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THE HULAHUL TIMES

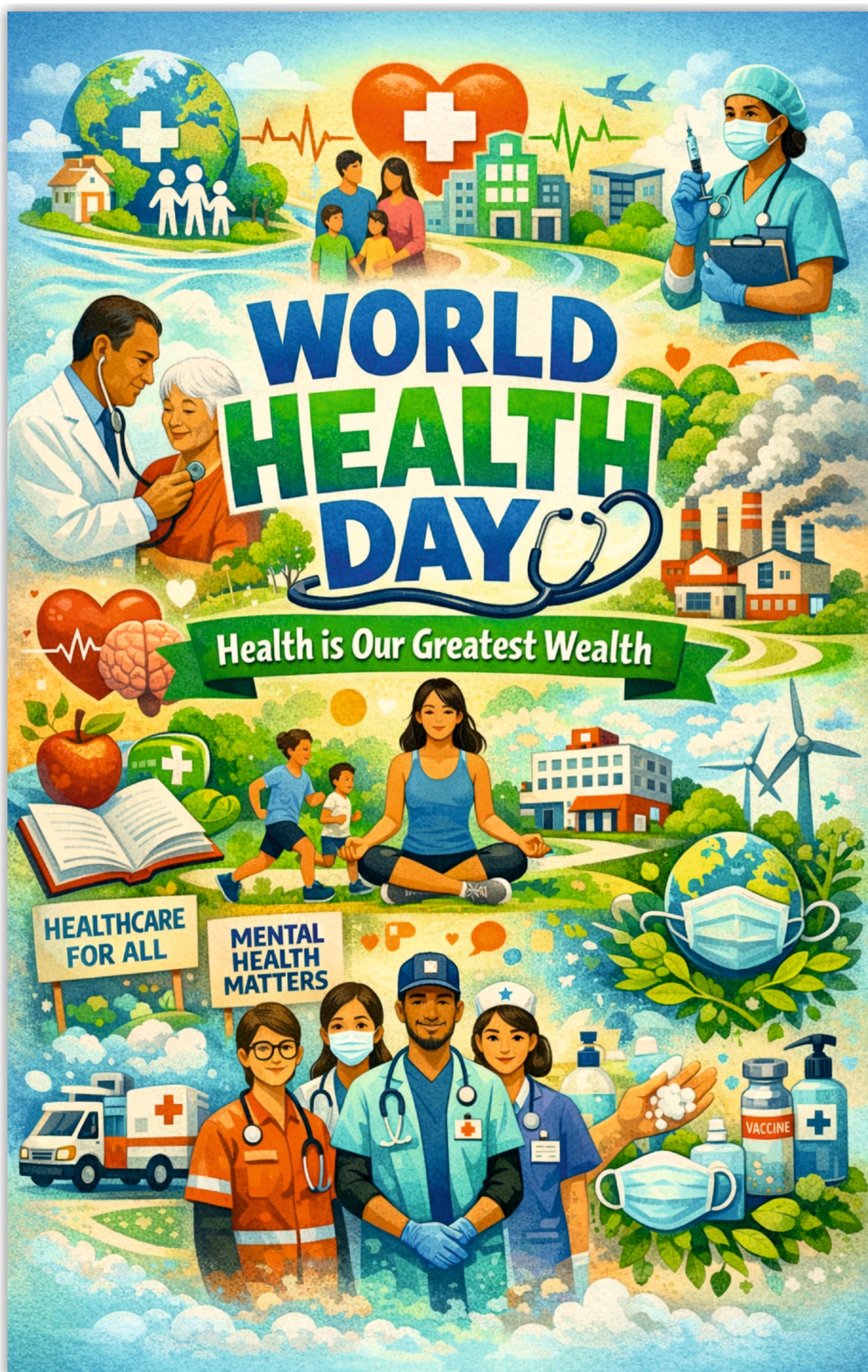
Evolving Today For A Better Tomorrow

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Ravi Singh & Delisha Gupta

WORLD HEALTH DAY: A REMINDER THAT HEALTH'S OUR GREATEST WEALTH



Every year on April 7 people around the world observe World Health Day. This special day helps us remember how important good health is for everyone. The World Health Organization (WHO) organizes it. They want to make sure everyone has access to healthcare.

In 1948, the WHO held the First World Health Assembly. The Assembly decided to celebrate 7 April of each year, with effect from 1950, as the World Health Day. The World Health Day is held to mark WHO's founding and is seen as an opportunity by the organization to draw worldwide attention to a subject of major importance to global health each year. The WHO organizes international, regional and local events on the Day related to a particular theme. World Health Day is acknowledged by various governments and non-governmental organizations with interests in public health issues, who also organize activities and highlight their support in media reports, such as the Global Health Council.

We often forget about our health until we lose it. In our lives we focus on work, school and other things. We forget about our bodies and minds. World Health Day reminds us that without health we can't achieve our dreams. It encourages us to make choices. Each year World Health Day has a theme. They focus on health issues like mental health good healthcare for all and how the environment affects our health. They want to get peoples attention and inspire them to take action.

One big problem is that some people can't get healthcare. Some have medical care but others can't get even basic treatment. In some areas there aren't hospitals, doctors or medicine. World Health Day says we need to make sure everyone has access to healthcare.

Mental health is also very important. Many people have depression or anxiety. School, social media and other things can make them feel stressed. This day reminds us that mental health is just as important as health. We should talk openly. Support each other.

What we. How we live also affect our health. Eating food not exercising and spending too much time on screens can make us sick. World Health Day encourages us to make choices. We can start small by drinking water or walking each day.

The environment also affects our health. Pollution, climate change and unsafe living conditions can make us sick. We need air, water and toilets. Taking care of the environment is important for our health and for generations.

The COVID-19 pandemic showed us how connected our health is. It affected people and showed us what we need to do to stay healthy. We learned the importance of washing our hands getting vaccinated and working together.

World Health Day is also a time to thank healthcare workers. They work hard to help people feel better. We should appreciate what they do. Support them.

We all have a role in promoting health. We can spread awareness help others and take care of ourselves. Schools, communities and workplaces can also help by creating environments.

In conclusion World Health Day reminds us that health is a human right. A healthy society is strong and prosperous. We can build a future by working together and making healthy choices.

Because in the end health is not about living longer it is, about living better.

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Durgesh K. Dubey

LALITADITYA MUKTAPIDA: THE VISIONARY KING WHO DREAMED BEYOND BOUNDARIES

In the beautiful valley of Kashmir, surrounded by snow-capped mountains and flowing rivers, there once ruled a king whose vision went far beyond the limits of his kingdom. His name was Lalitaditya Muktapida, one of the greatest rulers of the Karkota dynasty. His life was not only a story of military victories but also a story of wisdom, courage, and a deep sense of responsibility toward his people. Born into a royal family, Lalitaditya grew up learning the duties of kingship. He was trained in warfare, governance, and diplomacy. But what made him different from many rulers was his curiosity about the world. He did not see his kingdom as an isolated land; he saw it as part of a larger world full of opportunities and challenges. When he ascended the throne, Kashmir was already prosperous, but Lalitaditya believed that a ruler's duty is not to preserve greatness but to expand and strengthen it. He wanted his kingdom to be not only powerful but also culturally rich and well-connected with distant regions.

A King with Courage and Strategy

Lalitaditya was known for his bold military campaigns. Historical accounts, especially from Kalhana's Rajatarangini, describe his expeditions across vast regions, including parts of Central Asia, Punjab, and even areas beyond the traditional boundaries of Indian kingdoms. But his victories were not based on brute force alone. Lalitaditya was a master strategist. He understood that wars are won not only on the battlefield but also through planning, alliances, and understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the enemy. One of the most remarkable aspects of his leadership was his ability to adapt. In difficult terrains and unfamiliar lands, he relied on intelligence and quick decision-making rather than rigid methods. His campaigns expanded the influence of Kashmir and established it as a significant power of its time. Yet, despite his military success, Lalitaditya never allowed victory to turn into arrogance. He believed that power must always be balanced with responsibility.

The Builder of Prosperity

While many kings are remembered only for their conquests, Lalitaditya is equally remembered for his contributions to development and culture. He understood that a strong kingdom is built not just through victories in war, but through prosperity at home.

One of his greatest achievements was the construction of the Martand Sun Temple, an architectural marvel that reflected both spiritual devotion and artistic excellence. The temple stood as a symbol of Kashmir's cultural richness and Lalitaditya's vision of blending power with beauty. He also invested in infrastructure, trade routes, and agriculture. By improving connectivity and



encouraging trade, he ensured that his kingdom remained economically vibrant. Farmers, traders, and artisans all benefited from his policies. There is a story often associated with his reign that reflects his concern for the people. During a time of hardship in a distant region, Lalitaditya is believed to have provided support and ensured that essential supplies reached those in need. Whether

leave behind.

through direct action or through his officials, he made it clear that a king's responsibility extends to every corner of his kingdom.

Leadership Rooted in Vision

Lalitaditya's greatness lay not only in what he achieved but in how he thought. He believed that a ruler must think beyond the present and prepare for the future. His policies were not short-term decisions but long-term investments in the strength of the kingdom. He encouraged cultural exchange and welcomed scholars, artists, and thinkers. His court became a place where ideas flourished, and knowledge was respected. This openness made Kashmir a centre of learning and creativity. At the same time, he maintained discipline and order. He knew that without stability, progress cannot be sustained. His governance balanced freedom with responsibility, ensuring that growth did not come at the cost of harmony.

Lessons from His Journey

Lalitaditya Muktapida's life teaches us that true leadership is a combination of courage, vision, and compassion. He did not limit himself to being a warrior or a ruler; he became a builder of a civilization. His ability to expand his kingdom without losing focus on development shows that success must be balanced. He demonstrated that ambition is meaningful only when it contributes to the well-being of others. Even in times of power, he remained connected to his duties. He did not allow success to distract him from the needs of his people.

Moral and Conclusion

The life of Lalitaditya Muktapida reminds us that greatness lies not only in achieving power but in using it wisely. His story teaches that courage must be guided by vision, and success must be shared with society. In today's world, where leadership is often measured by short-term achievements, Lalitaditya's life encourages us to think long-term, act responsibly, and remain committed to the welfare of others. He showed that a true leader builds not just for the present but for generations to come. His legacy inspires us to combine ambition with humility, strength with compassion, and success with service, proving that true greatness is defined by the positive impact we

Ravi Singh & Delisha Gupta

A SYMPHONY OF SOIL: THE UPWARD REACH OF UMESHBHAI

The sun rises over the plains of Gujarat not with a shout, but with a golden whisper, casting long shadows across the 1.5-acre patch of earth that Umeshbhai calls home. For seventeen years, this small rectangle of land was both his sanctuary and his struggle. Born with a locomotor disability, Umeshbhai viewed the world from a different vantage point one where every furrow in the soil was a mountain to climb, and every harvest was a hard-won battle against the limitations of both nature and the body.

For nearly two decades, the story followed a familiar, weary rhythm. Traditional farming was a cycle of sweat and modest returns. Chemical fertilizers were expensive, the soil was becoming tired and brittle, and the yields were barely enough to keep his family's head above water. But Umeshbhai is not a man built from brittle things; he is built from the same resilient clay as the land he tends.

The turning point came not as a miracle, but as a partnership. Through the CBM India Trust's community-based inclusive development project, a door swung open. They didn't just bring seeds; they brought a new way of seeing.

The transformation began with an exposure visit a journey that would change the architecture of Umeshbhai's farm forever. He was introduced to the concept of multilayer organic farming. It was a revelation: the idea that land shouldn't just be used horizontally, but vertically. He learned to layer his dreams, growing diverse crops at different heights and depths. On a single plot, cluster beans reached for the sun, eggplants and tomatoes thrived in the middle tier, and chilies and vibrant flowers hugged the earth.

This was more than just efficient land use; it was a symphony of biodiversity. The taller plants provided shade for the shorter ones, while the variety of roots worked in harmony to nourish the soil rather than deplete it.

But knowledge alone doesn't till the soil. The project provided Umeshbhai with seed funds to put his new wisdom into practice. More importantly, it addressed the physical barriers that had slowed him down for years. CBM India facilitated the creation of customized boots tailored specifically for his needs. For the first time, the uneven terrain of



the farm didn't feel like an adversary. With improved mobility, Umeshbhai moved through his rows of green with a newfound grace and independence.

The shift to organic methods was the final piece of the puzzle. Umeshbhai learned to prepare his own organic pesticides potent concoctions made from natural ingredients that cost next to nothing but offered a wealth of protection. The chemical "medicines" that once drained his wallet were replaced by the wisdom of the earth. Almost immediately, the soil responded. It became darker, richer, and full of life. The pest attacks diminished, and the vibrant colors of his tomatoes and chilies spoke of a health that chemicals could never replicate.

The first year was a whirlwind of discovery. As the clusters of beans grew heavy and the flowers bloomed in a riot of color, the financial burden began to lift. His productivity soared. With the profits from his first successful organic harvest, Umeshbhai didn't just rest; he

reinvested. He traveled to Madhya Pradesh for advanced training, hungry to learn more. He returned with his pockets full of new seeds and his mind full of possibilities.

Today, Umeshbhai's farm is a green emerald set in the dusty landscape. It is a testament to the fact that sustainability is not just about the environment; it is about sustaining the human spirit. The 1.5 acres that once barely provided a living now overflow with variety and abundance.

"We are happy for the support we have received," Umeshbhai says, his eyes reflecting the lush greenery of his tomato vines. "We've learned new techniques, and our earnings have improved. But what we've learned will stay with us and help us build a better future."

His story is a beautiful reminder that empowerment is the most fertile soil of all. When a person is given the right tool, be they customized boots or the knowledge of organic

pesticides they don't just grow crops; they grow a legacy. Umeshbhai is no longer just a farmer struggling against his circumstances; he is a steward of the earth, a pioneer of sustainability, and a beacon of hope for every farmer who has ever looked at a small plot of land and dreamt of something more.

As the sun sets over Gujarat, painting the sky in hues of orange and violet, Umeshbhai walks through his fields. The soil beneath his feet is healthy, the air is clean, and the future is rooted in a sustainability that will nourish his family for generations to come. He has proven that with a little support and a lot of heart, one can truly cultivate a life of dignity, one layer 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.

The future of banking may depend less on who you are and more on how you manage money, as AI is transforming banking from standard services to personalised financial experiences. For decades, banks grouped customers into broad categories such as retail, premium, or corporate, offering similar products and services to each segment. While this model worked in the past, it often overlooked individual financial behaviour and needs. Today, banking is undergoing a silent yet powerful transformation. Artificial intelligence (AI) is enabling banks to move beyond traditional segmentation and treat every customer as a “segment of one.” Powered by real-time data, algorithms, and behavioural insights, financial services are becoming more personalised, predictive, and responsive.

From Segments to Individual Profiles

Traditional banking relied on grouping customers based on income, age, or profession. However, this approach often led to generic offerings that did not reflect real financial behaviour. AI has transformed banking by analysing spending patterns, saving habits, income cycles, risk appetite, and even lifestyle

choices

Example: A frequent traveller may receive forex card offers and travel insurance suggestions, while a small business owner may get real-time working capital loan options based on daily cash flow.

Similarly, a freelance professional with irregular income may receive flexible savings plans, while a retiree may be guided toward safe investment options and fraud protection tools.

In India, banks are already adopting this approach. Apps like HDFC Bank SmartHub, ICICI Bank iMobile, and State Bank of India YONO provide personalised dashboards, spending insights, and customised product recommendations based on user behaviour. This marks a shift from generalisation to individualisation where financial decisions become personalised.

AI in Action: Banking That Thinks Ahead

AI is transforming banks from service providers into proactive financial advisors. Instead of reacting to customer needs, banks now anticipate them.

Key capabilities include:

- Predictive alerts for spending and savings
- Smart chatbots offering instant assistance
- Behavioural insights for budgeting and investing
- Fraud detection in real time
- Personalised product recommendations
- Dynamic credit scoring based on behaviour

Example: If a customer makes an unusual transaction, banking apps like SBI YONO or ICICI iMobile instantly trigger alerts and verification steps to prevent fraud.

A café owner with fluctuating income may receive timely short-term credit when cash flow dips without paperwork or delays. Bank digital platforms like HDFC analyse income and spending to suggest credit, investment, or

savings options based on surplus or deficit balances. Banking is becoming smarter, faster, and more intuitive.

Career Opportunities for Students

The rise of AI-driven banking is creating a wave of exciting career opportunities for students in commerce, IT, statistics, and management, while even psychology students can contribute through behavioural insights.



Emerging roles include:

- Data Analysts and Financial Analysts
- AI and Machine Learning Specialists
- FinTech Product Managers
- Cybersecurity Experts
- Digital Relationship Managers
- Risk and Compliance Professionals
- UX/UI Designers for banking platforms

Example: A commerce graduate may work in a bank's analytics team, studying customer transaction data to design personalised financial products.

Skills Students Should Build

- Basic knowledge of data analytics and financial tools.
- Understanding of fintech and digital banking trends.
- Familiarity with AI applications in finance.
- Practical exposure through internships.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Students who build hybrid skills combining

finance and technology will be better prepared for future roles.

Tips for Professionals

- Adapt to AI-driven tools and systems.
- Focus on data-based decision-making.
- Continuously upgrade digital and analytical skills.
- Maintain transparency to build customer trust.
- Balance technology with human interaction
- Professionals who embrace change will move into higher-value roles.

The Road Ahead

AI-driven individualisation is not just a technological upgrade it is a fundamental shift in how banking operates. Customers are no longer seen as account numbers but as unique financial identities with evolving needs. Banks that succeed will be those that combine

data intelligence with human understanding, creating services that feel less transactional and more advisory.

The Bigger Shift

Banking is moving from standardised services to personalised financial ecosystems. Institutions are evolving into intelligent platforms that understand, predict, and guide customer decisions. Customers today expect banks to act like financial partners, anticipating needs, simplifying choices, and enhancing financial well-being.

The Takeaway

AI is not just making banking digital; it is making it personal. Because in the future of banking, you are no longer part of a segment, you are the strategy itself.

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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 TERM OF THE WEEK

INTERTEXTUALITY

Intertextuality refers to the relationship between texts, where one text references, echoes, or influences another. This concept, developed prominently by Julia Kristeva, suggests that no text exists in isolation; rather, every text is a mosaic of prior discourses.

Example:

Modern retellings of mythological narratives often draw upon classical texts, thereby creating layers of meaning through intertextual connections.

Significance: Intertextuality enhances interpretative depth and invites readers to recognize literary traditions, cultural dialogues, and ideological continuities across texts.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The longest English word found in major dictionaries is “pneumonoultramicroscopic-silicovolcanoconiosis”, a term referring to a lung disease caused by inhaling fine silica dust. It reflects the linguistic tendency to construct highly technical vocabulary through Greek and Latin roots.
- The word “queue” is pronounced as just the letter “Q,” making the last four letters essentially silent. It's one of the quirkiest examples of English spelling.
- The shortest complete sentence in English is “I am.” Despite its brevity, it contains both a subject and a verb, making it grammatically complete.
- The English language has borrowed words from over 350 different languages, making it one of the most linguistically diverse languages in the world.
- The dot above the letters “i” and “j” is called a “tittle.” It's a small detail with a very specific linguistic name.
- “Bookkeeper” and “bookkeeping” are the only commonly used English words with three consecutive double letters.
- The pangram “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog” contains every letter of the English alphabet and is often used for typing practice.
- Shakespeare is credited with introducing over 1,700 words to the English language, including “bedroom,” “lonely,” and “majestic.”
- The longest word without a vowel in English is “rhythms.” Here, “y” functions as a vowel sound.

GRAMMAR TIP

Use of the Semicolon (;)

A semicolon is used to connect closely related independent clauses without a conjunction.

Example:

The researcher completed the experiment; the results were groundbreaking.

It may also be used to separate complex items in a list:

The conference included speakers from Mumbai, India; Oxford, England; and Boston, USA.

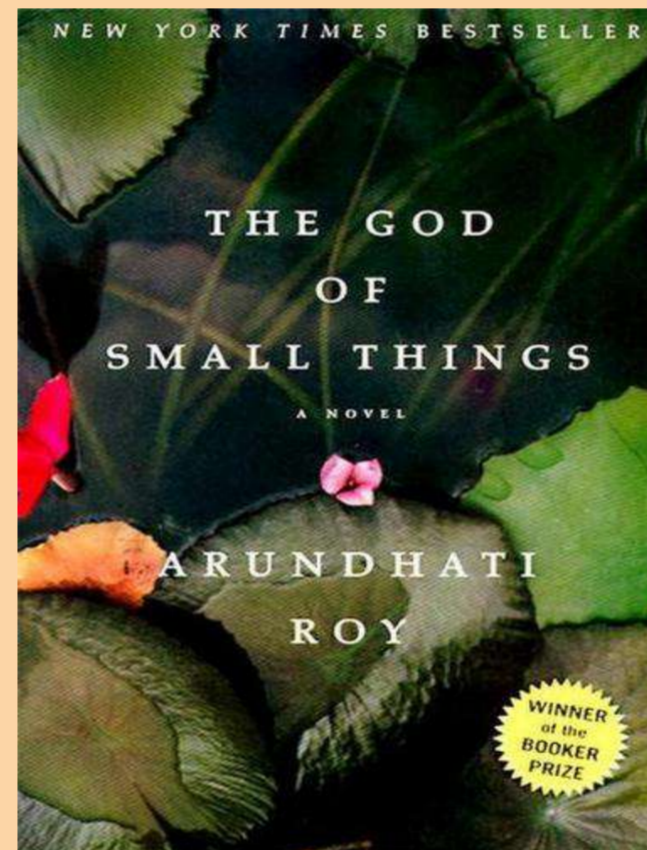
WRITER OF THE WEEK

Toni Morrison (1931–2019)

Toni Morrison was a Nobel Prize-winning American novelist renowned for her profound exploration of African American identity, history, and memory. Her works are characterized by lyrical prose, psychological depth, and engagement with themes of trauma, community, and cultural heritage. Her seminal novel, *Beloved*, examines the haunting legacy of slavery through a powerful narrative blending realism and the supernatural. Morrison's contribution to literature lies in giving voice to historically marginalized experiences while redefining narrative techniques.

BOOK REVIEW

The God of Small Things – Arundhati Roy



Arundhati Roy's Booker Prize-winning novel is a richly layered narrative set in Kerala, exploring themes of forbidden love, caste discrimination, and the lingering impact of colonialism. The story revolves around fraternal twins whose lives are shaped by social constraints and personal tragedy. Roy's narrative technique is non-linear, weaving past and present in a poetic and evocative manner. The language is experimental, often bending grammatical conventions to reflect the childlike perspective and emotional intensity of the characters. The novel's strength lies in its ability to capture the “small things”—subtle emotions, fleeting moments, and quiet injustices—that collectively shape human experience. It remains a significant text in postcolonial literature.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.”

— Ludwig Wittgenstein

CREATIVE WRITING

BRIGHT STAR, WOULD I WERE STEDFAST AS THOU ART

Bright star, would I were stedfast as thou art
Not in lone splendour hung aloft the night,
And watching, with eternal lids apart,
Like nature's patient, sleepless Eremite,
The moving waters at their priestlike task
Of pure ablution round earth's human shores,
Or gazing on the new soft-fallen mask
Of snow upon the mountains and the moors—
No—yet still stedfast, still unchangeable,
Pillow'd upon my fair love's ripening breast,
To feel for ever its soft fall and swell,
Awake for ever in a sweet unrest,
Still, still to hear her tender-taken breath,
And so live ever or else swoon to death.

(The poem expresses a longing for permanence and constancy, symbolized by the steadfast star, in contrast to the transient nature of human life. Through romantic devotion, John Keats ultimately affirms a desire for eternal love, even if it exists within mortal fragility.)

Poetry by
John Keats

WORD OF THE WEEK

Ubiquitous (adjective)

Meaning: Present, appearing, or found everywhere.
Etymology: From Latin *ubique* meaning “everywhere.”
Example: Digital technology has become ubiquitous in modern education systems.

IDIOM HIGHLIGHT

A blessing in disguise

Meaning: Something that appears unfortunate at first but later proves beneficial.
Example: Losing the job turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as it led her to pursue research.

CENTRE APPROVES PULSES AND OILSEED PROCUREMENT TO SUPPORT FARMERS ACROSS STATES

The central government has approved the procurement of pulses and oilseeds in states such as Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Karnataka, aiming to provide better price support to farmers and stabilise market conditions. The decision has been taken under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), which ensures that farmers receive fair remuneration when market prices fall below the Minimum Support Price (MSP).



Under this initiative, agencies will procure key crops including tur (arhar), urad, and groundnut, directly from farmers at MSP. The move is expected to benefit thousands of cultivators by protecting them from price fluctuations and ensuring assured returns for their produce. It also encourages farmers to diversify away from water-intensive crops and adopt pulses and oilseeds, which are crucial for nutritional security.

improve farmers' income levels. Additionally, this step will help maintain buffer stocks and strengthen the country's food security system.

Officials believe that promoting pulses and oilseed production is essential for reducing India's dependence on imports and achieving self-sufficiency. The initiative also aligns with the broader agricultural policy of encouraging sustainable cropping patterns.

Overall, the approval reflects the government's commitment to supporting farmers while ensuring stable supply and pricing of essential food commodities in the market.

The procurement will be carried out through designated government agencies in coordination with state authorities. By increasing the procurement capacity, the government aims to reduce distress sales and

AGROCHEMICAL SECTOR GAINS AS INPUT COSTS DROP AFTER CUSTOMS DUTY REDUCTION

India's agrochemical industry is witnessing a positive shift as input costs have declined by 8–9%, following recent reductions in customs duties on key raw materials. This development is expected to improve profit margins for manufacturers and potentially lower the cost of crop protection products for farmers.



The reduction in duties has eased the financial burden on companies that rely heavily on imported intermediates and active ingredients. Lower import costs are enabling manufacturers to optimise production expenses and enhance overall efficiency. This comes as a relief to the sector, which had been facing rising input costs and supply chain disruptions in recent years.

Additionally, improved cost structures may encourage companies to invest more in research and development, innovation, and expansion of production capacities. It could also strengthen India's position as a global supplier of agrochemical products.

Overall, the duty cut has provided a timely boost to the agrochemical sector, supporting both industry growth and agricultural productivity. By reducing input costs, the move is expected to create a more sustainable and efficient ecosystem for farmers and manufacturers alike.

Industry experts believe that the cost reduction could lead to more competitive pricing of pesticides and agrochemicals, benefiting farmers by making essential inputs more affordable. This is particularly important during peak agricultural seasons when demand for crop protection solutions increases.

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS STE STATUS FOR INDIAN POTASH IN UREA IMPORTS TILL 2027

The Government of India has extended the State Trading Enterprise (STE) status of Indian Potash Limited (IPL) for urea imports until March 2027, ensuring continued stability in the country's fertiliser supply chain. This decision allows IPL to remain one of the authorised agencies responsible for importing urea, a critical input for Indian agriculture.



Urea is the most widely used nitrogen-based fertiliser in India, playing a vital role in maintaining soil fertility and boosting crop yields. Given its importance, the government closely regulates its import, pricing, and distribution. By extending IPL's STE status, authorities aim to ensure a smooth and timely supply of urea to farmers across the country.

The move is particularly significant in the context of fluctuating global fertiliser prices and supply uncertainties. With IPL continuing as a key importer, the government can better manage procurement strategies, negotiate international prices, and maintain adequate stock levels to meet domestic demand.

Additionally, the decision supports the broader objective of fertiliser availability at affordable prices, helping farmers sustain productivity without facing input shortages. It also strengthens the public distribution mechanism by ensuring efficient allocation and delivery.

Overall, the extension of IPL's role reflects the government's commitment to safeguarding agricultural inputs and maintaining food security. By stabilising urea imports, the policy aims to support farmers and ensure uninterrupted agricultural operations in the coming years.

RISING SUMMER TEMPERATURES RAISE CONCERNS OVER FOOD INFLATION IN INDIA

The ongoing rise in summer temperatures across India has sparked concerns about its potential impact on agricultural production and food inflation. Experts warn that prolonged heatwaves during critical crop growth stages can significantly affect yields, especially for crops like wheat, pulses, and vegetables.

Higher temperatures can accelerate crop maturation, reducing grain size and overall productivity. In addition, heat stress can damage standing crops, leading to lower output and supply shortages in the market. This situation is particularly worrying as it may contribute to rising food prices, affecting both consumers and policymakers.

Another challenge is the increased pressure on water resources. As temperatures rise, irrigation demand grows, putting stress on already limited water supplies. This can further impact crop health and production, especially in regions dependent on groundwater or erratic rainfall.

Economists suggest that fluctuations in agricultural output due to extreme weather can lead to volatility in food prices. If supply falls short of demand, inflationary pressures may increase, impacting household budgets and overall economic stability.

To address these risks, experts emphasise the need for climate-resilient farming practices, including heat-tolerant crop varieties, improved irrigation systems, and better weather forecasting. Strengthening storage and supply chains can also help reduce the impact of production shocks.

Overall, the situation highlights the growing link between climate change and food inflation, underlining the urgency of building a more resilient agricultural system in India.

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Additionally, improved cost structures may encourage companies to invest more in research and development, innovation, and expansion of production capacities. It could also strengthen India's position as a global supplier of agrochemical products.

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Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay

SWAYAM CREDIT TRANSFER SEES LOW UPTAKE DESPITE WIDE UNIVERSITY ADOPTION

Despite growing participation in online learning, University Grants Commission's credit transfer scheme for MOOCs has seen limited adoption, even as over 415 universities offer courses through SWAYAM and NPTEL.



The initiative allows students to earn academic credits by completing approved online courses and transferring them to their university programmes. However, officials note that only a small number of institutions and students are actively utilising this provision. Experts point to several challenges, including lack of awareness among students, hesitation among universities to fully integrate online credits, and inconsistencies in implementation. Some institutions remain cautious about recognising external courses, while students often prefer traditional classroom learning due to familiarity and evaluation concerns.

adoption of government-backed platforms.

UGC has been encouraging institutions to adopt flexible learning pathways in line with the National Education Policy 2020, which promotes digital education, credit mobility, and multidisciplinary learning. However, the slow uptake indicates the need for stronger awareness campaigns, clearer guidelines, and institutional support. While SWAYAM and NPTEL have expanded access to quality education, bridging the gap between availability and acceptance remains crucial.

The trend underscores that digital learning success depends not just on access, but also on trust, integration, and ease of use.

Interestingly, global platforms like Coursera and Udeemy continue to attract more learners, highlighting a gap between policy intent and ground-level

TELANGANA LAUNCHES BREAKFAST SCHEME FOR ANGANWADI CHILDREN

The Telangana government has launched a breakfast scheme for children in Anganwadi centres, aiming to improve nutrition and early childhood development across the state. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy inaugurated the initiative, marking a significant step toward strengthening child welfare programmes.



The government emphasised that the meals will be carefully planned to meet nutritional standards, with a focus on quality and regular monitoring. The scheme also aims to support working families by providing reliable food access for children during the day.

By introducing the breakfast programme, Telangana seeks to strengthen its early education ecosystem and ensure that children begin their day with proper nourishment.

The initiative reflects a broader commitment to child development, aiming to create a healthier, more equitable foundation for future learning and growth.

The scheme will provide nutritious morning meals to children attending Anganwadi centres, ensuring they receive adequate dietary support during their formative years. Officials said the move is designed to address issues of malnutrition, enhance physical growth, and improve overall health outcomes among young children.

In addition to improving nutrition, the programme is expected to boost attendance and engagement at Anganwadi centres by encouraging parents to send their children regularly. The initiative complements existing efforts under early childhood care schemes, focusing on holistic development, including health, learning, and well-being.

DELHI SCHOOLS TO PLANT 3.5 LAKH SAPLINGS UNDER GREEN DRIVE

The Delhi government has announced an ambitious plan to plant 3.5 lakh saplings in schools during the 2026–27 academic year, as part of its broader environmental sustainability initiative.

The programme, led by the Directorate of Education, aims to transform school campuses into greener spaces while promoting environmental awareness among students. Schools across the capital will actively participate in plantation drives through eco-clubs and student-led activities. Officials said the initiative is designed not only to increase green cover but also to instil a sense of environmental responsibility in young learners. Students will be involved in planting, nurturing, and monitoring saplings, encouraging hands-on learning about biodiversity and climate action.

The drive will also focus on selecting suitable plant species and ensuring proper maintenance so that saplings grow into sustainable green assets. Schools may integrate the activity into project-based learning, linking it with subjects such as environmental studies and science.



The initiative aligns with the government's efforts to promote climate consciousness and sustainable practices within the education system.

By engaging students directly in environmental action, the programme seeks to create long-term behavioural change while contributing to urban greening. It also reinforces the role of schools as key spaces for building awareness and responsibility toward ecological preservation.

The large-scale plantation drive marks a significant step toward a greener, healthier, and more environmentally aware Delhi.

IIT MADRAS PRAVARTAK LAUNCHES MORE THAN 15 SKILL COURSES FOR STUDENTS, EDUCATORS

IIT Madras Pravartak has partnered with BodhBridge Education to launch over 15 skill-based courses for school students, teachers, and professionals, aiming to strengthen future-ready competencies.

The programmes, scheduled between April and June 2026, are designed to provide hands-on learning in emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, electronics, and digital technologies. The initiative focuses on bridging the gap between academic learning and industry-relevant skills.

Students will benefit from structured modules that combine conceptual understanding with practical exposure, while educators will receive specialised training to upgrade their teaching methods and integrate modern technologies into classrooms.

Officials said the courses are aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy 2020, which emphasises skill development, experiential learning, and technology integration at all levels of education.



The collaboration also aims to make advanced learning accessible beyond higher education institutions by reaching school-level learners and early-stage professionals. Participants will gain exposure to real-world applications, project-based learning, and mentorship from experts. By offering flexible and targeted courses, the initiative seeks to build a strong foundation in emerging technologies and prepare learners for future careers.

The programme highlights IIT Madras Pravartak's growing role in promoting innovation-driven education and empowering learners with practical, industry-aligned skills.

ODISHA TO PROVIDE ASSISTIVE DEVICES FOR DIVYANG COLLEGE STUDENTS



The Odisha government has announced a new initiative to support differently abled (Divyang) students in higher education by providing assistive devices, including wheelchairs and mobility aids, across colleges in the state.

The move aims to improve accessibility and ensure that students with disabilities can participate fully in academic and campus life without physical barriers. Officials said the scheme will be implemented across government and aided higher education institutions, with a focus on creating a more inclusive learning environment.

As part of the initiative, colleges will appoint nodal officers to identify eligible students, assess their specific needs, and coordinate the distribution of assistive devices. The government has emphasised that the support will be tailored to individual requirements, ensuring effective utilisation.

The scheme is expected to address long-standing challenges faced by Divyang students, including limited mobility, lack of infrastructure, and restricted access to classrooms and facilities. By providing essential aids, the government aims to reduce dropout rates and enhance participation in higher education.

The initiative aligns with broader efforts to promote inclusive education and equal opportunities for all learners.

By strengthening support systems within colleges, Odisha seeks to empower differently abled students to pursue their academic goals with dignity, independence, and confidence, reinforcing its commitment to equitable and accessible education.

Durgesh K. Dubey

RUPEE REBOUNDS SHARPLY AS CENTRAL BANK STEPS IN TO CALM CURRENCY VOLATILITY

In a surprising turnaround, the Indian rupee staged its strongest rally in more than a decade, offering a much-needed breather to markets amid global uncertainty. The sharp appreciation came after decisive steps were taken to curb excessive volatility in the foreign exchange market, signalling a firm policy response to stabilise the domestic currency.

The rupee strengthened significantly against the US dollar, rising by nearly 1.8 percent in a single trading session, its biggest gain in over 12 years. This sudden surge followed a period of sustained pressure, during which the currency had weakened due to rising crude oil prices, capital outflows and global geopolitical tensions. At one point, the rupee had even crossed critical levels, reflecting the intensity of market stress.

The recent recovery can largely be attributed to targeted measures aimed at reducing speculative pressure on the currency. By tightening regulations on foreign exchange transactions and limiting certain derivative activities, the central bank has effectively reduced artificial demand for dollars. This has encouraged market participants to unwind their existing positions, thereby easing pressure on the rupee and improving overall stability.

One of the key changes involves restricting banks from maintaining large open positions in foreign currency markets. Financial institutions have been directed to keep their exposure within a specified limit, which is expected to significantly reduce aggressive dollar bets. As banks begin to scale back such positions, the demand for the US currency is likely to decline, providing further support to the rupee.

The impact of these measures is already visible. Market participants have started adjusting their strategies, leading to a gradual correction in currency movements. Experts believe that in the short term, the rupee may continue to show an appreciation bias or at least remain stable, provided external conditions do not deteriorate sharply.

The context of this intervention is important. Over the past year, the rupee has faced considerable challenges, making it one of its weakest periods in recent times. A combination of rising global oil prices, geopolitical tensions and continuous outflows from foreign investors has created sustained pressure on the currency. The escalation of conflict in West Asia, in particular, has contributed to higher energy costs, further straining the domestic economy.

Higher crude oil prices have a direct impact on India's currency, as the country depends heavily on imports to meet its energy needs. When oil prices rise, the demand for dollars increases, leading to depreciation pressures. In such a scenario, managing currency volatility becomes critical to maintaining macroeconomic stability.

While the central bank's actions have brought immediate relief, they also underline the importance of proactive policy measures in a volatile global environment. By acting swiftly, authorities have not only stabilised the currency but also reinforced confidence among investors and market participants.

However, the road ahead remains uncertain. Global factors such as



geopolitical tensions, commodity price movements and capital flows will continue to influence currency dynamics. Any sharp escalation in external risks could once again test the resilience of the rupee.

Despite these challenges, the recent rebound offers a positive signal. It demonstrates that timely intervention, combined with strong policy coordination, can effectively manage market disruptions. For businesses and consumers alike, a stable currency provides greater predictability, helping them plan investments and manage costs more efficiently.

Ultimately, the rupee's recovery is more than just a market movement, it reflects the broader effort to safeguard economic stability in a rapidly changing global landscape. As uncertainties persist, maintaining this balance will remain a key priority for policymakers in the months ahead.

GROWTH UNDER PRESSURE: GLOBAL TENSIONS CAST SHADOW ON INDIA'S ECONOMIC MOMENTUM

India's growth story, which has remained one of the strongest among major economies, is now facing fresh headwinds as global geopolitical tensions begin to influence domestic economic dynamics. Recent projections indicate that economic growth may slow in the coming fiscal year, reflecting the growing impact of rising energy costs, supply disruptions and external uncertainties.

Estimates now suggest that India's GDP growth could moderate to around 6 percent in FY27, marking a notable downward revision from earlier expectations. While the economy continues to remain resilient, the changing global environment is expected to temper its momentum. The primary concern stems from the ongoing conflict in West Asia, which has disrupted energy markets and increased input costs across sectors.

One of the most immediate risks arises from India's dependence on energy imports. A significant portion of crude oil and an overwhelming share of liquefied petroleum gas supplies come from the Gulf region. Any disruption in this supply chain can quickly translate into higher fuel costs, affecting transportation, manufacturing and household consumption.

Rising energy prices are also expected to push inflation higher. Projections indicate that inflation may increase to around 4.8 percent, nearly doubling from earlier levels. Higher fuel and transport costs often have a cascading effect, influencing food prices as well, particularly due to the country's reliance on imported fertilizers. This could create additional pressure on household budgets and reduce overall consumption demand.

Economic activity may also slow due to weakening private

consumption and reduced industrial output. As input costs rise, businesses may face shrinking profit margins, leading to cautious investment decisions. This combination of factors could result in a gradual cooling of economic momentum, even as certain sectors continue to show resilience.

The fiscal outlook is another area of concern. Higher global commodity prices are likely to increase government expenditure, particularly in the form of subsidies for fuel and fertilizers. At the same time, recent measures to reduce fuel taxes aimed at protecting consumers may impact revenue collection. This dual pressure of rising expenditure and limited revenue growth could constrain the government's fiscal space.

External sector challenges are also emerging. Although the current account position improved in the recent past, it is expected to widen again due to rising import bills. Higher prices for oil and raw materials could increase the trade deficit, while uncertainties in global markets may affect export demand. Additionally, remittances from the Gulf region, which form a significant part of India's foreign inflows, may face risks if economic conditions in those countries weaken.

Despite these challenges, the broader outlook is not entirely pessimistic. India's strong domestic demand, ongoing infrastructure development and policy support are expected to provide a cushion against external shocks. Investment in public infrastructure and gradual easing of trade barriers may help sustain growth momentum, even in a difficult global environment.

The situation also highlights the importance of long-term economic

resilience. Diversifying energy sources, strengthening domestic manufacturing and improving supply chain efficiency can help reduce vulnerability to external shocks. In this context, the current challenges may serve as an opportunity to accelerate structural reforms and enhance competitiveness.

India's economic journey has often been shaped by its ability to adapt to global disruptions. While the present scenario presents a complex mix of risks, it also underscores the need for balanced policy responses that protect growth while managing inflation.

For ordinary citizens, these macroeconomic shifts may translate into higher living costs and cautious spending. For businesses, it means navigating uncertainty with strategic planning. And for policymakers, it is a test of maintaining stability in an increasingly interconnected and unpredictable world.

As global tensions continue to evolve, India's economic resilience will depend not only on external conditions but also on its ability to respond swiftly and effectively to emerging challenges.

Dr. (Mrs) Chandra Hariharan Iyer

EXPERT



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Q. How to overcome from Guilt?

Ans. Guilt is a deeply human emotion that arises when we feel we have violated our own values, hurt others, or failed in our responsibilities. While a certain degree of guilt can guide moral behavior, excessive or unresolved guilt can become burdensome, affecting mental peace and self-worth. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS), rooted in texts like the Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana, and Mahabharata, offers profound and practical insights into understanding and overcoming guilt—not by suppressing it, but by transforming it into a path of self-growth and inner harmony.

At the heart of IKS lies the idea of self-awareness (Atma-bodha). Guilt often persists because we either deny our actions or become overly attached to them. The first step, therefore, is honest self-reflection. The Upanishads emphasize “Know thyself” as the foundation of wisdom. Instead of

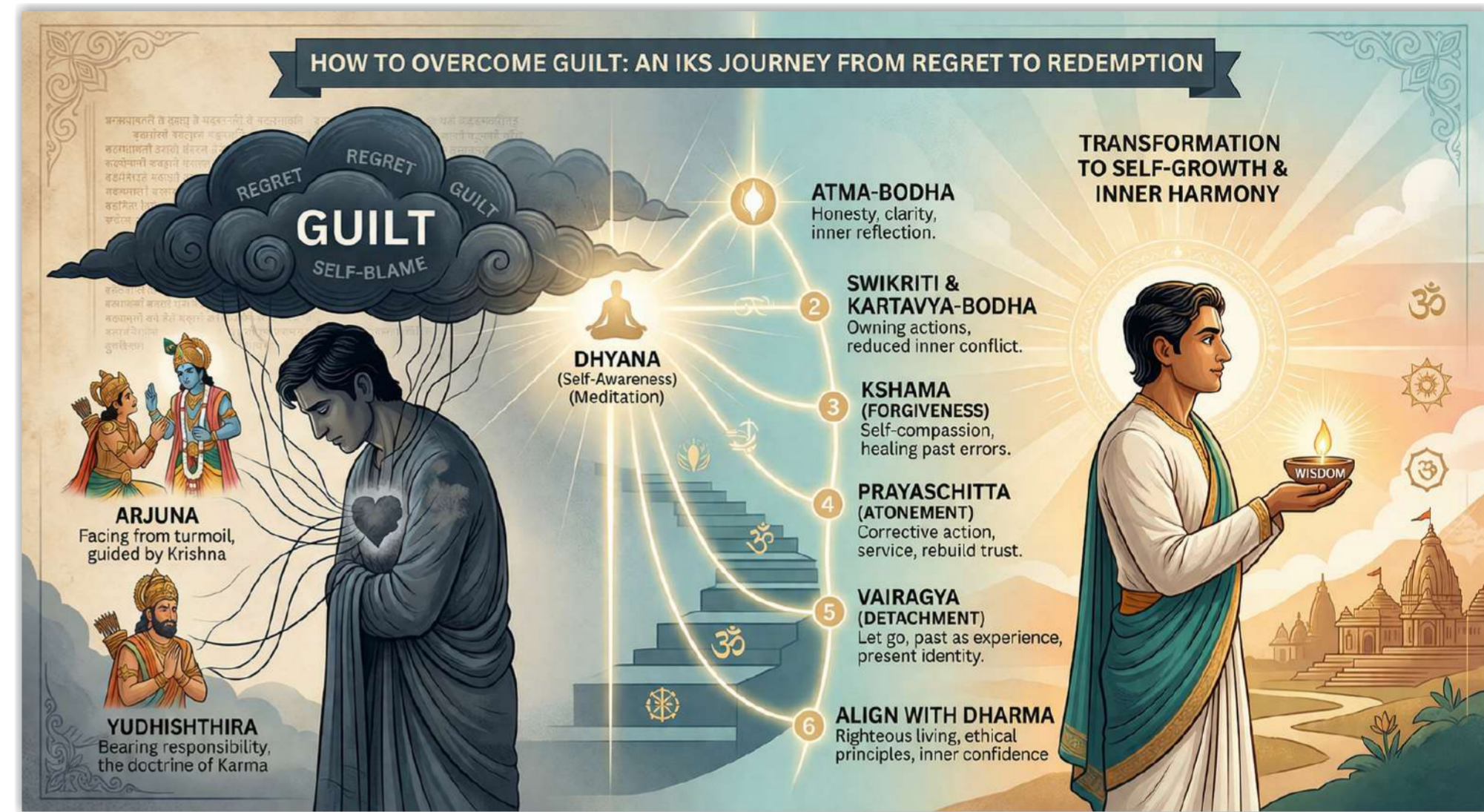
running away from guilt, one must calmly examine: What exactly caused this feeling? Was it an action, intention, or neglect of duty? This process is not about harsh self-criticism, but about clarity. When we identify the root cause of guilt, it becomes manageable rather than overwhelming. Just as Arjuna in the Bhagavad Gita faced moral confusion and emotional turmoil, self-inquiry guided him toward clarity and right action.

Another key concept is acceptance and responsibility (Swikriti and Kartavya-bodha). Indian philosophy does not encourage denial of wrongdoing. Instead, it emphasizes owning one's actions with sincerity. Accepting responsibility does not weaken a person; it strengthens character. In the Mahabharata, Yudhishtira, despite his mistakes, never shied away from accepting the consequences of his actions. This acceptance reduces the inner conflict that fuels guilt. When you say, “Yes, I made a mistake,” you begin to release the emotional burden associated with it. Responsibility transforms guilt into accountability, which is constructive rather than destructive.

The doctrine of karma provides a powerful framework for understanding guilt. According to IKS, every action (karma) produces results (phala), but what truly matters is the intention behind the action. Guilt often arises when we judge ourselves solely based on outcomes. The Bhagavad Gita teaches nishkama karma—performing actions without attachment to results. If your intention was pure but the outcome caused harm, you can learn from it without being consumed by guilt. Conversely, if the intention was flawed, recognizing it allows for correction. Karma is not about punishment; it is about learning and evolution. Understanding this helps reframe guilt as a teacher rather than a tormentor.

An essential step in overcoming guilt is prayaschitta (atonement or corrective action). Ancient Indian traditions emphasize that mistakes can be purified through conscious effort. Prayaschitta is not merely ritualistic; it involves genuine efforts to correct the wrong. This could mean apologizing, making amends, or contributing positively to others. For example, in many stories from the Puranas, individuals who committed mistakes undertook acts of service, penance, or charity to restore balance. This process helps in reducing guilt because it replaces passive regret with active correction. It allows a person to rebuild self-respect and trust.

Equally important is the practice of forgiveness (Kshama)—both towards others and oneself. Indian wisdom places great emphasis on forgiveness as a virtue of the strong. Holding onto guilt is often linked to an inability to forgive oneself. The Ramayana illustrates how compassion and forgiveness can heal even deep emotional wounds. Forgiving yourself does not



mean justifying your mistake; it means acknowledging that you are human and capable of growth. Without self-forgiveness, guilt turns into self-punishment, which serves no constructive purpose. Kshama frees the mind from the cycle of regret and opens the door to renewal.

The cultivation of detachment (Vairagya) is another powerful tool. Guilt often lingers because we remain attached to past events, replaying them repeatedly in our minds. The Bhagavad Gita teaches that attachment to the past or future disturbs mental equilibrium. By practicing detachment, one learns to see past actions as experiences rather than permanent labels. You are not your mistake; you are the awareness that can learn and evolve from it. Detachment does not mean indifference—it means maintaining emotional balance and not allowing past errors to define your present identity.

To strengthen this process, IKS recommends meditation and inner discipline (Dhyana and Yoga). Practices like meditation, pranayama, and mindfulness help calm the mind and reduce the emotional intensity of guilt. When the mind becomes शांत (peaceful), it gains the capacity to observe thoughts without being overwhelmed by them. Patanjali's Yoga Sutras describe how mental fluctuations (chitta vrittis) can be controlled through disciplined practice. A calm mind allows you to process guilt rationally and move forward with clarity. Regular spiritual practices also reconnect you with a deeper sense of self beyond temporary emotions.

Another vital aspect is aligning oneself with dharma (righteous living). Dharma refers to living in accordance with ethical principles, duties, and universal values. When guilt arises, it often indicates a deviation from dharma. Instead of remaining stuck in regret, one should use guilt as a

signal to realign with righteous conduct. By consistently practicing honesty, compassion, and responsibility, you gradually rebuild inner confidence. Over time, this alignment reduces the chances of recurring guilt and strengthens moral clarity.

In practical terms, overcoming guilt involves a series of conscious steps. First, acknowledge the feeling without denial. Second, reflect on its cause and understand the lesson it offers. Third, accept responsibility and avoid blaming external factors. Fourth, take corrective action wherever possible. Fifth, practice self-forgiveness and let go of excessive self-judgment. Sixth, cultivate detachment from past mistakes and focus on present actions. Finally, engage in spiritual practices that promote inner peace and clarity.

In conclusion, the Indian Knowledge System does not view guilt as something to be suppressed or feared. Instead, it treats guilt as a meaningful signal—a guide that points toward self-improvement and ethical living. By integrating self-awareness, responsibility, karma, atonement, forgiveness, detachment, and spiritual discipline, one can transform guilt into a powerful force for personal growth. Rather than being trapped by past actions, an individual can rise above them with wisdom, resilience, and a renewed sense of purpose. Stay blessed!

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Ravi Singh

THE POWER OF PUBLIC SPEAKING AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING

In the modern world, effective communication has become one of the most valuable skills an individual can possess. Among the various forms of communication, public speaking stands out as a powerful tool that enables individuals to express their ideas, influence others, and create meaningful impact. Alongside public speaking, confidence building plays a crucial role in shaping a person's personality and success. Together, these skills contribute significantly to both personal and professional development.

Public speaking is the ability to present thoughts and ideas clearly in front of an audience. It is not limited to formal speeches but includes everyday situations such as classroom discussions, meetings, and social interactions. A good public speaker communicates with clarity, maintains eye contact, and uses appropriate body language to engage the audience. These elements help in making the message more effective and memorable. Although many people assume that public speaking is a natural talent, it is, in fact, a skill that can be developed through practice and experience.

Confidence is the backbone of successful public speaking. It is the belief in one's abilities and the courage to express ideas without fear. A confident individual can handle challenges, face audiences, and communicate effectively. Confidence does not develop overnight; it requires consistent effort, self-awareness, and a positive mindset. Individuals who lack confidence often hesitate to speak, which can limit their growth and opportunities. Therefore, building confidence is essential for unlocking one's true potential.

There are several practical ways to improve public speaking and build confidence. Practicing in front of a mirror helps individuals observe their expressions and gestures. Recording speeches and reviewing them allows for self-evaluation and improvement. Preparing thoroughly before speaking reduces nervousness and increases clarity. Additionally, starting with small audiences, such as friends or family, can gradually build confidence. Over time, these small steps lead to significant improvement.

One of the most common challenges in public speaking is stage fear. Many individuals experience nervousness, anxiety, or fear when

speaking in front of an audience. However, this fear can be managed with simple techniques such as deep breathing, positive self-talk, and proper preparation. Understanding that making mistakes is a natural part of learning can also help in reducing pressure and building confidence.

In conclusion, public speaking and confidence building are essential life skills that contribute to overall success. They enhance communication, improve personality, and open doors to new opportunities. With regular practice, determination, and a positive attitude, anyone can develop these skills and become an effective speaker. Ultimately, confident individuals are better equipped to express themselves, lead others, and achieve their goals.



EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND SELF-AWARENESS IN PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS



In the modern era, success is no longer determined solely by academic knowledge or technical skills. Emotional Intelligence and Self-Awareness have become equally important in shaping an individual's personality and overall growth. These skills enable individuals to understand their emotions, manage their behavior, and build strong relationships in both personal and professional life.

Emotional Intelligence refers to the ability to recognize, understand, and manage one's own emotions while also being aware of the emotions of others. It plays a crucial role in how individuals respond to different situations, especially during stress, conflict, or decision-making. A person with high emotional intelligence can remain calm under pressure, communicate effectively, and resolve conflicts in a positive manner. One of the key components of emotional intelligence is empathy, which allows individuals to understand and share the feelings of others, thereby strengthening relationships and trust.

Self-Awareness, on the other hand, is the foundation of emotional intelligence. It is the ability to recognize one's own emotions, thoughts, strengths, and weaknesses. A self-aware individual understands how their feelings influence their behavior and decisions. This awareness helps in avoiding impulsive reactions and encourages thoughtful responses. Self-awareness also promotes personal growth, as individuals become more conscious of their actions and strive to improve themselves continuously.

The importance of Emotional Intelligence and Self-

Awareness can be observed in various aspects of life. In personal relationships, these skills help in maintaining harmony, understanding others' perspectives, and avoiding unnecessary conflicts. In professional settings, emotionally intelligent individuals are more effective leaders and team members. They can handle criticism positively, adapt to changes, and make informed decisions. Moreover, these skills contribute to better mental health by reducing stress and promoting emotional balance.

Developing Emotional Intelligence and Self-Awareness requires consistent effort and practice. Simple techniques such as self-reflection, mindfulness, and meditation can significantly enhance these abilities. Taking time to analyze one's emotions and reactions helps in gaining deeper insights into personal behavior. Active listening and observing others' emotions improve empathy and social skills. Additionally, seeking feedback from peers or mentors can provide valuable perspectives for self-improvement.

In conclusion, Emotional Intelligence and Self-Awareness are essential life skills that contribute to overall success and well-being. They help individuals understand themselves and others, build meaningful relationships, and face challenges with confidence and resilience. By developing these skills, individuals can lead a balanced, productive, and fulfilling life.

Afreen Mazgaonkar & Mosina

TELEHEALTH HELPS 30-YEAR HOMEOPATHIC PRACTICE REACH WOMEN ACROSS INDIA

A 30-year-old homeopathic practice that's now teaming up with telehealth to boost women's healthcare in India. In our super-digital world today, even healthcare's going online, and this is a prime example. By blending it with modern tech, women are getting treatment right from home. Telehealth means no need for in-person visits—patients and doctors connect online instead physically. It's a game-changer especially for women in rural spots or those who struggle to reach hospitals. The setup uses AI-powered telemedicine to make diagnosis and treatment way more efficient. They offer personalized care, tailoring plans to each patient's specific issues. It handles stuff like hormonal imbalances, PCOS, and reproductive health problems too. Initiatives like this are shaking up the healthcare scene for the better. Accessibility's improving, and it's saving time and money. In our hectic lives, people crave convenience, and telehealth delivers. All in all, it's a solid step toward empowering women and making healthcare easier to access and it could grow even bigger in the future.



ARTEMIS II CREW SPEEDS TOWARD MOON TO BREAK APOLLO 13'S RECORD

The Artemis II crew is traveling to the Moon on a historic mission which has the potential to break Apollo 13's distance record. The mission will launch four astronauts aboard the Orion spacecraft on April 1 2026 to complete a ten-day mission which will take them to the Moon and back to Earth. The astronauts—Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen—are expected to travel more than 252,000 miles from Earth, which will exceed Apollo 13's record of 248,655 miles. The mission will perform a lunar flyby without landing, following a free-return trajectory that uses the Moon's gravity to guide the spacecraft back to Earth. The crew will use the journey to observe and photograph the Moon's far side while they test systems which will support upcoming lunar missions. Artemis II marks NASA's first crewed lunar mission in more than 50 years which will advance their efforts to return humans to the Moon and create a permanent lunar base.



DREAME TECHNOLOGY LAUNCHES DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER PLATFORM IN INDIA

Dreame Technology has introduced its direct-to-consumer (D2C) platform which operates in India as the company expands its business operations throughout the nation. The newly established Dreame India website allows customers to buy all available products from the brand which includes robotic vacuum cleaners and cordless stick vacuums and wet and dry cleaners and grooming devices and their related accessories. The new platform aims to provide consumers with a seamless experience covering product discovery, purchase, and after-sales support. The website enables customers to purchase extended warranties which help them with robotic vacuum cleaner maintenance and service requirements. The company identifies India as its main market



because smart home appliance demand has increased in the country. The D2C website will complement Dreame's existing presence on major e-commerce platforms such as Amazon and its retail partnerships with stores like Croma. The company provides various customer support services which include helplines and pick-up and drop repair facilities and virtual assistance. Dreame intends to enhance its online presence in order to develop better connections with Indian consumers while advancing its business growth within the country's rapidly expanding smart home technology sector.

INDIA'S DATA CENTRE BOOM FACES ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY CHALLENGES

The data center market in India is expanding rapidly because of artificial intelligence and cloud computing and digital service growth. The sector has received investment above 50 billion dollars and the country will experience substantial data center capacity growth before 2030. The primary locations for these facilities operate from Mumbai and Chennai and Bengaluru and Hyderabad and Delhi. The digital economy development needs this expansion but it creates important environmental problems. Data centres require enormous amounts of electricity to run servers and large volumes of water to cool them. A single 100-megawatt facility can consume nearly two million litres of water daily, often sourced from municipal supplies in already water-stressed urban areas. India needs national rules for sustainable data centre operations because experts have determined that the country currently lacks such regulations. States promote renewable energy use yet they fail to provide complete information about energy and water consumption. India needs to strengthen its environmental standards and promote renewable energy sources and require companies to disclose their resource consumption in order to sustain data centre development throughout the country.



DHURANDHAR 2 BREAKS RECORDS, SURPASSES ORIGINAL FILM'S LIFETIME COLLECTION IN JUST 11 DAYS

Dhurandhar 2 has smashed its predecessor Dhurandhar's entire lifetime collection in just 11 days flat. That's a massive win as sequels rarely hit this kind of speed and strength right out the gate. Ranveer Singh kills it in the lead, with his high-energy acting totally winning over crowds. It's a spy action thriller packed with killer action, suspense, and a storyline that hooks you. No wonder it's getting such a wild response from the audiences. This lightning-fast box office surge shows the hype and marketing were spot on. Social media's buzzing too with folks posting reviews and reactions everywhere. The youth crowd is especially hooked. Breaking such a huge record in 11 days proves sequels are on fire in Bollywood. It's already India's 4th biggest film, underlining just how popular it is. Bottom line, Dhurandhar 2 is setting a fresh benchmark and could shatter more than records ahead. Feels like a real comeback vibe for the entertainment biz.



WTO TALKS STUCK OVER E-COMMERCE MORATORIUM

The World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting resulted in negotiations failing to reach an agreement because member states could not decide whether to extend the existing e-commerce moratorium which has been in place for a long time. The discussions took place during the WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference which happened in Yaoundé Cameroon where digital trade rules became a major point of disagreement. The moratorium which first started in 1998, prohibits countries from charging customs duties on electronic transmissions which include digital downloads and software and streaming services. The moratorium which countries have extended throughout history faced deadlock in negotiations because major economies could not agree. The United States and other countries argued for a more extended ban because they believed it would benefit global digital trade and drive technological progress. Several developing nations, particularly India and Brazil, raised objections because they anticipated revenue losses and required flexibility to create policies for the rapidly growing digital market. The moratorium has now expired for the first time since it started more than two decades ago because no agreement has been achieved. WTO members will return to Geneva where they will proceed with negotiations to establish a potential agreement regarding digital trade laws which they aim to finalize soon.



Afreen Mazgaonkar & Mosina

MANIKA KEEPS HOPES ALIVE, SREEJA BOWS OUT AT TABLE TENNIS WORLD CUP



Indian fans watching the Table Tennis World Cup are in for a real rollercoaster of emotions. On one hand, Manika Batra kept her knockout dreams alive, while on the other, Sreeja Akula bowed out of the tournament. Manika was rock-solid and super aggressive throughout her match. She put her opponent under the pressure right from the start, dominating with those killer forehand shots and clever placements that controlled the whole game. Even when things got tight, she stayed cool and snatched the key points. That is the kind of consistency that's kept her in the hunt for the knockout stage. Sreeja Akula's day was tougher, though. She put up a fight, but couldn't find her rhythm against her opponent's relentless attacks. Her returns were a bit off at times, and those unforced errors really hurt her chances. She

flashed some of her potential in a few rallies, but couldn't turn the match around, ending her campaign right there. This result is a solid reminder of just how brutal the international table tennis scene is. Manika's form is a bright spot, building real hope for India's future matches. All eyes are on her now as fans wait to see if she can push through to the knockouts and make a deeper run. Overall, there's disappointment on one side, but hope is still kicking on the other. And that's what makes sports so damn exciting.

INDIA'S YOUNG ARCHERS BREAK RECORDS AT WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP



India's young archers have done it again, lighting up the nation's pride at the World Archery Youth Championship. The Indian compound U-18 women's team and mixed team smashed junior world records in the qualification round with a massive feat that got everyone buzzing. Key players like Priya Gurjar, Parneet Kaur, and Ridhu Senthilkumar led the charges with their killer performances and spot-on teamwork, leaving the old records in the dust. Reports say that they blew past the previous mark by a huge margin which resulted in their establishment of a new record. What's really special is that these are all under-18 athletes who represent India's upcoming sports talent. The athletes achieved their extraordinary accomplishments because they dedicated themselves to training from an early age. This win also highlights how archery is booming in India while it was something that wasn't always on the radar. Better government backing and training setups are giving our young talents the push they need. We're all rooting for gold in the coming rounds. If they keep this fire going, India could rack up even more records. At the end of the day, this is not just a victory but a pure inspiration for the next generation to step up and shine on the world's stage.

RAJASTHAN PAIR WINS BRONZE AT INDIAN MASTERS BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS



The veteran badminton duo of Vikkas Sharma and Ashu Jain from Rajasthan won a bronze medal at the Indian Masters (Veterans) National Badminton Championships 2025-26 which took place at the Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium. The pair competed in the men's doubles 50+ category and delivered an impressive performance throughout the tournament. Sharma and Jain reached the semifinals after defeating Manish Aggarwal and Inderdeep Singh with a score of 21-14, 21-18 in the quarterfinals. They won their earlier match against K. Ventaka Satyanarayana and P. Pydi Raju by straight games 21-18, 21-13 which showed their strong court coordination and experience. The Rajasthan pair received a bronze medal after losing their semifinal match which became the only medal for the state at the competition. The two players have shown their ability to perform well in badminton tournaments at both state and national levels throughout the last several years, and their latest achievement demonstrates that they remain active competitors in India's masters badminton circuit.

INDIA OFF TO A STRONG START IN ASIAN BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

India had taken the game by storm as Preeti and Deepak flit viewers' attention because of their intriguing bouts with their partners. They came out swinging hard and very confident, handling the team a solid early lead. Preeti ran the show right from the start, her footwork smooth as butter and those punch mixes shutting down any chance for her rival to fight back. Deepak matched her vibe, playing it clever and owning every single round. It's more than just their wins because it's pumping up the whole Indian boxing squad. Builds that fire for the rest of the tourney. Nailing an early punch at Asians is key when the field's this cutthroat. Shoutout to the athletes' hard work, but the coaches and crew behind 'em are huge too. The results of their training together with their determination to succeed show visible progress. The fans are currently waiting to see if Preeti and Deepak will keep their current performance level. Indian athletes will likely achieve medal success if they continue their current performance level. The beginning shows strong potential because it creates possibilities for future success.



RONALDO SCORES BRACE AS AL-NASSR BEAT AL-NAJMA 5-2



Cristiano Ronaldo the Portuguese star produced an exceptional display by scoring two goals which helped Al-Nassr FC achieve a 5-2 victory against Al-Najma in the Saudi Pro League. The match represented Ronaldo's strong comeback performance after he had recently suffered a hamstring injury. Ronaldo netted two second-half goals for the team beginning with a 56th-minute penalty conversion and continuing with a 73rd-minute goal which secured the victory for Al-Nassr. The occasion held special significance for him because it marked his 100th league match with the team. Al-Najma started the match with an early goal but Al-Nassr equalized before their teammates including Sadio Mané who netted two

goals each scored additional goals for the team. After Al-Najma managed to tie the game early in the second half, Al-Nassr reclaimed dominance over the match for the rest of the competition. Al-Nassr increased their lead in the league standings through this victory which placed them six points ahead of their competitors Al-Hilal. Ronaldo achieved his career goal milestone of 1,000 goals through his two goals in this match which demonstrates his ongoing influence in international soccer.

SHRIRAM MHASANE TAKES SOLE LEAD AT ALL INDIA CHESS MASTERS 2026

The All India Chess Masters tournament in Mumbai Chess Centre reached its seventh round when Indian chess player Shriram Mhasane achieved sole leadership of the tournament. Mhasane advanced through the competition with his total of 6.5 points which he achieved by defeating Arjun Singh and entering the final round with strong momentum. The top board match between Rajveer Nahar and Shreyansh Somaiya ended in a draw which allowed both players to reach 5.5 points while maintaining their ability to challenge the current leader. The other results showed Deepak R. Soni and Nikhil Shelar and Mohsin Yunus Shaikh won their matches while competitors fought for top positions which led to several matches ending as draws. The title race maintained its competitive nature because multiple players remained active in the title chase when only one round remained. The tournament reached its critical moment when Mhasane won Round 7 which created an exciting conclusion to one of India's most important classical chess tournaments.



Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay & Ajab Tinwala

CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION CLERK & STENO-TYPIST RECRUITMENT



The Chandigarh Administration has released a short notification inviting applications for Clerk and Steno-Typist posts. This is a great opportunity for graduates with typing or stenography skills seeking government jobs in Chandigarh.

Post Name: Clerk & Steno-Typist Posts

- Total Vacancies: 257 Posts
- Job Location: Chandigarh

Eligibility Criteria

- Educational Qualification: Bachelor's Degree + Typing/Stenography Skills + 80-Hour CCC Certificate
- Age Limit: As per detailed notification

Application Fee:

- Gen/OBC/EWS: To be notified
- SC/ST/PH: To be notified
- (Payment Mode: Online only)

Selection Process:

- Written Examination
- Typing/Steno Test
- Medical Examination
- Document Verification

Important Dates:

- Short Notification Release: 01 April 2026
- Full Notification Release: 06 April 2026
- Application Start Date: 06 April 2026
- Last Date to Apply: To be notified (11:59 PM)

How to Apply:

- Visit the official Chandigarh Administration recruitment portal once the application link is active.
- Register using a valid email ID and mobile number.
- Fill the application form with personal, educational, and category details.
- Upload required documents:
- Photograph
- Signature
- Educational Certificates
- CCC Certificate
- Caste/Category Certificate (if applicable)
- Pay the application fee online (once notified).
- Submit the form and take a printout for future reference.

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

PUNJAB AND SIND BANK LOCAL BANK OFFICER (JMGS-I) RECRUITMENT 2026 – 1000 VACANCIES



Punjab & Sind Bank has released an official notification inviting applications for Local Bank Officer (JMGS-I) posts.

This is a great opportunity for experienced banking professionals seeking officer-level positions across various states.

Post Name: Local Bank Officer (JMGS-I)

- Total Vacancies: 1000 Posts
- Job Location: State-specific (Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, etc.)

Eligibility Criteria

- Educational Qualification: Graduation + Minimum 18 months post-qualification branch experience as an Officer in a Scheduled Commercial Bank / Regional Rural Bank
- Age Limit: 20 to 30 years (as on 01 March 2026)

Application Fee:

- SC / ST / PwBD: ₹100 + Applicable Taxes + Payment Gateway Charges
- General / EWS / OBC: ₹850 + Applicable Taxes + Payment Gateway Charges

- (Payment Mode: Online only)

Selection Process:

- Written Test
- Screening
- Personal Interview
- Proficiency in Local Language
- Final Merit List

Important Dates:

- Application Start Date: 31 March 2026
- Last Date to Apply: 20 April 2026
- Last Date for Editing Application: 20 April 2026
- Last Date for Printing Application: 05 May 2026

How to Apply:

- Visit the official IBPS application portal.
- Register using a valid email ID and mobile number.
- Fill the application form with personal, educational, experience, state preference, and category details.
- Upload required documents:
- Photograph
- Signature
- Educational Certificates
- Experience Letters
- Caste/PwBD Certificate (if applicable)
- Pay the application fee online.
- Submit the form and take a printout for future reference.

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

UPSSSC LOWER PCS RECRUITMENT 2026 – 2285 VACANCIES

Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Service Selection Commission (UPSSSC) invites online applications for Lower PCS Various Posts Recruitment 2026, offering 2285 vacancies across multiple departments in Uttar Pradesh. This is a golden opportunity for graduates to secure a government job with stable career growth.

Post Name: Lower PCS Various Posts

- Total Vacancies: 2285
- Key Posts: Mandi Supervisor, Executive Officer, Auditor, Assistant Treasury Accountant, Clerk, Amin, Assistant Manager, etc.

Important Dates:

- Start of Online Application: 29 May 2026
- Last Date to Apply: 18 June 2026 (11:59 PM)
- Correction Window: 25 June 2026

Eligibility Criteria:

- Candidates must possess a Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from a recognized university.
- Age Limit (as on 01.07.2026):
- Minimum: 18 years
- Maximum: 40 years
- Age relaxation as per government norms

Salary: As per UPSSSC rules (post-wise pay scale)

Selection Process:

- Shortlisting based on PET 2025 Score
- Written Examination



- Medical Examination
- Document Verification

Application Fee:

- ₹25/- for all candidates (online payment)

Job Location: Uttar Pradesh

Application Mode: Online only

How to Apply:

- Visit the official UPSSSC website, register with valid credentials, fill the application form, upload required documents, pay the fee, and submit before the deadline.

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

Deepika Singh

QUIZ TIME

1. Which organization recently tested a new reusable launch vehicle?
2. Which Indian state recently announced a new EV policy update?
3. India recently signed a defence deal with which country?
4. Which mission was in news for solar observation updates?
5. RBI recently changed repo rate policy under which category?
6. Which Indian city hosted a major tech summit this week?
7. Which scheme for women financial aid was highlighted recently?
8. India recently participated in a naval exercise with which group?
9. Which sector saw major AI policy discussion in India?
10. Which ministry launched a new digital governance platform?

RIDDLES

1. I pull everything toward me, but I have no hands. What am I?
2. I flow without water and power your home. What am I?
3. I stick without glue and attract metal. What am I?
4. I am invisible but essential for life; you breathe me every second. What am I?
5. I control your body, thoughts, and memory. What am I?
6. I connect the whole world but cannot be touched. What am I?
7. I shine in the sky and give energy to Earth. What am I?
8. I store information and can be human or artificial. What am I?

1. Gravity
2. Electricity
3. Magnet
4. Oxygen
5. Brain
6. Internet
7. Sun
8. Memory

(II) RIDDLES

10. IT
9. Technology
8. QUAAD
7. Lakshmi
6. Bengaluru
5. Monetary
4. Aditya
3. France
2. Maharashtra
1. ISRO

ANSWERS



TRADITIONAL SWEET KUZHI PANIYARAM MAGIC

This Week, We're Relishing Sweet Kuzhi Paniyaram!

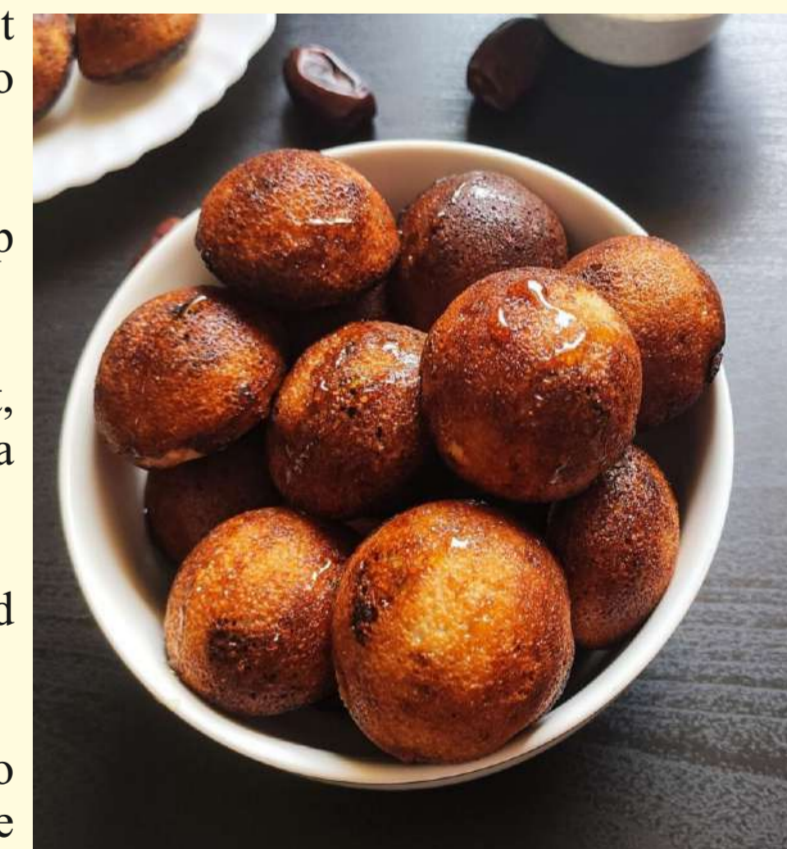
Sweet Kuzhi Paniyaram is a traditional South Indian delicacy made using rice batter or leftover idli/dosa batter, sweetened with jaggery and flavored with cardamom. These bite-sized dumplings are crispy on the outside and soft, fluffy inside. Perfect for breakfast, evening snacks, or festive treats, they are loved by both kids and adults.

Ingredients:

1 cup idli/dosa batter, ½ cup grated jaggery (melted), 2 tablespoons grated coconut, 2 tablespoons chopped nuts (cashews/raisins), ¼ teaspoon cardamom powder, a pinch of salt, ghee or oil for cooking.

Preparation

1. **Prepare Jaggery Syrup:** Melt jaggery with a little water, strain to remove impurities, and let it cool.
2. **Mix Batter:** Add the jaggery syrup to the batter and mix well.
3. **Add Flavour:** Stir in grated coconut, chopped nuts, cardamom powder, and a pinch of salt.
4. **Heat Pan:** Heat a paniyaram pan and grease each cavity with ghee or oil.
5. **Cook Paniyaram:** Pour batter into each mold and cook on medium flame until golden brown. Flip and cook the other side.
6. **Check Texture:** Ensure they are crisp outside and soft inside.
7. **Serve:** Remove and serve warm.



Serving Tip:

Serve Sweet Kuzhi Paniyaram warm with a drizzle of honey or alongside coconut chutney. You can also add mashed banana to the batter for extra softness and natural sweetness.

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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