

A Weekly E-newspaper Initiative of the HULAHUL FOUNDATION

# THE HULAHUL TIMES

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## A GLOBAL VOICE OF EXPRESSION AND CONNECTION

Every year on 23 April the world observes English Language Day, a celebration dedicated to the language, which is one of the most widely spoken and influential languages across the globe. The date is not random. It marks the birth and death anniversary of William Shakespeare, one of the literary figures in history. The English language has been significantly shaped by William Shakespeares works making this day a tribute not to the English language itself but also to its rich literary heritage, the English language.

English Language Day was established by the United Nations in 2010 as part of its initiative to promote multilingualism and cultural diversity. Today the English language is spoken by over 1.5 billion people either as a first, second or foreign language. The English language serves as a bridge connecting people from cultures, backgrounds and regions making communication easier in a globalized world and the English language plays a big role in this.

One of the remarkable aspects of the English language is its adaptability. The English language has evolved over centuries borrowing words from languages such as Latin, French, German, Hindi and many more. This flexibility has allowed the English language to grow into an expressive language that continues to expand even today. From literature to modern-day digital communication the English language has successfully adapted to every era and the English language is still growing.

In today's world the English language plays a role in education, business, science, technology and international relations. The English language is the language used in global communication, academic research and professional opportunities. For students and young professionals proficiency in the language often opens doors to better career prospects and global exposure and the English language is very important for this.

Moreover the English language is the language of the internet. A large portion of content including websites, research papers, social media platforms and digital tools is available in the English language. This makes the English language an essential skill in the age helping individuals stay informed, connected and competitive and the English language is very useful.

However while celebrating the language it is equally important to respect and preserve other languages, the English language and other languages. Multilingualism enriches societies by promoting understanding and diversity and the English language should be seen as a tool for communication rather than a replacement for native languages.

Maintaining a balance between local languages is key to preserving cultural identity and

the English language is just one part of this.

English Language Day also highlights the importance of communication, the English language and communication. The English language is not about grammar and vocabulary; it is about expressing thoughts, emotions and ideas clearly in the English language. Whether it is through writing, speaking or storytelling the English language provides a platform for creativity and innovation. The English language is very powerful.

For students this day can be an opportunity to improve language skills the English language skills. Activities such as reading books writing articles participating in debates or learning vocabulary can help enhance proficiency in the English language. It is also a chance to explore the works of authors like Shakespeare, whose timeless plays and poems continue to inspire generations and the English language is very important for this.

In India the English language holds a position the English language in India. It acts as a link language among people from linguistic backgrounds and is widely used in education and official communication the English language in India. While regional languages reflect roots the English language connects India to the global stage and the English language is very important for India.

As we celebrate English Language Day it is important to recognize the power of the language to unite people and share ideas across borders, the English language and its power. The English language is more than a language. It is a global tool of expression, knowledge and opportunity the English language and its benefits.

In conclusion English Language Day is not a celebration of the English language but a celebration of communication, culture and connection the English language and its importance. It reminds us of the importance of the language in shaping our thoughts and bringing the world closer together the English language and its role. By learning and using the language effectively we can open doors to new opportunities while also appreciating the diversity of languages, around us, the English language and other languages.

Let this day inspire us to improve our communication skills the English language skills and embrace diversity the English language and other languages. We can use the language as a means to connect, learn and grow the English language and its power.

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### #Notable\_Story

Samrat Nagabhata I: The Guardian Who Stood Like a Wall.... **Pg 02**

### #Person\_of\_Interest

Asha Bhosle: The Evergreen Voice of Indian Music.... **Pg 03**

### #Krishi\_Gyan

When the Sky Turns Hostile: Climate Change Hits Kashmir's Apple Heartland..... **Pg 06**

### #Educational\_News

Odisha government to develop 800 model schools .... **Pg 07**

### #Artha\_Gyan

India's Growth Story Faces a Test of Resilience in an Uncertain Global Economy.... **Pg 08**

### #Learning\_and\_Development through\_Ancient\_Indian\_Wisdom

Q. How to overcome desire?.... **Pg 09**

### #Lifelab

Constantly Productive, Yet Quietly Empty: The Hidden Emotional Disconnect... **Pg 10**

### #Current\_News

Telangana Vaccinates Over 24000 Girls Against HPV In First Month.. **Pg 11**

### #Sports\_News

Delhi's Aarit Kapil Becomes Youngest Indian to Achieve IM

### #Job\_Junction

LIC HFL Junior Assistant Recruitment 2026 – Apply Online for 180 Posts.... **Pg 13**

Durgesh K. Dubey

## SAMRAT NAGABHATA I: THE GUARDIAN WHO STOOD LIKE A WALL

In the early eighth century, when the land of western India faced repeated invasions and shifting powers, a young ruler rose from the region of Avanti and Malwa with a clear sense of duty. His name was **Nagabhata I**, remembered in history as the founder of the Gurjara-Pratihara power. The times he inherited were not peaceful. After the great movements in Sindh, forces from the northwest were pressing deeper into the subcontinent, testing the resolve of local rulers. Many kingdoms were fragmented, unsure of how to respond. In such an atmosphere, leadership required more than bravery—it required steadiness of mind and clarity of purpose.

Nagabhata grew up learning both the arts of war and the ethics of governance. He was taught that a ruler is not measured by his throne but by his ability to protect people, preserve order, and uphold dharma. When he took charge, he did not begin with grand declarations. He began with preparation—strengthening forts, organizing troops, and building trust among chiefs and villagers. He believed that a strong kingdom is built quietly, long before it is tested.

### Preparing the Ground

Nagabhata's first focus was to secure his base. He improved communication between towns, ensured supplies for the army, and listened carefully to local leaders who understood the land better than anyone. He knew that in times of crisis, a ruler must depend not only on swords but also on people. Farmers were encouraged to continue cultivation, artisans to keep working, and traders to move goods safely. Stability at home, he believed, was the first step to facing any external threat.

There is an account in regional traditions of a village elder who once asked the king whether constant preparation for war would not disturb the peace of daily life. Nagabhata is said to have replied that preparation is what protects peace. When a society is ready, it discourages aggression; when it is careless, it invites trouble. His words reassured the people that his intent was not to create fear, but to ensure safety.

### The Challenge from the Northwest

The true test came when advancing forces from the northwest began pushing into western India. These were not small raids but organized campaigns. The memory of earlier conquests in Sindh had already created anxiety. Some rulers chose to retreat, others to negotiate. Nagabhata chose a different path to resist firmly and defend the land.

He studied the routes of invasion, the strengths of the enemy, and the nature of the terrain. Rather than engaging in reckless battles, he relied on careful positioning and coordinated defence. His commanders were instructed to act with discipline, avoid unnecessary losses, and protect civilians. This approach reflected a deeper ethic: war, when unavoidable, must still be guided by restraint and responsibility.

### The Defence of the Land

When the confrontation finally came, Nagabhata's forces met the invading armies with determination. Historical records and inscriptions credit him with repelling Arab advances in western India, preventing them from penetrating further into the interior. The victory was not a single dramatic moment but the result of sustained resistance, coordination among local powers, and a ruler's refusal to surrender ground easily.

In the heat of these encounters, Nagabhata's leadership stood out. He did not fight from a distance. He was present where decisions mattered reviewing lines, encouraging soldiers, and ensuring that supplies reached the front. One story often retold describes a group of young soldiers who grew anxious before a



difficult engagement. Instead of dismissing their fear, the king addressed it directly. He reminded them that fear is natural, but duty gives direction to courage. He asked them to think of the families and fields they were protecting. That shift from personal fear to shared responsibility steadied their resolve.

### Building After Battle

Victory brought relief, but Nagabhata did not treat it as an end. He saw it as a responsibility to rebuild and strengthen. Roads were repaired, markets revived, and temples and public works supported. He encouraged learning and patronized cultural activity, understanding that a confident society is not only secure but also creative.

His administration continued to focus on agriculture and local governance. By ensuring that water systems functioned and that land was cultivated, he secured the economic backbone of the region. Trade routes grew safer, and towns regained their rhythm. The message was clear: the purpose of defence is not war itself, but the protection of a peaceful and prosperous life.

### The Ethic of Restraint

What makes Nagabhata's story distinctive is not only his success in defence but his restraint in victory. He did not allow success to turn into excess. There are no grand tales of unnecessary expansion for vanity. Instead, his efforts consolidated a stable power that later rulers of the Gurjara-Pratihara line would expand.

He understood that power must be anchored in ethics. A ruler who protects without exploiting earns trust; a ruler who conquers without purpose invites resistance. Nagabhata chose the first path. His legacy became a foundation upon which future stability was built.

### A Quiet Legacy

Unlike some rulers whose names are remembered for spectacle, Nagabhata's legacy is quieter but no less significant. He is remembered as a guardian, a ruler who stood firm at a time when firmness was needed most. His actions helped shape the political balance of northern and western India for years to come.

His life shows that history is not only written by dramatic conquests but also by steady defence, wise preparation, and ethical governance. He proved that a kingdom's strength lies as much in its fields and people as in its armies.

### Moral and Conclusion

The story of Samrat Nagabhata I teaches that true leadership is built on preparation, responsibility, and moral clarity. He showed that courage is not reckless action but disciplined resistance guided by purpose. By protecting his land and people during a time of uncertainty, he demonstrated that strength must serve stability and prosperity. His life reminds us that success is not only about victory in conflict but about what follow rebuilding, nurturing, and sustaining society. In today's world, where challenges often demand quick reactions, Nagabhata's example encourages us to prepare patiently, act responsibly, and remain committed to the greater good. His legacy stands as a reminder that a determined and ethical leader can become a wall of protection for an entire civilization.

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Ravi Singh & Delisha Gupta

## ASHA BHOSLE: THE EVERGREEN VOICE OF INDIAN MUSIC



Asha Bhosle was born on September 8 1933 in Sangli, Maharashtra. Her family loved music and her father, Pandit Deenanath Mangeshkar was a singer. When Asha Bhosle was nine years old her family had to move to a city. She and her sister Lata Ji started singing and acting in movies to support their family. Asha Bhosle sang her film song "Chala Chala Nav Bala" for the Marathi film Majha Bai in 1943. The music was composed by Datta Davjekar. She sang a song for the film Chunariya and the song was "Saawan Aaya" in 1948. This was the Hindi film where Asha Bhosle made her debut. Her first solo Hindi film song was for the movie Raat Ki Raani in 1949.

Asha Bhosle got married when she was sixteen years old to a man named Ganpatrao Bhosle. This marriage did not work out. She had to leave him. She had two kids. Was pregnant with her third child. With all these problems Asha Bhosle kept singing and taking care of her kids. Later she married a man named Rahul Dev Burman in 1980. Asha Bhosle loves to cook. It is one of her favorite things to do. She even said that if she was not a singer she would have been a cook.

In one of the Interviews with the Times of India, when asked, what if her singing career had not taken off, she said "I would have become a cook. I would have cooked in four houses and made money."

Because of her love for cooking, she got into a successful restaurant business. She runs restaurants in Dubai and Kuwait known as Asha's. Others are in Abu Dhabi's Khaldiya Mall, Doha's Villagio, and Bahrain's City Center Mall, Cairo, Egypt.

Asha Bhosle began her career in the film industry at a young age, but success did not come easily. Her breakthrough came when she started collaborating with renowned composers like O. P. Nayyar who recognized her unique voice and gave her opportunities to shine.

One of the most significant phases of her career was her collaboration with R.D.Burman. Together, they created numerous memorable songs that redefined Bollywood music. Their partnership brought a fresh and modern sound to Indian cinema, and Asha's voice became synonymous with

energy, charm, and innovation. Songs like "Dum Maro Dum" and "Piya Tu Ab To Aaja" showcased her bold and expressive singing style, which was quite different from the traditional norms of the time.

What makes Asha Bhosle special is her versatility. She has sung in over twenty languages, including Hindi, Marathi, Bengali and Gujarati. Whether it is music, ghazals, pop or cabaret style songs she has excelled in every genre. Asha Bhosle's voice can convey a range of emotions from deep sorrow to playful joy making her voice universally appealing. Her performances in films like Umrao Jaan demonstrated her mastery over classical and soulful compositions.

Throughout her illustrious career, Asha Bhosle has received numerous awards. She has won several Filmfare Awards and was later honored with the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award. Looking at other significant honors, Asha Bhosle received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2000 for her contribution to Indian cinema. In 2008, she was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian honor in the country. She also received the Nightingale of Asia Award in 1987 and the Singer of the Millennium Award in 2000. Moreover, she won an IIFA Award in 2002 for the song "Radha Kaise Na Jale" from the film 'Lagaan'.

At first Asha Bhosle's singing style was similar to other singers. She soon developed her own unique style. Her voice is very versatile. Can sing any kind of song. By the end of the 1960s she was one of the popular singers in India along with her sister Lata Ji. However people thought she could only sing songs, which was not true.

Asha Bhosle's legacy is that she has inspired other singers. She has shown them that they can sing in different styles and not just follow traditional rules. Today people love listening to Asha Bhosle's songs, which proves that true talent never gets old. Asha Bhosle is still a special voice, in Indian music and people will always love her songs.

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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-first economy, building a successful brand is no longer just about securing shelf space it is about creating direct connections with consumers. Not long ago, brands relied heavily on distributors and retail networks to reach customers. Today, that path is being rapidly disrupted. Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) brands are bypassing traditional retail channels and connecting directly with buyers through websites, apps, and social media platforms. This shift is not just about selling online it is about controlling the entire customer journey. From discovery to delivery, brands now interact directly with consumers, creating deeper engagement and stronger loyalty. For students and professionals, this marks a clear transition: modern business success depends on direct customer connection, not just product availability.

### The D2C Model: Simpler, Faster, Smarter

Traditional retail followed a multi-layered structure manufacturer, distributor, retailer, and then customer. D2C simplifies this entire chain by directly linking brands to consumers, eliminating intermediaries and reducing dependency on external channels. This gives

## FROM SHELF TO SCREEN: HOW D2C BRANDS ARE RESHAPING INDIA'S CONSUMER MARKET

brands greater control over pricing, customer data, communication, and product innovation. It also enables faster decision-making, real-time feedback collection, and the ability to respond quickly to changing market trends and consumer preferences, making businesses more agile and customer-focused.

### Wellness and Sustainable Brands Leading the Boom

The D2C wave is especially strong in wellness and sustainability-driven sectors, where consumers actively seek transparency, quality, and authenticity. Increasing awareness about health, ingredients, and environmental impact has encouraged buyers to choose products that align with their values.

Examples: A skincare brand selling natural, chemical-free products directly through Instagram builds trust through ingredient transparency and customer reviews. A plant-based snack startup offers subscription models to health-conscious consumers, while an eco-friendly clothing brand uses organic fabrics and sells through its website, sharing its sustainability story.

Consumers today are not just buying products they are buying values.

### Digital Platforms as Growth Engines

D2C brands thrive on digital tools that replace physical retail presence.

These include:

- Social media marketing
- Influencer collaboration
- E-commerce website
- Customer feedback systems
- Data analytics

Example: A small jewellery brand uses Instagram reels and influencer marketing to reach thousands of customers without opening a single store.

Digital visibility has become the new storefront.

### Customer Experience as the Core

### Advantage

In D2C, customer experience is central to success. Brands engage directly with buyers, creating personalised and interactive relationships.

This includes:

- Tailored recommendations
- Quick response to queries
- Easy returns and exchanges
- Community engagement

Example: A fitness brand not only sells supplements but also provides personalised diet plans and wellness tips, encouraging repeat purchases.

In today's market, engagement builds loyalty.

### Career Opportunities for Students

The rise of D2C has created new-age roles for commerce students that combine business knowledge with digital skills.

Key roles include:

- Digital Marketing Executive
- E-commerce Manager
- Brand Strategist
- Social Media Manager
- Customer Experience Analyst
- Performance Marketing Specialist

A commerce graduate today may manage online campaigns, analyse customer behaviour, and optimise product positioning for a D2C brand.

### Skills Students Should Build

Digital marketing and social media strategy

- Understanding of consumer behaviour
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Branding and storytelling
- Communication and content creation

Students who combine commerce fundamentals with digital skills gain a strong competitive edge.

### Tips for Professionals

Shift focus from product to customer experience

- Learn data-driven marketing strategies
- Understand online consumer behaviour
- Invest in brand storytelling
- Stay updated with digital commerce trends

Professionals who adapt to digital-first models remain relevant in a rapidly evolving market.

### Challenges in the D2C Model

Despite its growth, the D2C model comes with challenges:

- High customer acquisition costs
- Intense online competition
- Logistics and delivery management
- Maintaining quality at scale
- Building trust without physical presence

These challenges require brands to invest continuously in marketing, Sustained success requires consistency, innovation, and strong brand identity.

### The Bigger Shift in Retail

D2C represents a deeper transformation from distribution-driven selling to relationship-driven branding. Businesses are no longer just selling products; they are building communities and experiences. Retail is shifting from physical shelves to digital screens, and from transactions to long-term relationships.

### The Takeaway

The D2C boom is not just changing how products are sold it is redefining how brands connect, communicate, and grow. It is shifting the focus from transactions to relationships, where customer engagement, transparency, and experience matter as much as the product itself. Because in today's market, brands that build direct relationships don't just sell product they build lasting trust, loyalty, and long-term value.

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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.*

## USE OF STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS

**S**tream of consciousness is a narrative technique in modern literature that presents a character's thoughts in a continuous, unstructured flow. Instead of following a logical sequence, it reflects how the human mind naturally moves between memories, emotions, and perceptions. Writers like Virginia Woolf and James Joyce used this style to reveal inner experiences. It often lacks clear grammar or transitions, making it feel spontaneous and realistic. This technique helps readers connect deeply with characters by directly experiencing their mental processes rather than observing them from an outside perspective, adding psychological depth to storytelling.

Example:

"She thought of the waves, the sound, the past everything merging into one fleeting moment..."

This technique reflects the inner workings of the human mind rather than orderly narration.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

- The concept of tragedy was deeply explored by William Shakespeare, where a tragic flaw leads the hero to downfall, as seen in Macbeth and Hamlet.
- Symbolism uses objects, characters, or events to represent deeper meanings. Writers like Charles Baudelaire used symbols to express emotions and abstract ideas.
- Realism emerged as a reaction against romanticism, focusing on everyday life and ordinary people. Authors like Gustave Flaubert portrayed life with detailed accuracy.
- Romanticism in literature emphasized emotion, nature, and individualism over reason and logic. Writers like William Wordsworth celebrated the beauty of nature and human feelings.
- Postmodern literature challenges traditional narratives and often includes irony, fragmentation, and multiple perspectives, as seen in works by Thomas Pynchon.
- The theme of alienation is central to modern literature, especially in works by Franz Kafka, where characters often feel isolated and disconnected from society.
- Modern literature emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as a response to rapid industrialization, urbanization, and the disillusionment following World War I. Writers such as James Joyce and Franz Kafka experimented with narrative techniques to represent the fragmented and uncertain nature of modern life.

## GRAMMAR TIP

### Basic VS Advanced English

1. I'm sorry. – I sincerely apologize.
2. I understand. – I get the idea.
3. I'm ready. – I'm all set.
4. Be careful. – Watch out.
5. Hurry up. – Step on it.
6. Calm down. – Take it easy.
7. Wait a moment. – Hang on.
8. Try again. – Give it another shot.
9. I'm sure. – I'm certain.
10. It's okay. – No worries.

## WRITER OF THE WEEK

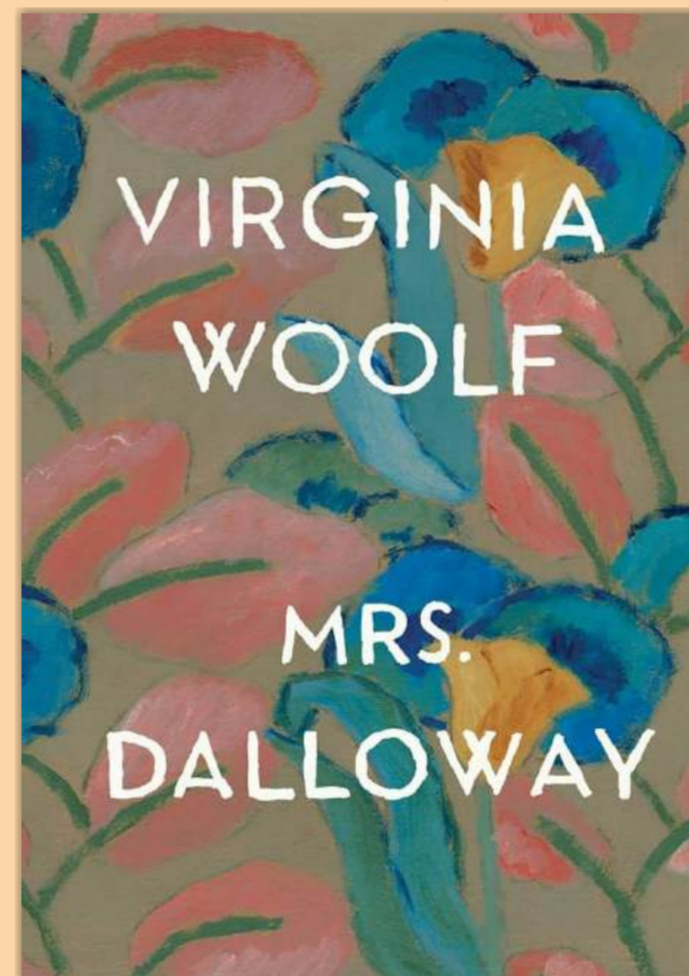
### Virginia Woolf

**A** central figure in modernist literature, Virginia Woolf (1882–1941) revolutionized narrative form through her innovative use of stream of consciousness and focus on psychological depth.

Her works explore themes of time, memory, identity, and the role of women in society. Woolf's prose is lyrical, introspective, and deeply philosophical.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Mrs Dalloway by Virginia Woolf



**M**rs Dalloway (1925) is a landmark modernist novel that unfolds over a single day in London. It follows Clarissa Dalloway as she prepares for an evening party, interwoven with the story of Septimus Warren Smith, a war veteran suffering from trauma.

Woolf masterfully employs stream of consciousness to blur the boundaries between past and present, reality and memory. The novel delves into themes of time, mental health, social structure, and existential reflection. Its fragmented narrative mirrors the complexities of modern existence, making it a defining text of modern literature.

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Make it new."

— Ezra Pound

## CREATIVE WRITING

### "If—"

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:  
If you can dream and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:  
If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"  
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And which is more you'll be a Man, my son!

Poetry by  
- Rudyard Kipling

(The poem emphasizes resilience, self-discipline, and moral integrity in the face of life's trials and uncertainties. It presents the ideal of a balanced character where success and failure are treated alike, leading to true maturity and wisdom.)

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Alienation (noun)

**Meaning:** A feeling of isolation or estrangement from society, self, or others.

**Example:** The protagonist's alienation reflects the fragmented reality of modern life.

## IDIOM HIGHLIGHT

### "Break with tradition"

**Meaning:** To depart from established customs or conventions.

**Example:** Modernist writers sought to break with tradition in both form and content.

Ravi Singh & Ajab Tinwala

## WHEN THE SKY TURNS HOSTILE: CLIMATE CHANGE HITS KASHMIR'S APPLE HEARTLAND

**K**ashmir's apple orchards, long considered the backbone of the region's economy, are facing an escalating crisis as climate change triggers frequent and intense hailstorms. These sudden weather events, often lasting just minutes, are causing damage that lingers for entire seasons.



Recent hailstorms across districts like Shopian, Kulgam, and Bandipora have struck during the critical flowering stage of apple trees, when blossoms are most vulnerable. Even brief storms have destroyed up to 80–85% of crops in some orchards, leaving farmers with little hope of recovery for the year.

weakened trees, reduces future yields, and pushes farmers into financial distress. With limited access to insurance or protective measures, many growers are left vulnerable.

Scientific studies reveal a sharp rise in hailstorm incidents in the Kashmir Valley, increasing from just a few events in the early 2000s to dozens annually in recent years. These storms are now concentrated between April and June, precisely when apple trees begin to bloom.

As climate patterns grow more erratic, Kashmir's iconic apple industry stands at risk, highlighting the urgent need for adaptive farming strategies and stronger policy support.

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The consequences go beyond immediate crop loss. Repeated damage

## HARVEST SEASON PEAKS AS NORTH INDIAN FARMERS RACE AGAINST TIME

**T**he wheat harvest season is in full swing across North India, with farmers working tirelessly from dawn to dusk to gather their crops at the peak of the Rabi season. Fields across states like Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana are bustling with activity as golden wheat is cut, collected, and prepared for market.



This year's harvest has brought a mix of optimism and concern. While overall wheat production is expected to be higher than last year, it may still fall short of earlier estimates due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms that affected crop quality in several regions. Farmers are therefore under pressure to complete harvesting quickly before any further weather disruptions occur.

weather changes, which can damage grains and reduce market value.

Despite these challenges, the harvest season remains a crucial time, ensuring food supply and income for millions. The resilience and dedication of farmers continue to play a vital role in sustaining India's agricultural backbone.

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Long working hours have become the norm, with many farmers relying on both manual labour and combine harvesters to speed up the process. The urgency is also driven by the need to protect mature crops from sudden

## ASMS AND UAL BIOTECH JOIN HANDS TO TRANSFORM RURAL AGRICULTURE IN INDIA

**I**n a significant move towards sustainable farming, Avio Smart Market Stack Limited (ASMS) has partnered with Singapore-based UAL Biotech to promote eco-friendly agriculture across India's rural landscape. The collaboration aims to combine ASMS's vast digital infrastructure with UAL Biotech's advanced biological solutions to support farmers and strengthen village economies.



ASMS currently operates across more than 5,000 villages, reaching nearly 40 million farmers and rural residents. This extensive network will serve as a platform to introduce bio-based agricultural inputs, reduce dependence on harmful chemical fertilisers, and encourage regenerative farming practices.

chains and conduct pilot projects to demonstrate the effectiveness of eco-friendly farming methods.

By integrating biotechnology with digital tools, the collaboration promotes data-driven agriculture and scalable farming models. This initiative is expected to boost food security, improve rural incomes, and support long-term environmental sustainability.

A key focus of the partnership is farmer empowerment through training programs and advisory services at the grassroots level. These initiatives aim to educate farmers about sustainable practices, improve soil health, and enhance crop productivity. Additionally, both companies plan to develop traceable, chemical-free supply

Overall, the ASMS–UAL Biotech partnership marks an important step in modernizing Indian agriculture while ensuring a greener and more resilient future for rural communities.

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## HARVEST HALTED: FUEL CRISIS PUSHES UTTAR PRADESH FARMERS TO THE BRINK

**F**uel shortages across parts of Uttar Pradesh have triggered a serious disruption in the ongoing wheat harvest, leaving farmers facing mounting losses and uncertainty. At a time when harvesting should be at its peak, agricultural machinery such as combine harvesters and reapers are lying idle due to the unavailability of petrol and diesel.



In several districts, petrol pumps have either shut down or are operating with limited supply, forcing farmers to wait in long queues for hours, sometimes overnight. This delay is critical, as wheat is a time-sensitive crop, and even a short postponement in harvesting can reduce both yield quality and quantity.

while productivity declines.

The crisis is further intensified by labour shortages and recent weather damage, including unseasonal rain and storms that have already weakened crops. With machines halted and labour scarce, farmers are being pushed into a difficult situation where costs are rising

Many farmers warn that if fuel supply is not restored quickly, large portions of the crop could be lost, leading to financial distress and impacting the broader food supply chain. The situation highlights the vulnerability of modern agriculture, which heavily depends on fuel-driven mechanisation, making consistent energy supply crucial for food security. Resilience in agriculture amid global uncertainties.

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## UNCERTAIN MONSOON AND GLOBAL TENSIONS THREATEN OUTLOOK FOR INDIAN AGRICULTURE



**I**ndia's agricultural sector is facing a challenging phase as uncertainty over the upcoming monsoon combines with rising global tensions to create a worrying outlook. The India Meteorological Department has forecast a below-normal monsoon for 2026, largely due to the possible development of El Niño conditions, which are historically linked to weak and uneven rainfall across the country.

A deficient monsoon can significantly affect crop production, especially in rain-dependent regions that rely heavily on seasonal rainfall for sowing and irrigation. Reduced rainfall may lead to lower output of key crops such as rice, pulses, and oilseeds, directly impacting farmers' incomes and food supply.

At the same time, global geopolitical tensions, particularly in West Asia, are adding to the crisis. Disruptions in supply chains have led to rising prices and shortages of essential agricultural inputs like fertilisers and fuel. These challenges increase production costs and put additional pressure on farmers already struggling with unpredictable weather.

Together, these factors create a “double challenge” for Indian agriculture—lower productivity due to weak monsoon and higher input costs due to global instability. If conditions persist, it could lead to higher food inflation, reduced rural demand, and slower economic growth.

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Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay & Srivarthini Subramanian

## ODISHA GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP 800 MODEL SCHOOLS

In a bid to upgrade school education in Odisha, the government has decided to transform nearly 800 schools into model schools.



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced the plan for school infrastructure improvement while presenting the state budget on Tuesday. The plan envisions improved basic infrastructure, enhancement of quality of teaching and provision of quality learning infrastructure for students.

education could be created.

The project will physically refurbish schools but it will also look to improve the quality of the classrooms, educational resources and methodologies.

WALKING past newly-opened schools in Nepal, you may notice empty classrooms and lack of teachers rather than lack of roads and other vital infrastructure. The government is on a mission to address this, recruiting more teachers to ensure kids receive the education they deserve.

The plan is part of the government's wider efforts to develop the education system. The new allocation of funds will be used to build classrooms and enhance the skills of teachers to improve the learning environment for students.

The initiative is aimed at make the government schools more efficient and enabling the children to acquire modern education in best possible environment. The object of this initiative is to transform the government schools into model schools so that better system of

It is also hoped that this initiative will contribute positively to school education throughout the state.

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## UPES, EY INDIA LAUNCH INDUSTRY-INTEGRATED MBA IN AI, FINTECH COURSES

UPES has partnered with EY India to launch seven industry-integrated programmes, including an MBA in Artificial Intelligence and specialised courses in fintech, marking a strong push toward career-oriented education.



The new programmes span undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including B.Com and MBA degrees, and are designed to combine academic learning with real-world industry exposure. The collaboration aims to equip students with practical skills aligned with evolving market demands in areas such as AI, financial technologies, analytics, and business strategy.

intended to bridge the gap between classroom education and workplace expectations, making graduates more employable and future-ready. The courses will also expose students to emerging technologies and business practices shaping the global economy.

The initiative reflects a growing trend of academia-industry collaboration to enhance skill development and innovation in higher education.

A key feature of the initiative is its focus on experiential learning, with students gaining hands-on experience through live projects, case studies, internships, and mentorship from industry professionals. EY India will play an active role in curriculum design, training delivery, and skill assessment to ensure industry relevance.

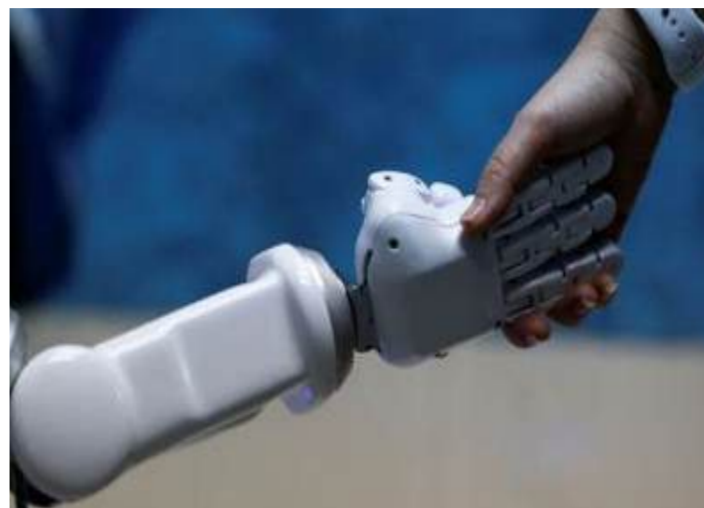
By integrating professional expertise into academic programmes, UPES and EY India aim to prepare students for dynamic careers in technology-driven and finance-oriented sectors.

Officials said the programmes are

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## SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY OPENS NEW ROBOTICS AND AI CENTER

Shoolini University opens a hub for robotics and AI in collaboration with Sirena Technologies, sparking fresh energy around tech exploration. It leans into hands-on learning, while pulling together deep study and real-world company projects. New ideas grow here, guided by curiosity rather than old formulas.



Inside, shiny labs wait - full of gear where students test robots and smart software on actual problems. These hands-on experiences come paired with focused classes, short sessions, and skill drills shaped around jobs powered by tech.

world practice. Through these ties, learners get exposure to actual problems while building creative fixes.

Now here comes a new hub where robots and smart machines take centre stage in classrooms.

Vishal Anand, founder and pro chancellor of Shoolini University said, "Our mission is to translate academic research directly into implementation. Organisations around the world are now looking to fill in skill gaps, especially in the areas of AI, automation and robotics, as the world around us evolves by the hour".

This shift shows how deeply tech has woven itself into teaching and learning. Instead of just textbooks, pupils get space to imagine, test ideas, explore problems, while building abilities that matter ahead. The goal sits clear shape minds ready for what lies beyond today.

Besides classroom learning, the centre aims to work alongside companies and new ventures for real-

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## SIKKIM GOVERNOR INTERACTS WITH HARYANA STUDENTS ON SUSTAINABILITY

A talk between the Governor of Sikkim Om Prakash Mathur interacted with students from the students of Guru Jambheshwar University (GJU) of Science and Technology of Hisar.



During their academic excursion to Sikkim, on a week-long visit to the State in search of an application of study of environment and geography were fields to nature and natural set up at the governor's house on Wednesday. The students dwelled on matters relating to biodiversity of Sikkim, geography and its culture.

and harmonious coexistence with nature in Sikkim.

The governors replies were full of details and details about Sikkim as a model of ecological balance and sustainability. He said northeast of country is "Ashtalakshmi" or the eighth manifestation of divine energy that symbolizes India's natural as well as cultural wealth. He said that preserving India's cultural heritage and promotion of arts and crafts is essential and local communities are preserving traditions

'Mero Rukh Mero Santati' programme which means "Plant a tree when a child is born to you" was also discussed in the meeting. The governor said that environment consciousness was an integral part of the life of the people of Sikkim, and that was the reason why the state was known as a "clean state free from pollution."

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## DELHI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO GAIN EXPOSURE AT UNIVERSITIES ABROAD



Delhi University is working on a new programme which will enable the students to avail opportunity of study abroad for a semester or on short duration programmes under institutional agreements with foreign universities.

The new program will also offer scholarships to gifted students of all backgrounds and in particular from underprivileged communities to enable them to hone their talent. "We are in contact with a number of international universities and finalizing agreements," said a spokesperson.

Students will have the option of gaining credit towards their degree programme, either by taking credit that they earn at the University's overseas study location towards their degree at their home University in India or by taking credit for study completed at the University's overseas study location towards their degree at the University's overseas study location.

There are an increasing number of universities that offer semester long programs which enable students to attend colleges overseas during a semester. These programs can provide students with a deeper awareness of global issues and provide valuable opportunities to improve skills of interpersonal communication. The programs can also enhance the employment opportunities of students after graduation by providing them with considerable international experience.

The university plans to come out with a detailed document on the eligibility criteria and the process of application in a few months from now. The affiliation is designed to take higher education to a global level and to make higher education accessible and affordable to students from India.

Durgesh K. Dubey

## STRONG QUARTER FOR PRIVATE BANKING: PROFIT GROWTH SIGNALS STABILITY AMID CHANGING ECONOMIC CLIMATE

India's private banking sector has once again demonstrated resilience, with one of its leading lenders reporting a steady rise in profitability during the final quarter of the financial year. Backed by consistent income growth, improved asset quality, and significantly lower provisioning requirements, the bank delivered a robust performance that reflects both internal strength and broader economic momentum.

During the January–March quarter, the bank recorded a notable increase in net profit, registering growth of over 8 percent compared to the same period last year. This improvement was largely driven by a sharp decline in provisions set aside for potential bad loans, indicating stronger recovery mechanisms and a healthier loan book. Lower stress on assets allowed the institution to retain more earnings, strengthening its financial position.

At the core of this performance was steady growth in interest income, which remains the primary revenue stream for banks. The net interest income rose consistently, supported by expanding lending activity and stable margins. Even as global and domestic uncertainties continue to influence financial markets, the bank managed to maintain its net interest margin at a healthy level, suggesting effective balance between lending rates and cost of funds.

Beyond interest earnings, non-interest income also contributed to the overall performance, though at a relatively moderate pace. Market-linked treasury operations, however, reflected some pressure due to fluctuations in financial markets and regulatory adjustments. Despite this, the impact remained contained and did not significantly affect the overall

profitability of the institution.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the quarterly results has been the continued improvement in asset quality. The proportion of non-performing assets declined further, highlighting better credit discipline and prudent lending practices. This trend is particularly important in maintaining long-term stability, as it reduces the risk of future financial stress. The bank's strong provisioning buffers also provide an additional layer of security against unforeseen risks.

On the growth front, the bank's lending portfolio expanded at a healthy pace, reflecting sustained demand across sectors. Retail lending continued to play a dominant role, accounting for a significant share of the total loan book. Growth was observed in segments such as housing, personal loans, and rural financing, indicating broad-based economic activity. At the same time, corporate lending showed signs of gradual revival, pointing towards improving business confidence.

Deposits also witnessed steady growth, supported by a stable base of current and savings accounts. This balance between deposit mobilisation and credit expansion is crucial for maintaining liquidity and ensuring long-term sustainability. A strong deposit base not only reduces funding costs but also enhances the bank's ability to support future lending opportunities.

From a broader perspective, the results reflect the underlying strength of the Indian banking system, which continues to adapt to evolving economic conditions. While global uncertainties, including geopolitical tensions, may pose challenges, the domestic financial sector appears well-positioned to absorb shocks. Stable policy conditions and

ongoing reforms have further supported this resilience.

The bank's annual performance also crossed an important milestone, with total profits for the financial year showing consistent growth. This signals a steady trajectory rather than a one-time surge, reinforcing confidence among investors and stakeholders. Additionally, capital adequacy levels remain well above regulatory requirements, ensuring that the institution has sufficient capacity to support future expansion.

Looking ahead, the outlook appears cautiously optimistic. While margins may remain stable, the focus is likely to remain on maintaining asset quality, managing risks, and supporting credit growth in a balanced manner. The ability to navigate external uncertainties while sustaining domestic growth will be key.

Overall, the performance highlights a simple but powerful message: disciplined banking, combined with a stable economic environment, can deliver consistent growth. For customers and investors alike, such results provide reassurance that the financial system continues to move forward with strength, stability, and confidence.

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## INDIA'S GROWTH STORY FACES A TEST OF RESILIENCE IN AN UNCERTAIN GLOBAL ECONOMY



In an increasingly fragile global environment, India's economic journey is entering a phase where resilience matters more than rapid expansion. While recent global developments—from geopolitical conflicts to volatile energy prices—have unsettled markets worldwide, India continues to stand out as one of the fastest-growing major economies. Yet, the real question is no longer about growth alone, but about how sustainably that growth can be maintained.

Global signals suggest a mixed outlook. China, for instance, has reported a steady 5% growth in the first quarter, supported largely by exports and industrial activity. However, its internal challenges—weak consumption and a struggling property sector—highlight a broader global reality: strong numbers can coexist with underlying structural stress. For

India, this serves as both a lesson and a warning. India's own growth trajectory remains robust. Even under adverse conditions such as elevated crude oil prices, projections suggest that the economy could still expand at around 6.3%, while a more stable environment could push growth closer to 7%. This reflects the strength of domestic demand, ongoing infrastructure investment, and a relatively stable policy framework. Compared to many global peers, this performance remains impressive.

However, this optimism must be tempered with realism. India's dependence on imported energy continues to be a critical vulnerability. Rising global oil prices not only increase the import bill but also transmit inflation across the economy—impacting transportation, manufacturing, and ultimately household consumption. As fuel costs rise, purchasing power weakens, and this can gradually slow down demand-driven growth.

The ripple effects extend further. Higher energy prices can strain government finances, especially when policymakers step in to shield consumers through subsidies. This creates a delicate balancing act—between maintaining fiscal discipline and ensuring social and economic stability. At the same time, sectors such as agriculture and industry may face input cost pressures, particularly if disruptions affect fertiliser supplies or logistics chains.

Yet, what distinguishes India in this uncertain landscape is its adaptive capacity. Unlike many economies that rely heavily on exports, India's growth is largely driven by internal consumption and investment. This provides a buffer against global shocks. Additionally, the government's

continued emphasis on infrastructure development offers a long-term growth engine, creating jobs and stimulating demand across sectors.

Another strength lies in policy flexibility. India has demonstrated the ability to recalibrate its fiscal and monetary strategies when needed. Whether through targeted spending, tax adjustments, or supply-side reforms, there is a growing emphasis on maintaining stability without compromising growth momentum.

Still, challenges remain. The global economy is no longer predictable, and external shocks—from conflicts to trade disruptions—can quickly spill over into domestic conditions. In such a scenario, resilience must go beyond numbers. It must reflect in stronger institutions, diversified energy strategies, and sustained investment in productivity-enhancing sectors.

The coming years will therefore be crucial. India's growth story is no longer just about being the fastest-growing economy; it is about proving that this growth can withstand global uncertainties. The focus must shift from short-term expansion to long-term stability.

In essence, India stands at a defining moment. The foundation is strong, the momentum is visible, but the environment is challenging. If managed well, this phase could transform India from a high-growth economy into a truly resilient one—capable not just of growing fast, but of growing wisely.

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Dr. (Mrs) Chandra Hariharan Iyer

EXPERT



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Q. How to overcome desire?

Ans. Desire is a natural and powerful force within human life. It motivates action, fuels ambition, and drives progress. However, when unchecked, desire can lead to restlessness, dissatisfaction, and inner conflict. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) offers a profound understanding of desire (kāma) and provides practical ways to regulate and transcend it—not by suppressing it entirely, but by refining and channeling it wisely.

According to Indian philosophy, desire arises from attachment and identification with the external world. The Bhagavad Gita explains that when the mind dwells on objects or experiences, it develops attachment; from attachment arises desire, and from unfulfilled desire comes frustration and suffering. This cycle keeps the mind in constant agitation.

Therefore, the first step in overcoming desire is self-awareness. One must observe the nature of their desires: Are they necessary or excessive? Do they lead to growth or disturbance? This reflective approach helps distinguish between healthy aspirations and harmful cravings.

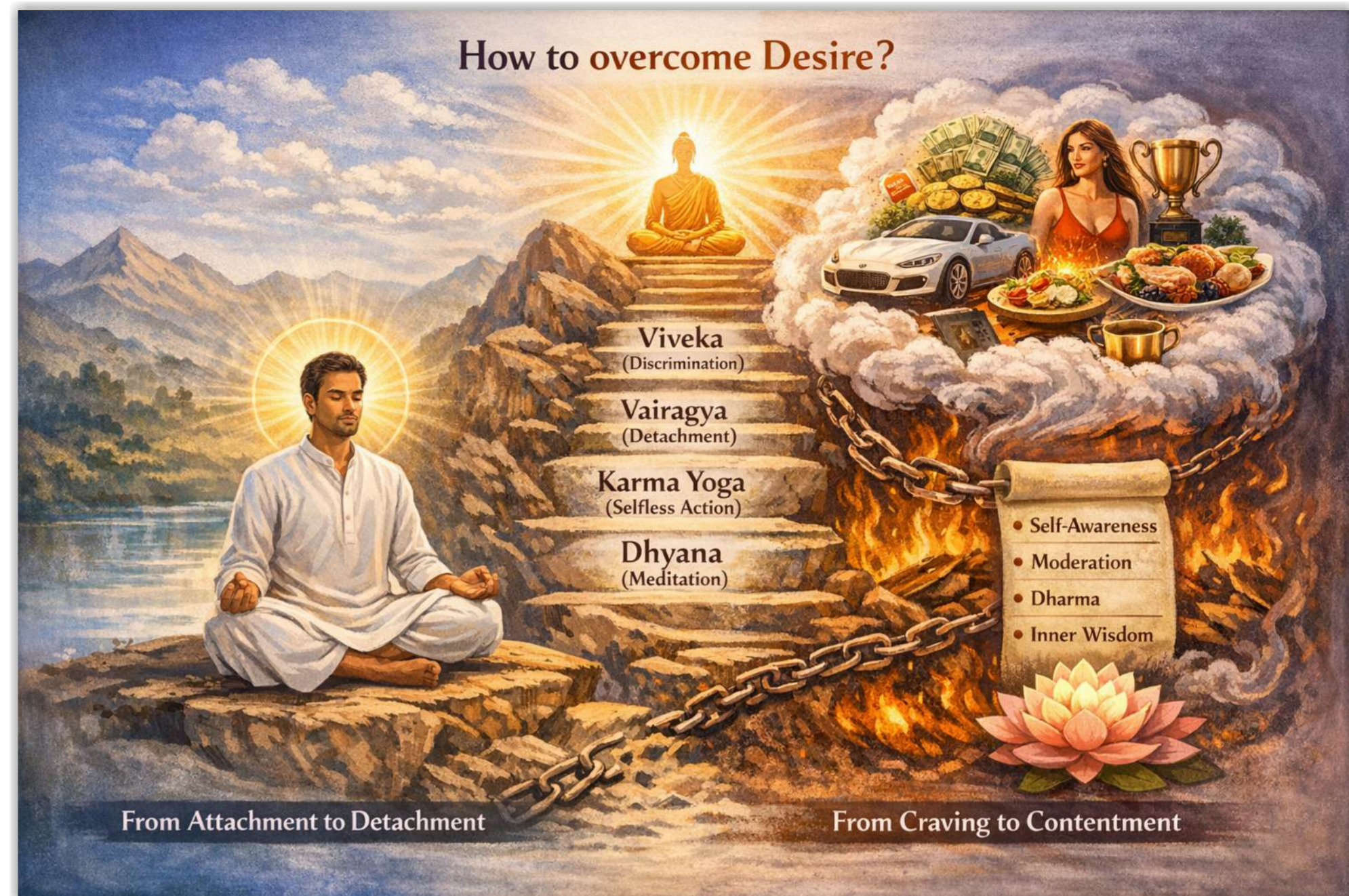
A key concept in managing desire is viveka (discrimination)—the ability to differentiate between what is temporary and what is lasting. Indian wisdom teaches that most desires are directed toward temporary pleasures, which provide only short-term satisfaction. For example, material possessions, recognition, or sensory pleasures may bring momentary happiness but often leave a sense of emptiness afterward. By developing viveka, one begins to understand that true contentment does not come from external acquisitions but from inner stability. This realization gradually reduces the intensity of desires.

Closely related to this is vairagya (detachment). Detachment does not mean rejecting the world or abandoning responsibilities; rather, it means not being emotionally dependent on external outcomes. A person with detachment performs actions sincerely but does not become disturbed by success or failure. When attachment decreases, desires naturally weaken. For instance, if one is less attached to praise or approval, the desire for constant validation diminishes. This creates a sense of freedom and inner peace.

The practice of moderation (samyama) is another important principle. Indian philosophy does not advocate extreme renunciation for everyone; instead, it emphasizes balance. Desires can be managed by setting limits and avoiding excess. Whether it is food, entertainment, or material pursuits, moderation prevents the mind from becoming overly dependent on any one source of pleasure. By consciously regulating habits, a person gains control over impulses rather than being controlled by them.

The concept of karma yoga provides a practical way to transform desire. The Bhagavad Gita teaches performing actions without attachment to the results. Much of our desire is linked to outcomes—success, rewards, or recognition. When we focus only on the results, desire intensifies and creates anxiety. However, when attention shifts to the quality of action itself, the mind becomes more stable. Working with dedication while letting go of expectations reduces the pressure created by desire and promotes inner satisfaction.

Another powerful method is redirecting desire toward higher goals. Indian wisdom does not suggest eliminating all desires but transforming lower desires into higher aspirations. For example, instead of seeking only material



success, one can cultivate a desire for knowledge, self-improvement, or service to others. This shift in focus elevates the mind and reduces selfish tendencies. Over time, higher values replace lower cravings, leading to a more meaningful and fulfilling life.

Meditation (dhyana) and mind control practices play a crucial role in overcoming desire. The mind is naturally restless and tends to wander toward objects of attraction. Through regular meditation, one learns to observe thoughts without becoming attached to them. This reduces the intensity of desires and brings clarity. Similarly, practices like pranayama (breathing techniques) help calm the mind and reduce impulsive tendencies. A शांत (calm) mind is less likely to be driven by uncontrolled desires.

Understanding the impermanent nature of life (anitya bhava) is another important insight from Indian philosophy. Everything in the material world is temporary—possessions, experiences, and even relationships change over time. When a person deeply understands this truth, the urge to cling to external things reduces. This does not create negativity; rather, it brings a balanced perspective. One begins to enjoy life without becoming overly attached, which naturally limits the power of desire.

Living in alignment with dharma (righteous living) also helps regulate desire. Dharma provides a framework for ethical and purposeful living. When desires are guided by values such as honesty, compassion, and responsibility, they remain within healthy limits. Unchecked desires often lead to actions that disturb both the individual and society.

By following dharma, a person ensures that their desires do not lead to harm or imbalance.

From a practical perspective, overcoming desire involves consistent effort. First, observe and analyze your desires without judgment. Second, prioritize needs over wants and avoid unnecessary indulgence. Third, practice gratitude for what you already have, as this reduces the urge for more. Fourth, set meaningful goals that align with higher values. Fifth, engage in meditation and self-discipline to strengthen control over the mind. Finally, focus on inner contentment rather than external accumulation.

In conclusion, desire is not inherently negative; it becomes problematic only when it is excessive or uncontrolled. The Indian Knowledge System teaches that by cultivating awareness, discrimination, detachment, and discipline, one can regulate desire and transform it into a positive force. Instead of being driven by endless cravings, a person can achieve a state of संतोष (contentment) and inner peace. By shifting focus from external pleasures to inner fulfillment, life becomes more balanced, purposeful, and harmonious.

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## HALFWAY MOTIVATION: STARTING WITH FIRE, STOPPING IN THE MIDDLE, AND THE DISCIPLINE TO FINISH

**M**otivation is everywhere these days. On your feed, in reels, in quotes, in podcasts it feels like a daily reminder that “you got this.” And honestly, it works... at least in the beginning. It gets you out of bed, makes you plan your goals, and convinces you that this time, you're really going to do it.

But no one really talks about what happens after that first wave.

Because starting is easy. Continuing? That's where things fall apart.

One day you're fully locked in writing notes, planning your future, imagining your success. You feel productive, focused, almost unstoppable. And then suddenly, the next day, it's gone. The same goals feel exhausting. The same routine feels boring. And the motivation that once felt so real now feels like it never existed.

That's halfway motivation.

It's that phase where you begin with full energy but lose yourself somewhere in the middle. Not because you don't care, but because the excitement fades. And once that initial hype is gone, you're left alone with the actual work and that part isn't always fun.

Halfway motivation is like starting a series and never finishing it. You were interested, you were invested, but somehow, you just stopped. And the worst part? You don't even have a proper reason.



The truth is, motivation is just a spark. It's not meant to last forever. It's there to push you to start, not to carry you till the end. But we depend on it like it's supposed to show up every single day and when it doesn't, we slow down or stop completely. That's where most people get stuck. Because they wait to feel like doing something before actually doing it. But real growth doesn't work like that.

Some days you won't feel motivated at all. You'll feel tired, distracted, or just not in the mood. And in those moments, you have two choices: either give in to that feeling, or show up anyway. Showing up when you don't feel like it is what separates “I tried” from “I did it.”

It's not always going to feel exciting. It's not always going to feel worth it in the moment. But consistency builds something motivation never can discipline. And discipline doesn't disappear overnight.

Halfway motivation can either become your pattern starting and stopping again and again or it can be the point where you decide to change things. Where you stop chasing motivation and start building habits. Because at the end of the day, success isn't about who starts the strongest. It's about who refuses to stop halfway.

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## CONSTANTLY PRODUCTIVE, YET QUIETLY EMPTY: THE HIDDEN EMOTIONAL DISCONNECT

**Y**ou work on your goals. You stay busy. You keep pushing yourself to be productive. On paper, everything looks right. Your days are filled with tasks, your time is managed, and your efforts are consistent. From the outside, it may even seem like you are moving ahead faster than most. Yet, despite all this, you are still not satisfied. You are not happy with it. How does that sound?

It feels like constantly giving your best or at least trying to. You are doing what you are supposed to do, staying disciplined and focused. But deep inside, there is a strange emptiness that refuses to go away. It is quiet, but persistent.

Your outer life looks productive, but your inner self feels disconnected. This feeling is often linked to a deeper imbalance, a disconnect between what you do and what it actually means to you. When tasks become routine and goals lose their personal value, productivity stops feeling fulfilling. Instead, it starts to feel mechanical, almost like you are just going through the motions.

In many cases, being constantly busy turns into a form of emotional avoidance. You keep working, not only to achieve something, but also to avoid confronting what you truly feel. Staying occupied becomes easier than asking difficult questions about purpose, direction, and personal meaning.

Many high achievers fall into this pattern. They complete task after task, checking off endless to-do lists. From the outside, it looks like progress. It looks like success. But internally, a sense of emptiness lingers, growing stronger with time. And that emptiness does not stay silent.

It slowly turns into frustration. Into irritation. Into exhaustion. Over time, it can lead to burnout and a declining sense of self-worth. You begin to question yourself, not because you are failing, but because your achievements no longer feel meaningful. The truth is, productivity alone is not enough.

When there is no connection between your efforts and your sense of purpose, even success can feel hollow. You may reach your goals and still feel like something is missing. That is because achievement without meaning cannot create lasting satisfaction.

Productivity without purpose creates only a surface-level sense of success, a facade that appears complete but feels empty within.

Real fulfillment does not come from how much you do. It comes from how deeply your actions align with what truly matters to you. It requires awareness, honesty, and the willingness to pause and reflect. Until that connection is rebuilt, you can keep moving forward, and still feel like you are going nowhere.

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Afreen Mazgaonkar

## TELANGANA VACCINATES OVER 24000 GIRLS AGAINST HPV IN FIRST MONTH



The Human Papillomavirus vaccination program in Telangana has achieved its first month vaccination goal by immunizing more than 24000 girls. The programme which started in March 2026 aims to provide protection against cervical cancer to two girls who are adolescents with the most common female cancer in India. The district assessment showed that different districts have different levels of achievement. The district showed the highest vaccination rates because people understood the program while health workers executed their tasks effectively. The district showed lowest vaccination levels because there were not enough programs to reach out to people and build their interest. The initiative provides free vaccination through government health facilities to girls who belong to the 14 to 15 age group. The healthcare workers and awareness campaigns and community mobilization work

together to bring success according to officials. The experts demand that governmental bodies must work to create equal healthcare services throughout the entire state. The three main objectives which need to be accomplished include raising public knowledge and developing vaccination services for distant communities and fighting against vaccine refusal. The programme represents an essential development for preventive healthcare because it will lead to a major decrease in future cervical cancer cases if the program maintains its performance.

## 'PROJECT HAIL MARY' RETURNS TO IMAX FOR LIMITED ONE-WEEK RUN

The IMAX theater will show 'Project Hail Mary' for one week as a special limited return. The sci-fi blockbuster Project Hail Mary is set to return to IMAX screens for a limited one-week re-release, giving audiences another chance to experience the film's grand visuals in premium format. The decision comes amid the movie's strong box-office performance and continued audience demand. The film which features Ryan Gosling has become one of the top box office successes of 2026 because it earned more than \$500 million worldwide while receiving high praise for its storytelling and emotional depth and visual effects. The IMAX re-release is part of an extended theatrical run with the studio choosing to postpone its streaming release in order to maximize movie theater viewing. Industry observers see this as a strategic move which shows the company wants to focus on theatrical releases instead of streaming content. The one-week IMAX return will attract new viewers and dedicated fans who want to experience the film on the biggest screens through its powerful space visuals and positive viewer recommendations.



## NGT CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION ON INDIA'S WATER POLLUTION CRISIS

The National Green Tribunal has raised serious concerns over worsening water pollution across India. The tribunal demands immediate coordinated response actions from government agencies to address these water pollution issues. The tribunal reported that untreated sewage and industrial discharge together with insufficient waste management practices create river and lake and groundwater contamination which endangers public health and ecosystem existence. The current observations show that multiple polluted river stretches throughout the country remain untouched because both industrial operations and municipal entities fail to meet environmental protection regulations. The tribunal requires stricter environmental monitoring to ensure pollution control standards are enforced while treatment facilities need to be established according to their designated time frames. The NGT has established accountability requirements by ordering state governments and pollution control boards to implement specific actions which include making water quality data accessible to the public through their routine reporting practices. Experts warn that delays in action will create worse water shortages and health emergencies throughout highly populated areas. The tribunal demands immediate action to resolve India's water pollution crisis because it requires continuous environmental protection through preventive measures instead of temporary solutions.



## INDIA-US TRADE DEAL BACK IN FOCUS AS TALKS RESUME



India and the United States will resume their negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement which has remained unresolved for many years because an official Indian delegation will travel to Washington next week. The visit establishes the first direct meeting between the two parties after several months thus creating a fresh opportunity for both nations to enhance their economic partnership. The talks follow an earlier interim trade framework which announced its implementation in February 2026 to reduce tariffs on Indian goods while providing better market access. The agreement faced postponements because the U.S. government implemented new tariff regulations after the Supreme Court issued its ruling and later made amendments. The upcoming meetings will focus on essential matters which include tariff structures and trade imbalances and regulatory barriers. The discussions also aim to convert the interim framework into a more comprehensive bilateral trade pact. Officials believe the negotiations will provide essential benefits through increased export capacity and strengthened supply networks and enhanced economic collaboration. The outcome of these talks will determine the future development of India-US trade ties and international economic relationships.

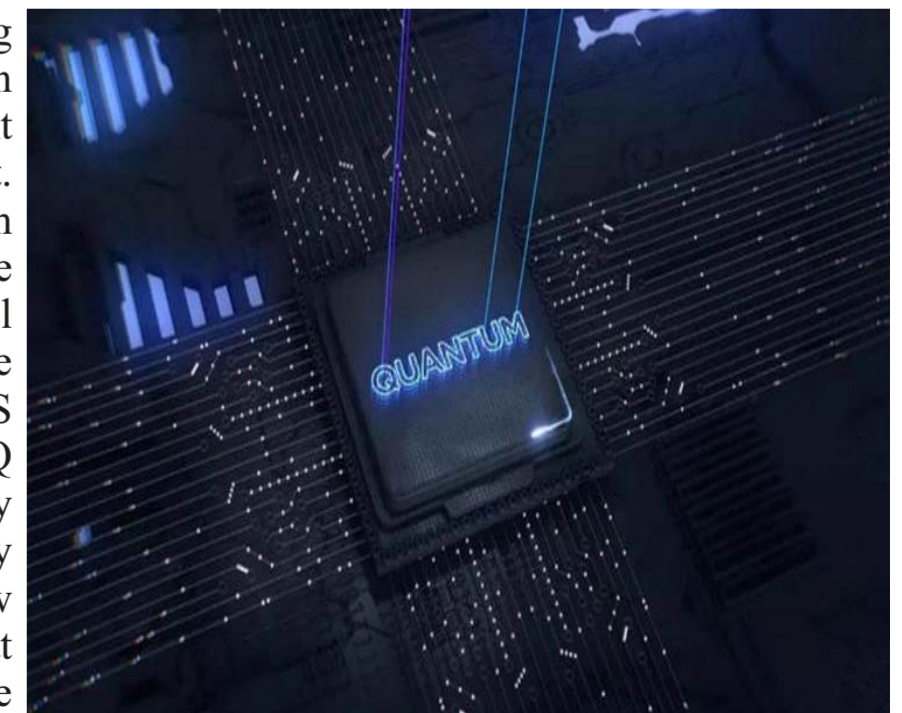
## ARTEMIS II MISSION TRIGGERS WAVE OF CONSPIRACY THEORIES

The Artemis II Mission has started a series of conspiracy theories which spread across the internet. The online world now faces a serious problem because various conspiracy theories have emerged following NASA's Artemis II mission. Social media platforms contain doubts about this mission which marks the first time astronauts traveled to the Moon since the Apollo missions. These theories bring back false Moon landing allegations which scientists have proven to be untrue. Some viral posts have even suggested that Artemis II footage was filmed using green screens or artificial sets, which were supported by misleading or manipulated visuals. The experts who studied this misinformation problem found that it reveals public trust issues and scientific knowledge battle against false information which spreads quickly through social media. Scientists and communicators need to develop better science outreach programs which show their work to the public as a way to fight against these claims. The Artemis II mission demonstrates both technical advancements and new difficulties which arise from fighting against false information in our modern world.



## INDIA LAUNCHES FIRST QUANTUM TESTBED IN AMARAVATI

Through its first domestic quantum computing testbed which operates from Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh, India achieves a significant advancement in cutting-edge technological development. The facility which forms part of the Amaravati Quantum Valley project has been established to evaluate and validate quantum technologies through testing with local developed systems. The Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility offers two main components which include 1S academic research facilities at SRM University and 1Q industrial research facilities at Medha Towers. The facility provides researchers and startups and industry professionals access to experiment and develop new quantum computing technologies. The testbed operates at temperatures near absolute zero which enables accurate assessment of quantum hardware essential for developing dependable quantum systems. The project develops its main systems through local resources which will help India build its own technological capabilities while decreasing its need for imported solutions. The experts predict that this achievement will revolutionize cybersecurity and defence and data encryption fields which will establish India as a major force in worldwide quantum technology competition.



Afreen Mazgaonkar

## DELHI'S AARIT KAPIL BECOMES YOUNGEST INDIAN TO ACHIEVE IM NORM



The Indian chess world reached a historic milestone when Aarit Kapil from New Delhi achieved his International Master chess title at the age of 10. He achieved this milestone at an international tournament held in Menorca, Spain, after drawing his final-round game against Australia's Samuel Asaka. The 10-year-old boy showed strong mental control during his entire competitive schedule. His exceptional talent was displayed when he defeated Kazakh Grandmaster Nogerbek Kazybek who had previously won the World Under-20 championship. The young prodigy maintained his focus during the last match of the tournament after he lost two consecutive matches which enabled him to achieve the historic milestone. Global rankings place Kapil among the top

players of his age group and he has shown he can compete against world champion Magnus Carlsen during an online match. His recent success strengthens his position as one of India's top rising chess players.

## TAKHELLAMBAM INUNGANBI WINS BRONZE, ENDS 13-YEAR DROUGHT FOR INDIA IN JUDO

Indian judoka Takhellambam Inunganbi achieved historic success by winning a bronze medal at the Asian Judo Championships 2026 which ended India's 13-year medal drought at this prestigious competition. The 27-year-old athlete achieved her podium position in the women's -70 kg category through an overpowering victory against Mongolia's Lkhagvadulam Sarantsetseg which ended the match with an ippon. India achieved its first medal at the Asian Judo Championships through her achievement which marks the first medal win since Angom Anita Chanu secured bronze in 2013. Inunganbi demonstrated her determination by fighting back after her quarterfinal defeat to win the other two rounds and reach her final match. This milestone not only highlights her personal determination but also signals a positive step forward for Indian judo on the continental stage. The success she achieved will create a positive impact on the sports visibility which will attract fresh athletes to the field.



## ARMY WOMEN BOXERS ACHIEVE SUCCESS AT INTERNATIONAL BOXING COMPETITION IN MONGOLIA

The Indian Army women boxers achieved an outstanding showing at the Asian Elite Boxing Championship 2026 which took place in Ulaanbaatar Mongolia as they brought home multiple medals while establishing their growing presence in international boxing competitions. The Army team achieved two gold medals and one silver medal which resulted in India obtaining major success during the tournament. Naib Subedar Preeti Pawar won the gold medal in the 54 kg weight class while Havildar Arundhati Chaudhary won first place in the 70 kg weight class. Naib Subedar Jaismine Lamboria won a silver medal in the 57 kg weight class. The championship included more than 230 boxers from 25 nations which makes the accomplishment more impressive. The female athletes from the Corps of Military Police demonstrate the success of the Army program that supports women who want to serve in combat roles and compete in sports. The Army players made important contributions to India's overall performance which helped the country achieve a strong finish in the competition. Their success demonstrates India women's boxing strength and indicates good results for future international competitions.



## INDIA EDGE MALAWI 3-2 TO FINISH THIRD IN FIFA SERIES 2026

A 24-year-old athlete from India named Abhimanyu achieved first place at the Asian Wrestling Championships which took place in Bishkek. The wrestler who competed in the 70 kilogram freestyle event showed extraordinary determination and wrestling abilities which enabled him to achieve first place at the competition. Abhimanyu won the match after coming back from an early deficit to defeat his Mongolian opponent with a score of 5-3. The athlete used his defensive abilities and his ability to launch attacks at the right moments to demonstrate his growing international wrestling skills. Abhimanyu currently holds the position of head constable with the CISF Central Wrestling Team and he has established himself



as one of the world elite wrestlers through his outstanding performances during the last few years. His gold medal victory at the championships contributed to India's overall medal count while establishing the country's status as a major force in Asian wrestling. Abhimanyu achieved this milestone which demonstrates his personal success because it provides motivational support to Indian wrestlers who aspire to participate in international competitions.

## SMRITI MANDHANA BREAKS ROHIT SHARMA'S RECORD IN FIRST T20I VS SOUTH AFRICA



Indian opener Smriti Mandhana became India's highest T20 International run-scorer when she broke Rohit Sharma's record during the first T20I match against South Africa which took place in Durban. Mandhana reached her milestone when she scored her first run of the match which brought her total T20I runs to 4244 and surpassed Rohit Sharma's former record of 4231 runs. The achievement showed her established pattern of performance which she maintained throughout her time playing for Indian cricket despite scoring only 13 runs during the match. India scored 157 runs in their match through the efforts of Harmanpreet Kaur, Shafali Verma, and Jemimah Rodrigues, but South Africa managed to

complete their chase and win the game. Mandhana's accomplishment benefits Indian women's cricket because it established her as one of the world's top T20I run-scorers who excels in all formats of the game. Her record demonstrates how women's cricket has developed while she establishes her position as one of India's greatest batsmen who played in recent times.

## DHIREN PATEL, ARJUN SINGH ADD TO INDIA'S GOLD RUSH AT US OPEN

Dhiren Patel and Arjun Singh both brought their talents to the US Open which resulted in India achieving its gold medal success. The Indian team maintained its successful performance at the US Open when Dhiren Patel and Arjun Singh secured gold medals in their respective events. Patel achieved gold in the 40+ Pro Men's Singles division through his consistent performance which he demonstrated across international competitions. His experience and composure played a crucial role in navigating tough competition and finishing at the top. Arjun Singh secured his second gold medal for India through his exceptional performance at the junior competition which demonstrated India's rising talent pool in the sport. His victory shows how India has become stronger through its development of players across different age brackets who compete at international competitions. The tournament results showed India achieved success through its medal victories which demonstrated the country's increasing power. The combination of Patel's experience with Singh's youthful talent establishes a strong system which enhances India's chances to achieve success in upcoming international competitions.



Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay

## NPS TRUST RECRUITMENT 2026



National Pension System Trust invites applications from eligible professionals for Executive, Senior Executive, Analyst, and Senior Analyst posts on a contractual basis. This is an excellent opportunity to work in India's pension regulatory ecosystem.

### Key Highlights:

- Total Vacancies: 15 Posts
- Job Type: Contract (3 Years, extendable)
- Job Location: New Delhi
- Application Mode: Email

### Post-wise Openings:

- Executive: 4
- Senior Executive: 6
- Analyst: 2
- Senior Analyst: 3

### Age Limit:

- Executive/Analyst: 23–35 Years
- Senior Executive/Analyst: 25–40 Years

### Salary (Monthly):

- Executive: ₹70,000
- Senior Executive: ₹80,000
- Analyst: ₹1,00,000
- Senior Analyst: ₹1,50,000

### Eligibility Criteria:

- Candidates must have Graduation/Post Graduation (min. 60%) with relevant experience in BFSI, compliance, audit, IT, marketing, or finance. Professional qualifications like CA, MBA, CFA, FRM are preferred depending on the role.

### Selection Process:

- Shortlisting based on qualification & experience
- Personal Interview

### Application Fee:

- No Fee (₹0/-)

### Important Date:

- Last Date to Apply: 29 April 2026

### How to Apply:

- Download application format from official website.
- Fill details and attach required documents (CV, certificates, photo).
- Email application to dept-hrd@npstrust.org.in.
- Mention subject: "Recruitment of Staff – (Post Name)".

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

## LIC HFL JUNIOR ASSISTANT RECRUITMENT 2026 – APPLY ONLINE FOR 180 POSTS



LIC Housing Finance Limited invites online applications from eligible candidates for Junior Assistant posts across India. This is an excellent opportunity for graduates seeking a stable career in the financial sector.

### Key Details:

- Post Name: Junior Assistant
- Total Vacancies: 180 Posts

### Application Fee:

- ₹800/- (All Categories)
- Payment Mode: Online

### Selection Process:

- Job Location: Across India (State-wise vacancies available)
- Age Limit: 21–30 years (as on 01 April 2026)
- Salary: ₹20,000 Basic Pay + Allowances
- Online Examination (200 Marks)
- Personal Interview
- Exam Pattern: English, Reasoning, General Awareness (Housing Finance), Numerical Ability & Computer Skills—each section carries equal weightage.

### Important Dates:

- Start Date: 16 April 2026
- Last Date to Apply: 30 April 2026
- Last Date to Print Application: 15 May 2026

### How to Apply:

- Visit the official LIC HFL website.
- Register using valid email & mobile number.
- Fill the application form carefully.
- Upload photo, signature, thumb impression & declaration.
- Pay the fee and submit the form.
- Take a printout for future reference.

### Eligibility Criteria:

- Candidates must hold a Graduate degree (minimum 55% marks) from a recognized university along with basic computer knowledge. Only Indian citizens are eligible.

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

## SAI COMPREHENSIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2026 – APPLY ONLINE FOR 452 POSITIONS

Sports Authority of India under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports invites online applications for its Comprehensive Internship Programme 2026 across MYAS, SAI, NADA, and NDTL. This is a prestigious opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience in sports management, science, and policy domains.

### Key Highlights:

- Post Name: Internship Programme (Various Domains)
- Total Vacancies: 452 Positions
- Age Limit: 20–25 years (relaxation for PG/PhD candidates)
- Stipend: ₹10,000 (UG) / ₹20,000 (PG) per month
- Duration: 6 Months
- Job Location: New Delhi / Regional Centres / NCOEs (Pan India)
- Last Date: 30 April 2026 (05:00 PM)

### Vacancy Distribution:

- MYAS: 40
- SAI (General Management, IT, Legal, Media, etc.): 160
- SAI Sports Science (Physiology, Nutrition, Psychology, Performance Analysis, etc.): 212
- NADA: 20
- NDTL: 20

### Eligibility Criteria:

- Candidates must be final-year UG / pursuing or completed PG in relevant disciplines. Sports



Science roles require specialized Master's degrees. Submission of Statement of Purpose (SOP) and NOC (if applicable) is mandatory.

### Selection Process:

- Application Scrutiny
- Merit List (Academic Performance + SOP)
- Application Fee:
- Nil (Free Application)

### How to Apply:

- Visit the official SAI website.

- Register with valid credentials.
- Fill in details and upload SOP, certificates, and documents.
- Submit before deadline and keep a printout.

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

Deepika Singh

## QUIZ TIME

1. The recent India–EU discussions primarily focused on which agreement?
2. The Election Commission of India emphasized reforms in which area?
3. India reiterated its demand for permanent membership in which UN body?
4. India–China talks addressed tensions along which region?
5. The electoral bonds debate concerns what key issue?
6. India's G20 discussions focused on what major area?
7. The Supreme Court addressed issues related to what concept?
8. India's stance on the Russia–Ukraine war is best described as what?
9. India's digital governance push includes which initiative?

## RIDDLES

1. I fly in the sky but I'm not a bird, carrying people high without a word. What am I?
2. I run on tracks and carry many, through cities and fields, I help plenty. What am I?
3. I have two wheels and need your feet, on roads and lanes I love to meet. What am I?
4. I sail on water, big and wide, carrying goods from side to side. What am I?
5. I have no wings but I can soar, across the roads with a roaring roar. What am I?
6. I dive underwater, not a fish, exploring depths is my only wish. What am I?
7. I carry people in the air, landing softly with utmost care. What am I?
8. I travel in space, beyond the blue, carrying astronauts and dreams too. What am I?

8. Rocket
  7. Helicopter
  6. Submarine
  5. Car
  4. Ship
  3. Bicycle
  2. Train
  1. Airplane
- (II) RIDDLES

9. Digital
  8. Neutrality
  7. Federalism
  6. DPI
  5. Transparency
  4. LAC
  3. UNSC
  2. Transparency
  1. FTA
- (I) QUIZ TIME

ANSWERS



## BUTTERY MAH DI DAL DELIGHT

This Week, We're Relishing Mah di Dal!

**M**ah di Dal is a rich and comforting Punjabi delicacy made with whole black lentils, slow-cooked to achieve a creamy, earthy flavor. Unlike regular dals, this dish develops its depth over time, making it perfect for hearty meals, festive spreads, or traditional dinners. With a touch of butter and cream, it delivers warmth and indulgence in every bite.

### Ingredients:

1 cup whole black lentils (sabut urad dal), 3 cups water, 1 tablespoon butter or ghee, 1 tablespoon oil, 1 finely chopped onion, 2 chopped tomatoes, 1 teaspoon ginger-garlic paste, 1 teaspoon cumin seeds, 1 teaspoon red chilli powder, ½ teaspoon turmeric, 1 teaspoon garam masala, salt to taste, 2 tablespoons fresh cream, chopped coriander for garnish.

### Preparation

- **Prepare Base:** Wash and soak the lentils for 6–8 hours or overnight. Pressure cook with water and salt until soft.
- **Flavor Base:** Heat oil and butter in a pan, add cumin seeds, then sauté onions until golden.
- **Spice Layer:** Add ginger-garlic paste, tomatoes, and cook until soft. Add all spices and cook till oil separates.
- **Combine & Simmer:** Add cooked dal to the masala and mix well. Simmer on low heat for 20–30 minutes (longer for richer taste).
- **Creamy Finish:** Stir in fresh cream and a little butter for extra richness.
- **Garnish:** Top with chopped coriander and a swirl of cream.



### Serving Tip:

Serve hot with naan, roti, or jeera rice. For authentic flavor, cook it on low heat for a longer time—this enhances its creamy texture and taste. Perfect for a comforting Punjabi 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](mailto:thehulahultimes@gmail.com)
- Subject Line: ARTWORK
- Include: Your Name, Age, School/College Name, and Phone Number

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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+91-7977005423

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For free subscription of e-newspaper mail on  
[thehulahultimes@gmail.com](mailto:thehulahultimes@gmail.com)

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

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