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Ravi Singh & Delisha Gupta

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WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY : A CALL TO PROTECT NATURE'S GLOBAL TRAVELLERS

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

10 MAY

Every year World Migratory Bird Day has a theme. This theme helps people think about the problems that migratory birds face and what we can do to help. We can all do things to make a difference. We can protect the wetlands use plastic, plant trees that are good for the birds and tell other people about how important it is to protect migratory birds.

We can also teach children about how important it's to take care of the Earth and its creatures. This way we can make sure that the next generation will love and protect nature.

Migratory birds are not just beautiful to watch they are also very

important for our planet. If we protect them we are also protecting the Earth.

In India there are places where migratory birds like to go, like Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, Chilika Lake and Keoladeo National Park. These places are like homes for the birds when they come to visit. We need to make sure that these places are safe, for the birds.

World Migratory Bird Day is not a day to celebrate migratory birds it is also a day to think about what we can do to help them. We can all do something no matter how small it seems. Whether it is reducing the trash we make helping organizations that protect the birds or just enjoying watching the birds every little bit helps.

As migratory birds keep flying around the world they remind us that we are all connected. We need to make sure that they are safe because their survival depends on us. On World Migratory Bird Day we should promise to protect these creatures and make sure that our children and grandchildren can see them fly too.

One of the problems for migratory birds is climate change. When the Earth gets warmer it changes the way birds migrate and have babies. It also affects the food that they eat. Sometimes birds get to their homes early or too late and they cannot find the food they need. This can be very bad for the birds. Can even cause them to disappear.

Pollution is another problem. There is a lot of trash like plastic in our oceans and lakes. It is hurting the birds. Some birds think that plastic is food and eat it which can kill them. Also when there are a lot of lights in cities it can confuse the birds. Make them crash into buildings.

Some people also hurt birds on purpose. They hunt them. Trap them which is not allowed in many places.. Even with laws to protect the birds some people still do these bad things.

World Migratory Bird Day is a reminder that migratory birds belong to everyone, not one country. We all need to work to protect them. There are agreements, like the Convention on Migratory Species that help countries work together to keep the birds safe.

World Migratory Bird Day, which is on 10 May is a day when the whole world comes together to think about how we can protect birds and the places they live. This is a job that involves a lot of people and organizations including the United Nations Environment Programme.

On World Migratory Bird Day we want to remind everyone about the journeys that migratory birds take every year. These birds travel far sometimes thousands of kilometres to find food and places to live. They go across oceans and different types of weather. Some birds, like the crane, Arctic tern and bar-headed goose are very good at navigating and can fly for days without stopping.

Migratory birds are interesting creatures. They help connect parts of the world and make sure that our planet is healthy.. Sadly their journeys are getting harder and harder. Because of things like cities getting climate change, pollution and people hurting their homes migratory birds are in trouble.

Wetlands, where birds like to rest and get food are being hurt. Forests are being cut down. Coastal areas are being built on. This means that migratory birds do not have the places they need to stop and rest during their trips.



Durgesh K. Dubey

LACHIT BORPHUKAN: THE GUARDIAN OF THE BRAHMAPUTRA

In the lush and river-filled land of Assam, where the mighty Brahmaputra flows with both calmness and force, there once lived a commander whose name became a symbol of courage, duty, and unwavering discipline Lachit Borphukan. He served the Ahom kingdom at a time when powerful Mughal forces were trying to expand their control into the northeastern region of India. Lachit was not born into luxury or ease. He was the son of Momai Tamuli Borbarua, a respected administrator known for his strict discipline and sense of duty. From childhood, Lachit was trained not only in warfare but also in governance, responsibility, and moral values. His father often reminded him that a leader must first control himself before he can lead others. These lessons stayed with Lachit throughout his life.

Duty Above All: A Harsh but Just Decision

One of the most defining incidents of Lachit's life shows his commitment to duty over personal emotions. When he was appointed as the commander of the Ahom army, he was given the responsibility to prepare defences against the advancing Mughal forces. A strong embankment had to be built quickly along the river to block enemy movement. The task was critical. Any delay could weaken the entire defence.

Lachit entrusted a section of the work to his own uncle. However, when he inspected the progress, he found that the work was incomplete and poorly managed. The delay could have endangered the entire army. In that moment, Lachit faced a difficult choice family or duty. Without hesitation, he ordered strict punishment for negligence. His uncle was executed for failing in responsibility. When questioned, Lachit made it clear that the safety of the kingdom could not be compromised for personal relationships. His message was simple but powerful: the duty of a leader is greater than personal ties. This incident spread through the army and established discipline like never before.

Preparing for a Great Battle

The Mughal forces, led by Raja Ram Singh, were powerful and experienced. They had a large army and better resources. Many believed that resisting them would be impossible. But Lachit understood something important; war is not won only by numbers; it is won by strategy, courage,



and understanding of the terrain.

He chose the narrow waters of the Brahmaputra near Saraighat as the battleground. He knew that the Mughal army was strong on land but not equally skilled in river warfare. He prepared his forces carefully, using boats, local knowledge, and quick movement to his advantage. Every soldier was trained not just to fight, but to think.

The Battle of Saraighat

The battle that followed became one of the most remarkable chapters in Indian history. The Mughal forces tried to break through the Ahom defences repeatedly. Their strength seemed

overwhelming. At one point, the situation became critical, and the Ahom soldiers began to lose confidence.

During this time, Lachit Borphukan fell seriously ill. His body was weak, but his spirit remained strong. When he heard that his soldiers were losing hope, he refused to remain in bed. Despite his illness, he rose, gathered his strength,

The victory at the Battle of Saraighat was not just a military success; it was a victory of courage, intelligence, and leadership. Lachit Borphukan proved that determination and smart strategy can overcome even the most powerful forces. He showed that leadership is not about giving orders from a distance, but about standing with the people in the most difficult moments.

His actions saved Assam from foreign domination and preserved its cultural identity.

A Leader Who Inspired Generations

Lachit did not live long after the battle. His illness eventually took his life. But his legacy became immortal. Even today, he is remembered not just as a warrior, but as a symbol of discipline, patriotism, and selfless service. His life is studied as an example of how strong values can shape great leaders. The story of Lachit Borphukan teaches us that true leadership is built on courage, fairness, and commitment to a larger cause.

Moral and Conclusion

The life of Lachit Borphukan reminds us that true bravery lies in standing firm for what is right, even when the odds are against us. His decision to place duty above personal relationships teaches the importance of integrity and discipline, while

his leadership during the Battle of Saraighat shows that courage can inspire others to overcome fear. In today's world, where challenges often test our values, his story encourages us to remain committed, think wisely, and act with responsibility. Lachit's life proves that a strong mind, guided by ethical principles, can protect not only a land but also the spirit of a people, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire generations.

and moved to the battlefield. He addressed his soldiers with determination and reminded them that they were not just fighting a battle they were protecting their land, their families, and their identity. Then, in an act that inspired everyone, he personally led the charge in a war boat.

Seeing their commander, weak in body but strong in spirit, leading from the front, the soldiers regained their courage. Their fear disappeared, replaced by determination. The Ahom forces attacked with renewed energy and pushed back the Mughal army. The mighty Mughal advance was stopped at Saraighat.

Victory Through Courage and Strategy

Ravi Singh & Delisha Gupta

BALANCING BEYOND GRAVITY: THE UNCONVENTIONAL JOURNEY OF GAUTAM VAISHNAV

INTERVIEW BY
DELISHA GUPTA

When we think of art, images of paint, canvas, and grand sculptures often come to mind. Rarely do we imagine a silent dialogue between a human and a stone. Yet, in a recent interaction with The HULAHUL Times, Gautam Vaishnav introduced us to an extraordinary art form that exists quietly between gravity and stillness rock balancing.

Gautam Vaishnav, a balance artist, has mastered this rare craft, transforming ordinary stones into powerful expressions of patience, focus, and harmony with nature. His journey is not merely artistic; it is deeply philosophical a pursuit of balance within chaos.

Reflecting on his beginnings, Gautam shared with The HULAHUL Times that his first encounter with rock balancing was filled with skepticism. While browsing through his friend Chintan Vaishnav's social media, he came across images of perfectly balanced stones. His immediate reaction was disbelief. "I thought it was fake maybe glue, magnets, or a camera trick," he said to The HULAHUL Times.

However, curiosity led him to question further. Instead of explaining, his friend challenged him to balance a brick on one of its eight corners. What appeared to be a simple task soon turned into an intense emotional experience. Within minutes, Gautam felt frustration, anger, and anxiety building up. For 45 minutes, he struggled relentlessly, almost ready to give up.

But when he finally succeeded, something within him shifted.

"It felt like I was a butterfly... like a monk floating in the air," he said to The HULAHUL Times.

That single moment marked the beginning of a journey that would redefine his life.

For Gautam, rock balancing is not about control, it is about listening. He explained to The HULAHUL Times that while people assume the artist balances the rock, in reality, "the rock tells you how it wants to be balanced." Each stone has its own center, energy, and natural inclination. The artist merely becomes a medium. This realization brought a profound change in his perspective. It taught him patience, sharpened his focus, and helped him accept situations as they are. Life, he said to The HULAHUL Times, became simpler, reduced to clarity between "yes" and "no," where confusion fades and awareness takes over.



However, the journey has not been without challenges. Working in natural environments means dealing with unpredictable conditions strong winds, uneven surfaces, flowing water, and changing weather. What initially felt like obstacles gradually became part of the process. Gautam explained to The HULAHUL Times that he learned to adapt rather than resist.

His time spent balancing rocks can range from a few seconds to several hours. Yet, for him, time is secondary. What truly matters is presence, the ability to be fully aware in the moment. Among his many experiences, one stands out as almost magical.

While working in the mountains at 2 AM, Gautam was attempting to complete a rock structure but could not find the final balance point. Suddenly, a firefly landed on his finger.

Its soft glow illuminated the exact spot he needed. In that fleeting moment, he placed the final stone successfully.

For Gautam, this was more than coincidence. It was nature guiding him a reminder that when one is truly present, the universe aligns in unexpected ways, he said to The HULAHUL Times.

Failure, too, plays a crucial role in his journey. Structures often collapse, sometimes within seconds, even after hours of effort. But Gautam does not see this as defeat. Instead, he

embraces it as a lesson. Each fall reinforces the understanding that everything in life is temporary.

Rather than reacting with frustration, he observes, learns, and begins again. This mindset has helped him remain calm and composed, viewing problems not as obstacles but as opportunities to find better solutions, he shared with The HULAHUL Times.

Beyond personal growth, Gautam has extended his art into meaningful social impact. He has worked with visually impaired children, students with autism, ADHD, and Down syndrome, as well as individuals who cannot hear or speak. He has also conducted sessions at prestigious institutions such as IIT Madras and organizations including Google, BNP Paribas, and Red Hat.

Through rock balancing, he teaches valuable life skills decision-making, patience, stillness, and emotional control. For him, true success lies not in recognition, but in transformation, watching individuals discover calmness and confidence within themselves, he said to The HULAHUL Times.

Social media has further amplified his reach. Audiences are naturally drawn to the uniqueness of his work. While many are initially awestruck, the real transformation occurs when they try it themselves. The moment someone successfully balances even a small stone, their reaction shifts from disbelief to joy, he noted to The HULAHUL Times.

Looking ahead, Gautam envisions spreading this art form across India, particularly in schools and colleges. He believes people should not just observe but experience it firsthand. As he put it, "Seeing a Rasgulla is not enough, you have to taste it," he said to The HULAHUL Times.

Similarly, life is meant to be lived, not merely watched. In his message to readers, Gautam emphasized the importance of balancing responsibilities with passion. He encouraged individuals to fulfill their duties while consistently pursuing what they love. His journey stands as a reminder that unconventional paths often lead to the most meaningful destinations.

Gautam Vaishnav's story is not just about balancing stones, it is about balancing life itself. In a fast-paced world filled with noise and pressure, his work teaches us the value of slowing down, observing deeply, and trusting the process. His journey reminds us that the most extraordinary achievements are often quiet, patient, and built one moment at a time. And perhaps, the next time we see a stone, we might pause, not to dismiss it as ordinary, but to wonder what balance it is waiting to reveal.

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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.

In today's digital economy, communication itself is becoming a powerful business tool. Business no longer begins only inside a store, it often begins inside a conversation. Small businesses are increasingly reaching customers through mobile messaging instead of relying only on advertisements, websites, or physical locations.

Among the platforms driving this shift, WhatsApp has become a key tool for growth. What started as a simple messaging app now helps entrepreneurs showcase products, answer queries, confirm orders, and build customer relationships.

For small businesses, WhatsApp offers direct, instant, and personal communication. For students, professionals, and entrepreneurs, this reflects a major shift: commerce is moving from storefronts to real-time conversations.

What Is WhatsApp Commerce?

WhatsApp Commerce refers to businesses using WhatsApp to communicate with customers, market products, manage sales, and coordinate payments.

Unlike large e-commerce platforms that depend on complex websites, WhatsApp

enables businesses to sell through direct interaction.

Businesses commonly use WhatsApp for:

- Sharing product catalogues
- Answering customer inquiries
- Confirming orders
- Sending payment details
- Updating delivery status
- Providing after-sales support

This creates a faster and more personal buying experience.

Why Small Businesses Prefer WhatsApp

Many small businesses operate with limited budgets and minimal digital infrastructure. Building a website or investing in large-scale marketing may not always be practical.

WhatsApp offers several advantages:

- Easy setup with minimal technical knowledge
- Low-cost communication
- Familiar platform for customers
- Faster responses and engagement
- Direct relationship-building

Example: A home baker can share cake designs, receive customised orders, discuss delivery timing, and confirm payments directly through WhatsApp.

The entire purchase journey becomes simple and convenient.

How WhatsApp Commerce Works in Real Life

Small businesses across India are increasingly using WhatsApp as a sales channel. From clothing boutiques and home-based food businesses to handmade products, beauty services, grocery suppliers, and tuition providers, many entrepreneurs are using direct messaging to connect with customers and manage sales.

Example: A boutique owner shares festive collections through WhatsApp broadcast lists, receives size preferences from customers, and confirms purchases through direct chat.

The platform functions as both a shop window and customer support system.

Personal Communication Builds Customer Trust

One of WhatsApp Commerce's biggest advantages is trust. Unlike traditional online shopping, customers interact directly with business owners.

This allows businesses to:

- Offer personalised recommendations.
- Answer customer doubts instantly.
- Share updates in real time.
- Maintain repeat communication.
- Build stronger relationships.

Example: A small skincare seller can explain product ingredients, suggest suitable options, and answer concerns directly through chat. This creates a stronger sense of reliability.

WhatsApp Commerce and Social Selling

WhatsApp Commerce forms part of the growing social commerce trend.

Customers increasingly buy products through:

- Messaging platforms
- Social media referrals
- Community recommendations
- Local business groups
- Unlike traditional online shopping, social commerce feels more personal and interactive.

Consumers today often trust recommendations received through direct communication.

Career Opportunities for Students

The growth of WhatsApp Commerce is creating new opportunities for commerce students.

Emerging roles include:

- Social Commerce Executive
- Customer Relationship Coordinator
- WhatsApp Campaign Manager
- Digital Sales Assistant
- Catalogue Designer

• Small Business Marketing Consultant

Example: A student may help a local clothing business create digital catalogues, manage customer conversations, and handle promotional messaging. These roles combine communication, business understanding, and digital skills.

Skills Students Should Build

- Communication and persuasion skills
- Customer service understanding
- Basic digital marketing knowledge
- Product presentation ability
- Social commerce awareness

Students who understand conversational selling gain valuable real-world experience.

Challenges Businesses Must Consider

Despite its convenience, WhatsApp Commerce has limitations:

- Managing high message volumes
- Maintaining organised records
- Limited automation for small sellers
- Dependence on manual communication
- Customer privacy concerns
- Businesses must maintain professionalism while keeping communication personal.

The Bigger Shift

WhatsApp Commerce reflects changing consumer behaviour, where customers expect quick replies, direct communication, and simple buying experiences. Small businesses no longer need expensive infrastructure to compete, they need accessibility, responsiveness, and strong customer relationships.

The Takeaway

WhatsApp Commerce is not just helping businesses sell products it is helping them build relationships, trust, and long-term customer loyalty. Because in today's market, a simple chat can become a powerful business opportunity.

Prof. Dr. Savita Kishan Pawar

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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.

WHY WE STILL NEED POETRY

In an age of 15-second videos and AI summaries, poetry looks inefficient. A whole page to say what a tweet could? But that's the point. Poetry slows us down. It forces us to sit with ambiguity, to hear the weight of a single line break, to find meaning that isn't algorithmically optimized.

Poetry teaches us the difference between reading and scanning. When Toru Dutt writes of the lotus as "queenliest flower," she isn't delivering data. She's handing you a centuries-old debate between beauty and dignity, resolved in a single image.

We need poetry because it's the last art form that trusts silence. In WhatsApp forwards and news cycles, every gap gets filled. Poems protect the gap. They make space for what can't be said outright.

So read one poem this week. Not for marks. Not for analysis. Just to remember what language feels like when it is trying to tell you something.

DID YOU KNOW?

- A palindrome is a word, phrase, or sentence that reads the same forward and backward, like "level" or "madam."
- An oxymoron combines two opposite words to create a unique meaning, such as "bittersweet" or "deafening silence."
- The term "cliffhanger" comes from stories where characters were literally left hanging off cliffs to keep readers excited for the next part.
- A protagonist is the main character of a story, while the antagonist is the one who creates conflict for them.
- The word "quill" used for writing in old times came from bird feathers, especially from geese.
- Flashbacks are a storytelling technique that takes the reader back to an earlier event to provide context or background.
- A haiku is a traditional Japanese poem with just 17 syllables, often focusing on nature and emotions.
- Alliteration is the repetition of the same starting sound in words, like "She sells seashells by the seashore." The word "novel" comes from the Italian word novella, which means "something new."
- Foreshadowing is when a writer gives hints about what will happen later in the story, building suspense.
- Toru Dutt learned English, French, and Sanskrit by the age of 11. She wrote her first novel *Le Journal de Mademoiselle d'Arvers* in French, making her one of the earliest Indian women novelists in a European language

- A portmanteau is a word formed by blending two words together, like "brunch" (breakfast + lunch) or "smog" (smoke + fog).

GRAMMAR TIP

Less vs. Fewer

Use 'fewer' for things you can count.

For example: fewer books, fewer pens.

Use 'less' for things you can't count.

For example: less time, less patience.

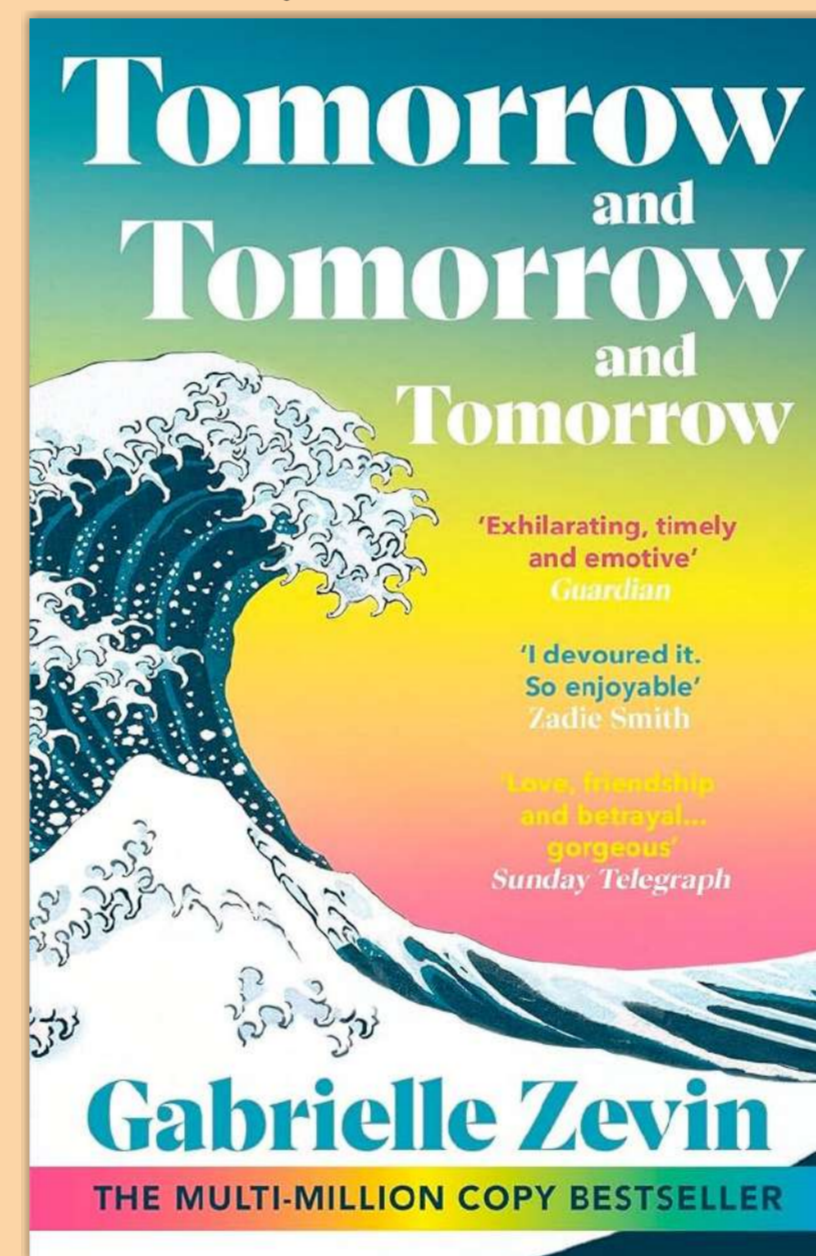
WRITER OF THE WEEK

Toru Dutt

One of India's first women to write poetry in English and French, Toru Dutt (1856–1877) bridged two worlds. She translated Sanskrit legends into English verse and wrote original poems steeped in Indian landscapes. Though she died at 21, works like *Ancient Ballads and Legends of Hindustan* and *A Sheaf Gleaned in French Fields* made her a pioneer of Indo-Anglian literature.

BOOK REVIEW

Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin



A novel about friendship, creativity, and video games that reads like a love letter to storytelling itself. Zevin follows Sam and Sadie from college to game design stardom, asking: what does it mean to build worlds with someone? Emotional without being sappy, and smart about art, ambition, and grief.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"The lotus blooms most beautifully from the deepest and thickest mud."

CREATIVE WRITING

THE LOTUS

Love came to Flora asking for a flower
That would of flowers be undisputed queen,
The lily and the rose, long, long had been
Rivals for that high honour. Bards of power
Had sung their claims. 'The rose can never tower
Like the pale lily with her Juno mien'
'But is the lily lovelier?' Thus between
Flower-factions rang the strife in Psyche's bower.
'Give me a flower delicious as the rose
And stately as the lily in her pride'
'But of what colour?' 'Rose-red,' Love first chose,
Then prayed, 'No, lily-white, or, both provide;'
And Flora gave the lotus, 'rose-red' dyed,
And 'lily-white,' the queenliest flower that blows.

Poetry by
- Toru Dutt

WORD OF THE WEEK

Susurrus (noun)

Meaning: A soft, whispering or rustling sound.

Example: The susurrus of pages turning filled the library before the exam.

IDIOM HIGHLIGHT

Read between the lines

Meaning: To understand a deeper or hidden meaning in what is said or written.

Example: When she said "I'm fine," he read between the lines and knew something was wrong.

Ravi Singh & Ajab Tinwala

STRENGTHENING IP RIGHTS KEY TO FUTURE OF SEED INNOVATION

Amid growing global disruptions, the seed industry is increasingly advocating for stronger intellectual property (IP) safeguards to protect innovation and sustain agricultural growth. Rising input costs, supply chain uncertainties, and geopolitical tensions have made research and development (R&D) investments more vulnerable, prompting industry leaders to call for a more predictable and enforceable IP framework.



remains limited. Weak enforcement, delays in variety registration, and regulatory challenges under existing laws have hindered private-sector participation.

Strengthening IP implementation, through faster approvals, clearer regulations, and better dispute resolution, can boost innovation, attract investment, and reduce dependence on imports. As the country aims for food security and self-reliance, a robust IP regime will be essential to drive the next phase of agricultural advancement.

In India, while progress has been made in hybrid crops like maize and cotton, innovation in pulses and oilseeds

GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS 2026: CONFLICT OVERTAKES CLIMATE AS HUNGER SOARS

The global food crisis has reached alarming levels in 2026, with nearly 266 million people across 47 countries facing acute hunger. According to the latest Global Report on Food Crises, the number of people experiencing severe food insecurity has more than doubled over the past decade, highlighting a deepening humanitarian emergency.



A key shift in this crisis is the growing role of conflict as the primary driver of hunger, overtaking climate-related shocks. Wars and political instability in regions such as Sudan, Gaza, and parts of Africa have disrupted agriculture, displaced millions, and restricted access to food and aid. Over 80% of those suffering from acute hunger live in conflict-affected areas, where livelihoods and food systems have collapsed.

Climate change still plays a critical role, with droughts and extreme weather damaging crops and worsening food shortages. However, declining humanitarian funding has further intensified the crisis, limiting the global

response at a time when it is needed most.

Particularly concerning is the rise in extreme hunger, with around 1.4 million people facing catastrophic conditions, and millions of children suffering from severe malnutrition.

The report warns that without urgent global action, including conflict resolution and increased aid, the food crisis will continue to escalate, posing serious risks to global stability and human survival.

KAVERI UNIVERSITY EMERGES AS TELANGANA'S LEADING PRIVATE AGRITECH INNOVATOR

Kaveri University has been recognized as the "Best Private Innovation University in AgriTech" in Telangana, marking a significant milestone in the institution's journey toward agricultural transformation. The award was conferred by Prime 9 TV at a prestigious ceremony held on April 18, 2026, in Hyderabad. Ponnam Prabhakar presented the honor, which was received by Vice Chancellor V. Praveen Rao.



This recognition highlights the university's growing influence in AgriTech innovation, research, and development. Kaveri University has been actively working on advanced solutions using artificial intelligence, data science, robotics, and precision farming to tackle real-world agricultural challenges.

The institution's focus on sustainable farming practices and technology-driven agriculture reflects its commitment to empowering farmers and preparing students for future-ready careers. Through interdisciplinary learning and strong industry

collaboration, the university is building a dynamic ecosystem that bridges academia with real-world applications.

Speaking on the achievement, the Vice Chancellor emphasized that the award is a testament to the university's dedication to excellence in education and innovation. He reaffirmed its mission to contribute impactful solutions to the agricultural sector.

This accolade reinforces Kaveri University's position as a regional leader in AgriTech and its vision of driving sustainable agricultural transformation through technology.

FIXING THE INNOVATION GAP: CROPLIFE INDIA URGES REFORMS IN DRAFT PESTICIDES BILL



CropLife India has called for key changes to the Draft Pesticides Management Bill, 2025, arguing that the proposed law must address the growing "innovation lag" in India's crop protection sector. The industry body believes that without targeted reforms, farmers will continue to face limited access to modern and safer agricultural technologies.

India currently relies heavily on pesticide molecules developed three to four decades ago, even as farming challenges evolve due to climate change, pest resistance, and shifting disease patterns. This dependence contributes to significant crop losses, estimated between 10% and 35% annually, resulting in economic damage exceeding ₹2 lakh crore.

A major concern raised by CropLife India is the absence of a robust regulatory data protection framework. Without such safeguards, companies struggle to recover research investments, discouraging the introduction of new and advanced crop protection solutions.

The organisation has recommended a time-bound system to protect regulatory data and accelerate approvals for new pesticides. According to experts, newer technologies are more targeted, require lower doses, and are better suited to meet global residue standards and emerging pest challenges.

As India moves to replace the outdated Insecticides Act of 1968, stakeholders stress that bridging the innovation gap will be crucial for improving farm productivity, ensuring food safety, and strengthening agricultural competitiveness.

SCIMPLIFY AND CSIR-IICT JOIN HANDS TO BOOST AGROCHEMICAL INNOVATION

In a significant step toward strengthening India's agrochemical sector, Scimplify has partnered with CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT) to accelerate innovation and commercialization of advanced crop protection solutions.



farmers and industry stakeholders.

Leaders from both organizations highlighted that the collaboration reflects a broader push toward "Atmanirbhar Bharat" by strengthening domestic capabilities in chemical innovation and manufacturing. It also addresses global shifts toward sustainable and efficient agrochemical solutions.

Overall, the partnership positions India to play a stronger role in the global agrochemical landscape while ensuring faster access to advanced technologies for its agricultural sector.

The collaboration, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Hyderabad, aims to bridge the long-standing gap between laboratory research and industrial-scale production. By combining CSIR-IICT's scientific expertise with Scimplify's manufacturing and execution capabilities, the partnership seeks to fast-track the journey of agrochemical innovations from lab to market.

The alliance focuses on three key areas: joint research and development of next-generation agrochemicals, creation of shared intellectual property, and development of secure frameworks for scaling innovations. This integrated approach is expected to ensure that scientific breakthroughs are efficiently translated into practical solutions for

Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay & Srivarthini Subramanian

IIM KOZHIKODE LAUNCHES 'UYARE' TO EMPOWER WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

The 'Uyare' initiative is a programme for women entrepreneurs in Kerala to receive the training and resources necessary to create a successful business. Through the 'Uyare' initiative, IIM Kozhikode seeks to improve women's confidence as they pursue starting new businesses by providing them with focused experiential learning through structured training, from planning a business to building out their products, managing finances, determining marketing strategies, and using digital tools.



through entrepreneurship creating additional jobs and economic contribution to their communities. This initiative is furthering the commitment to creating gender-equity in access to education and business ownership by developing the capacity of women within the entrepreneurial community in Kerala.

The 'Uyare' initiative is anticipated to reach a significant number of women in Kerala and help them take their innovative idea and turn it into a successful business. The 'Uyare' initiative represents an important step to building an inclusive and dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem throughout Kerala.

This initiative supports women entrepreneurs both at the initial stage of developing a business, along with providing additional opportunities for women looking to grow their existing business. 'Uyare' will also provide participants with expert mentorships and networking opportunities within the entrepreneurial community to help guide them through the process of overcoming challenges throughout their entrepreneurial journey.

They also want to help reduce the dependency of women on others

BITS PILANI INTRODUCES SOCIAL CONDUCT COURSE TO SHAPE RESPONSIBLE STUDENTS

A new initiative by BITS Pilani is aimed at fostering both socially responsible citizens and those with emotional intelligence through a course based on the principles of social responsibility and emotional intelligence in the 21st century. The establishment of this course demonstrates an understanding that simply achieving an academic level of success does not meet the demands and needs of today's society.



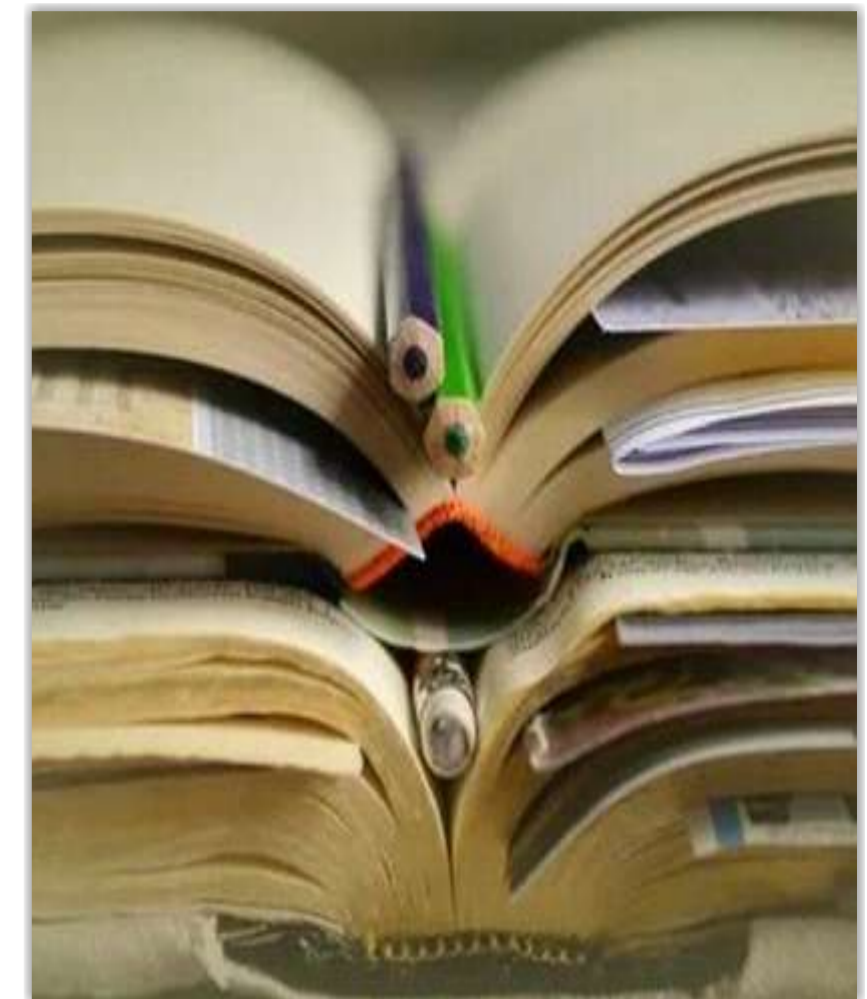
This course will provide students with the skills needed to understand how to act appropriately in social settings, exhibit the requisite ethical behaviours, and meet social obligations. Additionally, it will help build empathy for other people and have respect for the many ways in which people conduct their lives and make their own decisions.

Through the study of emotions and behaviour, this course will enable students to become holistic learners, as opposed to being just another student who learns only from the traditional textbook approach to learning in a classroom setting.

Group discussions and case studies will be a part of this course, in addition to other methods of learning through real-life, everyday situations; thus allowing students to apply the theoretical principles learned in this course to real-life situations and challenges.

A significant portion of this course will focus on improving each student's ability to communicate clearly and effectively with others and to work effectively in teams, both of which are essential to supporting the ongoing development of each individual personally and professionally.

KERALA TO EXTEND EXISTING IT CLUBS FOR PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS



Kerala State Government plans to implement and expand the existing IT Clubs known as Little KITES to Grade 1-8's (Primary to Secondary High School) in schools across the state.

The state has been implementing Little KITES at Grades 9-12 (Senior Secondary) since 2002 with the intention of developing technology skills of learners in these grades. The expansion will provide exposure to learners aged 5-12 to various forms of digital tools and concepts, as well as provide opportunities for secondary high school learners to learn digitally.

Little KITES provide opportunities for students to develop digital literacy skills, such as coding, animation, etc. Students will have opportunities to participate in projects and through the clubs where they develop their own skills, they will participate in workshops and competitions.

Little KITES encourage peer learning, including students learning from each other and collaborating with each other in the clubs. Their learning will take place in a way different than traditional classroom environments.

Expanding Little KITES is reflective of the commitment by the State of Kerala to prepare learners to have the skills necessary for success in their future employers as our world will continue to change rapidly due to technology.

SMC GUIDELINES 2026 TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

The Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, will on May 6 launch new guidelines for School Management Committees (SMC) that will provide schools with tools that allow them to better manage educational institutions at the grassroots level. By improving the tools available to SMCs, these guidelines will allow SMCs to be more engaged in education through increased community participation.

The role of SMCs is to oversee the functioning of schools and to ensure that the schools are being monitored with respect to their expenditures and that local issues are being resolved. With the new SMC Guidelines 2026, SMCs will have the tools necessary to better manage schools and be active participants in their school development efforts.

The SMC Guidelines will promote improved transparency and inclusiveness in decision-making processes, whereby parents, teachers and local representatives will have active roles in the development of the

policies and programs that are in place in schools. This includes improving the physical environment of schools, addressing student well-being and enhancing the quality of student educational outcomes.

The goal of this change is to move towards the decentralisation of education management and to strengthen the capacity of local educational institutions by providing parents, local representatives and teachers with the tools they need to improve the management of their local educational institutions.

The significance of the launch of the SMC Guidelines is that it will contribute to a stronger partnership between schools and their communities in providing a strong foundation for the education of children.

TELANGANA APPROACHES REFORMING USA VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM BY INNOVATIVE FINLAND MODEL

Telangana State has been making headway into implementing innovative ways to reform its Vocational Education System through the use of Finland's innovative and student-centric approaches. Vocational Education in Finland has produced an exceptional reputation world-wide; Finland's Vocational Education Model consists primarily of an emphasis on "hands-on" (Practical) type of training experiences as well as additional supporting activities that create pathways to high quality skill development, which also undoubtedly provide a pathway to a standardised skill evaluation process for future employment opportunities.

With this approach to Vocational education, the state of Telangana considers implementing the use of hands-on, collaborative and flexible forms of vocational training as integral parts of the overall approach to creating vocational education training programs within its own respective jurisdictions. The overall desire of the reform effort is



to ultimately create a more meaningful and appealing vocational experience for students, thereby providing students the skills necessary to be successful as adults.

In addition to being beneficial from the standpoint of a retraining effort is the fact that vocational programs and traditional academic programs are considered equally important within the reform effort. A secondary purpose of the reform initiative will be to reduce the stigma that is often associated with vocational courses and encourage more students to participate in skill based education.

Durgesh K. Dubey

MOBILE MONEY CROSSES \$2 TRILLION: A DIGITAL FINANCE REVOLUTION REACHES THE COMMON CITIZEN



decades to reach its first trillion dollars in annual transaction value, but only four more years to double that figure. This rapid expansion reflects not only the increase in the number of users but also the growing confidence of people in using mobile wallets for daily financial activities. In 2025, registered mobile money accounts reached around 2.3 billion across the world, while active monthly accounts rose to nearly 593 million. This means that more people are not just opening accounts but are actually using them regularly.

One of the most important changes is the rising use of mobile money for merchant payments. Small shops, local traders, service providers and informal businesses are increasingly accepting payments through mobile wallets. Merchant payments grew sharply to around \$155 billion, making it one of the fastest-growing areas in the mobile money ecosystem. This shift is important because it reduces dependence on cash, improves transparency and helps small businesses become part of the digital economy. For many roadside vendors, shopkeepers and micro-entrepreneurs, mobile money is becoming a simple and affordable way to receive payments safely.

Another major development is the growing connection between mobile money platforms and traditional banks. Transfers from banks to mobile wallets and from mobile wallets to banks have both increased strongly. This shows that mobile money is no longer operating separately from the banking system. Instead, it is becoming a bridge between the unbanked population and formal financial institutions. Once people start using mobile money, they often gain access to savings products, small

loans and insurance services. In this way, a simple mobile wallet can become the first step towards broader financial inclusion.

The expansion of savings and insurance services through mobile money is especially meaningful. Many low-income households face financial shocks due to illness, crop failure, accidents or sudden loss of income. When insurance and savings tools become available through mobile phones, people get a better chance to protect themselves from uncertainty. This shows that mobile money is not only about convenience; it is also about financial security and dignity.

The sector has also become more commercially sustainable, with many service providers reporting profits due to higher usage and diversified services. However, the growth story is not without challenges. Fraud risks, regulatory issues and the persistent gender gap in account ownership remain serious concerns. Women in many regions still have lower access to mobile phones, digital literacy and financial independence, which limits their participation in this digital transformation.

Overall, the \$2 trillion milestone is much more than a number. It represents a powerful shift in how ordinary people manage money. Mobile money is helping families send remittances, traders receive payments, workers save small amounts and citizens enter the formal financial system. If supported by strong regulation, consumer protection and digital literacy, mobile money can become one of the most effective tools for inclusive economic growth in the coming decade.

Mobile money has entered a new phase of global growth, crossing the historic mark of more than \$2 trillion in transactions in 2025. This milestone shows that mobile-based financial services are no longer limited to sending or receiving small payments. They are gradually becoming a complete financial lifeline for millions of people, especially in countries where large sections of the population still do not have easy access to formal banking services. The latest global trends clearly indicate that mobile money is moving from basic transactions to a wider ecosystem of payments, savings, insurance, merchant services and bank-linked transfers.

The rise has been remarkable because the industry took nearly two

INDIA OPENS INSURANCE SECTOR WIDER: 100% FDI MAY BRING FRESH CAPITAL, TECHNOLOGY AND COMPETITION

In a major reform for India's financial sector, the Central Government has allowed 100 percent foreign direct investment in insurance companies through the automatic route. The change was notified through amendments to the Foreign Exchange Management rules and marks one of the biggest liberalisation moves in the insurance industry. With this decision, foreign investors can now invest up to the full paid-up equity capital of Indian insurance companies, subject to approval and verification by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India. The Life Insurance Corporation of India, however, will continue to remain in a separate category, with foreign investment capped at 20 percent.

The reform is expected to make India's insurance market more attractive to global investors. Until now, foreign ownership in the sector was limited, which often restricted the entry of large international players and long-term capital. By allowing 100 percent FDI under the automatic route, the government has sent a clear signal that it wants the insurance sector to become more competitive, better capitalised and technologically stronger. This may encourage new companies to enter the market and existing insurers to expand their services, especially in areas where insurance penetration remains low.

The new framework covers not only insurance companies but also a wide range of insurance intermediaries. These include insurance brokers, re-insurance brokers, insurance consultants, corporate agents, third-party administrators, surveyors and loss assessors, managing general agents, insurance repositories and other entities that may be notified by the

regulator from time to time. This wider coverage is important because the insurance ecosystem depends not only on insurers but also on service providers who connect customers, companies, hospitals, claim assessors and policy administrators.

However, the government has kept several safeguards in place. Foreign investment in insurance will remain subject to compliance with the Insurance Act, 1938, and regulatory approval from the insurance regulator. Companies receiving foreign investment will have to follow sectoral rules, disclosure requirements and pricing guidelines prescribed under foreign exchange regulations. Importantly, in an Indian insurance company with foreign investment, at least one among the chairperson, managing director or chief executive officer must be a resident Indian citizen. This condition is meant to ensure that local accountability remains part of the governance structure.

Insurance intermediaries with majority foreign ownership will also have to follow additional conditions. They must be incorporated as limited companies under the Companies Act, 2013, and are expected to bring modern technology, managerial capability and professional skills into the sector. They will also need to disclose payments made to promoter, group, subsidiary or associate entities. These conditions show that the reform is not only about attracting foreign capital but also about improving transparency, professional standards and service quality.

For ordinary citizens, the long-term impact could be meaningful. Greater investment may lead to wider product choices, better digital



platforms, improved claim settlement systems and more customised insurance solutions. India still has a large protection gap, especially in health, life, crop, property and small business insurance. If new investment is used effectively, insurance can reach more households, small entrepreneurs and rural communities.

At the same time, the reform will need careful supervision. Insurance deals with public trust, household savings and long-term financial security. Therefore, foreign capital must be matched with strong consumer protection, ethical selling practices and quick grievance redressal. The government's decision opens a new chapter for India's insurance industry, but its real success will depend on whether it makes insurance more affordable, accessible and reliable for the common person.

Dr. (Mrs) Chandra Hariharan Iyer

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Q. How to overcome from greed?

Ans. Lobha, or greed, is described in the Indian Knowledge System as an excessive desire to possess, accumulate, or control more than what is necessary. It is not merely the wish to improve one's condition—but that can be healthy ambition—but an insatiable craving that disturbs balance, clouds judgment, and leads to dissatisfaction. Ancient texts like the Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads, and Dharmashastras identify lobha as one of the inner enemies (arishadvarga) that obstruct personal growth and inner peace. Overcoming lobha, therefore, is not about rejecting material life, but about cultivating balance, contentment, and clarity.

1) The first step in overcoming greed is self-awareness (atma-chintan): Greed often operates subtly; it disguises itself as need, success, or even security. A person must honestly reflect: “Do I truly need this,

or am I driven by comparison, fear, or ego?” The Bhagavad Gita explains that desire, when intensified and unchecked, transforms into greed. By observing one's thoughts and actions, it becomes easier to identify patterns of over-accumulation or constant dissatisfaction. Awareness brings the problem into the light, which is the beginning of transformation.

2) A key concept in Indian philosophy that helps counter lobha is santosha (contentment): Contentment does not mean lack of ambition; rather, it is the ability to feel satisfied with what one has while working responsibly for what is needed. The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali describe santosha as a source of deep inner happiness. A content person is not constantly chasing more, and therefore remains peaceful. Practicing gratitude daily—acknowledging what one already possesses—naturally reduces the urge for excess. When the mind shifts from “I don't have enough” to “I have enough,” greed begins to lose its hold.

3) Another important principle is viveka (discrimination): The ability to distinguish between needs and wants. Many times, greed arises because we fail to differentiate between what is essential and what is merely desirable. Indian wisdom teaches that material possessions are temporary and cannot provide lasting fulfillment. By reflecting on the impermanent nature of wealth and status, a person develops clarity. This understanding does not prevent one from earning or achieving, but it ensures that accumulation does not become the sole purpose of life.

4) Closely related to this is vairagya (detachment): Detachment in this context means not being emotionally dependent on possessions or wealth. A person with detachment uses resources wisely but is not controlled by them. For example, wealth can be used for comfort, growth, and service, but when one becomes attached to it, fear of loss and constant desire for more arise. Detachment frees the mind from this cycle. It allows a person to enjoy what they have without becoming possessive or anxious.

5) The practice of dāna (charity or giving): One of the most effective ways to overcome greed. Indian traditions strongly emphasize sharing wealth with others, especially those in need. Giving reduces attachment and reminds us that resources are meant to circulate, not stagnate. It also cultivates compassion and a sense of interconnectedness. Even small acts of generosity can weaken the habit of hoarding and create a sense of fulfillment that accumulation alone cannot provide.

6) Karma yoga, or the path of selfless action: Also offers a practical solution. When actions are performed solely for personal gain, greed tends to



increase. However, when one focuses on duty and contribution rather than reward, the mindset shifts. The Bhagavad Gita encourages performing actions without excessive attachment to results. This approach reduces the constant urge for more and promotes satisfaction in the effort itself. Work becomes meaningful rather than merely a means of accumulation.

7) The role of ego (ahamkara) is significant in sustaining greed: Often, greed is not just about acquiring things but about proving superiority or gaining recognition. The desire to appear more successful than others can drive excessive accumulation. Indian philosophy teaches that this ego-based identity is temporary and limited. By cultivating humility and focusing on inner growth rather than external comparison, the intensity of greed diminishes.

8) Meditation (dhyana) and discipline (samyama): are essential practices for overcoming lobha. A restless mind constantly seeks new sources of satisfaction, while a calm mind experiences contentment. Meditation helps in observing desires without immediately acting on them. Over time, this reduces impulsive behavior. Similarly, self-discipline in daily habits—such as mindful spending or controlled consumption—builds the ability to resist unnecessary desires.

9) Living according to dharma (righteous conduct): ensures that the pursuit of wealth remains ethical and balanced. Indian philosophy does not reject wealth (artha); it recognizes it as an important goal of life, but only when aligned with dharma. Wealth earned and used responsibly contributes to personal and social well-being.

However, when greed dominates, it leads to unethical actions and inner unrest. Dharma acts as a guiding principle that keeps desires within healthy limits.

From a practical perspective, overcoming greed involves a few consistent steps. First, regularly examine your desires and identify what is truly necessary. Second, practice gratitude and contentment to reduce the urge for excess. Third, cultivate the habit of giving, even in small ways. Fourth, set limits on consumption and avoid comparison with others. Fifth, engage in meditation to develop control over the mind. Finally, align your actions with values and purpose rather than mere accumulation.

In conclusion, lobha is not simply about wanting more; it is about losing balance and becoming controlled by desire. The Indian Knowledge System teaches that through awareness, contentment, discrimination, detachment, generosity, and disciplined living, one can gradually overcome greed. The goal is not to abandon material life but to live it wisely and ethically. When greed is replaced by संतोष (contentment) and generosity, a person experiences true richness—not just in possessions, but in peace, clarity, and fulfillment.

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EXCELLENCE IS EARNED, NOT GIVEN: THE POWER OF CONSISTENCY OVER TALENT

In a world that glorifies instant success and natural talent, it's easy to assume that some people are simply born exceptional. While a few individuals may indeed have natural abilities, the truth is that most skills are developed, not gifted. Behind every expert lies a story of patience, discipline, and consistent effort over time.

Skill-building is not an overnight process. It requires a deliberate investment of time, energy, and focus. Whether it's learning a musical instrument, excelling in academics, mastering a sport, or developing any other ability, progress comes from repeated effort. People who succeed are not always the most talented, they are often the most consistent. They show up every day, even when motivation fades, and keep working on their craft.

Consistency is the backbone of mastery. One-time efforts or occasional bursts of motivation may give short-term results, but they rarely lead to excellence. True growth comes from repetition. Each time you practice, you refine your technique, improve your understanding, and strengthen your confidence. Over time, these small improvements compound into significant progress.

This idea is perfectly captured in the famous words of Bruce Lee: "I fear not the man who has practiced 10,000 kicks once, but I fear the man who has practiced one kick 10,000 times." This quote emphasizes the importance of depth over variety. It's not about trying many things without focus, it's about dedicating yourself to one skill and refining it repeatedly until it becomes second nature.

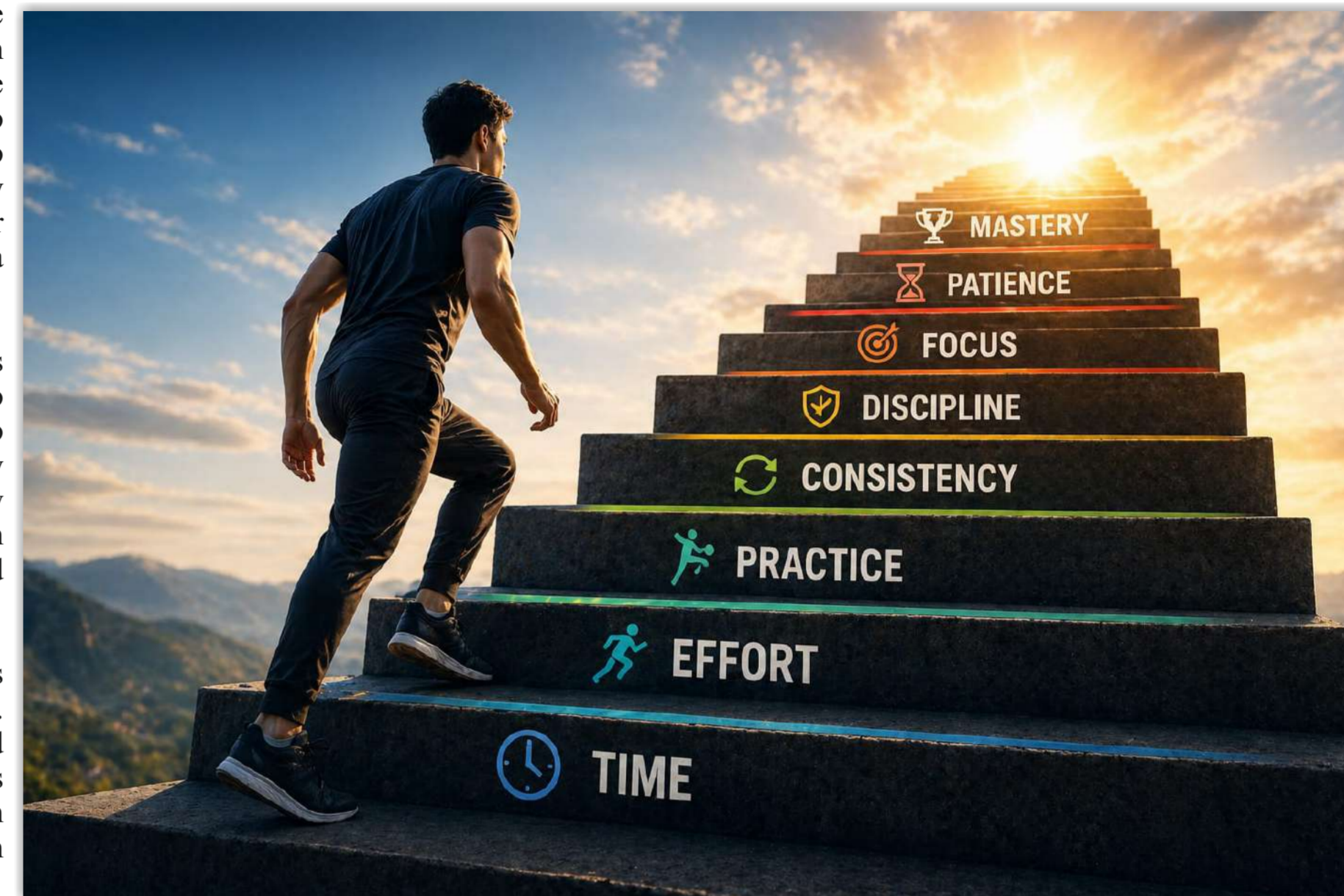
However, many people struggle because they lack patience. They

expect quick results and become discouraged when progress seems slow. In reality, growth is often invisible in the beginning. Just like a seed takes time to grow into a tree, skills require time to develop. The effort you put in today may not show immediate results, but over weeks, months, and years, it creates a powerful transformation.

Another common mistake is inconsistency. Starting strong but failing to continue is one of the biggest barriers to improvement. It's not about how intensely you work for a short period, it's about how steadily you work over a long period. Even small daily efforts, when maintained consistently, can lead to mastery.

In the end, improving skills is less about talent and more about commitment. If you dedicate time, stay consistent, and trust the process, improvement is inevitable. Mastery is not achieved through sudden breakthroughs but through countless small, repeated actions.

The path is simple, but not easy, show up every day, practice with intention, and stay patient. Time and consistency will do the rest.



DETACHMENT: THE REAL FLEX IS SELF-CONTROL



We live in a world where everything screams "mine" my phone, my grades, my body, my image, my life. And slowly, without even realizing it, we get owned by the very things we think we control. Think about it. One bad exam score, your whole mood crashes. One day without your phone, anxiety kicks in. Skipping the gym, instant guilt. That's not control. That's attachment.

thanks you for it.

Same with social media. If your mood depends on likes, views, or replies, you're attached. But if you can post, log off, and not obsess over the response, that's detachment. You're in charge, not the algorithm.

Detachment, on the other hand, isn't about becoming cold or emotionless. It's not about giving up everything and living like a monk. It's actually a quiet form of power. It's self-control in its purest form.

As Ali, cousin and son-in-law of Prophet Muhammad, perfectly said: "Detachment is not that you own nothing, but that nothing should own you."

That line hits different.

Because the problem isn't having things. The problem is when those things start controlling your emotions, your peace, your identity.

Let's take a simple example: junk food. If you're constantly craving it and can't say no, that's attachment. But the moment you can choose not to eat it, not because you have to, but because you decide to, that's detachment. That's self-control. And over time, your body

Even in the Bhagavad Gita, this idea is deeply rooted. It says: "You have the right to perform your actions, but not to the fruits of your actions."

Meaning? Do your work, give your best, but don't get obsessed with the result. Because attachment to outcomes creates anxiety, fear, and overthinking. Detachment, on the other hand, brings focus and calm.

Detachment doesn't mean you stop caring. It means you stop overdepending.

It's like this, Care deeply, but don't lose yourself. When you start detaching from external things, money, validation, outcomes, something powerful happens. Your mind becomes calmer. You don't react instantly. You don't spiral over small things. You respond with clarity. Instead of your mind controlling you, you control your mind. And honestly, that's rare.

Most people are just reacting all day, notifications, opinions, comparisons. But a detached person? They move differently. They're stable, grounded, and less affected by chaos.

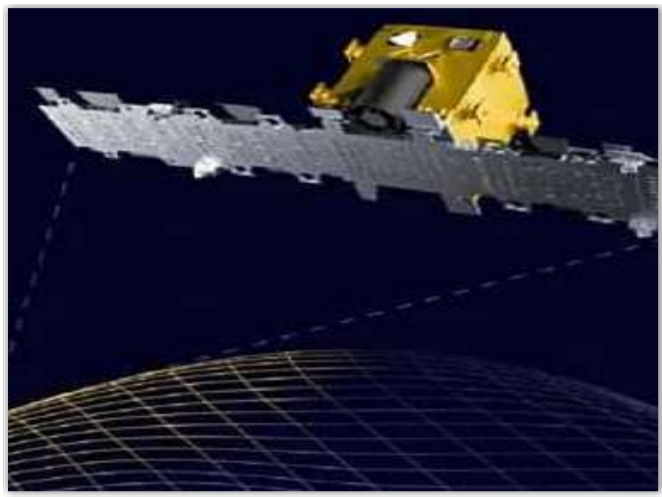
Imagine this version of you: You fail, but you don't break. You lose something, but you don't lose yourself. You enjoy things, but you're not dependent on them. That's freedom. Detachment is not about losing things. It's about not losing yourself when things change.

So next time you feel overwhelmed, ask yourself: "Am I controlling this... or is this controlling me?"

That one question can change everything.

Afreen Mazgaonkar & Ganesha Gundu

MISSION DRISHTI LAUNCHED: INDIAN STARTUP REACHES SPACE ON FALCON 9



The Mission Drishti launch marks the first space mission of an Indian startup which used the Falcon 9 rocket for its space operations. The success of this launch marks an important achievement for the Indian commercial space industry, which currently operates from its growing space market. Mission Drishti stands as the most substantial satellite developed by an Indian private company because it weighs approximately 190 kilograms. The system contains OptoSAR technology which enables users to conduct optical imaging and radar-based synthetic aperture imaging from a unified system. The dual system allows continuous Earth observation through all weather conditions and nighttime periods, which solves the operational

challenges that conventional satellites face during cloudy conditions and dark environments. The satellite produces detailed data which users can utilize for disaster response activities and agricultural assessments and infrastructure development projects and border security operations. The mission represents a critical development for India's space industry because it demonstrates that local startups can use international launch facilities to create their technology products. The Mission Drishti project establishes India as a pioneer in developing private space enterprises which will drive the country's space industry growth.

INDIA, NEW ZEALAND SIGN TRADE DEAL FOUR MONTHS AFTER CONCLUDING TALKS

India and New Zealand signed a free trade agreement (FTA) on Monday, April 27, following the conclusion of negotiations on December 22 last year. The pact was signed in the presence of Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and his New Zealand counterpart, Todd McClay, in New Delhi. Talks for the trade deal were launched in March 2025 and progressed through multiple rounds before both sides reached an agreement. Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the development, calling it modern and balanced. The PM said that this FTA synergises the complementarities of our two economies. He also said that FTA opens up new opportunities for our farmers, our decent youth, women, entrepreneurs and MSMEs. The FTA recognises the importance of skill, talent and mobility in shaping future growth across sectors and in new and emerging technologies. New Zealand Prime Minister Luxon, in a message read out by Trade Minister McClay, said that FTA talks were launched only 13 months ago and both sides could see the agreement could be a massive opportunity for the two nations. Goyal said that this FTA reflects the shared trust between two nations, the confidence of policy stability, business environment stability and all of this leading to a resilient supply chain.



5 MAJOR REASONS FOR CANCER DEATHS IN INDIA, SAYS ONCOLOGIST

Cancer has developed into an urgent public health problem for India because experts discovered multiple fundamental reasons which cause increased fatality rates. Oncologists identify late diagnosis as the main reason for patients to seek medical treatment because they only visit doctors when their condition reaches its most critical point. The public remains unaware about early cancer symptoms and preventive methods which results in delayed cancer detection. Rural communities face healthcare access restrictions which prevent patients from receiving timely diagnostic services and medical treatments. The expensive nature of cancer treatment creates a major barrier which results in many patients choosing to stop their treatment or to skip medical appointments. The combination of systemic problems and lifestyle choices, which include tobacco consumption, poor eating habits, insufficient physical activity, and pollution exposure, leads to increased cancer development and death rates. Experts explain that India needs to develop better public understanding of cancer, which requires people to start getting tested early, healthcare systems need to improve, and citizens must adopt healthier habits.

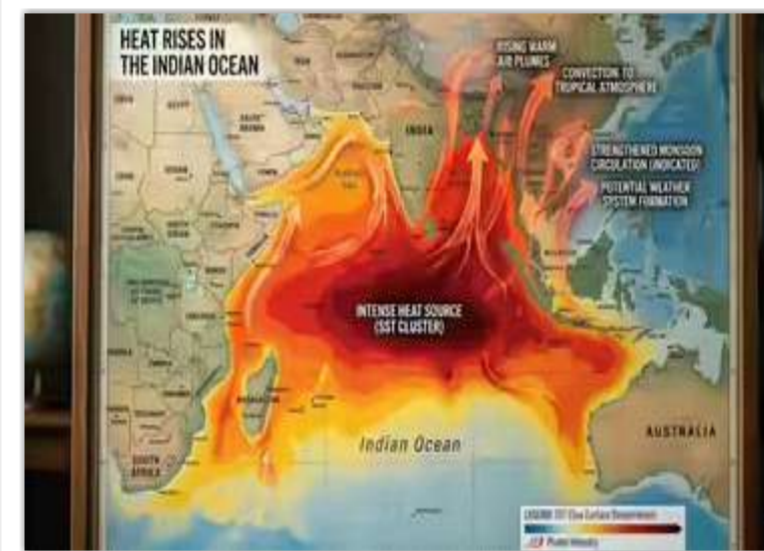


ABUNDANTIA ENTERTAINMENT UNVEILS AMBITIOUS 2026 SLATE LED BY TOP STARS

Abundantia Entertainment has prepared an extensive 2026 content lineup which showcases major performers from Indian cinema, including Madhuri Dixit, Anil Kapoor, and Triptii Dimri. The announcement follows the studio's successful start to the year through their Daldal and Subedar movie releases. The slate features its most important project through the comedy Maa Behen which Suresh Triveni directed. The film marks Abundantia's first project for Netflix through its theatrical release. The studio is expanding its operations to multiple platforms through its upcoming projects which will air on Netflix and Amazon Prime Video and be shown in theaters. Sanya Malhotra stars in the upcoming romantic thriller Sundar Poonam. Abundantia has made a major commitment to AI-assisted movie production through its aiON division which will create multiple films with InVideo over three years. The slate combines star power with diverse storytelling and advanced technological features to establish the studio as an essential participant in India's developing entertainment industry.



INDIAN OCEAN HEATING REACHES DANGEROUS LEVELS, THREATENING MARINE LIFE AND LIVELIHOODS



The heating of the Indian Ocean has reached dangerous levels which now puts both marine species and human fishing activities at risk. The Indian Ocean researchers discovered that rising ocean temperatures have created dangerous marine conditions which built up heat throughout the ocean system and forced environmental systems to break down. The Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal now face ecological destruction because rising temperatures have reached a point which threatens both marine life and human existence. Rising sea temperatures are causing coral bleaching and decreasing fish populations and ocean waters to lose oxygen which results in the breakdown of entire marine food chains. The ocean changes now impact biodiversity because they decrease ocean productivity which results in permanent damage to fisheries. The environmental impact generates effects which reach beyond its natural boundaries. The shift in fish populations and their decrease now creates mounting uncertainty for millions of coastal residents who rely on marine resources to sustain their fishing-based livelihoods. Experts warn that continued warming will create both food shortages and economic crises which will impact regions that already face vulnerability. The researchers emphasize that immediate climate action should occur worldwide while climate scientists need to establish better ocean monitoring systems which will enable sustainable ocean management to achieve protection of marine species and human fishing activities against rising climate-related hazards.

ISRO INTEGRATES VYOMMITRA IN CREW MODULE, KEY TESTS UNDERWAY FOR GAGANYAAN

The Indian Space Research Organisation uses the humanoid robot Vyommitra for testing purposes in its Gaganyaan Mission which operates uncrewed test flights from its crew module. The robot Vyommitra will operate as a space research platform because it can create human body functions throughout space missions. The robot will be part of the first uncrewed mission which will enable scientists to improve their systems until astronauts begin their space missions. ISRO performs essential safety evaluations through the testing of parachute landing systems and crew module recovery methods which they conduct alongside their system integration work. The air-drop tests confirmed the capsule can perform safe ocean landings which protect astronauts during their re-entry process. The testing phase aims to reduce all potential hazards which human spaceflight operations can create. ISRO develops its uncrewed missions which will begin in 2026 to achieve its objective of launching Indian astronauts into space thus establishing a historic milestone for India's space program.



Afreen Mazgaonkar & Ganesha Gundu

HARSCHIT WINS JUNIOR GOLD & RAILWAYS BAG SENIOR AT GYMNASTICS C'SHIPS



It is the day 3 of the Junior and Senior Artistic Gymnastics National Championships 2026-2027. This day was really exciting with performances in all categories. The junior individual events and the senior team events were very thrilling on Monday. In the Junior Men's Artistic Gymnastics Individual All-Rounder category Harschit Damodaran from Uttar Pradesh got the gold medal. He scored 73.700 which's very impressive. Harschit Damodaran did a job on all the equipment and his performance was very strong. Akshat Bajaj from Delhi got the silver medal with a score of 69.866. SK Nabigh Ali from West Bengal got the bronze medal with a score of 69.767. The competition was very tough. These three gymnasts did a great job. The Senior Men's Artistic Gymnastics Team

Championship was also very exciting. The Railway Sports Promotion Board won the championship with a score of 220.533. They did a job and their performance was very strong. The Services Sports Control Board got the silver medal with a score of 211.767. Maharashtra got the bronze medal with a score of 211.202. The Junior and Senior Artistic Gymnastics National Championships 2026-2027 is a platform for gymnasts to show their talent. It helps them to compete with great gymnasts in India.

SUYASH SHARMA CREATES HISTORY WITH RARE SPIN BOWLING FEAT IN IPL 2026



Young Indian spinner Suyash Sharma etched his name into cricket history with a remarkable performance in the Indian Premier League 2026 season. The Royal Challengers Bengaluru leg-spinner accomplished a rare bowling achievement by becoming the first spinner in IPL history to deliver 20 consecutive dot balls during one match. Sharma achieved the record during a commanding victory against Delhi Capitals which included his bowing performance of 4 overs that resulted in 1 wicket and only 7 runs while he completely stopped the opposing team from scoring. Bowlers use dot balls which represent deliveries that result in no runs to show their ability to control the game because a spinner needs to achieve 20 dot balls during a T20 match. Sharma's effort matched the overall IPL record for most dot balls in an innings and set a new benchmark for spin bowling discipline. This performance not only highlights his growing stature in Indian cricket but also signals the emergence of a new-generation spinner capable of dominating even in high-scoring T20 formats.

CISF'S RITU SHEORAN LEADS INDIA TO BEACH KABADDI GOLD AT ASIAN GAMES



The Indian women's beach kabaddi team made history by winning their first gold medal at the 2026 Asian Beach Games which took place in Sanya China. The Indian team achieved a commanding victory against Sri Lanka with a final score of 47 to 31 which allowed them to win the top position. Sheoran who was born in Charkhi Dadri Haryana achieved international success through her determined and disciplined efforts after starting her career from a rural background. She became a vital player for Indian kabaddi when she joined CISF in 2022 and started to advance through different professional positions. She achieved her third international gold medal in slightly more than one year after winning two previous titles at the Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025 and the Asian Kabaddi Championship. The Indian victory at the beach kabaddi competition confirms their beach kabaddi supremacy because the women's team has maintained a successful track record at the Asian Beach Games. Sheoran has achieved national recognition through her leadership and outstanding performance while demonstrating how Indian women have become stronger competitors in international kabaddi.

INDIA CRASH OUT OF UBER CUP 2026 AFTER 0-5 DEFEAT TO CHINA

The Indian women's badminton team lost their last Group A match at the 2026 Uber Cup against China who are the current champions. The tie began on a tense note as PV Sindhu faced world No. 2 Wang Zhiyi in the opening singles match. The first match of the contest began when Sindhu lost to her opponent after three games because she lost her lead in the final match. China used the match's momentum to achieve victory in all remaining singles and doubles matches which led to their complete match victory. The Indian players showed their determination to win but they failed to achieve their vital points which displayed the distance between them and the powerful Chinese team. The Indian team lost to Denmark but they kept their chances alive by defeating Ukraine. The team lost to China which caused them to finish third in their group and therefore they could not advance to the knockout round. The exit shows that India needs to develop better performance consistency which will help them compete against the best badminton nations in the world.



Sanjivani Jadhav seals hat-trick at World 10K 2026; Harmanjot Singh tops Indian charts

India's Sanjivani Jadhav continued her dominance at the World 10K by securing her third consecutive title, further cementing her status as a leading force in the event. The 18th edition of the prestigious World Athletics Gold Label race, held on Sunday, saw strong performances from Indian athletes, with Harmanjot Singh emerging as the fastest Indian in the men's race. Among the international competitors, Burundi's Rodrigue Kwizera delivered on long-standing expectations, storming to victory in the men's race with a record-breaking time of 27:31, improving the previous course record by seven seconds after making a decisive move beyond the 8km mark. Kenya's Stanley Wafula Kibet finished second in 27:39, while compatriot Gilbert Kipkosgei Kiprotich claimed third place in 27:43 in just his second international 10K appearance. Overall, India signed off with several positives, highlighted by Jadhav's remarkable winning streak and a series of strong performances across categories in one of the country's premier road races.



INDIA WINS TWO MEDALS ON FINAL DAY, FINISHES ON TOP MEDAL TALLY

India capped off a successful campaign at the ISSF Junior World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in Cairo, Egypt by finishing on top of the medal tally, securing a total of 16 medals—five gold, six silver, and five bronze. On the final day, Hemant Burman won silver in the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions event with a score of 351.7, having earlier qualified in seventh place with 578-24x. Other Indian shooters in qualification, including Manvendra Singh Shekhawat (578-23x), Kushagra Singh Rajawat (576-24x), and Hithesh Srinivasan (574-26x), narrowly missed out on the finals. In the same event, Kazakhstan's Oleg Noskov set a new junior world record of 355.6 to win gold, while Uzbekistan's Nikita Solokov took bronze with 341.2. India's Rohit Kanyan and Vedant Nitin Waghmare finished sixth and seventh in the final with scores of 311.9 and 300.5, respectively. Meanwhile, the duo of Zuhair Khan and Addya Katyal secured bronze in the Trap Mixed Team event, scoring 19 in the medal round after qualifying with 137. Overall, India added two medals on the final day, with Burman's silver and the Khan-Katyal pair's bronze highlighting another strong performance.



UNION BANK APPRENTICE RECRUITMENT 2026



Union Bank of India
Good people to bank with

APPRENTICE RECRUITMENT 2026

1865 VACANCIES

POST : Apprentice
ELIGIBILITY : Any Graduate
APPLICATION START DATE : 29-04-2026
LAST DATE TO APPLY : 19-05-2026
MODE OF APPLICATION : Online

TOTAL VACANCIES 1865

APPLY ONLINE THROUGH OFFICIAL WEBSITE unionbankofindia.bank.in

Union Bank of India has released the official notification for Apprentice Recruitment 2026 under the Apprentices Act, 1961. The bank invites online applications from eligible graduate candidates for 1865 Apprentice posts across various states in India. This recruitment provides an excellent opportunity for fresh graduates to gain banking sector experience through a structured apprenticeship program.

Recruitment Highlights:

- Organization: Union Bank of India
- Post Name: Apprentice
- Total Vacancies: 1865 Posts
- Job Location: Across India
- Application Mode: Online
- Online Registration Dates: 29 April 2026 to 19 May 2026

Eligibility Criteria:

- Age Limit: 20–28 Years as on 01 April 2026
- Age relaxation applicable for reserved categories.
- Educational Qualification: Graduate Degree in any discipline from a recognized university.
- Candidates must have passed graduation on or after 01 April 2022.
- Registration on the NATS Portal is mandatory.

Monthly Stipend:

- Rural / Semi-Urban Branches: ₹15,000/-
- Urban Branches: ₹18,000/-
- Metro Branches: ₹20,000/-

Selection Process:

- Online Written Examination
- Local Language Proficiency Test
- Document Verification

Application Fee:

- General/OBC Male: ₹944/-
- General/OBC Female: ₹708/-
- SC/ST/PwBD/Transgender: ₹236/-

Important Dates:

- Start of Online Application: 29 April 2026
- Last Date to Apply: 19 May 2026
- Tentative Exam: May/June 2026

How to Apply:

- Candidates must register on the NATS portal, complete the online form, upload required documents, pay the fee, and submit the application before the deadline.

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

RBI OFFICERS GRADE B RECRUITMENT 2026



RBI GRADE B NOTIFICATION 2026

OUT

60 OFFICER VACANCIES

APPLY ONLINE FROM APRIL 29 TO MAY 20

Reserve Bank of India Services Board (RBISB), Mumbai has released the official notification for RBI Grade B Officer Recruitment 2026 under Advertisement No. RBISB/DA/01/2026-27. Applications are invited for 60 Officer Grade 'B' (Direct Recruitment) vacancies in General, DEPR, and DSIM Cadres. This recruitment offers a highly respected career opportunity in India's central banking institution

- DEPR Cadre – 10 Posts
- DSIM Cadre – 10 Posts

Eligibility Criteria:

- Age Limit: 21–30 years as on 01 April 2026
- Age relaxation available for SC/ST/OBC/PwBD/Ex-Servicemen.

Qualification:

with excellent salary, growth, and benefits.

Recruitment Overview:

- Organization: Reserve Bank of India Services Board (RBISB)
- Post Name: Officer Grade 'B' (DR) – General / DEPR / DSIM
- Total Vacancies: 60 Posts
- Job Location: Across India
- Application Mode: Online
- Online Registration: 29 April 2026 to 20 May 2026 (6:00 PM)

Vacancy Details:

- General Cadre – 40 Posts

- General: Graduation with 60% marks or PG with 55% marks
- DEPR: Master's in Economics/Finance-related subjects
- DSIM: Master's in Statistics/Data Science/AI/ML or related fields

Salary & Benefits:

- Starting Basic Pay: ₹78,450/- per month
- Gross Monthly Salary: Approx. ₹1.55 Lakh with allowances.

Selection Process:

- Phase-I Online Examination
- Phase-II Examination
- Personal Interview

Application Fee:

- General/OBC/EWS: ₹850/- + GST
- SC/ST/PwBD: ₹100/- + GST

Important Exam Dates:

- Phase-I Exam: 13–14 June 2026
- Phase-II Exam: 25–26 July 2026

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

SSC STENOGRAPHER RECRUITMENT 2026

Staff Selection Commission has announced recruitment for Stenographer Grade C and D posts. The notification includes vacancies across departments. Applications are invited online.

Key Highlights:

- Total vacancies : 731
- Job Type : Central government job
- Post Grade : C & D

Post Wise Vacancy:

- Stenographer Grade C & D – 731 Posts

Age Limit:

- Grade C: Up to 30 years
- Grade D: Up to 27 years

Salary:

- As per central government pay scale

Eligibility Criteria:

- 12th pass
- Stenography skill required

Selection Process:

- Computer Based Test
- Skill Test (Stenography)

Application Fee:

- General/OBC: ₹100
- SC/ST/PwBD/Women: Nil

Important Date:

- Start Date: 02 May 2026
- Last Date: 31 May 2026
- Exam Date: July–August 2026

How to Apply:

- Eligible & Interested candidates must apply online only through the SSC official portal.

Step 1: Visit ssc.gov.in and complete One Time Registration (OTR) if not already done.

Step 2: Login and click on “Stenographer Grade 'C' & 'D' Examination 2026”.

Step 3: Fill the online application form with all personal, educational and contact details.

Step 4: Upload live photograph (captured through



SSC STENOGRAPHER RECRUITMENT 2026

APPLY ONLINE – 731 GRADE C & D POSTS

TOTAL POSTS	731
APPLICATION START DATE	24 APRIL 2026
LAST DATE TO APPLY	15 MAY 2026
AGE LIMIT	18 to 27–30 Years (Post Wise) as on 01 August 2026
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION	12th (Intermediate) from a recognized board with stenography skills.

OVERVIEW

- ✓ Organization: Staff Selection Commission (SSC)
- ✓ Posts: Stenographer Grade C & D
- ✓ Total Posts: 731
- ✓ Apply Mode: Online
- ✓ Official Website: www.ssc.gov.in

APPLY ONLINE

webcam) and signature (10-20 KB JPEG).

Step 5: Pay the application fee online (if applicable) and submit the form.

Step 6: Take a printout of the submitted application and keep it safe for future reference.

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

Deepika Singh

QUIZ TIME

1. According to Reporters Without Borders, global press freedom in 2026 has dropped to its lowest level in how many years?
2. Who testified in a California federal court that his company xAI partly used 'distillation' from OpenAI models to develop Grok?
3. Which US state was forced to postpone its congressional elections in May 2026 after the Supreme Court ruled its district map unconstitutional?
4. India defeated which country 3-0 to secure a semi-final spot in the 2026 Thomas Cup?
5. Which country successfully test-launched the Soyuz-5 rocket in May 2026?
6. How much has the US-Iran conflict cost the Pentagon so far, according to officials in May 2026?
7. Which Indian naval vessel — the fourth stealth frigate under Project 17A — was inducted in 2026?
8. Sabastian Sawe set a new marathon world record in May 2026. What was his finishing time?

RIDDLES

1. I can be cracked, made, told and played. What am I?
2. I have roots that nobody sees. I am taller than trees. Up, up I go but I never grow. What am I?
3. I am always in front of you but can never be seen. What am I?
4. The man who makes it doesn't need it. The man who buys it doesn't use it. The man who uses it doesn't know it. What am I?
5. I have no life but I can die. What am I?
6. I am not alive but I grow. I have no lungs but I need air. I have no mouth but water kills me. What am I?
7. I can travel around the world without moving from my place. What am I?
8. I am lighter than a feather but even the strongest man cannot hold me for more than 5 minutes. What am I?

1. Joke
2. Mountain
3. Future
4. Coffin
5. Battery
6. Fire
7. Stamp
8. Breath

(II) RIDDLES

1. 25 years
2. Elon Musk
3. Louisiana
4. Chinese Taipei
5. Russia
6. \$25 billion
7. INS Mahendraagir
8. 1:59:30

(I) QUIZ TIME

ANSWERS



PATRODE – THE FORGOTTEN LEAF DELICACY!

This Week, We're Relishing Patrode – The Forgotten Leaf Delicacy!

Patrode is a traditional Konkani delicacy made using colocasia (arbi) leaves layered with a spicy, tangy, and slightly sweet rice flour masala. Carefully rolled, steamed, and sometimes lightly pan-fried, this dish carries the essence of coastal kitchens and monsoon memories. With its earthy aroma and rich flavors, Patrode is more than just food—it is a celebration of age-old culinary traditions passed down through generations.

Ingredients:

8–10 fresh colocasia (arbi) leaves, 1 cup rice flour, 2 tablespoons grated jaggery, 2 tablespoons tamarind pulp, 2–3 tablespoons grated coconut, 1 tablespoon sesame seeds, 1 teaspoon red chilli powder, ½ teaspoon turmeric, 1 teaspoon coriander powder, a pinch of asafoetida (hing), salt to taste, water as required.

Preparation

Prepare Leaves: Wash the colocasia leaves thoroughly and trim the thick stems. Pat them dry gently.

Make Masala Paste: In a bowl, mix rice flour, jaggery, tamarind pulp, coconut, sesame seeds, and all spices. Add a little water to form a thick, spreadable paste.

Layering: Place one leaf flat (vein side up), spread the prepared paste evenly over it. Place another leaf on top and repeat the process for 3–4 layers.

Rolling: Fold the sides inward and roll the layered leaves tightly into a log shape.

Steaming: Steam the rolls for about 20–25 minutes until firm and cooked through.

Slicing: Allow it to cool slightly, then cut into round slices.

Optional Frying: For extra taste, lightly pan-fry the slices with a little oil until crisp on both sides.

Serving Tip:

Serve hot as a snack or side dish with coconut chutney or a simple drizzle of ghee. Patrode pairs beautifully with a cup of tea during the monsoon and adds a nostalgic touch to any traditional meal.



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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