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THE HULAHUL TIMES

Evolving Today For A Better Tomorrow



Ravi Singh & Delisha Gupta

PEDALLING TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD: WORLD BICYCLE DAY

Every year on June 3, the world celebrates World Bicycle Day – a day that honours one of humanity's most enduring, elegant, and impactful inventions. Declared by the United Nations in 2018, this day recognises the bicycle as a simple, affordable, and environmentally friendly means of transport with over two centuries of history.

A Brief History of the Humble Bicycle

The bicycle has come a long way since its early 19th-century origins. From the wooden "running machines" of the 1810s to today's carbon-fibre speed demons and e-bikes, the bicycle has continuously evolved. Yet its essence remains unchanged – two wheels, human power, and the freedom to move. The UN's recognition of June 3 as World Bicycle Day was largely driven by Professor Leszek Sibilski, whose global campaign highlighted cycling's role in sustainable development and public health.

Why Cycling Matters More Than Ever

In a world grappling with climate change, air pollution, urban congestion, and rising fuel costs, the bicycle emerges as a powerful solution. It produces zero emissions, requires no fossil fuel, and takes up a fraction of road space compared to a car. Cities like Amsterdam, Copenhagen, and increasingly Mumbai and Pune are investing in dedicated cycle lanes and bike-sharing programmes to reduce vehicular load and carbon footprints. According to global health data, regular cycling reduces the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and obesity. It improves mental health, boosts productivity, and adds years to life. For millions in developing countries, the bicycle is not a recreational luxury – it is a lifeline, enabling children to reach school, farmers to access markets, and healthcare workers to serve remote communities.

Cycling in India: A Growing Movement

India has a deep relationship with the bicycle. For decades, it was the primary mode of transport for the working class postmen, milkmen, and daily labourers relied on it. Today, cycling is experiencing a renaissance, both as a fitness activity and an eco-conscious commuting choice. Post-pandemic, cities like Bengaluru, Delhi, and Ahmedabad have seen a surge in cycling communities, weekend rides, and bicycle-friendly infrastructure. Initiatives like the Smart Cities Mission are incorporating cycling tracks into urban planning, while cycle rallies, awareness drives, and school campaigns on June 3 inspire the next generation to saddle up. Women's



cycling groups and adaptive cycling programmes for differently-abled individuals are also gaining visibility across India.

Ride for Change

World Bicycle Day is more than a celebration it is a call to action. Governments are urged to build safer cycling infrastructure. Organisations are encouraged to promote

cycling to work. Individuals are inspired to swap the car for the cycle, even once a week. The bicycle is a symbol of sustainability, equality, and resilience. It asks for no premium fuel, no registration, no traffic jams. It gives back clean air, better health, and a quieter world.

This June 3, let's honour that gift and ride forward.

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Durgesh K. Dubey

PUSHTIPATI VINAYAK: THE DIVINE STRENGTH THAT DEFEATED DARKNESS

Lord Ganesha is worshipped across India as the remover of obstacles, the giver of wisdom, and the protector of devotees. Yet, Indian spiritual traditions describe many divine forms of Ganesha, each appearing for a special purpose. Among these sacred forms is Pushtipati Vinayak, a powerful and compassionate incarnation whose story teaches courage, devotion, wisdom, and the victory of righteousness over evil. The narrative of Pushtipati Vinayak, mentioned in the Mudgala Purana, is not merely a tale of divine power; it is a lesson about inner strength, faith, and responsibility.

The Rise of Durmati and the Suffering of the Three Worlds

In ancient times, there lived a demon named Durmati, whose name itself meant “one of evil intellect.” Though he possessed great power, he desired even greater control. Through severe penance, he pleased Adishakti Jagadamba and obtained immense strength. Gradually, his arrogance grew. The more power he received, the less wisdom he possessed. Durmati began troubling sages, attacking kingdoms, and spreading fear across the three worlds. Even the gods found themselves unable to resist him. The demon became so blinded by pride that he attacked Kailash itself and cast an evil eye upon Goddess Parvati, forgetting that the very strength he possessed had come through divine grace. His arrogance reached such a level that even Lord Shiva and Mother Parvati had to temporarily leave Kailash. The heavens became restless, and the balance of the universe seemed disturbed. The suffering of the innocent increased every day. People lived in fear. Temples became silent. Devotion weakened as anxiety spread through the world. The gods searched for a solution, but every attempt failed.

Narada's Advice and the Power of Faith

At this difficult moment, Devarshi Narada approached Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. Instead of suggesting weapons or armies, he advised devotion. Narada explained that when worldly efforts fail, sincere faith opens the path to divine intervention. He instructed Shiva and Parvati to worship Lord Ganesha every day by creating a fresh idol from clay, offering prayers with complete devotion, and immersing it in water every evening. The ritual appeared simple, but its true strength lay in consistency, humility, and faith. Day after day, the divine couple performed this sacred observance. There was no impatience, no frustration, and no loss of hope. Their devotion became deeper with each passing

day. Finally, on the sacred day of Vaishakh Purnima, an extraordinary event took place. A magnificent and radiant form of Lord Ganesha appeared before them. His divine presence illuminated all directions. The form was so vast and powerful that even Shiva and Parvati were momentarily filled with awe and wonder. They prayed to him and requested that he remain with them in a gentle child form. Lord Ganesha accepted their prayer.



The Birth of Pushtipati Vinayak

Around the same time, a divine daughter named Pushti was born to Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi. Pushti symbolized nourishment, prosperity, spiritual growth, and well-being. As time passed, Lord Ganesha was united with Pushti. From this divine association, he became known as Pushtipati Vinayak, meaning “The Lord of Nourishment and Prosperity.” This form of Ganesha represented not only material abundance but also intellectual and spiritual enrichment. He became the guardian of strength guided by wisdom.

A Divine Attempt at Peace

When Pushtipati Vinayak learned about the suffering caused by Durmati, he did not immediately choose war. Instead, he first chose dialogue. This is one of the most important lessons of the story. True strength does not seek conflict. It first seeks understanding. Pushtipati Vinayak sent Lord Vishnu as a messenger to persuade Durmati to abandon his destructive

Pushtipati Vinayak stopped the attack with his own tusk. The impact was tremendous, and one of his tusks broke. For a moment, the gods were shocked. But Lord Ganesha did not retreat. Instead, he transformed his apparent loss into his greatest weapon. Picking up the broken tusk, he used it as a divine missile and struck Durmati. The demon's arrogance came to an end, and the three worlds were freed from fear and oppression. The victory restored peace, harmony, and confidence among gods and humans alike. The broken tusk later became a symbol of sacrifice, wisdom, and determination. It taught that true heroes do not complain about their wounds; they transform them into instruments of success.

The Legacy of Pushtipati Vinayak

The glory of Pushtipati Vinayak continued through the ages. Traditions mention that after his marriage with Rukmini, Krishna worshipped Pushtipati Vinayak. Another legend states that Krishna invoked his blessings while seeking to regain divine insight during the Syamantaka Mani episode. These stories strengthened the belief that Pushtipati Vinayak blesses devotees with clarity, wisdom, and inner strength. Even today, devotees remember this form of Ganesha as the giver of prosperity balanced with wisdom, reminding people that success without humility can become destructive, just as it did for Durmati.

Moral and Conclusion

The story of Pushtipati Vinayak teaches that power becomes meaningful only when guided by wisdom and compassion. Lord Ganesha first chose peace before battle, showing that true strength lies in patience and understanding. Durmati's downfall reminds us that arrogance eventually destroys even the strongest person, while humility and faith lead to lasting success. The broken tusk of Ganesha carries a timeless lesson—that our difficulties and wounds can become the very tools through which we achieve greatness. In modern life, where people often seek success quickly and become frustrated by obstacles, the story of Pushtipati Vinayak inspires us to remain devoted, disciplined, and courageous. It reminds us that faith, wisdom, and righteous action can overcome even the greatest challenges, transforming darkness into prosperity and fear into confidence.

path. The message was simple: give up arrogance, respect righteousness, and live peacefully. But Durmati laughed at the proposal. His ego had become stronger than his wisdom. Instead of accepting peace, he challenged Pushtipati Vinayak to battle.

The Great Battle and the Broken Tusk

The battle between Pushtipati Vinayak and Durmati shook the heavens. The demon used all his strength and weapons, determined to prove his superiority. During the fierce combat, Durmati hurled a powerful weapon toward Lord Ganesha. In a remarkable act of courage,

Ravi Singh & Delisha Gupta

RAJAT PATIDAR: THE QUIET CHAMPION WHO REFUSED TO BE IGNORED

In the cricket-loving city of Indore, Madhya Pradesh, a young boy once dreamed of making a mark on the cricket field. Interestingly, Rajat Patidar did not begin his journey as a batter but as a bowler. During his Under-15 days, he made a crucial decision to focus entirely on batting, a choice that would eventually transform his life. Born on June 1, 1993, Patidar was never considered a glamorous cricketing prodigy. He was not the player dominating headlines or attracting constant media attention. Instead, he quietly worked on his craft, trusting his abilities and believing that persistence would eventually create opportunities.

Patidar's professional journey began with Madhya Pradesh in domestic cricket, where he steadily built a reputation as a dependable top-order batter. Year after year, he accumulated runs and delivered performances for his state, yet recognition at the national level remained elusive. Indian cricket's talent pool is one of the most competitive in the world, and opportunities are often limited. Despite his consistent performances, Patidar had to wait patiently while many others surged ahead in the spotlight. However, he never allowed frustration to distract him from his ultimate goal.

One of the most defining moments of his career came ahead of the 2022 Indian Premier League season when Royal Challengers Bengaluru decided not to retain him. For many players, such a setback could have shattered confidence and motivation. Patidar, however, chose a different path. Instead of dwelling on disappointment, he returned to training with even greater determination. He spent countless hours in the nets, focused on improving his game and preparing himself for any opportunity that might come his way. His response to rejection revealed the character that would later define his remarkable journey.

Fate eventually rewarded his perseverance. Midway through the 2022 IPL season, Patidar was brought back into the Royal Challengers

Bengaluru squad as a replacement player. It was an unexpected opportunity, but one that he seized with both hands. Across eight matches, he scored 333 runs, including two half-centuries and a memorable century. His defining moment arrived in the IPL Eliminator against Lucknow Super Giants, where he played one of the greatest innings in the tournament's history. Patidar smashed an

Indore, who finally brought glory to his state.

Consistent performances eventually earned him the ultimate reward in Indian cricket. In 2023, Patidar received his maiden ODI cap for India against South Africa. Soon after, he fulfilled another lifelong ambition by making his Test debut against England in 2024. Wearing the Indian jersey represented the

rather than words. Under his leadership, RCB reached the IPL final and captured their first-ever championship, ending an eighteen-year wait for millions of loyal supporters. Patidar became the first captain in the franchise's history to lift the coveted IPL trophy.

His success did not stop there. In 2026, he guided Royal Challengers Bengaluru to another championship, successfully defending their title and establishing himself among the elite captains in IPL history. The achievement placed him alongside some of the greatest leaders the league has ever witnessed. Despite reaching heights that few could have imagined, Patidar remained grounded and humble. Reflecting on his journey, he expressed gratitude rather than pride, acknowledging how unexpected his rise had been.

Rajat Patidar's story is far more than a tale of cricketing success. It is a powerful lesson in resilience, patience, and self-belief. He was overlooked, released, doubted, and underestimated at various stages of his career. Yet every setback became a source of motivation rather than defeat. His journey demonstrates that success is not always reserved for the most celebrated talents; often, it belongs to those who continue working quietly when no one is watching. In an era obsessed with instant recognition, Rajat Patidar stands as a reminder that perseverance, humility, and determination can transform rejection into greatness.

As Rajat Patidar celebrates his 33rd birthday on June 1, 2026, his journey continues to inspire millions of aspiring athletes across India. From the streets of Indore to the pinnacle of Indian cricket, he has shown that the quietest individuals often leave the loudest impact. His legacy is not merely built on runs, centuries, or trophies, but on the enduring belief that no dream is too distant for those willing to work relentlessly toward it.



unbeaten 112 off just 54 balls, becoming the first uncapped player ever to score a century in the IPL playoffs. The player who had once been overlooked suddenly became the talk of the cricketing world.

His incredible run of form continued in domestic cricket. During the 2022 Ranji Trophy final against Mumbai, Patidar scored a magnificent century and played a pivotal role in helping Madhya Pradesh win the prestigious title. The victory was historic, as it ended a 69-year wait for the state's first Ranji Trophy championship since 1953-54. For generations of Madhya Pradesh cricketers, the trophy had remained an unfulfilled dream. It was Rajat Patidar, the quiet and determined batter from

culmination of years of sacrifice, hard work, and unwavering belief. For a player who had spent much of his career away from the limelight, it was a moment of immense pride and validation.

The next chapter of Patidar's story was perhaps the most extraordinary. Ahead of the 2025 IPL season, Royal Challengers Bengaluru entrusted him with the captaincy of the franchise. The decision surprised many observers and was met with considerable skepticism. Critics questioned whether he possessed the stature and experience required to lead one of the IPL's most popular teams. Yet, as he had done throughout his career, Patidar chose to answer criticism through performance

Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay

EDITOR



Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay

PhD (Business Administration)
M.Phil, M.Com, B.Ed.

Veteran Academician, Researcher and Social Activist.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Commerce Connect is a student-friendly column that turns money, markets, and management into everyday lessons. From canteen economics to digital wallets, it bridges classroom theory with real-world trends, making commerce not just a subject, but a life skill.

In today's digital economy, attention has become a valuable business asset. A 30-second reel can introduce a product, build a brand, and generate thousands of sales within hours. This is why short-form videos are transforming marketing, consumer behaviour, and entrepreneurship in unprecedented ways. Platforms such as Instagram Reels, YouTube Shorts, and other video-based social media channels have turned content into a powerful business tool. What was once used mainly for entertainment has become a major driver of branding, customer engagement, and digital commerce.

For students, professionals, and entrepreneurs, this reflects a significant shift: business success is increasingly measured not just by what you sell, but by how effectively you capture attention and create value from it.

Why Short Videos Have Become So Powerful

Modern consumers prefer content that is quick, engaging, and easy to consume. Short videos meet these expectations by delivering information within seconds.

They attract audiences because they are:

- Easy to watch and share
- Mobile-friendly
- Visually engaging

ATTENTION ECONOMY: THE BUSINESS BEHIND VIRAL REELS

- Entertaining and informative
 - Highly discoverable through algorithms
- As a result, brands increasingly use short videos to connect with consumers and build visibility.

The Business Behind Viral Content

A viral reel is not always accidental. Businesses and creators often invest significant effort into understanding trends, audience preferences, and content strategies.

Companies use short videos to:

- Launch products
- Increase brand awareness
- Drive website traffic
- Generate customer engagement
- Improve online sales

Example: A small home-based bakery may post short videos showing cake decoration processes. If the videos gain traction, the business can attract customers from across the city without spending heavily on traditional advertising.

Digital visibility can translate directly into business growth.

How Influencers and Creators Earn Revenue

The creator economy has expanded rapidly due to short-form video platforms.

Creators earn through:

- Brand collaborations
- Sponsored content
- Affiliate marketing
- Advertising revenue
- Product and course sales

Example: A fitness creator sharing workout tips may earn income through brand partnerships, online coaching programs, and fitness product promotions.

Content creation has evolved from a hobby into a business model.

The Impact on Small Businesses

Short videos have levelled the marketing playing field.

Earlier, businesses depended on expensive advertising campaigns. Today, even small enterprises can reach thousands—or even millions—of potential customers through creative content.

Example: A local handicraft seller showcasing handmade products through reels can attract buyers from different cities and even international markets.

This has opened new growth opportunities for small entrepreneurs.

Changing Consumer Behaviour

Consumers increasingly rely on social media before making purchasing decisions.

They often:

- Watch product reviews
- Compare alternatives

Follow influencer recommendations
Explore customer experiences

Example: A student searching for a laptop may watch multiple short review videos before making a purchase decision.

Consumer journeys now begin with content discovery.

Career Opportunities for Students

The growth of short-form content is creating exciting career opportunities across industries.

Emerging roles include:

- Content Creator
- Social Media Manager
- Influencer Marketing Executive
- Digital Marketing Specialist
- Brand Strategist
- Video Editor
- Content Analyst

Example: A commerce student with strong communication skills may manage social media campaigns for startups or local businesses.

The intersection of creativity and business is generating new career paths.

Skills Students Should Develop

- Content creation and storytelling
- Digital marketing fundamentals
- Video editing and design skills
- Audience engagement techniques



- Data analytics and trend analysis
- Employers increasingly value professionals who understand digital communication.

Challenges Behind Viral Success

Despite its opportunities, short-form content also presents challenges:

Intense competition

- Short audience attention spans
- Constant need for fresh content
- Dependence on platform algorithms
- Risk of misinformation and unrealistic expectations

Sustainable growth requires consistency and credibility.

The Bigger Shift

The rise of reels and short videos reflects a broader transformation in modern business communication. Marketing is moving from traditional advertisements to content-driven engagement, where brands compete for attention, trust, and relevance. The future belongs to businesses and professionals who can communicate effectively in a fast-moving digital environment.

The Takeaway

Viral reels and short videos are no longer just entertainment they have become powerful business tools driving marketing, entrepreneurship, and career opportunities. Because in today's digital world, a few seconds of engaging content can create lasting business impact.

Prof. Dr. Savita Kishan Pawar

EDITOR



Prof. Dr. Savita Kishan Pawar

Professor and Head, Dept. of English,
Sydenham College.
Chairperson, Board of Studies in English,
Dr. Homi Bhabha State University, Mumbai.
Gazette Class One officer Government of
Maharashtra.
MPSC Batch 2005.

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.

SCIENCE FICTION: LITERATURE BEYOND TIME AND SPACE

Science fiction is one of the most imaginative and intellectually stimulating genres of literature. It explores futuristic ideas, advanced technology, space travel, artificial intelligence, time travel, parallel universes, and scientific possibilities beyond ordinary human experience.

Unlike fantasy, science fiction is often rooted in scientific theories and logical speculation. Writers use fiction to imagine how science and technology may shape humanity in the future.

Major Themes in Science Fiction

1. Technology and Humanity: Science fiction often examines whether technology benefits or harms society. Works involving robots and artificial intelligence question what it means to be human.

2. Space Exploration: Many science fiction texts imagine journeys to distant planets and galaxies. Such stories reflect humanity's curiosity about the universe.

3. Time Travel - Time travel narratives explore the past and future while raising philosophical questions about destiny and free will.

4. Dystopian Societies - Some science fiction works depict oppressive future societies to warn readers about political control, environmental destruction, or misuse of technology.

Famous Science Fiction Writers

Jules Verne
H. G. Wells
Arthur C. Clarke
Isaac Asimov
Ursula K. Le Guin

Importance of Science Fiction Today - Science fiction encourages creativity, innovation, and scientific curiosity. Many inventions imagined in science fiction — such as video calls, satellites, and artificial intelligence — later became reality.

Today, science fiction continues to influence cinema, literature, scientific research, and technological imagination. It helps readers think critically about the future and humanity's responsibilities in a rapidly changing world.

Thought for Readers: Science fiction does not merely predict the future; it helps humanity imagine possibilities and prepare for change.

DID YOU KNOW?

From the World of Literature and Language

- The term “robot” was first introduced in literature by Czech writer Karel Čapek in his 1920 play R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots). The word comes from the Czech word *robota*, meaning “forced labour.”

GRAMMAR TIP

Difference Between “Its” and “It's”

Its → Possessive form

Example: The book lost its cover.

It's → Contraction of it is or it has

Example: It's a wonderful novel.

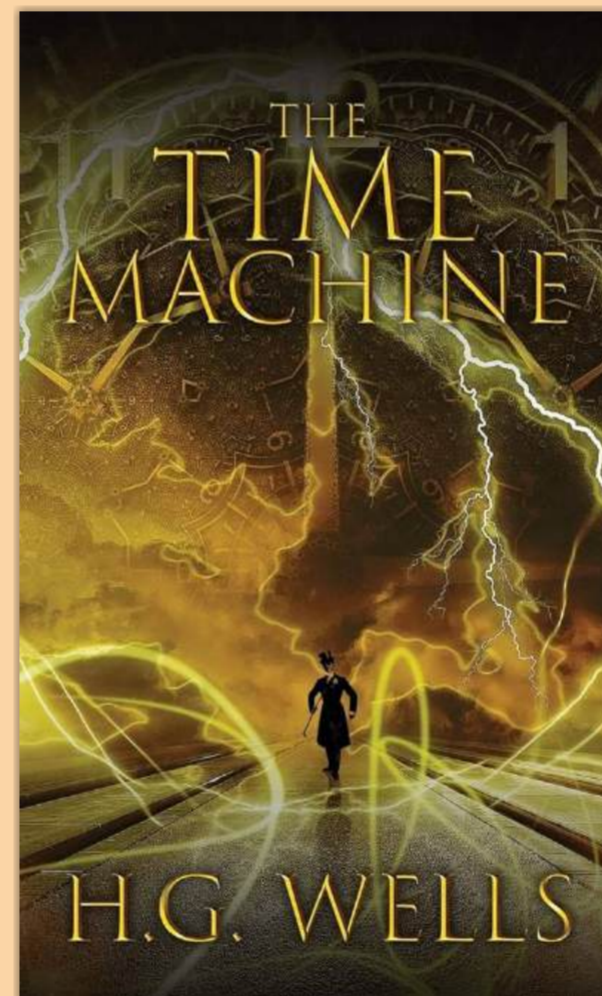
WRITER OF THE WEEK

Isaac Asimov

Isaac Asimov was one of the greatest science fiction writers of the twentieth century. He authored more than 500 books and contributed significantly to popular science writing. His famous Foundation series and Robot series explored the relationship between humanity, technology, ethics, and the future of civilization. He introduced the famous Three Laws of Robotics, which influenced modern discussions on artificial intelligence and machine ethics.

BOOK REVIEW

The Time Machine by H. G. Wells



The Time Machine is regarded as one of the earliest masterpieces of science fiction literature. The novel narrates the journey of a scientist who travels far into the future and witnesses the division of humanity into two distinct races — the peaceful Eloi and the underground Morlocks. The novel combines imagination with social criticism. Through futuristic storytelling, Wells comments on class division, industrialization, and human evolution. Even today, the work remains relevant because it raises questions about technological progress and the future of civilization.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Science fiction is the most important literature in the history of the world, because it's the history of ideas.”

- Ray Bradbury

CREATIVE WRITING

Dreams

Hold fast to dreams

For if dreams die

Life is a broken-winged bird

That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams

For when dreams go

Life is a barren field

Frozen with snow.

Poetry by
- Langston Hughes

Appreciation: This short yet powerful poem emphasizes the importance of dreams and aspirations in human life. Hughes uses vivid imagery to show how life becomes empty and lifeless without hope and ambition.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Serendipity (noun)

Meaning: The occurrence of finding something valuable or pleasant by chance.

Example: Discovering an old poetry collection in the library was pure serendipity.

IDIOM HIGHLIGHT

Hit the books

Meaning: To study seriously and with concentration.

Example: The students decided to hit the books before the final examination.

Ravi Singh & Ajab Tinwala

BEYOND BANS: TACKLING THE REAL CAUSES OF FARMER DISTRESS

The debate around pesticide regulation has once again come into focus, with industry representatives arguing that banning a particular pesticide alone will not solve the deep-rooted problem of farmer suicides in India. According to experts from , a science-based and evidence-driven approach is needed to address the underlying causes of agrarian distress.



Farmer suicides are often linked to a complex combination of factors, including crop failures, mounting debt, unpredictable weather, fluctuating market prices, and limited access to institutional credit. While concerns about the safe use of pesticides must be taken seriously, experts emphasize that focusing solely on product bans risks overlooking the broader challenges faced by farming communities.

Agricultural stakeholders advocate for stronger farmer education, improved access to modern farming technologies, better crop insurance coverage, and enhanced extension services. Promoting the responsible use of crop protection

products through training and awareness can also help reduce risks associated with pesticide misuse.

A sustainable solution requires coordinated efforts from policymakers, scientists, financial institutions, and farming communities. Addressing the economic and social vulnerabilities of farmers, rather than relying solely on regulatory bans, is essential for building a resilient agricultural sector and ensuring the well-being of millions of rural households across India.

CAUVERY CALLING CROSSES 13.4 CRORE TREES, SETS AMBITIOUS TARGET FOR 2026-27

The Cauvery Calling initiative has achieved a remarkable milestone by facilitating the planting of over 13.4 crore trees across the Cauvery river basin, marking a significant step toward ecological restoration and sustainable agriculture. The movement, which promotes large-scale agroforestry among farmers, aims to plant an additional 1.2 crore trees during 2026-27, further strengthening environmental conservation efforts.



cover, improved carbon sequestration, and greater resilience against erratic weather patterns.

Experts believe that agroforestry can play a vital role in addressing both environmental and agricultural challenges in India. With its ambitious target for the coming year, Cauvery Calling continues to demonstrate how community participation and sustainable farming practices can work together to restore ecosystems while securing the livelihoods of millions of farmers.

Over the years, Cauvery Calling has gained widespread support from farmers, environmentalists, and citizens who recognize the urgent need to combat land degradation and climate change. The large-scale plantation drive has contributed to increased green

BLOOMING OPPORTUNITIES: SUSTAINABLE FLORICULTURE TRANSFORMS RURAL LIVELIHOODS IN VARANASI

In a significant step towards rural empowerment, Ambuja Foundation and HDFC Bank have joined hands to promote sustainable floriculture-based livelihoods in rural areas of Varanasi. The initiative aims to provide farmers, especially women and small landholders, with an alternative source of income through the cultivation of flowers using environmentally friendly practices.



methods, making it a climate-resilient livelihood option.

Floriculture has emerged as a profitable agricultural activity due to the growing demand for flowers in religious ceremonies, weddings, festivals, and decorative purposes. Through training programs, technical guidance, and market linkages, the project seeks to help rural families increase their earnings while reducing dependence on traditional crops.

For example, a farmer cultivating marigold flowers on a small plot can earn significantly more during festive seasons compared to conventional crops grown on the same land. Additionally, flower cultivation requires relatively less water and can be integrated with sustainable farming

The partnership reflects a broader vision of strengthening rural economies through innovation and sustainable agriculture. By creating new income opportunities and enhancing agricultural skills, the initiative is expected to improve the socio-economic conditions of farming communities across Varanasi, helping them build a more secure and prosperous future.

TECHNOLOGY VS TRADITION: CAN INNOVATION TRANSFORM INDIA'S CROP INSURANCE SYSTEM?

India's crop insurance scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFY), has long relied on manual Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) to estimate agricultural losses and determine compensation for farmers. While effective in principle, this process is often criticized for being time-consuming, labour-intensive, and prone to delays, leaving farmers waiting for insurance payouts when they need them most.

To address these challenges, policymakers and experts are increasingly exploring technology-driven alternatives. Satellite imagery, drones, artificial intelligence, remote sensing, and mobile-based data collection systems can provide faster and more accurate assessments of crop health and damage. These technologies enable real-time monitoring of fields, reduce human error, and help insurance companies process claims more efficiently.

Supporters of the "YES-TECH" approach argue that digital tools can improve transparency, cut



administrative costs, and ensure quicker compensation for affected farmers. However, challenges such as limited digital infrastructure, connectivity issues in rural areas, and the need for reliable ground verification remain significant concerns.

Experts suggest that a hybrid model combining technological tools with selective field inspections may offer the most practical solution. As climate-related risks continue to threaten agriculture, modernizing crop insurance assessment methods could play a crucial role in strengthening farmer resilience and ensuring timely financial support.

RICE'S HIDDEN CLIMATE COST: TACKLING EMISSIONS FROM PADDY FARMING



Rice is a staple food for more than half of the world's population, but its cultivation comes with an often-overlooked environmental cost. Paddy fields are among the largest agricultural sources of methane, a greenhouse gas that is far more potent than carbon dioxide in trapping heat in the atmosphere. As global concerns about climate change grow, scientists and policymakers are paying closer attention to the impact of rice farming on greenhouse gas emissions.

Methane is produced in flooded paddy fields when organic matter decomposes in oxygen-poor conditions. These emissions contribute significantly to global warming, especially in major rice-producing countries such as India, China, and Bangladesh. With rising demand for rice due to population growth, the challenge of balancing food security and environmental sustainability has become increasingly important.

Experts suggest several solutions to reduce emissions without affecting crop yields. Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD), a method that periodically drains paddy fields instead of keeping them continuously flooded, has shown promising results. Improved water management, climate-resilient rice varieties, and better fertilizer practices can also help lower methane emissions.

Governments, researchers, and farmers must work together to promote sustainable rice cultivation. By adopting innovative farming techniques and increasing awareness, it is possible to reduce agriculture's climate footprint while ensuring that millions continue to have access to one of the world's most essential food crops.

Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay & Srivarthini Subramanian

ICAI TO LAUNCH FORENSIC AUDITING LAB IN HYDERABAD

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has announced the establishment of a forensic auditing laboratory in Hyderabad to strengthen modern audit practices and enhance the professional capabilities of chartered accountants.



The facility will serve as a specialised centre for training, research, and practical learning in forensic auditing, fraud detection, data analytics, and digital investigation techniques. The initiative is designed to help professionals keep pace with the growing use of technology in business and financial reporting.

investigation, risk management, and technology-driven auditing. These programmes will help members develop practical skills and strengthen their ability to handle complex financial cases.

Experts believe the initiative will boost transparency, accountability, and compliance in the financial sector while preparing professionals for challenges arising from digital transactions and cyber risks. It will also help Indian chartered accountants align with global auditing standards and best practices.

A major objective of the lab is to support small and medium-sized chartered accountancy firms by providing access to advanced audit tools, specialised resources, and modern infrastructure. This will enable them to improve the quality of their services and meet evolving industry requirements.

Through this new forensic auditing lab, ICAI aims to create a future-ready ecosystem that equips chartered accountants with advanced knowledge, practical expertise, and modern auditing capabilities for the digital age.

According to ICAI, the laboratory will offer workshops, certification programmes, and hands-on training in emerging areas such as financial fraud

LODHA FOUNDATION LAUNCHES PHYSICS RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN MUMBAI

The establishment of a dedicated institute for theoretical physics, funded by the Lodha Foundation, is an important milestone for scientific research in India and will provide it with an opportunity to become an attractive centre for world-class researchers to carry out advanced study, free from immediate commercial constraints, while also enabling scientists to explore scientific concepts in detail.



opportunities for young scientists and researchers.

Theoretical physics is vital to the development of mankind's understanding of the universe and the discoveries that come from such research frequently have significant applications that may take years or decades to be realised. The foundation's investment in this area supports the long-term advancement of science and the intellectual innovations that arise from that effort.

Private investment in basic science is still extremely small compared to applied science; however, the creation of this institute is a prime example of how philanthropic investment can make a very meaningful contribution to advancing education through research activities. Besides the benefits that flow from research output, the institute provides an environment that encourages the next generation of children to pursue careers in science and mathematics, and its overall success will motivate additional support for basic research — fundamental to the ongoing evolution of science and technology.

As the institute fosters and supports many scientists from many nations to work alongside each other and share ideas, interactions will strengthen India's place in the global research community and provide

YUVA SHODH PRATIBHA ENCOURAGES UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CULTURE

The Yuva Shodh Pratibha program is a significant new initiative designed to foster research amongst undergraduate students studying through the Four Year Undergraduate Programme. The programme has been developed by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) with the goal of supporting young researchers at an early point within their educational careers.



This programme provides students with the opportunity to carry out research on social, cultural, historical or developmental topics from the Indian perspective. It will provide them with financial aid and the benefit of having mentors to support them in developing their critical thinking skills, original thought and interdisciplinary learning, through the collaboration between participants and their faculty mentors and through creating an environment where there is a shared value of teamwork and intellectual discovery.

experiences of the communities where the participants live and to challenge existing paradigms and set new standards with new ideas that can be used to meet new and emerging challenges.

Research exposure at the undergraduate level can help students develop valuable analytical skills for use in both academia and the professional world and may encourage students to pursue graduate work in the fields of social science and humanities.

An important part of this programme is that it strives to create knowledge that reflects the realities and

UTTARAKHAND'S KAUSHALAM PROGRAMME BRINGS ENTREPRENEURSHIP INTO CLASSROOMS

Uttarakhand's Kaushalam Programme provides students with new avenues to learn about entrepreneurship and practical business techniques in school. This project seeks to allow young learners to discover their creative potential by transforming good ideas into real world businesses. In cooperation with colleges and industry mentors, the Kaushalam Programme will help participants learn through experience instead of just using textbooks.



The programme promotes problem solving for students by exposing them to real life projects that require them to find solutions and build business concepts using project-based learning. Business mentors will guide participants through the planning and presentation stages in order to expose them to the fundamental principles of entrepreneurship. The more exposure that participants receive to experiential learning, the more skills they will develop in the areas of creativity, communication, leadership, and decision-making.

The Kaushalam Programme is part of an overall shift in education away from academic-based learning to skill-based learning. Teamwork, financial planning and problem-solving skills are learned through the Kaushalam Programme while accomplishing regular educational requirements. The increased number of schools that participate in the Kaushalam Programme could potentially lead to the creation of a workforce that is better prepared to enter the workforce and support their communities through self-employment and significant contributions to economic development in their community.

CENTRE EXPANDS SCIENCE TALENT SCHEMES IN WEST BENGAL



In a significant move to promote scientific innovation and research among students, the Government of India has announced the expansion of major science promotion programmes, including the INSPIRE-MANAK Scheme and Vigyan Jyoti Programme, across schools and colleges in West Bengal.

The decision was discussed during a meeting involving Union Minister Jitendra Singh and state representatives. The initiative aims to encourage scientific thinking, innovation, and research-oriented learning among students, especially those from rural and underrepresented communities.

The INSPIRE-MANAK scheme supports young innovators by identifying creative scientific ideas from school students and providing opportunities to develop them further. Meanwhile, the Vigyan Jyoti programme focuses on increasing the participation of girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education, helping them pursue higher studies and careers in scientific fields.

The Centre also highlighted complementary initiatives such as KIRAN and WISE, which are designed to support women in science and research. Expanding these programmes in West Bengal is expected to strengthen the state's scientific ecosystem and inspire more students to take up research and innovation.

Officials believe the move will benefit thousands of students by providing mentorship, exposure, and opportunities for scientific development. The initiative aligns with India's broader goal of building a strong, innovation-driven knowledge economy through quality science education.

Durgesh K. Dubey

INDIA BREAKS INTO GLOBAL DIGITAL TOP FIVE, EMERGES AS MAJOR AI POWERHOUSE

India has moved into the top five of the world's most digitalised economies, marking a significant milestone in its journey from a large technology-consuming market to an influential digital power. According to the State of India's Digital Economy 2026 report, the country has climbed from eighth position last year to fifth place in the latest global rankings. India has also secured fourth place in artificial intelligence performance, behind only the United States, China and Singapore.

The findings reflect the pace at which digital technology is becoming a part of everyday life in India. From mobile payments and online banking to e-commerce, digital governance and artificial intelligence tools, technology is no longer limited to large companies or urban professionals. It is increasingly being used by students, small entrepreneurs, shopkeepers, farmers and ordinary households. India's rise in the rankings is therefore not merely about numbers; it represents a wider social and economic transformation.

The report compares 71 countries, covering most of the global economy, and assesses their performance across areas such as connectivity, technology adoption, innovation, digital security and sustainability. India's progress has been supported by its expanding internet base, digital public infrastructure, entrepreneurial ecosystem and rapid adoption of new technologies. The growth of digital payment systems and online public services has created a strong foundation for the next phase of development.

Artificial intelligence has become one of India's strongest areas. The country now has the world's second-largest AI talent pool and has moved ahead of several advanced economies, including Germany, France, Japan, the United Kingdom and Canada, on key AI-related indicators. India and China together account for nearly two-fifths of global AI adoption, while developing countries now represent 72 percent of AI users worldwide.



This indicates that the AI revolution is no longer driven only by wealthy nations.

India's digital strength is also visible in international trade. The country generated around \$328 billion through digitally delivered services, including software exports, IT services and cloud-based solutions. This has created jobs, supported businesses and strengthened India's position in the global services economy. The growing role of the Indo-Pacific region is equally noteworthy, as China, Singapore and India are now among the world's top five digital economies.

However, the rankings also highlight areas that need urgent attention. India has a vast number of AI users but still receives a relatively small share of global private investment in artificial intelligence. Advanced computing infrastructure, access to high-end chips, research funding and collaboration between universities and startups remain limited. Rising cyber fraud and online scams also underline the need for stronger digital protection and greater awareness among users.

India's digital success has created an important opportunity, but the next phase will be more demanding. The country must now convert widespread adoption into innovation, productivity and secure digital growth. Building affordable computing infrastructure, supporting research and improving cybersecurity will be essential.

India's entry into the global digital top five sends a clear message: the country is no longer simply participating in the digital revolution. It is increasingly helping shape its direction.

INDIA'S CHIP AMBITION TAKES SHAPE AS NITI AAYOG CHARTS ROADMAP FOR SEMICONDUCTOR LEADERSHIP

India is preparing to take a decisive step towards becoming a major global player in the semiconductor industry. A new roadmap released by NITI Aayog has laid out an ambitious vision for building a stronger domestic chip ecosystem by 2035. The document comes at a time when semiconductors have become essential not only for smartphones and computers but also for artificial intelligence, electric vehicles, telecommunications, healthcare, defence systems and renewable energy infrastructure.

The NITI Aayog roadmap highlights that India's semiconductor demand is rising rapidly due to the expansion of electronics manufacturing, data centres, digital services, electric mobility and advanced communication networks. The domestic semiconductor market is projected to grow to nearly \$200 billion by 2035. However, the country currently depends on imports for around 90 to 95 percent of its chip requirements. This heavy dependence exposes India to supply-chain disruptions, foreign exchange pressure and strategic risks.

The experience of the COVID-19 period showed how shortages of chips can disrupt automobile production, consumer electronics and other key industries. In a world marked by geopolitical tensions and growing technology competition, reliable access to semiconductors has become a national priority. India spent close to \$150 billion on semiconductor imports between 2016-17 and 2024-25. If domestic capabilities do not improve, the annual import burden could rise sharply over the next decade.

The roadmap suggests that India should adopt a focused strategy instead of attempting to compete immediately in every segment of the

semiconductor industry. It recommends building strength in areas where



the country has a realistic opportunity to succeed, including mature-node chips, compound semiconductors, advanced packaging and system-level design. These technologies are important for electric vehicles, power systems, telecom networks, defence equipment and industrial applications.

One of India's strongest advantages is its talent base. Nearly one-fifth of the global semiconductor design workforce is estimated to be located in the country. NITI Aayog has suggested that India should build on this strength and move from providing design services to developing its own intellectual property, specialised chips and advanced solutions. Artificial intelligence can also play an important role by reducing the time and cost

involved in semiconductor design.

Advanced packaging has been identified as another promising area. Modern chips increasingly depend on efficient integration of multiple components rather than only on smaller transistor sizes. India can use this opportunity to become one of the world's leading destinations for semiconductor assembly, testing and advanced packaging.

The roadmap is built around five pillars: pioneering innovation, policy and investment, production, people and partnerships. It calls for stable policies, long-term funding, specialised skills, stronger research institutions and cooperation between government, industry, universities and global partners.

Building a semiconductor ecosystem will require patience, capital and disciplined execution. Semiconductor plants need uninterrupted power, high-quality water, advanced machinery and highly trained professionals. Yet the benefits can be substantial. A successful domestic chip industry can create skilled jobs, reduce imports, strengthen national security and support India's journey towards becoming a developed economy.

The NITI Aayog roadmap sends a clear message: in the digital age, semiconductor capability is not merely an industrial advantage. It is becoming a foundation of economic resilience and technological independence.

Dr. (Mrs) Chandra Hariharan Iyer

EXPERT



Dr. (Mrs) Chandra Hariharan Iyer

Veteran Academician,
Freelancer Consultant - Research and Upskilling
PhD(Management-Finance), M.Phil(Management),
MBA(Finance), M.com, M.Sc.(Psychology),
M.A. (Philosophy and Religion)
DBM, PGDBM, PGDFM,
PG Diploma in Guidance & Counselling

INSIGHTS ON IKS RESEARCH -
DHARMA DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

Mail your questions on
thehulahultimes@gmail.com

or

DM your questions on our instagram
handle @thehulahultimes

Q. What are the causes of depression and mental sufferings?

Ans. Depression and mental suffering have become common challenges among young people. Academic pressure, career uncertainty, family expectations, relationship problems, failures, and constant comparison on social media often create stress and emotional pain. The Bhagavad Gita offers a meaningful understanding of such mental struggles through the story of Arjuna. On the battlefield of Kurukshetra, Arjuna becomes overwhelmed after seeing his relatives, teachers, and friends on the opposite side. His body feels weak, his hands tremble, and he loses confidence and clarity. He feels unable to face the situation before him. His condition reflects the anxiety, confusion, and hopelessness experienced by many people during difficult phases of life. The Gita shows that even strong and capable individuals may experience emotional

breakdowns when faced with conflict, uncertainty, or painful choices. Mental suffering is therefore not a sign of weakness, but a human experience that requires understanding, guidance, and inner strength.

1) Overthinking and Negative Thoughts: One of the main reasons for Arjuna's suffering was overthinking. Instead of focusing on what he needed to do, he kept imagining negative outcomes. He worried about loss, guilt, and future consequences. Similarly, depression often involves excessive negative thinking. मन एव मनुष्याणां कारणं बन्धमोक्षयोः "The mind alone is the cause of bondage and liberation." People repeatedly think about failures, mistakes, or problems. They may imagine the worst possible situations and feel trapped by their thoughts. Krishna helps Arjuna understand that constantly focusing on negative possibilities increases suffering. He encourages him to think clearly and realistically.

2) Attachment to Outcomes: The Bhagavad Gita teaches that people often become unhappy because they are too attached to specific results. For example, a student may believe that happiness depends entirely on getting top grades. A job seeker may think life is meaningless without a particular job. A young person may become emotionally dependent on a relationship. When expectations are not fulfilled, disappointment can become overwhelming. This may lead to sadness, frustration, and even depression. Krishna advises Arjuna to focus on effort rather than becoming obsessed with outcomes. कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन। (Bhagavad Gita 2.47) "You have the right to perform your duty, but not to the fruits of your actions." This teaching is known as Karma Yoga. It means doing one's best while accepting that not everything is under personal control. Success and failure are part of life. Learning to focus on sincere effort rather than perfect results can reduce stress and improve emotional well-being.

3) Comparing Ourselves with Others: Although the Bhagavad Gita was written long before social media existed, its teachings can help address one of today's biggest mental health challenges: comparison. Many young people compare their lives with others. They compare grades, appearance, relationships, income, and achievements. Social media often shows only the successful moments of people's lives, creating unrealistic expectations. Such comparisons can make individuals feel inadequate and unhappy. The Gita teaches that every person has a unique path and purpose. उद्धरेदात्मनात्मानं नात्मानमवसादयेत्। (Bhagavad Gita 6.5) "Let a person uplift oneself by oneself; let one not

degrade oneself." Instead of constantly comparing ourselves with others, we should focus on our own growth and development.

4) Lack of Purpose and Direction: Arjuna became depressed because he lost sight of his purpose. He was confused about his responsibilities and did not know what the right action was. Many young people experience similar feelings. They may feel lost about their future, career, studies, or personal goals. Without a sense of purpose, life can seem meaningless. स्वधर्मे निधनं श्रेयः परधर्मो भयावहः। (Bhagavad Gita 3.35) "Better is one's own duty, even if imperfectly performed, than another's duty well performed." The Bhagavad Gita emphasizes the importance of Dharma, which means one's duty and responsibility. Krishna encourages Arjuna to understand his role and act according to it. Having meaningful goals and responsibilities can provide motivation and direction. A sense of purpose helps individuals overcome feelings of emptiness and hopelessness.

Managing Emotions: The Gita does not suggest suppressing emotions. Instead, it teaches how to manage them wisely. Krishna listens patiently to Arjuna's concerns before offering guidance. This lesson is important because many young people try to hide their emotions due to fear of judgment. Bottling up feelings often increases stress and sadness. The Gita encourages self-awareness. People should recognize their emotions, understand their causes, and respond thoughtfully rather than reacting impulsively. Talking to trusted friends, family members, teachers, or counselors can also help during difficult times.

1) The Importance of a Balanced Mind: According to the Bhagavad Gita, a balanced mind is essential for happiness. Life naturally includes success and failure, praise and criticism, gain and loss. If people become emotionally dependent on external situations, their mood constantly changes. Krishna teaches the importance of staying calm and balanced in different circumstances. This does not mean becoming emotionless. Rather, it means developing inner strength so that temporary setbacks do not destroy one's confidence or happiness. Those who develop emotional balance are often better able to handle academic pressure, social challenges, and personal disappointments.

2) Meditation and Self-Control: The Bhagavad Gita highlights meditation as a powerful tool for



mental well-being. Meditation helps calm the mind, improve concentration, and reduce stress. Today, many mental health experts also recommend mindfulness and meditation for managing anxiety and depression. Spending a few minutes each day focusing on breathing, reflection, or prayer can improve emotional stability. The Gita also emphasizes self-control in daily habits. Proper sleep, healthy eating, exercise, and disciplined routines contribute to a healthy mind.

3) Positive Thinking and Hope: A key message of the Bhagavad Gita is that no difficult situation is permanent. Krishna encourages Arjuna to face challenges with courage rather than surrendering to despair. Depression often makes people believe that their problems will never improve. The Gita teaches the opposite. It encourages individuals to maintain hope, trust their abilities, and continue moving forward even during difficult times.

The Bhagavad Gita provides valuable insights into the causes of depression and mental suffering. Through the story of Arjuna, it shows that emotional struggles can affect anyone. The text identifies several causes of mental distress, including overthinking, excessive attachment to outcomes, constant comparison with others, lack of purpose, and inability to manage emotions. At the same time, the Gita offers practical solutions such as focusing on effort rather than results, developing self-awareness, finding purpose in life, practicing meditation, maintaining emotional balance, and cultivating hope.

In the light of Indian Knowledge Systems, the Bhagavad Gita teaches that true mental well-being comes from inner strength, self-understanding, balanced thinking, and purposeful living. Its timeless wisdom can help young people face life's challenges with confidence, resilience, and peace of mind. Stay graceful! Wish you much and more!

Ravi Singh & Ajab Tinwala

BEYOND BOOKS: WHY READING AND TRAVELLING ARE LIFE'S GREATEST TEACHERS



textbooks, examinations, and grades. Students spend years sitting within four walls, absorbing information from blackboards and notebooks. While formal education is important, it frequently focuses on theoretical knowledge rather than practical wisdom. It teaches us formulas, definitions, and historical dates, but many of life's most valuable lessons remain untouched.

Reading opens doors to worlds we may never physically visit. Through books, we can walk beside great leaders, learn from brilliant scientists, understand different cultures, and experience the triumphs and failures of countless individuals. A book is more than a collection of pages; it is a conversation across time. It nurtures imagination, broadens perspectives, and sharpens critical thinking. Every book we read adds another layer to our understanding of the world and ourselves.

However, knowledge gained from books reaches its fullest potential when complemented by travel. Travelling transforms lessons into lived experiences. It takes us beyond comfort zones and exposes us to diverse people, traditions, languages, and lifestyles. A journey to a village teaches simplicity; a visit to a bustling city reveals innovation and ambition. Every destination carries lessons that no classroom can fully replicate.

More importantly, both reading and travelling contribute significantly to personal development. They cultivate qualities that are essential for success in modern society. Communication skills improve when we interact with people from different backgrounds. Teamwork becomes meaningful when we navigate unfamiliar situations with others. Decision-making abilities strengthen when we face unexpected challenges

during our travels. These experiences shape character far more effectively than memorising facts for an examination.

Furthermore, reading and travelling encourage empathy and social awareness. They help us understand the struggles, dreams, and realities of people whose lives differ from our own. Such understanding inspires us to serve society with dignity and compassion. It enables us to think critically about issues affecting our communities and our nation, transforming us from passive observers into responsible citizens.

Another remarkable aspect of these two teachers is their ability to remove the masks we often wear. When we immerse ourselves in a book or explore an unfamiliar place, we confront our true selves. Our strengths, weaknesses, fears, and aspirations become clearer. The journey inward becomes just as important as the journey outward.

In the end, education is not merely about acquiring information; it is about becoming a wiser, more capable, and more humane individual. Books provide the knowledge, while travel provides the experience. One expands the mind; the other enriches the soul.

As the saying goes, "Read to discover the world. Travel to understand it." Those who embrace both will never stop learning, growing, and living, not just one life, but a thousand meaningful ones.

A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one. This famous thought beautifully captures the power of learning beyond the limits of our own experiences. If reading allows us to live a thousand lives, travelling enables us to witness those lives in reality. Together, books and journeys become the two greatest universities a person can ever attend.

In today's world, education is often confined to classrooms,

THE PEOPLE WHO ARRIVE LIKE STORMS AND LEAVE LIKE LESSONS

Life often introduces us to people in the most unexpected ways. Some individuals remain in our lives for years without leaving a lasting imprint, while others appear suddenly, stay only briefly, and transform us in ways we never imagined. They arrive like a storm, unannounced, powerful, and impossible to ignore. Yet when they leave, they do not take something away from us; instead, they leave us with lessons, clarity, and a deeper understanding of ourselves.

What makes such people extraordinary is not the amount of time we spend with them, but the depth of the connection we share. Sometimes, a person we barely know becomes the one we trust with our most guarded thoughts. We find ourselves speaking about fears we have never voiced, insecurities we have carefully hidden, and struggles we have carried in silence for years.

Perhaps this happens because they see us without the weight of our history. They do not know the labels we have collected, the mistakes we have made, or the expectations others place upon us. They meet us exactly where we are. And in doing so, they create a rare space where honesty feels safe.

In a world where people are constantly performing versions of themselves, this kind of acceptance is priceless. Around these individuals, we do not feel the need to wear masks. We are not trying to appear stronger, wiser, happier, or more successful than we truly are. We are simply ourselves, raw, imperfect, and genuine. There is no carefully crafted image to maintain and no fear of being exposed. For perhaps the first time in a long while, we allow someone to see our plain face rather than the masks we show the world.

Their greatest gift is not advice or solutions. It is their willingness to listen. They listen without judgment, interruption, or condemnation. In that simple act, they offer something many of us desperately seek but

rarely find, peace. Being heard has a healing power. It helps us understand ourselves better and reminds us that our vulnerabilities are not weaknesses to be hidden but truths to be acknowledged.

Often, these people teach us lessons we did not even know we needed to learn. They help us confront fears we have avoided, recognize strengths we have overlooked, and accept parts of ourselves we once considered unworthy. Through them, we discover that shame loses its power when spoken aloud and that acceptance begins the moment we stop running from who we are.

Ironically, many of these connections are temporary. Just as unexpectedly as they arrive, they move on. At first, their departure may feel like a loss. But with time, we understand that some people are not meant to stay forever. Their purpose is not permanence; it is transformation.

Looking back, we remember them not with regret but with gratitude. They remind us that meaningful connections are measured not by duration but by impact. Some people enter our lives like hurricanes, stirring emotions and uncovering truths we have long buried. Yet when the storm passes, they leave behind something beautiful, a calmer heart, a freer spirit, and the courage to live without masks. And perhaps that is their greatest lesson of all: the moment we stop hiding who we are is the moment we truly begin to feel free.



Afreen Mazgaonkar & Ganisha Gundu

INDIA AND CANADA PUSH TO SEAL TRADE PACT IN YEAR END

May 27, India and Canada are looking at concluding negotiations for a free trade agreement by the end of this year, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal have said. Goyal is in Canada for a three-day official visit, starting May 25. He is leading a delegation of industry leaders from over 100 companies. Goyal said that, our prime ministers have tasked us not only with completing the free trade agreement with a comprehensive outlook before the end of this year or earlier - but also tripling our trade from a current \$17 billion level to \$50 billion by 2030, while jointly addressing the media in Ottawa with Canada's Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu on Monday. Goyal also called on Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney. Both sides expressed optimism about the early conclusion of the trade pact negotiations. In a social media post, Carney said that, we're negotiating a free trade deal with India. This will be a game changer for Canadian workers and businesses - unlocking a massive new market. We're working fast - I met Minister Piyush Goyal to



review our progress so far and explore the opportunities ahead for both our countries in energy, agri-food, tech, and education.

WUHAN DOCTOR PERFORMS SURGERY FROM 3,000 KM AWAY

Indian urologist Dr Syed Mohammed Ghouse successfully conducted a robot-assisted bladder reconnection surgery on a patient in Hyderabad while operating remotely from Wuhan, showcasing a major advancement in cross-border telemedicine and robotic healthcare cooperation between India and China, according to a news report by China Daily. According to the news report, the surgery was completed in about 90 minutes using China-developed robotic systems and ultra-fast 5G connectivity. The development was highlighted in a post on X by the spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in India, Yu Jing, who said that Indian urologist Dr. Syed Mohammed Ghouse, stationed in Wuhan, successfully performed a robot-assisted ureteral reimplantation in just 90 minutes on a patient 3,000 km away in Hyderabad, India--thanks to China-developed robotics and 5G technology. Life-saving care, transcending borders. According to China Daily, the operation took place through coordination between doctors at Tongji Hospital and a medical team in Hyderabad. Before the surgery, doctors reviewed the patient's medical records online and mapped out the movement path for the robotic arms.



CHANDRAYAAN-3 'HOP' EXPERIMENT REVEALS HIDDEN LAYERS BENEATH MOON'S SURFACE

The Chandrayaan-3 'Hop' Experiment has discovered hidden Moon layers which exist beneath the Moon's outermost surface. The Indian Space Research Organisation from India achieved another significant lunar discovery through their Chandrayaan-3 mission. Scientists have discovered that the Moon's southern pole area contains two separate underground layers which scientists discovered through their analysis of data from Vikram lander's "hop experiment" research. The hop experiment, conducted in September 2023, involved Vikram briefly lifting off the lunar surface and landing a short distance away. The lander used its engine exhaust system to remove about three centimeters of loose lunar dust which created conditions that allowed scientists to research the deeper layers of material. The ChaSTE instrument enabled scientists to identify that lunar soil exists in two different layers which create a "cake-like" structure because the upper layer remains soft and fluffy while the lower layer delivers denser and compacted material. The findings showed that different layers of the material exhibited different heat conductivity properties. The researchers believe this discovery will benefit future Moon missions which involve astronaut landings and lunar base construction and sample collection missions. The Moon's surface composition and stability need to be understood because scientists consider these factors essential for safe Moon exploration and human habitation.



BMC MANDATES WASTE SEGREGATION FOR BULK GENERATORS

BMC has made four-way waste segregation mandatory for Bulk Waste Generators across Mumbai under the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026. Residential societies, hotels and commercial establishments will have to process wet waste at source or face penalties as the civic body intensifies efforts to tackle the city's mounting garbage crisis. May 21 as Mumbai's garbage crisis deepens, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has tightened the noose on Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs) by enforcing mandatory four-way waste segregation under the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules 2026. Residential societies, malls, hotels and commercial establishments will be required to register on the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) portal and start processing wet waste at source or through authorised civic systems, failing which they face penal action. The BMC also plans to levy user charges on BWGs in the long run. In a sweeping expansion of its waste regulation framework, the BMC plans to bring nearly 4,680 establishments under mandatory registration and compliance norms over the next six to 12 months. Officials said any establishment with a built-up area exceeding 20,000 square metres, waste generation above 100 kg per day, or water consumption crossing 40,000 litres will be classified as a BWG, with even one criterion enough to trigger mandatory compliance obligations



INDIA SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRES AGNI-1 BALLISTIC MISSILE



India successfully conducted the test launch of the Agni-1 short-range ballistic missile from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha, marking another important milestone in the country's strategic defence programme. The launch operation conducted by Strategic Forces Command validated all operational and technical parameters. The Agni-1 ballistic missile functions as a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface weapon system which can strike targets at distances between 700 and 900 kilometers. The Defence Research and Development Organisation developed this missile system to function as a critical element in India's strategic deterrent capabilities which can be deployed with rapid operational readiness and precise targeting. Defence officials stated that the successful test demonstrates the reliability and operational readiness of

the missile system. The launch operation demonstrates India's commitment to strengthening its domestic defence technology capabilities while developing a reliable defence system for regional deterrence. The Agni missile series forms a crucial part of India's strategic arsenal, with different variants covering short, medium, and long-range capabilities. Regular system testing helps experts to verify operational readiness and track technological developments which match current security needs.

'MADE IN INDIA: A TITAN STORY' TRAILER SHOWCASES JOURNEY OF AN ICONIC INDIAN BRAND

The trailer of Made in India: A Titan Story is out now, giving people a look at how one of India's most successful consumer names grew from the ground up. The series features Naseeruddin Shah and Jim Sarbh in prominent roles, and it leans into the story of how the Titan Company brand was built, step by step. You can see the drama follow Titan as it moved from a small venture into something people actually recognize at home, for watches, jewellery, and lifestyle products too. It's set while India's economy keeps changing, and the show really puts focus on entrepreneurship, inventive thinking, and all the hurdles that come with creating a dependable Indian brand, with global reach in mind. Naseeruddin Shah shows up as a mentor-type figure, almost like a clear-eyed guide, while Jim Sarbh plays a tough, driven corporate leader dealing with both business pressures and social obstacles, at the same time. The trailer is getting noticed because of the strong acting, the period details that feel careful, and the emotional way the story is told, not just the usual facts. Also, the project is being seen as part of a wider rise in business and startup inspired dramas in Indian entertainment, where actual corporate real-life journeys get adapted into cinematic narratives. Industry observers feel this one could land well with viewers who are into entrepreneurship, leadership, and the bigger picture of India's economic transformation. So, with history, commerce, and a very human push for ambition all mixed together, Made in India: A Titan Story is expected to spark real curiosity ahead of its release.

Afreen Mazgaonkar & Ganesha Gundu

ANIKA DUBEY WINS SILVER MEDAL AT ASIAN JUNIOR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS



The 16-year-old Anika Dubey of Maharashtra clinched the silver medal at the Asian Junior Squash Championships in China on Tuesday and finished as the runner-up among the best junior players from across the continent. Already regarded as the Golden Girl of Pune, Anika had won an Asian medal at just 14. Two years on, she has established herself firmly among Asia's elite junior athletes, according to a press release. Anika's rise is part of a larger athlete-development movement built through the Chance2Sports Foundation Program powered by Sports Skill. The championships also saw Vasundhara Nangare and Akanksha Gupta, two more athletes from the same program, represent India, making it three players from one development

ecosystem competing at Asia's premier junior squash event. The ecosystem has been built by Sports Skill co-founders Abhinav Sinha and Chetan Desai, combining elite sport experience with long-term development principles focused on recovery, conditioning, movement quality, injury prevention and mental resilience. A special acknowledgement goes to the Kanga Kids Program, created in memory of the late Noshir Kanga by his wife, Deborah Kanga, which has supported all three girls through their formative years over the last 3-4 years.

RCB TRIUMPH AGAIN, BEAT GT IN FINAL

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) scripted history by defeating Gujarat Titans (GT) by five wickets in the IPL 2026 Final at the Narendra Modi Stadium, becoming back-to-back IPL champions. After winning the toss, RCB captain Rajat Patidar opted to bowl first, a decision that proved crucial. RCB's disciplined bowling attack kept Gujarat Titans under pressure throughout the innings, restricting them to 155/8 in 20 overs. Washington Sundar was the standout performer for GT, scoring a fighting half-century and helping his team post a competitive total. In reply, RCB approached the chase with confidence and control. Virat Kohli once again rose to the occasion, delivering an unbeaten 75-run masterclass under pressure. His calm and composed innings anchored the chase, while valuable contributions from Venkatesh Iyer and the middle order ensured RCB remained firmly in command. Bengaluru successfully chased down the target with two overs to spare. The victory marks another landmark achievement for the franchise, which ended its long wait for an IPL title in 2025 and has now successfully defended the crown. Celebrations erupted among players and fans as RCB sealed their second consecutive championship. Kohli's match-winning knock became the highlight of the night, further enhancing his legendary IPL legacy. While RCB celebrated a historic triumph, Gujarat Titans finished a commendable season as deserving runners-up.



HOMELESS BOXER MOHAMMAD YASIR RECEIVES HERO'S WELCOME AFTER ASIAN GOLD

The homeless boxer Mohammad Yasir received a hero's welcome after he won the Asian gold medal. Mohammad Yasir returned to a grand celebration in Rajouri after winning the gold medal at the Asian Under-15 Boxing Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The 14-year-old boxer from an extremely poor and homeless family received a grand welcome through garlands and drumbeats and victory marches which attracted hundreds of people who wanted to celebrate his accomplishment. The journey of Yasir has become an inspiration which has affected people throughout the nation. The family became homeless after his father died when he was young and they lost their home during an anti-encroachment drive which forced them to live in a rundown government facility. Yasir worked part-time to support his family while he trained for boxing through the Khelo India program. The young boxer achieved victory through his fighting skills which helped him defeat opponents from Iran and Uzbekistan to win the U-15 championship. Ishtiyag Malik, his coach, discovered his abilities and helped him develop his skills. The residents of Rajouri requested that Yasir should become a sports ambassador who promotes anti-drug initiatives throughout Jammu and Kashmir because they believe his life story demonstrates how to overcome obstacles through determination and hope.



LONG JUMPER JESWIN ALDRIN SOJAN MAKES A STRONG COMEBACK AT FEDERATION CUP

Indian long jumper Jeswin Aldrin Sojan pulled off a really impressive return at the Federation Cup Athletics Championships, somehow setting a fresh meet record and sort of hinting he's back in business after a rough stretch. You know, injuries, and performances that were a bit inconsistent for a while. Going up against a tough group of rivals, Sojan managed a standout jump that brought him the gold medal and also rewrote the championship mark. The result got loud applause from coaches, athletics specialists, and people who closely follow track events. They see it as a meaningful lift for Indian athletics, especially with upcoming international meets on the calendar. Earlier in the season, the athlete ran into problems linked to fitness, and that clearly disrupted his timing and his results abroad. Still, his most recent effort showed renewed self belief, sharper technique, and good physical readiness. In general, Indian athletics has been growing fast in recent years, and the field events in particular have produced more and more performers who can compete at international level. Analysts think Sojan's return to form could matter a lot for India's medal plans in big competitions like the Asian Games, Commonwealth events, and the World Championships. Fans as well as sports officials welcomed the comeback quite warmly. Many called it a solid reminder about perseverance and resilience, even when sport feels demanding. With this achievement, Sojan is once again right there among India's leading performers in field events.



RUPA BAYOR GETS BRONZE FOR INDIA AT THE ASIAN TAEKWONDO POOMSAE CHAMPIONSHIPS



Rupa Bayor from Arunachal Pradesh made another proud moment for Indian sports, by grabbing a bronze medal at the Asian Taekwondo Poomsae Championships 2026. This win came in a really tough lineup, with top competitors from all over Asia, you know the kind of match where every detail matters. In particular, Rupa really impressed the judges through her accuracy, steadiness, and strict control during her poomsae sequences. These routines are about choreographed lines of attack plus defense moves in taekwondo, so it's not only power but also the order of everything. Her performance basically carried India into a valuable podium position at the continental meet. Right now, the medal is being celebrated across Arunachal Pradesh. There, Rupa has become some kind of motivation for young sportspeople, particularly girls who are curious about martial arts. Sports officials, and several local leaders, praised her persistence, and that daily effort, saying that athletes from northeastern India keep adding strong value to Indian sports. India's current momentum in martial arts events also points to better training depth and broader international exposure for athletes. Many observers feel that milestones like Rupa's bronze will pull more attention toward taekwondo, and it should support India's standing in Asian competitions. And honestly, her success shows how talent from smaller states and far off places is getting more visibility. It proves that sheer determination, along with training that stays disciplined, can still help an athlete step forward and shine internationally.

INDIAN WRESTLERS SHINE AT U23 ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN VIETNAM

India's Strong Performance at U23 Asian Championships. On the fourth day of the U23 Asian Championships held in Da Nang, Vietnam, Indian freestyle wrestlers showcased their exceptional skills, adding four more medals to the nation's collection. Kumar Moand Chandramohan each secured gold medals in their respective weight classes, while Deepak earned a silver in the 6kg division. Another wrestler named Deepak also contributed by winning a bronze in the 74kg category, as reported in a press release. With these achievements, India's freestyle medal tally has reached six, following the previous day's successes where Akshay T Dhare (57kg) and Vicky (97) both clinched golds. Gold Medals for Mohit and Chandermohan. In the 65kg gold medal match, Mohit dominated the bout, achieving a decisive 12-4 victory over Kyrgyzstan's Oskonbai A. Abdisamatorov, securing his place at the top of the podium. Chandermohan also delivered an exciting performance, narrowly defeating Kazakhstan's Yer Khan Abil with a score of 7-6 to claim the 79kg title. Deepak faced a tough challenge in the 61kg final, where he battled Kazakhstan's Nurdatan Aitanov to a 4-4 draw but ultimately settled for the silver medal. In the 74kg category, another Deepak showcased his prowess by defeating Turkmenistan's Vatan Annairazov with a commanding 10-0 victory to earn a bronze.



Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay & Srivarthini Subramanian

RRB ALP RECRUITMENT 2026 – APPLY ONLINE



The Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) under the Ministry of Railways have released CEN No. 01/2026 for the recruitment of 11,127 Assistant Loco Pilots (ALP) across various Railway Zones in India. This is one of the biggest railway recruitment drives of 2026 for 10th Pass + ITI/Diploma candidates.

Recruitment Highlights

- Post Name: Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP)
- Total Vacancies: 11,127
- Age Limit: 18 to 30 years (as on 01 July 2026)
- Qualification: Matriculation/SSLC + ITI/Act Apprenticeship OR Diploma/Degree in relevant Engineering disciplines
- Pay Scale: ₹19,900 (Level-2, 7th CPC) + DA, HRA, TA & other allowances
- Expected In-Hand Salary: ₹35,000–₹40,000 per month
- Job Location: Across India

Selection Process

- CBT-I (Screening Test)
- CBT-II (Part A & B)
- Computer Based Aptitude Test (CBAT)
- Document Verification
- Medical Examination (A-1 Medical Standard)

Application Fee

- General/OBC/EWS: ₹500 (₹400 refundable after CBT-I)
- SC/ST/Ex-Servicemen /Female /Transgender /EBC/Minorities: ₹250 (Fully refundable after CBT-I)

Important Dates

- Online Registration Starts: 15 May 2026
- Last Date to Apply: 14 June 2026
- Fee Payment Last Date: 16 June 2026
- Application Modification Window: 17–26 June 2026

How to Apply

1. Visit the official RRB website. www.rrbapply.gov.in.
2. Register with valid details.
3. Fill out the online application form.
4. Upload documents and photographs.
5. Pay the prescribed application fee.
6. Submit the form and keep a printout for future use.

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

SSC CGL RECRUITMENT 2026 – APPLY ONLINE FOR 12,256 POSTS

The Staff Selection Commission (SSC) has released the official notification for the Combined Graduate Level Examination (SSC CGL) 2026 to fill approximately 12,256 vacancies in various Ministries, Departments, Constitutional Bodies, Tribunals, and Government Organizations across India. This is one of the largest recruitment drives for graduates in 2026.

Key Highlights

- Exam Name: SSC Combined Graduate Level Examination 2026
- Total Vacancies: Approx. 12,256 Posts
- Posts Include: Assistant Audit Officer, Assistant Section Officer, Inspector of Income Tax, CBI Sub-Inspector, Auditor, Accountant, Tax Assistant, Postal Assistant and more.
- Job Location: Across India
- Pay Scale: ₹25,500 – ₹1,51,100 (Pay Level-4 to Level-8)

Eligibility Criteria

- Bachelor's Degree from a recognized University.
- Age Limit: Generally 18–30 years (varies post-wise).
- Age relaxation applicable for SC/ST/OBC/PwBD/Ex-Servicemen as per Government norms.

Government norms.

Selection Process

- Tier-I Computer Based Examination
- Tier-II Computer Based Examination
- Document Verification

Application Fee

- General/OBC/EWS: ₹100/-
- Women, SC, ST, PwBD & Ex-Servicemen: Exempted

Important Dates

- Online Application Starts: 21 May 2026
- Last Date to Apply: 22 June 2026 (11:00 PM)
- Fee Payment Last Date: 23 June 2026
- Tier-I Exam: August–September 2026
- Tier-II Exam: December 2026

How To Apply

- Visit ssc.gov.in and complete One-Time Registration (OTR).
- Login and select SSC CGL 2026 application link
- Fill in personal, educational, and exam centre



details.

- Upload photograph and signature in the prescribed format.
- Pay the application fee online (if applicable).
- Verify details, submit the form, and save/print the confirmation page for future reference.

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

IAF AFCAT RECRUITMENT 2026 – NOTIFICATION RELEASED, APPLY ONLINE FOR 379+ POSTS



The Indian Air Force has officially released the AFCAT 02/2026 Recruitment Notification for more than 379 vacancies in Flying Branch and Ground Duty (Technical and Non-Technical) branches. This recruitment offers a prestigious opportunity for young aspirants who wish to serve the nation as commissioned officers in the Indian Air Force.

Key Highlights

- Post: SSC Officers (Flying & Ground Duty Branches)

Eligibility

- Candidates must possess a Graduation Degree with at least 60% marks (branch-wise qualifications apply).

Age Limit (as on 01 July 2027):

- Flying Branch: 20–24 Years
- Ground Duty Branches: 20–26 Years

Vacancy Distribution

- Total Vacancies: 379+ Posts
- Salary: ₹56,100 – ₹1,77,500 (Level-10) + M S P ₹15,500 + allowances
- Job Location: Across India
- Application Mode: Online through: afcat.cdac.in
- Flying Branch – 35 Posts
- Ground Duty (Technical) – 211 Posts
- Ground Duty (Non-Technical) – 107 Posts
- NCC Special Entry – 26 Posts

Selection Process

- AFCAT Online Examination
- AFSB Testing (Stage I & II)
- Document Verification
- Medical Examination

Application Fee

- AFCAT Entry: ₹550 + 18% GST
- NCC Special Entry: No Fee

Important Dates

- Online Registration Starts: 20 May 2026 (11:00 AM)
- Last Date to Apply: 19 June 2026 (11:30 PM)

How to Apply

- Visit the official AFCAT website.
- Complete the registration process.
- Fill in the online application form.
- Upload required documents.
- Pay the application fee, if applicable.
- Submit and save the application form for future reference.

For more details candidates are asked to visit the official website

Deepika Singh

QUIZ TIME

1. Which country will host the first World Yogasana Championship 2026?
2. Who launched the World Yogasana Championship 2026?
3. Which country did India defeat in the first Women's T20I last week?
4. Which Indian batter scored 69 runs in the Women's T20I against England?
5. Which UK minister is scheduled to visit India this week?
6. Which Indian minister will meet Yvette Cooper?
7. Which city was announced as the host of the 2030 Commonwealth Games?
8. Which organization restructured control of 27 Olympic disciplines?
9. Which scheme received expanded responsibility under SAI's reshuffle?

RIDDLES

1. I help you sit quietly and focus your mind. What am I?
2. I am the art of breathin-g deeply and calmly. What am I?
3. I connect your body, mind, and soul. What am I?
4. I am often used at the beginning and end of yoga sessions. What am I?
5. I am a pose named after a strong and steady tree. What am I?
6. I am the pose where you stand tall with your arms reaching upward like a mountain. What am I?
7. I am a pose that stretches like a slithering reptile. What am I?
8. I help you relax completely at the end of practice. What am I?

1. Meditation
2. Pranayama
3. Yoga
4. Om
5. Tree
6. Mountain
7. Cobra
8. Savasana

(II) RIDDLES

1. India
2. Mandaviya
3. England
4. Jemimah
5. Cooper
6. Jaisankar
7. Ahmedabad
8. SAI
9. TOPS

ANSWERS



GOLDEN MANGO RASMALAI DELIGHT

This Week, We're Relishing Mango Rasmalai Trifle!

Mango Rasmalai Trifle is a luxurious fusion dessert that combines the richness of traditional rasmalai with the tropical sweetness of mangoes. Layered with soft sponge cake, juicy mango puree, creamy whipped cream, and rasmalai pieces, this no-bake dessert is light, refreshing, and perfect for summer gatherings. Every spoonful offers a delightful mix of textures and flavors, making it an elegant treat for special occasions.

Ingredients:

4 rasmalai pieces (cut into bite-sized pieces), 1 cup ripe mango puree, 1 cup vanilla sponge cake cubes, ½ cup whipped cream, 1 ripe mango (diced), 1 tablespoon chopped pistachios, 1 tablespoon chopped almonds, ¼ teaspoon cardamom powder, A few saffron strands (optional), Rose petals for garnish (optional).

Preparation

- Blend ripe mangoes into a smooth puree. Add a pinch of cardamom powder and mix well.
- Place sponge cake cubes at the bottom of serving glasses or a trifle bowl.
- Spoon a layer of mango puree over the sponge cake, ensuring it soaks in slightly.
- Arrange chopped rasmalai pieces over the mango layer.
- Spread or pipe a layer of whipped cream over the rasmalai.
- Repeat the layers of sponge cake, mango puree, rasmalai, and whipped cream until the glasses are filled.
- Top with diced mangoes, chopped pistachios, almonds, and saffron strands.
- Refrigerate for at least 1–2 hours before serving for the best flavor and texture.



Serving Tip:

Serve chilled in clear dessert glasses to showcase the beautiful layers. Garnish with rose petals and extra mango cubes for a festive touch. This dessert is perfect for summer parties, family celebrations, and mango lovers looking for a unique Indian fusion treat.

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone
+91-7977005423

Email
thehulahultimes@gmail.com

For free subscription of e-newspaper mail on

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