetoric about the lives of autistic people is resurfacing, this year's virtual event is a call to action to move beyond limiting narratives and to recognise the inherent dignity, equal rights, and unconditional worth of every autistic person.

Autism Spectrum Disorder is not something that needs to be fixed. It is a way that some people see and understand the world. The word "spectrum" means that everyone with autism spectrum disorder is unique. Some people may be very good at art or music. Others may need help with things. We have learned a lot about autism spectrum disorder. There are still many challenges. For people with autism spectrum disorder and their family's life can be very hard. Sometimes people do not understand them. A child who does not like to make eye contact may seem rude. A teenager who gets upset by noises may seem difficult. This happens because people do not know much about autism spectrum disorder.

It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly resolution, passed in council on 1 November 2007, and adopted on 18 December 2007. It was proposed by Moza bint Nasser Al-Missned, the United Nations Representative from Qatar, and supported by all member states. This resolution was passed and adopted without a vote in the UN General Assembly,

can get the help they need.

Having a job is also very important. Many people with autism spectrum disorder are very good at focusing and solving problems. Companies that hire these people can benefit from their perspectives. Including people with autism spectrum disorder in the workplace is not a good thing to do. It is also good for business.

World Autism Awareness Day reminds us to celebrate people who're different. Like how nature is stronger with many types of plants and animals' humanity is stronger with many types of people. We should not try to make people with autism spectrum disorder fit in. Instead, we should make the world a place where everyone can thrive.

We can all do things to help. We can listen to people with autism spectrum disorder without judging them. We can support them of criticizing them. We can learn more about autism spectrum disorder. Even small things like being kind and patient can make a difference.

In the end World Autism Awareness Day is not one day. It is about making a world where people with autism spectrum disorder are valued and included. We want to replace fear and misunderstanding with acceptance and love.

Every person matters. Every voice deserves to be heard. Every person, no matter how they see the world deserves a place in it. World Autism Awareness Day is about autism spectrum disorder. Autism Spectrum Disorder is what we are talking about. We want to help people, with autism spectrum disorder.

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BANDA SINGH BAHADUR: FROM A SEEKER TO A WARRIOR OF JUSTICE

In the late seventeenth century, in the region of Jammu, a boy named Lachman Dev was born into a Rajput family. Like many young men of his time, he was strong, energetic, and fond of hunting. But one incident changed the course of his life forever. During a hunting expedition, he shot a pregnant deer. As he watched the helpless creature struggle and die, something broke within him. The sight filled him with deep regret and awakened a sense of compassion he had never felt before. This moment became a turning point. Lachman Dev renounced his worldly life and became a wandering ascetic. He came to be known as Madho Das Bairagi, living a life of meditation and detachment. Yet, despite years of spiritual practice, there remained an emptiness within him a feeling that his life still lacked a higher purpose.

The Meeting That Changed Everything

In 1708, destiny brought Madho Das to Nanded, where he encountered Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Sikh Guru. This meeting was not ordinary it was transformative. Guru Gobind Singh was not only a spiritual master but also a leader who had witnessed immense injustice, including the martyrdom of his young sons at the hands of oppressive rulers. When Madho Das met the Guru, he was deeply moved by his presence and words. The Guru spoke not just of spirituality, but of responsibility of standing up against injustice and protecting the innocent. He made Madho Das realize that true spirituality does not lie in escaping the world, but in serving it with courage and righteousness. In that moment, Madho Das surrendered himself completely and became Banda Singh Bahadur. The Guru gave him not only a new name but also a mission to fight tyranny and restore justice.

A Warrior is Born

Banda Singh Bahadur was no longer a passive ascetic. He became a fearless warrior, carrying the blessings and command of Guru Gobind Singh. With a small but dedicated group of followers, he set out to challenge the oppressive Mughal rule in Punjab. His early campaigns were remarkable. He defeated several Mughal strongholds, inspiring confidence among the common people who had long suffered under heavy taxation and cruelty. One of his most significant victories was at Samana, where he punished officials responsible for atrocities against innocent people. But Banda Singh was not just a warrior; he was also a visionary leader. After establishing control over regions like Sirhind, he introduced revolutionary reforms. He abolished the feudal system, gave land rights to farmers, and ensured that the produce of the land belonged to those who cultivated it. For the first time, the poor and oppressed experienced dignity and justice.

The Spirit of Justice

One of the defining aspects of Banda Singh Bahadur's leadership was his commitment to equality. He believed that every human being, regardless of caste or status, deserved respect and fairness. His rule reflected the teachings of the Guru justice



without cruelty and power without arrogance. It is said that during his rule, coins were minted in the name of Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh, symbolizing that his authority came not from personal ambition but from a higher spiritual mission. This act showed his humility and devotion. Banda Singh often reminded his followers that their fight was not for revenge, but for righteousness. He emphasized discipline, honesty, and service. His army was not just a force of soldiers; it was a community united by faith and purpose.

Trials and Sacrifice

However, the rise of Banda Singh Bahadur alarmed the

Mughal empire. Determined to crush this growing resistance, they launched a massive campaign against him. Despite his courage and strategic brilliance, Banda Singh eventually faced overwhelming forces. After a prolonged struggle, he was captured along with his companions. What followed was a period of unimaginable hardship. He and his followers were subjected to severe torture in Delhi. Yet, even in the face of death, Banda Singh remained calm and fearless. One of the most heart-wrenching incidents was when his young son was brought before him and killed. Despite this unbearable pain, Banda Singh did not lose his faith or courage. He refused to abandon his beliefs or seek mercy in exchange for submission. His final moments were marked by extraordinary strength. He accepted death with dignity, proving that true bravery lies not just in fighting battles, but in standing firm in one's principles until the very end.

A Legacy That Lives On

Banda Singh Bahadur's life is a powerful example of transformation, courage, and service. From a hunter to an ascetic, and from an ascetic to a warrior of justice, his journey reflects the potential within every human being to rise above personal limitations and serve a greater cause.

He did not fight for power or wealth, but for justice and dignity. His reforms laid the foundation for a more equal society, and his sacrifice inspired future generations to continue the struggle for freedom and righteousness. Even today, his story is remembered not just in history books, but in the hearts of people who value courage, faith, and integrity.

Moral and Conclusion

The life of Banda Singh Bahadur teaches us that true transformation begins with self-realization and is fulfilled through service to others. His journey shows that courage is not the absence of fear, but the strength to stand against injustice despite it. He demonstrated that power must be used for the welfare of society and that leadership is rooted in humility and responsibility. In a world where challenges and inequalities still exist, his story inspires us to act with integrity, remain fearless in the face of adversity, and dedicate ourselves to a purpose greater than personal gain. Banda Singh Bahadur's life reminds us that one individual, guided by faith and determination, can bring about meaningful change and leave behind a legacy of justice and honour.

Ravi Singh & Delisha Gupta

THE MAN BEHIND THE CHAMPIONS: RAGHAVENDRA DWIVEDI'S UNTOLD STORY

Behind every powerful shot on the cricket field lies an unseen strength and for India, that strength is Raghavendra Dwivedi. A boy who once left his home with just rupees Rs. 21 has now become an important figure in India's World Cup victory. He once dreamt of becoming a cricketer, but a hand fracture shattered that dream. However, his passion never faded. Today Raghavendra Dwivedi stands as one of the masterminds behind India's T20 World Cup triumph.

24 years ago, Raghavendra Dwivedi left his home with only Rs. 21 in pursuit of his cricketing dreams. His journey, filled with struggles and sacrifice, eventually led him to play a crucial role in India's success. During the 2017 Champions Trophy, Virat Kohli acknowledged his contribution stating that Raghavendra had a role in his success, even though his efforts go unnoticed. Indeed, Dwivedi works silently behind the scenes and is considered the backbone of Indian cricket team as a throwdown specialist.

Healing from kumta in Uttara Kannada district, Dwivedi has earned his recognition through years of relentless hard work. Popularly known as Raghu, he joined the Indian team in 2011 as a throwdown specialist. Over the years, he has likely delivered over a million practice balls facing his deliveries often reaching speed to 150 km per hour, which requires immense courage. When he uses it as a sidearm, his space is unmatched by any other throwdown specialist in the world.

His journey is a powerful reminder for those who feel defeated in life. Despite his deep passion for cricket, his father disapproved for the sport. One day, when asked to choose between studies and cricket, Raghavendra chose his dream without hesitation. With just Rs. 21 and a small bag, he left and headed to Hubli. For a week, he slept at the bus stand. When forced to leave, he found temporary shelter in a temple

for 10 days. Eventually, he had to move again and ended up living in a crematorium. For nearly four and a half years, he survived there, using a discarded mat from the cricket ground as his blanket. During this difficult phase, he suffered a fracture in his right hand, which ended his dream of playing cricket professionally.

at the National Cricket academy near the M. Chinnaswamy stadium. For 3 to 4 years, he worked without any income and often went without food. Despite these hardships, he completed the BCCI Level One coaching course. His commitment made him a favorite among players. Soon even Sachin Tendulkar noticed his talent, which led to his appointment as a training assistant with the Indian team in

teammates and giving his best in every moment. Off the field, he is humble and grounded. Despite being recognised in cricket circles, he focuses more on continuous learning then celebrating his achievements.

He firmly believes that success in cricket is a journey, not a destination. This mindset drive him to keep improving and striving for excellence. His journey also highlights the importance of support from family and mentors who help overcome obstacles. In today's fast-evolving cricket landscape, especially with the rise of T20 formats, adaptability is key and Dwivedi possesses that edge through his fitness, awareness and willingness to evolve.

The road ahead is undoubtedly challenging, with intense competition for limited opportunities. However, if his journey so far is any indication, Raghavendra Dwivedi has the determination to overcome every obstacle. What truly set him apart is not just the cricketing ability, but his story of passion, discipline and quiet strength.

Raghavendra Dwivedi represents every dreamer who aspires to achieve greatness. His journey reminds us that success is built on hard work, patience and self belief. Whether at the state, national or international level his dedication and shows that event continue to make his mark. For now, he is steadily craving his path in cricket and his journey promises something extraordinary. With passion in his heart and determination in his stride, Dwivedi is not just playing cricket he is building a dream, one step at a time.



The Backbone of Victory

Left home with just ₹21, a shattered dream, but a persistent passion.

Kohli acknowledged: "Raghavendra had a role in my success."

The Throwdown Specialist

He works silently behind the scenes, delivering over a million practice balls.

The mastermind throwdown specialist behind India's T20 World Cup triumph.

The Dream and the Mentor

The mastermind throwdown specialist behind India's T20 World Cup triumph.

A powerful reminder for those who feel defeated in life: "Success is a journey, not a destination."

Refusing to giving up, Raghavendra shifted his focus to supporting the game in a different way. In Hubli he began helping cricketers by throwing balls during practice sessions. A friend later guided him to Bangaluru, where the Karnataka Cricket institute of cricket offered him shelter. His role involved assistant players and operating the bowling machine; his dedication caught the attention of former Karnataka wicketkeeper Tilak Naidu, who introduced him to Javagal Srinath. This became a turning point in his life.

Recognising his sincerity and hard work, Srinath invited him to work with the Karnataka Ranji Team. During the off - season, he served

2011. Since then, he has played a vital role in the team's success, culminating in India's T20 World Cup victory.

Raghavendra Dwivedi approaches the game with a perfect balance of aggression and control. As a batsman, he is known for his confident stroke play and his ability to guide the team when required. He can accelerate the pace of the game with impactful shots, making him a dependable player in crucial situations. His adaptability further enhances his value across different matches scenarios.

On the field, his energy is infectious. He remains alert, constantly encouraging his

and self belief. Whether at the state, national or international level his dedication and shows that event continue to make his mark. For now, he is steadily craving his path in cricket and his journey promises something extraordinary. With passion in his heart and determination in his stride, Dwivedi is not just playing cricket he is building a dream, one step at a time.

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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.

Not long ago, accessing financial services in India meant visiting a bank branch, completing paperwork, and waiting for approvals. For millions in rural and underserved areas, this often-meant exclusion limited access to credit, savings, insurance, and formal financial systems. As a result, many depended on informal lenders charging high interest rates. Today, that reality is changing rapidly. Fintech startups are using technology to deliver faster, simpler, and more accessible financial services directly through mobile devices. From digital payments and savings accounts to microloans and insurance, finance is no longer restricted by geography. From microloans to mobile banking, digital finance is expanding access to India's last mile. For students, professionals, and aspiring entrepreneurs, this signals a major shift: the future of finance lies in accessibility, inclusion, and digital reach.

Bridging the Financial Gap

Financial inclusion ensures that individuals and small businesses have access to affordable and useful financial services. Fintech platforms are making this possible by reducing barriers such as distance,

FINTECH REVOLUTION: BRINGING FINANCE TO INDIA'S LAST MILE

documentation, and processing delays.

They offer:

- Instant account opening
- Sall-ticket loan
- Digital payment
- Insurance access
- Alternative credit scoring

Example: A rural farmer can now accept digital payments and apply for small loans through a mobile app without visiting a bank.

Technology reduces both time and effort.

Microfinance Meets Digital Speed

Microfinance has long supported small borrowers, but fintech has made it faster and more scalable.

Digital lending platforms:
Analyse transaction behaviour
Offer quick approvals
Reduce paperwork
Provide flexible repayment options

Example: A street vendor needing ₹10,000 for inventory can receive funds within hours based on digital transaction history instead of collateral.

Access to credit becomes faster and more inclusive.

Banking Without Branches

Fintech has enabled core banking services without physical infrastructure.

Users can now

- Open accounts digitally
- Transfer money instantly
- Pay bills and receive subsidies
- Track income and expenses

Example: A rural entrepreneur uses digital payments to manage daily business transactions, reducing reliance on cash.

Digital banking improves both convenience and transparency.

Why Fintech Is Growing Rapidly

The expansion of fintech in rural India is supported by multiple factors:

- Rising smartphone penetration
- Affordable internet access
- Government digital initiative
- Simplified KYC processes
- Increasing digital literacy

Fintech platforms are designed to be simple and user-friendly, making them accessible even for first-time users.

Impact on Rural and Local Economies

Financial inclusion through fintech strengthens economic participation by:

- Supporting small entrepreneurs
- Encouraging formal transactions
- Improving savings behaviour
- Reducing reliance on informal credit
- Enhancing financial stability

Example: Women in self-help groups can now manage savings and loans digitally, improving transparency and financial discipline.

Access to finance leads to empowerment and growth.

Career Opportunities for Students

Fintech is one of the fastest-growing sectors for commerce students, combining finance, technology, and social impact.

Emerging roles include:

- Digital Banking Executive
- Microfinance Analyst
- Fintech Product Associate
- Risk and Compliance Analyst
- Customer Onboarding Specialist
- Financial Inclusion Program Manager

Example: A commerce graduate may work with a fintech firm analysing customer data to design loan products for rural users.

These roles require both financial understanding and digital capability.



Challenges to Address

Despite its rapid growth, fintech faces several challenges:

- Digital literacy gaps
- Trust issues among first-time users
- Connectivity limitations in remote areas
- Data privacy and cybersecurity concerns

Overcoming these challenges is crucial to ensure long-term sustainability and truly inclusive growth.

The Bigger Shift

Fintech is not just improving how financial services are delivered—it is redefining who can access them. By bringing banking directly to people through digital platforms, it removes traditional barriers of distance and infrastructure, enabling wider participation and inclusion in the formal financial system and expanding economic opportunities across underserved regions.

The Takeaway

Financial inclusion is becoming a practical reality through technology. In today's economy, growth is meaningful only when financial access reaches the last mile, empowering individuals and building a strong foundation for an inclusive economy.

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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 – DRAMATIC IRONY

Dramatic Irony is a significant literary and theatrical device in which the audience possesses knowledge that the characters within the narrative do not. This disparity between audience awareness and character perception creates layers of meaning, tension, and engagement.

Dramatic irony occurs when reader or audience understands the true situation, while the character acts under a misconception or incomplete knowledge.

Dramatic Irony is used for the Creation of Suspens Enhancement of Theme , Character Revelation .It also evokes pity and fear, especially in tragedies, where characters unknowingly move toward their downfall.



Classical Example:

In Hamlet by William Shakespeare:

The audience is aware that King Claudius has murdered Hamlet's father.

However, other characters in the court remain unaware of this truth.

This creates dramatic irony, particularly in scenes where Claudius appears as a legitimate ruler while the audience perceives him as morally corrupt.

In Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

The audience knows that Juliet is alive, but Romeo believes she is dead, leading to tragic consequences.

Dramatic irony is not merely a stylistic device but a powerful structural and thematic tool. It deepens narrative complexity, strengthens audience engagement, and provides profound insight into human limitations, making it indispensable in both classical and modern literature.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The word sincere derives from the Latin term sincerus, meaning clean, pure, or sound. It entered the English language in the late Middle Ages through Old French (sincere).

Latin: sincerus — pure, untainted, genuine
Old French: sincere — honest, genuine
Middle English: sincere — free from deceit or falseness

GRAMMAR TIP

Subject-Verb Agreement with Collective Nouns

Collective nouns (such as team, committee, jury, family) can take either singular or plural verbs depending on context.

Singular (acting as one unit):
The committee has made its decision.

Plural (acting as individuals):
The committee have expressed differing opinions.

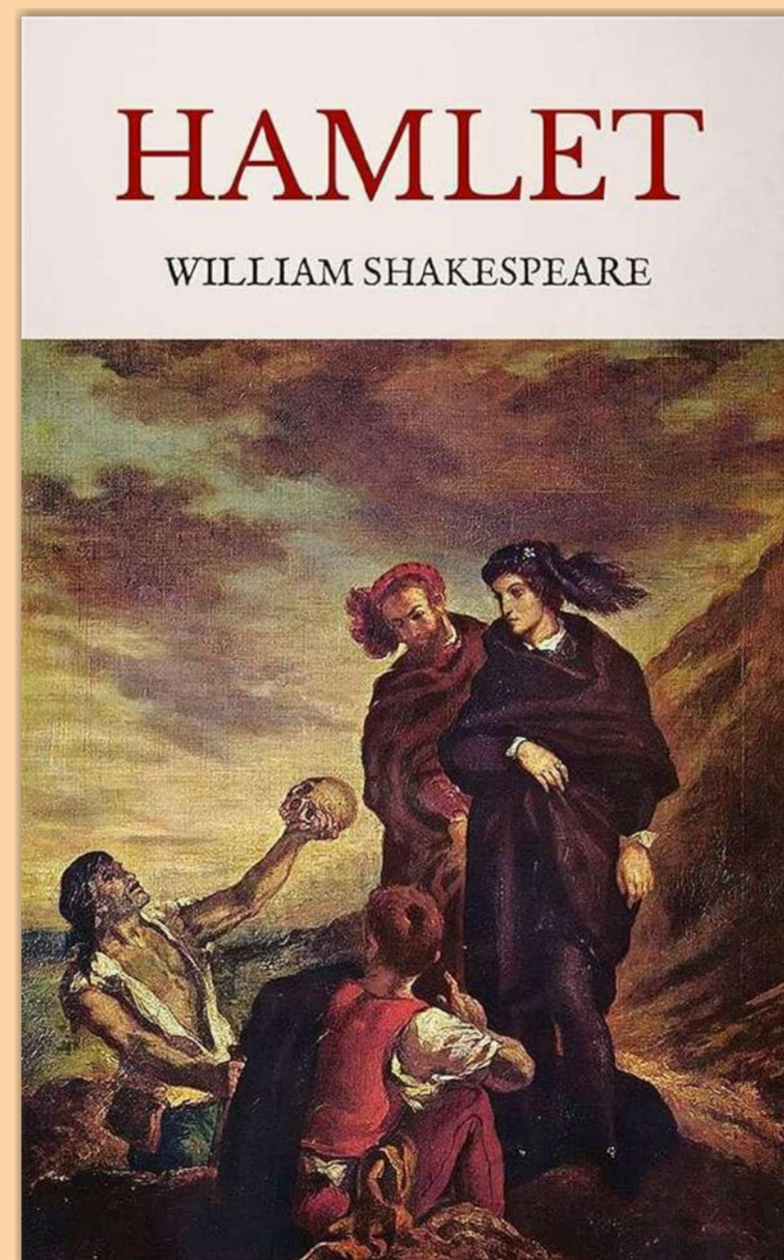
WRITER OF THE WEEK

Arundhati Roy

Arundhati Roy is a prominent Indian novelist and essayist, best known for her Booker Prize-winning novel *The God of Small Things*. Her writings combine literary innovation with socio-political critique, addressing themes such as inequality, environmental justice, and human rights.

BOOK REVIEW

Hamlet by William Shakespeare



Hamlet is a profound tragedy that examines revenge, morality, madness, and existential uncertainty. The character of Hamlet embodies intellectual depth and emotional complexity, making the play a timeless exploration of human psychology and ethical dilemmas.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.”

— Arundhati Roy

CREATIVE WRITING

OZYMANDIAS

I met a traveller from an antique land,
Who said Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal, these words appear:
My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

“Ozymandias” is a sonnet that reflects on the transience of power and the inevitable decline of human achievements. Through the imagery of a ruined statue in a desert, Shelley critiques the arrogance of rulers who believe their legacy will endure forever.

The inscription: “Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!” ironically contrasts with the surrounding emptiness, emphasizing the futility of pride and the passage of time.

Poetry by
Percy Bysshe Shelley

WORD OF THE WEEK

Ubiquitous (adjective)

Meaning: Present, appearing, or found everywhere.
Example: Digital language has become ubiquitous in modern communication.

IDIOM HIGHLIGHT

A double-edged sword

Meaning: Something that has both positive and negative consequences.
Example: Social media is a double-edged sword in the realm of communication.

INDIA'S WHEAT OUTPUT RISES IN 2026 BUT FALLS SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS

India's wheat production for 2026 is expected to show an overall increase compared to the previous year, but it is likely to fall short of initial estimates due to adverse weather conditions. While improved sowing and better acreage had raised hopes for a strong harvest, unexpected climatic factors have impacted crop yields in key producing regions.



Experts indicate that higher temperatures during critical growth stages, particularly in February and March, affected grain formation and reduced overall productivity. Wheat is highly sensitive to heat stress, and even a short period of elevated temperatures can significantly lower yields. As a result, despite increased cultivation area, the final output is projected to be lower than earlier forecasts.

The government and agricultural agencies had anticipated a record harvest, but the weather disruptions have forced a revision in expectations. However, the production is still expected to remain higher than last year's levels, offering some relief in

terms of domestic supply. This situation highlights the growing impact of climate variability on agriculture, where unpredictable weather patterns can influence both yield and food security. It also underlines the need for climate-resilient crop varieties and improved farming practices.

Overall, while India's wheat output remains stable, the shortfall from expectations serves as a reminder of the challenges posed by changing climatic conditions and the importance of strengthening agricultural resilience in the future.

RAJASTHAN PLANS MAJOR IRRIGATION UPGRADE TO REDUCE MONSOON DEPENDENCE

The Rajasthan government is preparing to strengthen its irrigation infrastructure in a bid to reduce the state's heavy reliance on monsoon rains. The proposed initiative focuses on expanding water availability through improved canal systems, efficient water management, and the adoption of modern irrigation techniques.



Rajasthan, known for its arid climate and limited rainfall, has long faced challenges in maintaining consistent agricultural productivity. By investing in irrigation upgrades, the government aims to ensure a more reliable water supply for farmers, allowing them to cultivate crops even during periods of weak or delayed monsoons. The plan includes enhancing existing irrigation networks, promoting micro-irrigation methods such as drip and sprinkler systems, and improving water storage capacity. These measures are expected to optimise water usage, reduce wastage, and support sustainable farming practices in water-scarce regions.

Officials believe that improved irrigation will not only stabilise crop

production but also encourage farmers to diversify into higher-value crops. This could lead to increased farm incomes and greater resilience against climate variability.

The initiative also aligns with broader goals of strengthening rural infrastructure and boosting agricultural growth in the state. By reducing dependence on unpredictable rainfall, Rajasthan hopes to build a more secure and climate-resilient agricultural system.

Overall, the irrigation upgrade marks a significant step toward sustainable water management and long-term agricultural stability in one of India's most drought-prone regions.

SUMMER CROP ACREAGE DECLINES SLIGHTLY AS PADDY AND MAIZE SOWING FALLS



India's summer crop season has begun on a relatively slower note, with overall acreage witnessing a marginal decline of around 2% compared to last year. The drop is largely attributed to reduced sowing of key crops such as paddy and maize, which together form a significant portion of summer cultivation.

Recent agricultural data shows that total sown area stood at about 4.27 million hectares, slightly lower than 4.37 million hectares recorded during the same period last year. The decline is mainly due to a fall in rice acreage, which dropped from 2.86 million hectares to 2.78 million hectares, and a noticeable reduction in maize cultivation as well.

The summer or "zaid" season, which runs between March and June, depends heavily on irrigation and short-duration crops. Experts suggest that delayed sowing and unfavourable early weather conditions may have contributed to the slower pace this year. However, they remain optimistic that acreage could improve as the season progresses.

Interestingly, pulses have emerged as a positive trend, with increased cultivation of crops like moong and urad. Farmers appear to be shifting toward these crops due to their lower input costs and shorter growing cycles, making them more resilient under uncertain conditions.

Overall, while the initial dip in acreage raises concerns, the outlook remains stable. With sufficient irrigation and improved weather conditions, sowing activity is expected to pick up, helping balance the early decline and maintain overall agricultural output.

AWL AGRI BUSINESS STRENGTHENS INVESTOR ENGAGEMENT AMID MINOR REGULATORY SETBACK

AWL Agri Business Limited has announced scheduled analyst and investor interactions on March 24, 2026, as part of its continued efforts to maintain transparency and strengthen communication with stakeholders. The meetings, to be held in Mumbai, will follow a one-on-one format, allowing detailed engagement with analysts and investors while adhering to regulatory disclosure norms.



originally misused by a third party.

Despite the regulatory action, the company has stated that the financial impact is not material and will not affect its overall operations. It also plans to challenge the order through appropriate legal channels.

Overall, AWL Agri Business continues to focus on investor transparency and regulatory compliance, balancing routine corporate engagement with responsible handling of compliance issues.

INDIA TARGETS SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN POPCORN PRODUCTION TO CUT IMPORTS BY 2030

India is steadily moving towards achieving self-sufficiency in popcorn production, with a clear goal of eliminating imports by 2030. According to agricultural experts, this transition could help the country save nearly ₹810 crore in foreign exchange, marking a significant shift in the agri-food sector.



A decade ago, India relied almost entirely on imported popcorn. However, sustained efforts by research institutions like the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and collaborations with private companies have transformed the sector. Domestic production now meets nearly 70% of the country's demand, significantly reducing dependence on overseas supplies.

The growth has been driven by the development of high-yielding, climate-suitable popcorn maize varieties, along with improved farming practices and better supply chain integration. Production has expanded rapidly—from about 50,000 tonnes in 2014–15 to over 1.3 lakh tonnes in 2025–26, with projections reaching

around 1.8 lakh tonnes by 2030.

This transformation is also creating new income opportunities for farmers through contract farming and organised value chains. By strengthening domestic capabilities, India is not only aiming to meet internal demand but also exploring the potential to become an exporter of premium popcorn maize.

Overall, the initiative reflects a broader push towards Atmanirbhar agriculture, where innovation, research, and industry collaboration help reduce imports, boost farmer income, and enhance food sector resilience.

Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay

GOVT ROLLS OUT AI TRAINING FOR 15,000 PROFESSIONALS; TIES UP WITH GOOGLE, YOUTUBE

In a major push towards future-ready skills, the government has launched an AI skilling initiative to train 15,000 individuals from the creative and media sectors. The programme aims to equip youth with advanced digital skills in areas such as content creation, gaming, animation, and digital storytelling.



To strengthen its impact, the government has partnered with leading technology platforms like Google and YouTube. These collaborations will offer industry-relevant training, practical exposure, and access to cutting-edge tools used in today's rapidly evolving creative economy.

The programme includes structured training modules designed to help participants understand and apply artificial intelligence in creative fields. From AI-powered video editing to content optimisation and audience engagement strategies, learners will gain hands-on experience aligned with current industry trends and industry demands.

A key highlight is the provision of scholarships, ensuring accessibility for

aspiring creators and professionals from diverse backgrounds. This approach promotes inclusivity and encourages wider participation from across urban and rural regions of the country.

The initiative seeks to bridge the gap between creativity and technology by preparing individuals for emerging opportunities in the digital economy. As AI continues to reshape industries, such efforts are essential in building a skilled and adaptable workforce.

By combining innovation, training, and industry partnerships, the programme marks a strong step toward empowering India's creative youth for a competitive, technology-driven future.

UGC URGES UNIVERSITIES TO JOIN IIIDEM FOR DEMOCRACY STUDIES

University Grants Commission has encouraged higher education institutions to collaborate with the Election Commission of India through its specialised institute, IIIDEM, to promote academic engagement in democracy and election management studies.

In a recent communication, UGC urged universities and colleges to actively participate in IIIDEM's initiatives, which focus on strengthening understanding of electoral processes, democratic values, and governance practices. The move aims to integrate practical knowledge of elections with academic learning, making students more informed and responsible citizens.

IIIDEM conducts training programmes, workshops, seminars, and research activities related to election management and democratic systems. By joining these initiatives, institutions can offer students exposure to real-world electoral processes, policy frameworks, and global best practices in democratic governance.

UGC highlighted that such collaborations can help build awareness about voter participation, ethical practices, and institutional functioning, while also encouraging research in political processes and public administration. Universities may also explore curriculum integration, internships, and joint academic programmes in this domain.

The initiative aligns with broader efforts to strengthen civic education and democratic literacy among youth.

By connecting academic institutions with election management bodies, the move seeks to bridge theory and practice, preparing students to contribute meaningfully to democratic institutions and governance systems in India

DEEP-TECH IN FOCUS AT BHARAT INNOVATES 2026

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has highlighted India's accelerating innovation ecosystem, with a strong focus on deep-tech startups, ahead of the upcoming Bharat Innovates 2026 platform. The initiative is set to showcase cutting-edge technologies and position India as a global hub for innovation-driven growth.

Pradhan emphasised that India's startup landscape is rapidly evolving beyond conventional sectors, with increasing attention on deep-tech areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, biotechnology, and advanced manufacturing. These sectors, he noted, are critical for long-term economic resilience and technological leadership.

The Bharat Innovates 2026 event aims to provide a global stage for Indian startups, researchers, and innovators to present breakthrough ideas, collaborate with industry leaders, and attract investment. It is expected to bring together policymakers, entrepreneurs, academia, and global stakeholders to accelerate innovation partnerships.



Highlighting the role of education and research institutions, the minister said universities are becoming key drivers of innovation by nurturing entrepreneurial talent and supporting research-to-market transitions. Initiatives aligned with the National Education Policy 2020 are helping integrate skill development, research, and startup culture within higher education.

Pradhan also underlined the importance of collaboration between government, industry, and academia to build a robust innovation ecosystem.

With deep-tech startups at the forefront, Bharat Innovates 2026 is poised to strengthen India's global innovation footprint and unlock new opportunities for technological advancement and economic growth.

MAHARASHTRA PANEL PROPOSES 'SEMI-ENGLISH' MODEL TO REVIVE GOVT SCHOOLS

A government-appointed panel in Maharashtra has recommended introducing a 'semi-English' or bilingual teaching model in Marathi-medium government schools to improve enrolment and make public education more competitive.

The proposal suggests teaching key subjects such as science and mathematics in English while continuing instruction in Marathi for other subjects. The move aims to strike a balance between preserving regional language learning and meeting the growing demand among parents for English-medium education.

Officials noted that many families are increasingly shifting their children to private English-medium schools, leading to declining enrolment in government institutions. By adopting a semi-English approach, the panel believes government schools can retain students while improving their academic and career prospects.

The recommendation also emphasises teacher training, updated

learning materials, and gradual implementation to ensure a smooth transition without compromising learning quality. Schools may receive additional support to equip teachers with bilingual teaching skills and improve classroom delivery.

The panel highlighted that bilingual education can enhance comprehension by allowing students to grasp concepts in their mother tongue while building English proficiency needed for higher education and employment.

If implemented, the reform could mark a significant shift in Maharashtra's school education strategy, making government schools more accessible, relevant, and aligned with modern learning needs.

The proposal reflects a broader effort to strengthen public education by combining linguistic identity with global competitiveness.

ALL HIGH SCHOOLS TO GET BROADBAND ACCESS IN 2-3 YEARS: PRADHAN



Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has announced that all high schools across India will be equipped with broadband internet connectivity within the next 2-3 years, marking a major step toward strengthening digital education infrastructure.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, the minister said nearly 60% of high schools are already connected, and efforts are underway to ensure universal digital access. The initiative aims to enhance online learning, improve access to educational resources, and support technology-driven teaching methods.

Pradhan also emphasised the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education, stating that AI will be integrated across all levels of learning. Under the National Education Policy 2020, foundational exposure to AI will begin as early as Class 3, while computational thinking and emerging technologies will be incorporated into school curricula.

The government is focusing on teacher capacity building to ensure effective AI-based instruction. Existing NCERT textbooks already include topics such as AI, the Internet of Things, and digital technologies, while CBSE offers AI as a skill module from middle school onwards.

Digital platforms like DIKSHA, SWAYAM, and PM eVidya continue to support this transformation by providing accessible learning content and teacher training resources.

The move reflects a broader push to modernise school education by combining connectivity, digital tools, and future-ready skills.

With universal broadband access and AI integration, India aims to create a more inclusive, technology-driven learning ecosystem for students nationwide.

Durgesh K. Dubey

WEST ASIA CONFLICT CASTS SHADOW ON INDIA'S ECONOMY, TRIGGERS CALL FOR URGENT REFORMS

The ongoing conflict in West Asia is beginning to leave a visible imprint on India's economic landscape, raising concerns about growth, inflation and external stability. Recent assessments suggest that the ripple effects of the crisis are no longer distant risks but are gradually filtering into domestic economic activity, prompting policymakers to prepare for both immediate and long-term responses.

Early signs of moderation in economic momentum are already emerging. High-frequency indicators point to a slight slowdown, reflecting the impact of global disruptions. Rising input costs, supply constraints and logistical challenges are beginning to weigh on businesses across sectors. While the economy continues to show resilience, the initial signals indicate that external shocks are starting to test its strength.

The conflict is affecting India through multiple channels, making its impact both complex and widespread. One of the most immediate concerns is the disruption in energy supplies, particularly crude oil and gas, which are critical for a country heavily dependent on imports. Higher global energy prices not only increase the import bill but also contribute to inflation by raising production and transportation costs across industries.

Beyond energy, the crisis is also influencing trade and supply chains. Increased freight charges, higher insurance costs and uncertain shipping routes are making exports more expensive and less competitive. At the same time, imports of essential commodities such as fertilizers are becoming costlier, which could eventually affect agricultural productivity and food prices.

Another area of concern is the potential decline in remittances from Indians working in Gulf countries. Any slowdown in economic activity in the region could reduce income flows back to India, impacting household consumption and overall economic demand.

Taken together, these factors are expected to influence key macroeconomic indicators, including growth, inflation, fiscal balance and the current account deficit. The widening of the trade deficit is a particular worry, as higher import costs could put additional pressure on external balances. Managing this imbalance will require a careful mix of policy measures, including fiscal adjustments and demand moderation.

In response to rising global oil prices, the government has already taken steps to ease the burden on consumers and businesses. Measures such as reducing additional excise duties on petrol and diesel aim to cushion the immediate impact of higher fuel costs. At the same time, export duties have been imposed on certain petroleum products to ensure adequate domestic availability, reflecting a focus on protecting internal supply.

However, experts suggest that short-term relief alone may not be sufficient. The current situation highlights the need for building long-term resilience. This includes strengthening domestic capabilities, diversifying supply sources and creating strategic reserves of critical commodities beyond just energy.

The crisis also presents an opportunity for structural reforms. Enhancing competitiveness, improving supply chain efficiency and

accelerating decision-making processes could help the economy emerge stronger from this period of uncertainty. A more agile and responsive policy framework can play a key role in navigating such global shocks.

At the same time, targeted support for vulnerable sections of society remains crucial. Small businesses, farmers and low-income households are often the most affected by rising costs and economic disruptions. Providing timely relief to these groups can help sustain demand and prevent deeper economic stress.

Despite the challenges, domestic demand continues to act as a stabilising force. Consumption and investment within the country may help offset some of the external pressures, offering a degree of resilience in uncertain times.

The unfolding situation serves as a reminder of how interconnected the global economy has become. Events in distant regions can quickly influence domestic conditions, affecting everything from fuel prices to job security. For India, the current crisis is both a test of economic resilience and an opportunity to strengthen its foundations for the future.

BOOST TO INDIA'S DEFENCE POWER: INDIGENOUS MACHINE GUNS MARK NEW MILESTONE IN SELF-RELIANCE

India's journey toward defence self-reliance has taken a significant step forward with the induction of newly developed indigenous light machine guns into the armed forces. The delivery of the first batch of advanced weapons reflects not only technological progress but also the growing strength of domestic manufacturing in critical sectors.

The newly introduced light machine guns, designed and manufactured within the country, are expected to enhance operational capabilities, particularly in sensitive border regions. With the ability to strike targets up to one kilometre away and a firing rate of around 700 rounds per minute, these weapons bring a combination of precision, range and firepower that strengthens the preparedness of troops deployed in challenging terrains.

What makes this development particularly noteworthy is the speed at which the project has been executed. From initial planning to delivery, the production cycle has been completed ahead of schedule, demonstrating the increasing efficiency of India's defence manufacturing ecosystem. The ability to accelerate timelines while maintaining quality standards highlights the maturing partnership between policymakers and industry players.

The scale of the project is equally significant. With an overall order running into tens of thousands of units, this initiative is not just about immediate deployment but also about building long-term domestic capacity. The manufacturing facility responsible for these weapons is equipped with advanced technologies, including precision engineering

systems, robotics and testing infrastructure. Spread over a vast area, it has the capability to produce a large volume of weapons annually, ensuring sustained supply for defence requirements.

A key feature of this initiative is the high level of domestic sourcing. With more than 90 percent of components produced within the country, the project reduces dependence on imports and strengthens local supply chains. This is particularly important in the current global environment, where geopolitical uncertainties can disrupt international trade and access to critical technologies.

Every weapon undergoes rigorous testing before being inducted into service. From ballistic performance to environmental endurance, multiple checks are conducted to ensure reliability under diverse conditions. Such stringent quality assurance processes are essential, given the demanding operational environments in which these weapons will be used.

Beyond the immediate benefits for the armed forces, this development also carries broader economic implications. Defence manufacturing has the potential to create jobs, promote technological innovation and stimulate ancillary industries. The expansion of production capabilities, including plans to manufacture additional categories of weapons in the future, indicates a long-term vision for building a comprehensive defence ecosystem.

The emphasis on collaboration between the government and private sector has been a crucial factor in driving this progress. By combining policy support with industrial expertise, the country is gradually moving

towards a model where domestic capabilities can meet strategic needs without excessive reliance on external sources.

Looking ahead, the focus is likely to remain on scaling up production and expanding the range of indigenous defence products. The goal is not only to meet domestic demand but also to position the country as a competitive player in the global defence market.

In a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape, the importance of self-reliance in defence cannot be overstated. The introduction of these indigenously manufactured machine guns is more than just a technological achievement—it is a statement of intent. It reflects a shift towards greater independence, resilience and confidence in the country's ability to safeguard its security through its own capabilities.

As global uncertainties continue to shape strategic priorities, such initiatives underline a broader transformation one where innovation, speed and self-sufficiency come together to redefine the future of national defence.

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FAQs ON
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Q. How to deal with disgrace?

Ans. Dealing with disgrace is one of the most challenging emotional experiences a person can face. It strikes at one's self-image, social identity, and sense of worth. Ancient Indian wisdom, however, offers a deeply philosophical and practical framework to navigate such moments not by escaping them, but by transforming them into opportunities for growth, self-realization, and inner strength.

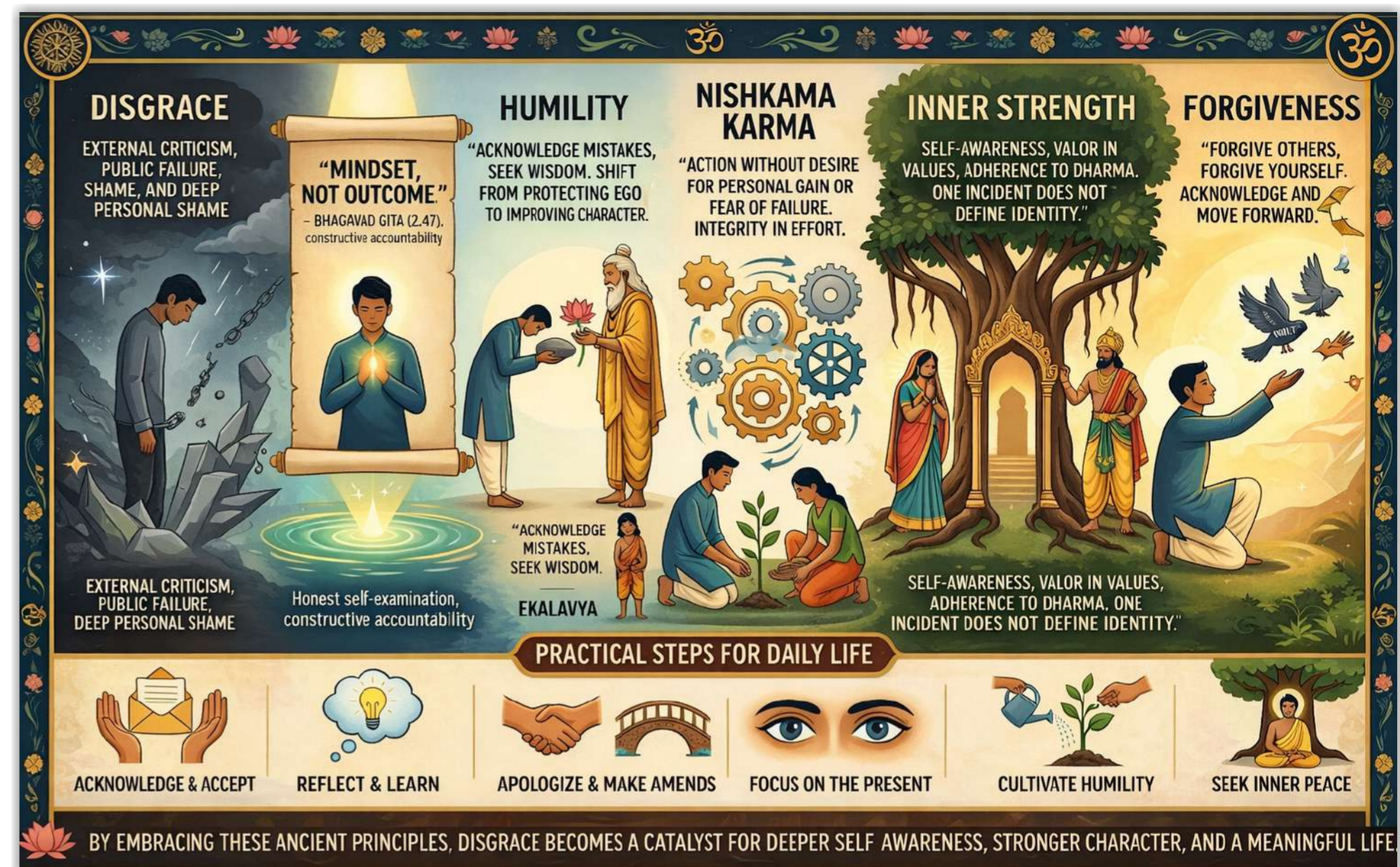
The first and most crucial step in handling disgrace is self-reflection. The Bhagavad Gita (2.47) emphasizes that while we have control over our actions, we do not control the outcomes. This insight is powerful because shame often arises from outcomes failure, criticism, or social judgment. Instead of getting trapped in "what people think" or "what went wrong externally," one must turn inward. Reflection involves honestly identifying

where things went wrong, without defensiveness or denial. It requires taking responsibility not in a self-destructive way, but in a constructive, accountable manner. For example, Arjuna in the Mahabharata initially collapses under emotional confusion and moral doubt. But through introspection and guidance, he regains clarity and purpose. This teaches that reflection is not about self-blame; it is about self-understanding. When you learn from your mistakes, disgrace begins to lose its sting and becomes a stepping stone for improvement.

Closely connected to reflection is the virtue of humility. Ancient texts consistently highlight humility as a sign of true strength, not weakness. The story of Ekalavya is often cited—his willingness to accept Dronacharya's demand, though controversial, reflects deep respect and surrender to a larger principle. Ekalavya's request for accepting as shishya was rejected by Dronacharya, as per the employment principles, as he was appointed to teach the Kaurava's and Pandava's. Ethical dispute is to be understood here. But Ekalavya learned the lessons by hiding himself in the premises, say violations of copyright! When confronted, he agrees his mistake, but as he accepted Dronacharya as Guru, he was ready to give Guru Dakshina. In practical terms, humility means acknowledging one's mistakes openly and, where necessary, offering a sincere apology. It allows you to accept imperfection without collapsing into inferiority. A humble person does not resist correction or criticism; instead, they use it as fuel for self-growth. When you embrace humility, you shift your focus from protecting your ego to improving your character. This shift itself reduces the burden of shame.

Another essential concept is karma, especially the idea of performing actions without attachment to results. The Upanishadic and Gita philosophy teaches "nishkama karma"—action without desire for personal gain or fear of failure. Shame often comes from an excessive attachment to outcomes—success, recognition, or validation. When those expectations are not met, the mind labels it as failure or disgrace. But if one focuses on the sincerity of effort and purity of intention, outcomes lose their power to define self-worth. This perspective helps in regaining emotional balance. It encourages you to keep acting with integrity, regardless of external judgment. Letting go of ego and attachment does not mean becoming indifferent; it means becoming steady and resilient.

In moments of humiliation, the need for inner strength becomes paramount. The Mahabharata provides powerful examples, particularly in the experiences of Draupadi and Yudhishtira. Draupadi's humiliation in the Kaurava court was profound, yet her faith and inner strength sustained her. Yudhishtira, despite repeated setbacks and public disgrace, remained committed to dharma



(righteousness). Inner strength arises from self-awareness, clarity of values, and acceptance of reality. It involves recognizing that one incident, however painful, does not define your entire identity. By focusing on your core values—honesty, perseverance, compassion—you can rise above temporary setbacks. This strength is not loud or aggressive; it is calm, steady, and deeply rooted within.

An equally important step is seeking forgiveness and moving on. Indian epics repeatedly show the transformative power of forgiveness. In the Ramayana, Lord Rama exemplifies grace and forgiveness even in difficult circumstances. Seeking forgiveness from others, when you have caused harm, helps restore relationships and inner peace. Equally important is forgiving yourself. Many people remain trapped in shame not because others continue to judge them, but because they keep judging themselves. Self-forgiveness is not about excusing mistakes; it is about acknowledging them and choosing to move forward with wisdom. Holding onto guilt and shame only prolongs suffering, while forgiveness opens the door to renewal.

To translate these philosophical ideas into daily life, a few practical steps can be followed. First, acknowledge and accept what has happened. Denial only deepens the problem, while acceptance creates a foundation for change. Second, reflect and learn—ask yourself what could have been done differently and what lesson this experience offers. Third, apologize and make amends if your actions have affected others. This restores trust and reduces emotional burden. Fourth, focus on the present. Dwelling on the past drains energy and reinforces negative emotions, while acting in the present empowers you. Fifth,

cultivate humility by staying grounded and open to feedback. Finally, seek inner peace through practices like meditation, prayer, or quiet reflection. These practices help calm the mind and reconnect you with your inner self, beyond external judgments.

In summary, disgrace or shame, though painful, can become a powerful catalyst for personal transformation. By focusing on actions rather than outcomes, embracing humility, practicing karma without attachment, drawing on inner strength, and seeking forgiveness, one can move beyond shame with dignity and wisdom. Ancient Indian philosophy does not deny the reality of suffering; instead, it provides tools to transcend it. When approached with the right mindset, even the most difficult experiences can lead to deeper self-awareness, stronger character, and a more meaningful life. Stay gracious, stay blessed!

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Ravi Singh

ESCAPING COMFORT: THE FIRST STEP TO TRANSFORMATION

Comfort feels safe. It wraps you in familiarity, protects you from uncertainty, and gives you a sense of control. But what if this very comfort is silently holding you back? What if the space you feel most secure in is also the place where your growth slowly fades?

The comfort zone is not a dangerous place it is a deceptive one. It convinces you that you are doing enough, that things are “fine,” and that there is no urgent need to change. However, growth does not happen in “fine.” Growth begins when you step into discomfort, when you challenge yourself beyond what is easy and predictable.

Think about it: every significant achievement in life comes from stepping outside what feels comfortable. Learning a new skill, speaking in front of an audience, taking up leadership roles, or even expressing your true thoughts these all require courage to move beyond familiarity. Yet, many people choose to stay where they are because fear disguises itself as comfort.

Fear of failure, fear of judgment, and fear of the unknown are the invisible walls of the comfort zone. These fears create excuses: “I’ll start later,” “I’m not ready,” or “What if I fail?” Over time,

these excuses become habits, and these habits create a life of missed opportunities. The tragedy is not failure it is never trying.

Staying in your comfort zone may protect you from immediate discomfort, but it also limits your potential. It restricts your creativity, reduces your confidence, and prevents you from discovering what you are truly capable of. Growth requires friction. Just like muscles grow stronger when pushed beyond their limits, your mind and abilities expand only when challenged.

Stepping out of your comfort zone does not mean making drastic changes overnight. It starts with small, intentional actions. Speak up in a meeting when you usually stay silent. Try something new even if you are not perfect at it. Take that opportunity you have been hesitating about. Each small step builds confidence and rewires your mindset.

It is also important to understand that discomfort is not a sign of failure it is a sign of progress. Feeling nervous, uncertain, or challenged means you are pushing your boundaries. Instead of avoiding these feelings, embrace them. They indicate that you are growing.

Moreover, the comfort zone creates an illusion

of stability. In reality, staying stagnant in a rapidly changing world can make you fall behind. Skills become outdated, opportunities pass by, and the gap between where you are and where you could be continues to widen. Growth is no longer optional it is essential.

Ask yourself a simple question: Are you truly satisfied, or are you just comfortable? There is a difference. Satisfaction comes from progress and purpose, while comfort often comes from avoidance.

Breaking free from your comfort zone is not about abandoning security; it is about expanding it. What feels uncomfortable today will become your new normal tomorrow. And as your comfort zone expands, so does your confidence, capability, and vision.

In the end, your comfort zone is not your enemy but staying in it for too long is. If you want to grow, you must be willing to feel uncomfortable, take risks, and embrace uncertainty. Because on the other side of discomfort lies growth, opportunity, and a version of yourself you have yet to discover.



NOT EVERY GOODBYE NEEDS WORDS, SOME ARE MEANT TO BE SILENT!



In a world that constantly demands explanations, justifications, and closure, walking away without saying anything can feel uncomfortable even wrong. We are conditioned to believe that every decision must be explained, every exit must be justified, and every silence must be filled. But the truth is, not every situation deserves your explanation, and not every person is entitled to your reasoning.

Learning to walk away without explaining is not an act of arrogance; it is an act of self-respect. Often, we over-explain because we seek validation. We want others to understand our choices so they won't misunderstand us. But the reality is, people interpret situations based on their own perspectives, biases, and emotions. No amount of explanation can guarantee that they will see things the way you do. Trying to control their perception only drains your energy and peace.

There comes a point in life where you realize that clarity doesn't always come from conversations it comes from decisions. Walking away silently is sometimes the clearest message you can give.

Not every argument deserves your voice. Not every misunderstanding requires correction. Not every relationship needs closure through words. Some situations are better left with dignity rather than debate. When respect is lost, when boundaries are crossed repeatedly, or when your presence is taken for granted, the most powerful response is often quiet withdrawal.

Silence, in such moments, speaks louder than any explanation ever could.

Explaining yourself to people who are committed to misunderstanding you is exhausting. It keeps you stuck in a cycle of proving your worth, defending your choices, and seeking approval. But your life is not a courtroom, and you are not on trial. You do not owe anyone

a constant explanation for choosing your peace over chaos.

Walking away also reflects emotional maturity. It shows that you understand the value of your time and energy. Instead of engaging in unnecessary conflicts, you choose growth. Instead of prolonging discomfort, you choose distance. This decision is not weakness it is strength in its most composed form.

Moreover, not explaining protects your inner space. When you constantly justify your actions, you give others the power to question your decisions. But when you quietly move on, you retain control over your narrative. You begin to trust yourself more than the opinions around you.

Of course, this doesn't mean avoiding accountability. There are situations where communication is necessary and responsible. But there is a difference between healthy communication and over-explaining to people who neither listen nor care. Recognizing this difference is essential.

Learning to walk away without explaining is about choosing peace over noise, clarity over chaos, and self-respect over approval. It is about understanding that your energy is limited and should be invested where it is valued.

At the end of the day, the people who truly understand you won't need lengthy explanations. And those who don't understand you often won't accept them anyway.

So, give yourself permission to walk away not with anger, not with guilt, but with quiet confidence.

Sometimes, the strongest statement you can make is no statement at all.

Afreen Mazgaonkar & Mosina

'BLOOD RAIN' IN WAR ZONES: THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE RED-COLOURED PHENOMENON



The scientific study of blood rain shows its existence in battle areas because it produces red-colored precipitation. The weather pattern known as blood rain which produces red rain has generated superstitious beliefs throughout history that especially affect areas which experience armed conflict. The scientists demonstrate that this natural phenomenon occurs without any relationship to military activities or violent events. Blood rain describes a type of rainfall that produces red or reddish-brown colored droplets. The rainwater achieves its unusual color through a process that occurs when it combines with dust and sand and airborne particles which contain iron and other atmospheric pigments. Strong winds and storms frequently uplift these particles into the atmosphere which can reach distances that extend beyond desert regions before they combine

with precipitation and cloud formation. Rain sometimes acquires a red color because of the tiny algae spores that exist in the environment. The psychological needs of soldiers together with the natural environment create conditions which make this type of event happen more frequently during warfare. The destruction of conflict areas causes more dust and debris to enter the atmosphere which creates a stronger visual effect. The increased wartime stress together with fear makes people perceive these events as more dangerous and important. The blood rain phenomenon creates a visual spectacle yet it remains harmless because it does not endanger human health. The scientists explain that the meteorological phenomenon exists as a normal weather occurrence which does not represent a supernatural power or a frightening signal.

SHIV THAKARE WINS 'THE 50', DEFEATS MR FAISU AND KRISHNA SHROFF



The first season of The 50 has its winner in reality TV star Shiv Thakare who defeated Faisal Shaikh and Krishna Shroff in the final showdown. The show, which featured 50 contestants from television, social media, and entertainment backgrounds, concluded after weeks of intense challenges, alliances, and eliminations. Thakare proved his superior skills over all his competitors by winning the final task which granted him victory and established him as one of the most reliable reality show contestants in India. The show introduced a special feature through its unique structure which allowed Thakare to receive the trophy while his fan actually collected the ₹50 lakh prize thus creating a joint victory party between the champion and his fanbase. Thakare built his successful show performance through his effective game strategy which included him forming successful partnerships with other competitors. His win increases his already successful reality television career which includes two major wins in Bigg Boss Marathi and Bigg Boss 16 plus a second place finish in Bigg Boss 16. His victory enhances his public image while he becomes a major player in Indian reality television because audiences admire his ability to win various competitive programs.

INDIA, US CLASH OVER E-COMMERCE DUTY MORATORIUM AT WTO MEET



The Indian and American governments currently have a serious disagreement about how to handle the e-commerce duty moratorium at their upcoming World Trade Organization ministerial meeting which takes place in Cameroon. The long-standing moratorium, in place since 1998, prevents countries from imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions which include software downloads and e-books and streaming services. The US government wants to make the moratorium permanent because it provides businesses with a stable market environment which benefits their operations between different countries. The Indian government opposes the permanent establishment of the arrangement because it will decrease potential tariff income and limit developing countries from implementing their desired policies. India has instead called for a reconsideration of the moratorium's scope and impact, emphasising the need for a balanced approach that protects the interests of developing economies. The organization has raised two major points which include the need to reform the WTO dispute settlement system and the requirement for decisions to be reached through consensus. India appears willing to support a temporary two-year extension based on recent developments while the United States maintains its demand for a permanent solution which creates a significant gap between the two parties. The result of these negotiations will determine future international digital trade regulations and the methods countries will use to collect taxes on their expanding e-commerce businesses.

150 AYUSH HEALTH CENTRES TO BE READY IN TWO MONTHS: ANDHRA PRADESH MINISTER



According to Health Minister Y. Satya Kumar Yadav The Andhra Pradesh government plans to complete construction work on 150 AYUSH health centres within the upcoming two months. The National AYUSH Mission (NAM) 2025–26 project advances its work through its ₹44 crore budget. The initiative seeks to enhance traditional Indian medical systems which include Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy to expand healthcare access throughout rural and urban regions. The government plans to build 60 new facilities while upgrading 90 of its existing 150 centres. These facilities include Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and district hospitals. The officials reported that construction work has reached 50 percent completion and the project will finish all remaining work before the designated deadline. The centres are being constructed according to Indian Public Health Standards and Ayushman Arogya Mandir guidelines which will create better facilities that include consultation rooms and pharmacies and sanitation areas. The upcoming project will provide residents of Andhra Pradesh with better access to affordable traditional healthcare services after it becomes operational.

ISRO FLAGS RISING THREAT AS 129 PIECES OF INDIAN SPACE DEBRIS ORBIT EARTH

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has reported that India now experiences escalating space debris problems which include 129 pieces of debris that originate from Indian space missions and currently travel through Earth orbit. The debris includes defunct satellites, fragments from past missions, and leftover components from rocket launches. Experts warn that these objects create serious collision threats which endanger operational satellites and upcoming space missions. The active spacecraft sustain severe damage from small fragments because these fragments move at extremely high speeds. The process increases the likelihood that orbital debris will create additional space junk through chain reaction events. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has established tracking and monitoring systems which will help prevent future space debris incidents through accurate space debris monitoring. The agency has developed enhanced surveillance systems while implementing safety measures which protect mission planning through two methods: they select orbits with minimal debris risk and they develop satellites which can safely return to Earth after their operational period ends. Space debris extends beyond Indian borders because Earth now hosts thousands of space objects that various nations have deployed into orbit. The international community requires closer collaboration together with stronger regulation frameworks because these two factors will help decrease the increasing risks which now exist in space. India now faces an urgent need to tackle its space debris crisis because the nation plans to expand its space programs through human spaceflight missions and commercial satellite launches. The solution to this problem will enable India to establish sustainable and safe practices for all future space missions.

RAZORPAY AND SARVAM AI HAVE LAUNCHED VOICE-FIRST SHOPPING AND PAYMENT SERVICES IN INDIA

The fintech company Razorpay has teamed up with Sarvam AI to launch voice-based shopping and payment services which will enable Indian users to experience AI-based "conversational commerce" technology. Users can search for products and make purchases through voice commands which remove the need for typing or app navigation. The system enables hands-free operation which helps users who speak regional languages to access digital services with greater ease. The system depends on Sarvam AI technology which delivers voice recognition through multiple languages and natural language processing capabilities to understand all Indian dialects and languages. The solution has vital importance because India possesses multiple languages. The system enables users to make payments through voice commands which deliver a unified experience that starts with product discovery and ends with checkout. Users can communicate their needs to digital platforms which will handle payment processing in real time. The initiative creates an environment for AI-driven "agentic commerce" which allows intelligent systems to control payment processing and ordering tasks with little human intervention. Companies like Swiggy are testing this technology through its first implementation which handles food delivery and online services. The experts believe this new technology will drive digital use across India because it makes online shopping and payment processes easier for people who are using the internet for the first time.

Afreen Mazgaonkar & Mosina

INDIA CLINCHES TWO BRONZE MEDALS AT ASIA CUP 2026 STAGE I IN BANGKOK



India achieved two bronze medals at the Archery Asia Cup 2026 Stage I in Bangkok which they dedicated to their outstanding international performance. The medals came in team events which proved the country possessed strong archery abilities in both recurve and compound shooting events. The women's recurve team delivered an impressive performance to claim one bronze which demonstrated their ability to work together while maintaining consistent performance against top continental competition. The men's compound team secured another bronze medal for India which demonstrated the country's increasing success in compound archery events. The tournament resulted in these podium finishes as part of India's successful campaign at the event. The team

achieved a total of 10 medals which included gold and silver medals from various events while compound archers contributed significantly to their overall success. Indian archers achieved multiple final appearances which demonstrated their strong ability to compete at continental tournaments. The results establish India as one of the top Asian archery nations especially in its team competitions. The performances in Bangkok produce positive results through experienced players and emerging talents which strengthen India's international archery performance as the country prepares for upcoming international competitions.

INDIA BEAT PAKISTAN 3-0 TO STORM INTO SAFF U-20 SEMI-FINALS

The U-20 football team from India recorded a decisive victory against Pakistan with a 3-0 score in their match at the SAFF U-20 Championship 2026 which allowed them to reach the semi-finals after their second match. The match took place at the National Football Stadium which is situated in Malé, Maldives. India made a dream start, taking the lead as early as the 3rd minute through Vishal Yadav, who finished a well-worked move to put his side ahead. Pakistan tried to mount an offensive but their efforts failed because they could not penetrate through India's well-structured defensive system. India established complete control of the match during the second half when Omang Dodum showed his exceptional playing abilities. He increased the lead to 2-0 through his 64th-minute header before he scored his second goal by converting a penalty kick at the 88th minute. The victory not only secured India a spot in the semi-finals but also eliminated Pakistan from the tournament after they suffered their second defeat in a row. India's young team has made a strong impact through their combination of attacking abilities and defensive skills which they will use to advance to the knockout rounds as one of the teams that will compete for the championship.



KIPA MERO WINS GOLD, SETS NATIONAL RECORD AT PARA ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 24th National Para Athletics Championships 2026 in Bhubaneswar Odisha saw Para-athlete Kipa Mero from Arunachal Pradesh win the gold medal in the women's javelin throw F12 category. Mero established herself as the top competitor in her sport when she won the championship title and set a new national record thereby showing her progress through time. Reports indicate she achieved a throw of over 23 metres which established her as one of India's leading para-athletes. The athlete demonstrated her ability to perform precise movements when she faced off against the country's top competitors. The achievement reflects her dedication, resilience, and continuous improvement through rigorous training and competition. Techi Meta won a silver medal in the women's 400m T13 category which continued to show the growing success of Arunachal Pradesh in para sports competition. Mero's gold medal is seen as a significant boost for para athletics in India, especially in the Northeast region. Her success will motivate young athletes to pursue sports which will enable them to represent their country at national and international levels.



NORTHERN RAILWAY CLINCH 46TH ALL-INDIA RAILWAY WOMEN'S HOCKEY TITLE



Northern Railway defeated Central Railway 2-0 to win the championship match of the 46th All-India Railway Women's Hockey Championship which took place at the Rail Coach Factory in Kapurthala. The team started the final match with strong performances which they continued to maintain until the end of the game. Northern Railway secured their championship title through key player goals which created a victory margin that they achieved in an easy manner. Rail Coach Factory (RCF) Kapurthala won their third-place playoff match against South Eastern Railway through a 1-0 victory. The tournament featured nine teams representing various zonal railways and production units, making it a competitive and high-quality event. Northern Railway and Central Railway emerged as the leading competitors who advanced through the difficult group stage and semifinal rounds. The final match delivered an expected outcome which featured both teams displaying powerful skills and teamwork. The championship concluded with a prize distribution ceremony attended by former international player Rajbir Kaur, who presented awards to the winners and outstanding performers. Several Olympians and international players participated in the event which raised the competition standards for the tournament. Northern Railway dominates national railway women's hockey through their consistent performance and powerful strength in the sport.

LAKSHYA SEN, PV SINDHU TO LEAD INDIA'S TITLE PUSH AT THOMAS & UBER CUP

Lakshya Sen and PV Sindhu will lead the Indian team which aims to win the Thomas and Uber Cup tournament. The Indian team has selected a strong and balanced lineup for the Thomas and Uber Cup 2026 tournament, which will feature Lakshya Sen and PV Sindhu as the main players for the national team in the important team badminton tournament. The Thomas Cup featured Lakshya Sen as the men's team captain after he achieved strong results at the All England Championships. The team will depend on Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy, who are veteran players, while Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will provide powerful double-team support for India. PV Sindhu, who has won two Olympic medals, will lead the Indian team at the Uber Cup. Unnati Hooda will join her and Gayatri Gopichand and Treasa Jolly will represent the doubles team as they aim to achieve better results than their past performances. The teams feature both veteran players and young prospects, which demonstrates India's goal to compete for the championship. The men's team, which captured the 2022 Thomas Cup title, aims to achieve the same victory while the women's team wants to advance further into the tournament. The tournament will take place in Denmark, where the Indian team needs to excel through its complete roster because it faces strong challenges from leading badminton countries.



ROHIT MAJGUL WINS NATIONAL JUDO GOLD, SHINES FOR GUJARAT'S SIDDI COMMUNITY

The National Judo Championship brought Rohit Majgul from Gujarat his first gold medal which brought honor to both his state and the Siddi community. His victory shows how underrepresented groups have begun to establish their presence in Indian sporting events. The Siddi community which he belongs to proves that Majgul from Siddi origins has achieved success through active commitment to training and hard work. He has successfully overcome these challenges to establish himself as a national figure. His gold-medal performance at the event included outstanding abilities which combined with his strength and self-control made him the most impressive athlete. The achievement has provided him with fresh paths to explore according to news sources who reported he now practices for worldwide contests which will include major multi-sport tournaments. Majgul's success shows how effective grassroots sports initiatives and training programs work to develop athletes from all walks of life. His rise shows how sports create opportunities which people use to reach their objectives. Rohit Majgul works toward international success while he helps young athletes from underrepresented communities achieve their sports-related goals.



Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay & Ajab Tinwala

BOBCAPS RECRUITMENT 2026 – VARIOUS VACANCIES



BOB Capital Markets (BOBCAPS) has released an official notification inviting applications for Manager, Product Manager, and other posts. This is a great opportunity for experienced candidates looking for careers in the capital markets and financial services sector.

Post Name: Manager / Product Manager / Senior Manager and More

Job Location: Across India (as per role)

Eligibility Criteria

- Educational Qualification:
- Graduate / Post Graduate from recognized universities with relevant experience (post-wise)
- Age Limit: As per official notification

Application Fee: No application fee mentioned

Selection Process:

- As per official notification (may include screening/interview)

Important Dates:

- Last Date to Apply: 31 March 2026

How to Apply:

- Read the official notification carefully before applying.
- Prepare your application with complete bio-data including personal details, educational qualifications, and experience.
- Attach self-attested copies of required documents:
- Educational Certificates
- Experience Certificates
- ID Proof
- Recent Passport-size Photograph
- Clearly mention the post applied for in the subject line of the email.
- Send the application to the official email address mentioned in the notification.
- Ensure the email is sent before 31 March 2026.
- Keep a copy of the sent email for future reference.

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

PM INTERNSHIP SCHEME 2026 – 21,000+ PAID OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS INDIA



Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) invites applications for Round 3 of its flagship internship programme, offering over 21,700 internship opportunities across diverse sectors in India. This initiative aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry requirements by providing structured, paid, and skill-oriented internships.

Key Highlights:

- Total Opportunities: 21,700+ internships (updated regularly)
- Monthly Stipend: ₹9,000/- minimum financial assistance
- Sectors Covered: 20+ including IT, Healthcare, Retail, Logistics, Manufacturing, Hospitality, and more
- Locations: Available across 32 States/UTs and 380+ districts

Eligibility Criteria:

- The programme is open to students and fresh graduates across multiple qualification levels. Candidates can explore and apply for roles based on their academic background, interests, and preferred location.

Programme Benefits:

- Gain hands-on industry experience through real-world projects
- Work with reputed companies across India
- Develop technical, analytical, and soft skills
- Enhance confidence, teamwork, and workplace readiness
- Build a strong professional profile for future employment

employment

Certification:

- Upon successful completion, candidates will receive a digital, tamper-proof certificate jointly issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and the participating organization, adding credibility to their resume.

Selection Process:

- Online registration and application submission
- Screening based on profile, qualification, and preferences
- Final selection by participating companies

Application Mode:

- Interested individuals can submit their applications through the official portal at pminternship.mca.gov.in.
- How to Apply: Register on the portal, browse internships by sector/district/company, and apply for suitable roles. New opportunities are added regularly, so candidates are encouraged to check frequently.

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

UP COOPERATIVE BANK RECRUITMENT 2026 – 116 VACANCIES

The Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Bank has released an official notification inviting applications for various posts. This is a great opportunity for candidates seeking government jobs in Uttar Pradesh.

Post Name: Manager / Junior Manager / Assistant / Assistant Engineer (Civil)

Total Vacancies: 116 Posts

Job Location: Uttar Pradesh

Eligibility Criteria:

- Educational Qualification: Graduation / B.Com / B.Tech / BBA / MBA / B.E/B.Tech (Civil) (post-wise)
- Age Limit: 21 to 40 years (as on 01 January 2026)
- (Age relaxation applicable as per rules.)

Application Fee:

- As per official notification (details available in detailed advertisement)

Selection Process:

- Prelims Written Exam (if required)
- Mains Written Exam
- Typing Test (for Assistant/Typist posts)
- Medical Examination
- Document Verification

Important Dates:

- Application Start: 25 March 2026
- Last Date to Apply: 15 April 2026



- Last Date for Fee Payment: 15 April 2026
- Last Date for Editing Application: 15 April 2026
- Last Date to Print Application: 30 April 2026

How to Apply:

- Visit the official website and go to the recruitment section.
- Register using a valid email ID and mobile number.
- Fill the application form with required details.
- Upload necessary documents:
- Photograph (4.5 cm × 3.5 cm)
- Signature (black ink)
- Left-hand thumb impression

- Handwritten declaration
- Pay the application fee (if applicable).
- Submit the form and take a printout for future reference.

Important Note:

- Candidates should keep scanned copies of photograph, signature, educational certificates, and valid ID proof ready before applying.

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

Deepika Singh

QUIZ TIME

1. New Education Policy update approved by which body?
2. Which state launched new digital school scheme?
3. Who is current Education Minister of India?
4. New voter awareness campaign launched by?
5. Which exam body announced AI-based evaluation?
6. Which country signed education MoU with India?
7. Which state increased teacher recruitment recently?
8. Which election was recently announced?
9. New scholarship scheme launched for whom?
10. Which organization monitors elections in India?

RIDDLES

1. I follow rules given by humans and don't learn on my own. What type am I?
2. I learn from data and improve over time. What type am I?
3. I can understand and respond like humans in text or speech. What type am I?
4. I can see and recognize images or faces. What type am I?
5. I help you with voice commands like "Hey Siri" or "OK Google." What type am I?
6. I suggest movies, songs, or products based on your likes. What type am I?
7. I can drive cars or control machines without humans. What type am I?
8. I chat with you and answer your questions. What type am I?

- ANSWERS
1. Rule-based
 2. Learning
 3. Conversational
 4. Vision
 5. Assistant
 6. Recommendation
 7. Autonomous
 8. Chatbot
- (II) RIDDLES
1. EC
 2. Gujarat
 3. Pradhan
 4. EC
 5. CBSE
 6. France
 7. Rajasthan
 8. Assembly
 9. Girls
 10. EC
- (I) QUIZ TIME



HEALTHY MANGO OATS DESSERT!

This Week, We're Relishing Healthy Mango Oats Dessert!

Mango Oats Dessert is a refreshing and nutritious sweet dish, perfect for summer. Made with wholesome oats and naturally sweet mangoes, this dessert is rich in fiber and vitamins. It is light, easy to digest, and can be enjoyed as a healthy breakfast or evening snack. Creamy, mildly sweet, and full of flavor, it's loved by both kids and adults.

Ingredients:

½ cup oats, 1 cup milk (or almond milk), 1 ripe mango (pureed), 1–2 teaspoons honey or jaggery (optional), 2 tablespoons chopped nuts, 2 tablespoons yogurt (optional), a pinch of cardamom powder.

Preparation

1. **Cook Oats:** In a pan, cook oats with milk on medium flame until soft and creamy.
2. **Cool Slightly:** Allow the oats to cool a bit so the mango flavor stays fresh.
3. **Add Mango:** Mix in the mango puree and stir well.
4. **Add Flavour:** Add honey or jaggery (if needed) along with cardamom powder.
5. **Enhance Texture:** Add chopped nuts and yogurt for extra creaminess.
6. **Chill:** Refrigerate for 20–30 minutes for best taste.
7. **Serve:** Serve chilled and enjoy.



Serving Tip:

Serve Mango Oats Dessert chilled with fresh mango chunks or a sprinkle of nuts on top. You can also layer it like a parfait for an attractive look. It pairs well as a light dessert or a healthy snack during the day.

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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