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THE HULAHUL TIMES

Evolving Today For A Better Tomorrow



80TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED WITH PATRIOTIC FERVOUR AT SMT. M.M.K. COLLEGE



Smt. M.M.K. College of Commerce and Economics celebrated the 80th Independence Day with great enthusiasm, patriotism and a strong spirit of inclusivity. The celebration brought together students, faculty members, guests and college representatives in a memorable tribute to the nation.

The celebration was witnessed by Principal Dr. (CA) Kishore S. Peshori, Prof. Vishal R. Tomar, Dr. Manikandan Iyer and Dr. Anjali Verma, along with faculty members and students.

The programme commenced with the unfurling of the Indian National Flag by Principal Dr. (CA) Kishore S. Peshori. One of the most touching moments of the celebration was the rendition of the National Anthem in sign language by special students from the DEEDS Foundation, who are also students of the college, along with other students. The inclusive performance deeply moved the gathering and reflected the college's commitment to equality and participation.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Dr. (CA) Kishore S. Peshori congratulated the students and staff on the meaningful celebration and highlighted the important role of young citizens in nation-building. He emphasised that responsible, aware and socially committed youth are essential for building a progressive and inclusive India.

The event was graced by BJP leader Mr. Asif Bhamla as the Chief Guest. In his address, he encouraged students to take responsibility as citizens and contribute actively towards the development and progress of the nation. The presence of the President and members of the Rotary Club further added to the spirit of community participation and unity.



Despite heavy rainfall, the enthusiasm of the students remained undiminished. Students presented a range of cultural performances that added colour and patriotic fervour to the celebrations. As part of the college's commitment towards promoting a healthy and responsible youth community, students and staff also took a solemn pledge to abstain from drugs.

The celebration witnessed active participation from the National Service Scheme (NSS), Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension (DLLE), Sports Committee and Cultural Committee. Their collective efforts contributed significantly to making the programme meaningful, engaging and inspiring.

The 80th Independence Day celebration at Smt. M.M.K. College served not only as a tribute to India's freedom but also as a reminder of the responsibilities that accompany it, unity, inclusivity, discipline, social responsibility and active participation in nation-building.



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THE LAMP OF LEARNING: THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF PANDIT MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA

It was the winter of 1861 in Allahabad, now Prayagraj. In a simple and learned Hindu family, a child was born who would one day be remembered as Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. His family was not wealthy, but it was rich in values, Sanskrit learning and devotion. At the age of five, young Madan Mohan began his education at a traditional school. From his childhood, he learned an important lesson: knowledge is not merely something to possess; it is something to use for the good of others.

As he grew older, his love for learning became stronger. But there was something else growing inside him, a deep concern for his country.

One day, while thinking about India's condition under British rule, he asked himself, “How can a nation become truly strong?”

The answer gradually became clear to him. “A nation becomes strong when its people are educated, disciplined, courageous and morally responsible.” That thought became the guiding principle of his life.

Malaviya entered public life at a young age. In 1886, he attended the Indian National Congress session at Calcutta and delivered a speech that brought him recognition as a powerful orator. He later worked as a teacher, journalist, lawyer and political leader. He became president of the Indian National Congress four times. Yet, despite his achievements, he remained deeply connected with ordinary people and the values he had learned in childhood.

For Malaviya, public life was not a path to personal fame. It was a form of seva (service).

He believed that people needed education not only to earn a living but also to develop character and a sense of responsibility towards society. This belief eventually led him towards the greatest mission of his life.

One evening, while discussing the future of India, Malaviya said in effect that the country needed an institution where modern scientific knowledge could grow alongside India's cultural and spiritual heritage.

His dream was extraordinary for his time: a university where science, technology and modern subjects could be studied without disconnecting young Indians from their civilizational roots.

He chose Varanasi, the ancient city of learning, as the centre of this dream. With the support of many people, including Dr. Annie Besant, he worked tirelessly to establish the Banaras Hindu University. The university was founded in 1916.

But creating a university was not an easy task.

Money was needed. Buildings were needed. Teachers and students were needed. Above all, public support was needed.

Malaviya went from place to place seeking support. He approached princes, wealthy people and ordinary citizens alike. His message was simple: If you have wealth, contribute wealth; if you have knowledge, contribute knowledge; if you have time, contribute time.

He did not see a small contribution as insignificant. He understood a great principle of Indian thought: a great work becomes possible when many people offer their small efforts for a larger purpose.

Finally, his dream became a reality.

On 4 February 1916, the foundation ceremony of the university took place. Mahatma Gandhi was among those present and addressed the gathering. The institution that emerged from Malaviya's vision was intended to combine scientific education with the best elements of Indian culture and to develop not only the intellect but also the character of students.

For Malaviya, education was never just about examinations or employment.

He wanted students to become good human beings before becoming successful professionals.

His vision reflected an important principle of the Indian Knowledge System—Vidya should lead to wisdom, humility, self-discipline and service.



Malaviya's commitment to justice was equally remarkable.

Although he had largely withdrawn from legal practice to devote himself to public work, he returned to the courtroom in 1922 in the aftermath of the Chauri Chaura incident. Hundreds of people had been sentenced to death. Malaviya took up the appeals of those condemned. According to a BHU publication, he represented 225 people and succeeded in saving 153 of them from the gallows.

His action revealed an important ethical principle: justice must not be guided by anger or revenge.

Even when society is disturbed by a terrible event, every human being deserves a fair legal process.

Malaviya also understood the power of the written word. He founded newspapers such as Abhyudaya and The Leader because he believed that an educated public was essential for a strong nation. Journalism, for him, was not simply a profession; it was another form of

public education.

His concern for society extended beyond education and politics. He spoke for the disadvantaged, supported improvements in the position of women and raised his voice against social injustices. His life was therefore not confined to one field. He worked wherever he believed that his efforts could strengthen society.

Years passed. The university grew. Thousands of young people began walking through its gates.

Perhaps Malaviya often imagined the future while looking at those students.

He knew that he might not live to see everything his university would achieve. But that did not matter. A person who plants a tree does not plant it only for himself. He plants it for generations. That was Malaviya's philosophy of

education.

He passed away on 12 November 1946, only months before India became independent. But the institution he created continued to carry his vision. Banaras Hindu University became one of India's major centres of higher learning and produced generations of scholars, scientists, teachers, administrators and public figures.

Today, Malaviya's educational legacy remains relevant. BHU continues to describe his vision as one that sought to combine Western scientific methods with the best of Indian culture, while promoting intellectual freedom, moral development and a broad spirit of learning.

Moral of the Story

The life of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya teaches us that true greatness does not come merely from holding a powerful position or achieving personal success. It comes from using one's knowledge, ability and resources for the welfare of others. His life teaches the values of seva, integrity, justice, humility, courage and responsibility. He showed that education becomes meaningful only when it produces responsible human beings. His journey also reminds us that a great dream may begin in one person's mind, but it becomes a reality when that person works patiently and inspires others to participate in it.

Conclusion

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya's greatest contribution to Indian education was not simply the establishment of Banaras Hindu University in 1916. His greater contribution was the educational philosophy behind it. He imagined an India where modern science and technology could progress without abandoning India's intellectual, cultural and ethical heritage. He wanted education to develop both the mind and the character. In this sense, his vision was deeply connected with the Indian Knowledge System, where education is traditionally understood as a journey from information towards wisdom and from individual achievement towards social welfare. Malaviya's life therefore leaves us with a powerful message: build institutions, but more importantly, build people; acquire knowledge, but use it for society; and dream not merely for yourself, but for generations yet unborn. His lamp of learning continues to illuminate India's educational journey.

TARA RANI SRIVASTAVA: THE WOMAN WHO CARRIED THE TRICOLOUR THROUGH GRIEF

India's freedom struggle was not shaped only by celebrated leaders whose names dominate history books. Behind the familiar names were thousands of ordinary Indians who displayed extraordinary courage when the country needed them most. Among these inspiring but lesser-known freedom fighters was Tara Rani Srivastava, a brave woman from Bihar whose determination during the Quit India Movement became a powerful example of patriotism, sacrifice and courage.

Tara Rani lived during a time when Indian women were often expected to remain within the boundaries of home and family. Public life, political movements and protests were largely considered the domain of men. Yet the growing national movement against British rule was changing the way many Indians viewed their responsibilities. Tara Rani was among the women who understood that the struggle for freedom could not belong to men alone.

Her husband, Phulendu Babu, was an active participant in the freedom movement. Tara Rani joined him in supporting the cause of independence and gradually became involved in the political awakening taking place around her. She encouraged other women to participate in the movement and demonstrated that women could stand at the forefront of the struggle rather than remain silent spectators.

Her defining moment came during the Quit India Movement of 1942. When Mahatma Gandhi gave the call for the British to leave India, the message spread rapidly across towns and villages. People who had never considered themselves revolutionaries began taking part in demonstrations, marches and acts of resistance. The atmosphere was charged with one powerful belief: India had to become free.

In Siwan, Tara Rani and her husband joined a group of protesters who marched towards the local police station with the intention of hoisting the Indian flag. At that time, raising the national flag at a government building was a direct challenge to British authority. The protesters understood the danger, but their determination was stronger than their fear.

As the procession approached the police station, the authorities attempted to stop it. The situation soon became violent, and police firing began. During the firing, Phulendu Babu was shot and seriously injured.

For Tara Rani, the moment was devastating. The man who had shared her dream of an independent India was lying wounded in front of her. She could have



stopped. She could have remained beside him and abandoned the march. But instead, she made a decision that would forever define her place in India's freedom history.

Tara Rani tore a piece of cloth from her sari and used it to bandage her husband's wound. Having done everything she could to help him, she picked up the national flag and continued towards the police station.

This was not an easy act of heroism. It was an act born from an extraordinary conflict between personal love and national duty. Tara Rani was not untouched by fear or grief. She was a wife watching her husband bleed. Yet she understood that the flag she carried represented something larger than herself. It represented the dream of millions of Indians who wanted to live

in a free country.

She continued the march and remained committed to the purpose of the protest. When she eventually returned to her husband, Phulendu Babu had died from his injuries.

His death could have broken her spirit. Instead, Tara Rani chose to continue the struggle. The personal tragedy that had entered

her life did not make her surrender the national cause for which both she and her husband had fought. Her courage became a quiet testament to the sacrifices made by families across India during the freedom movement.

The story of Tara Rani Srivastava is significant because it reveals another side of India's independence struggle. Freedom was not achieved only through major political decisions, speeches or negotiations. It was also built through the courage of ordinary citizens who stood against oppression despite knowing the risks.

Her story also reminds us of the important role played by women. Women were not merely supporters of male freedom fighters. They participated directly in demonstrations,

organised people, spread nationalist ideas and faced imprisonment, violence and social pressure. Tara Rani represented this transformation. She challenged the expectations placed upon women and showed that courage has no gender.

Today, when the tricolour flies freely across India, it is easy to forget the danger once associated with carrying it. For Tara Rani, the flag was not simply a national symbol. It represented sacrifice, hope and the promise of freedom. She carried it forward even when the person she loved most had fallen behind.

That image remains one of the most powerful ways to understand her legacy: a woman standing between personal sorrow and national responsibility, choosing to keep walking with the flag in her hands.

Tara Rani Srivastava may not be among the most widely remembered names of India's freedom struggle, but her story deserves a place in the nation's collective memory. Her courage reminds us that history is not made only by famous personalities. It is also made by individuals who, at decisive moments, choose courage over fear and principle over personal comfort.

India became independent in 1947, but the freedom enjoyed by later generations was built through sacrifices made decades earlier. Tara Rani Srivastava was one of those who paid a deeply personal price for that freedom.

Her story is therefore more than a tale of the past. It is a reminder for the present: when circumstances test our courage, the true measure of a person is not whether they are afraid, but whether they continue to move forward despite their fear.

Tara Rani moved forward with grief in her heart, courage in her spirit and the tricolour in her hands.

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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.

As electric vehicles gain momentum, the real business opportunity may lie in building the charging network that keeps India's new mobility economy moving. India's electric mobility story is no longer limited to manufacturing vehicles. As electric cars, scooters, buses and commercial vehicles grow, the need for reliable and accessible charging infrastructure is also rising. Charging stations are emerging at highways, shopping centres, offices, residential complexes and commercial hubs, creating a new business ecosystem around mobility and energy. This growing sector is opening opportunities for infrastructure companies, technology providers, entrepreneurs, property owners and service professionals. The message is clear: the next big opportunity in electric mobility may lie not in making vehicles, but in building the infrastructure that powers them.

Understanding the EV Charging Economy

The EV charging economy includes businesses involved in installing, operating, maintaining and managing charging infrastructure. It covers public and highway charging stations, residential and workplace charging, fast-charging networks, battery swapping, charging software, digital payments, maintenance, fleet charging and energy

management. This ecosystem brings together automobiles, energy, technology, finance and services.

Why EV Charging Is Becoming a Business Opportunity

The growth of electric vehicles is creating continuous demand for convenient charging. Businesses providing charging facilities can generate revenue while increasing the value of existing properties.

Example: A shopping centre can install EV chargers in its parking area, earning charging revenue while attracting EV users who may also shop or dine during the charging period. Hotels, offices, restaurants and housing societies can also offer charging as an additional service.

EV charging is therefore becoming more than a utility it is emerging as a commercial opportunity linked to location, convenience and customer experience.

The Real Value Lies in Location

In the charging business, the right location can be as important as the technology. Highways, residential areas, transport hubs and commercial centres can offer strong demand. Businesses can combine charging with other services.

Example: A highway charging centre with a café, convenience store and rest area can generate income from several activities while customers charge their vehicles.

The future of charging will depend on accessibility, speed, reliability and convenience.

Business Opportunities Beyond Charging Stations

The EV ecosystem offers opportunities far beyond installing charging points. Growing opportunities include charging station operations, charger installation and maintenance, battery swapping, charging-network management, EV fleet solutions, charging software, digital payment services, energy management, infrastructure consulting and charging-related parking services.

Example: A technology startup can develop an application that helps EV users locate nearby

chargers, check availability, make digital payments and track charging status. This shows that EV charging creates opportunities in software, finance and customer services.

A New Opportunity for Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs need not manufacture vehicles or charging equipment. They can build businesses around installation, maintenance, software and fleet charging.

Example: A startup can partner with housing societies to install and manage charging points, handle billing, provide maintenance and offer customer support. Entrepreneurs can also work with delivery companies and commercial fleets to create dedicated charging solutions.

The opportunity lies in identifying EV-related problems and creating practical solutions.

Career Opportunities for Students

The growing EV charging ecosystem is creating career opportunities across business, finance, technology, engineering, operations, and marketing. Growing opportunities include:

- EV Business Development Executive
- Charging Network Manager
- EV Operations Manager
- Energy Management Analyst
- EV Fleet Manager
- Financial Analyst
- Project Coordinator
- Sales and Marketing Executive
- Customer Experience Manager
- Sustainability Consultant
- Entrepreneur

Example: A commerce graduate can work in EV companies in finance, procurement, business development, operations, sales, project management or customer relations without having an engineering background.

The sector is creating careers where business knowledge and technology complement each other.

Skills Students Should Build

Students should develop:

- Business analytics
- Financial management
- Digital literacy
- Project management
- Supply chain knowledge



- Communication skills
- Entrepreneurial thinking

Understanding how technology solves business problems will be an advantage.

Tips for Professionals

Identifying opportunities, assessing demand, building partnerships, and staying updated can create a competitive advantage.

The Bigger Shift

The EV charging revolution represents more than a change in transportation. It signals a transformation in India's infrastructure and business models. Charging is moving beyond traditional fuel-station locations into homes, offices, malls, highways, parking facilities and commercial spaces.

The future of electric mobility will depend not only on EV sales, but also on how conveniently they can be charged and managed.

The Take Away

India's EV charging economy is creating a new infrastructure opportunity at the intersection of mobility, energy, technology and commerce. As EV adoption grows, demand for charging networks, battery solutions, digital services and fleet infrastructure will create opportunities for businesses, entrepreneurs and professionals.

Because in tomorrow's mobility economy, success will belong not only to those who build electric vehicles but to those who build the infrastructure that keeps them moving.

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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.

INDIAN PATRIOTIC
LITERATURE: WHEN WORDS
BECAME WEAPONS

Indian literature has always been more than an expression of artistic imagination. During the freedom struggle, it became a powerful voice of resistance, awakening, unity and hope. When political freedom was denied, poets, novelists, playwrights and songwriters used language to awaken the spirit of nationalism and inspire people to challenge colonial rule.

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's "Vande Mataram" occupies a special place in this literary history. Originally appearing in Anandamath, the song transformed the image of the motherland into a powerful symbol of devotion and resistance. In 2026, its legacy receives special significance as India commemorates 150 years of Vande Mataram.

Rabindranath Tagore brought together patriotism, humanism and universalism in his poetry and songs. His literary vision reminds us that love for one's country need not exclude respect for humanity. Muhammad Iqbal's "Sare Jahan Se Achha" became another enduring expression of affection for India. Subramania Bharati's fiery Tamil poetry encouraged courage, social reform and national awakening, while poets such as Sarojini Naidu gave Indian nationalism a lyrical and evocative voice.

Literature also recorded the sacrifices and struggles of ordinary people. The novels, poems, essays and songs of the period created a shared



emotional vocabulary for a diverse population. They helped people imagine India not merely as a geographical territory but as a collective cultural and moral idea.

The contribution of patriotic literature did not end with 15 August 1947. In independent India, literature continues to ask important questions: What does freedom mean? How do we preserve unity in diversity? How can education, equality, scientific progress and social justice strengthen the nation?

The spirit of patriotism today therefore extends beyond slogans. It lies in responsible citizenship, respect for the Constitution, compassion for fellow citizens, preservation of our cultural heritage and commitment to nation-building.

As India looks towards Viksit Bharat@2047, the words of our writers and poets continue to remind us that the making of a nation is an unfinished literary, cultural and social journey. The freedom fighters gave us political independence; every generation must give that freedom new meaning through its actions.

Literature gave voice to the freedom struggle. Today, let our lives become the voice of a responsible and progressive India.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Did you know that literature played a major role in creating national consciousness during India's freedom struggle?
- Songs, poems, novels, newspapers and patriotic writings travelled across linguistic and regional boundaries, helping people imagine themselves as part of a common national movement.
- Interestingly, 2026 marks 150 years of "Vande Mataram", and the song is being specially commemorated during the 80th Independence Day celebrations. The Government of India has announced that Vande Mataram will be rendered at the Red Fort as part of the 2026 Independence Day celebrations.

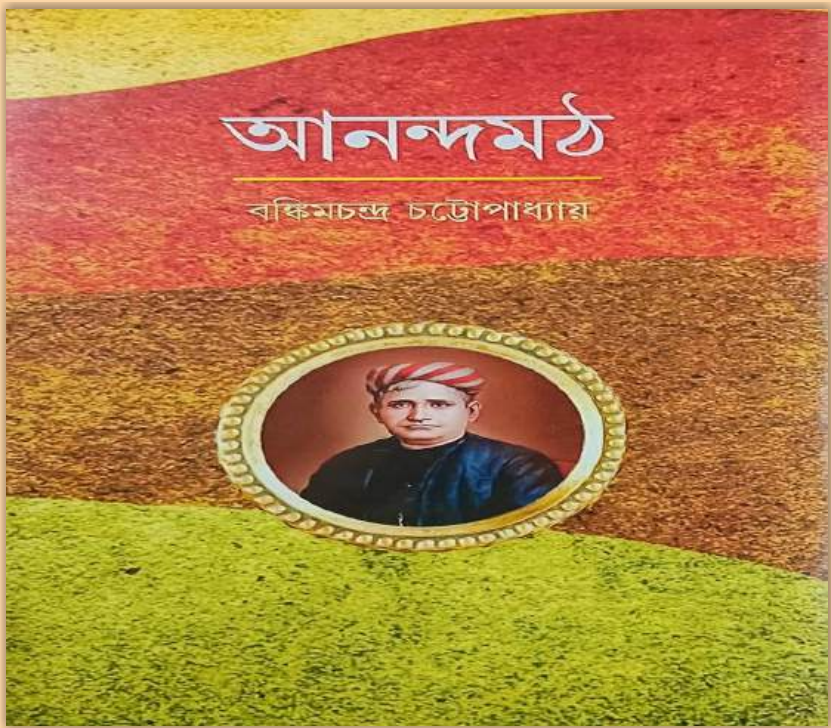
POET OF THE WEEK

Sarojini Naidu — The Nightingale of India

Sarojini Naidu was one of India's most celebrated poets and freedom fighters. Her poetry combined musical language, Indian imagery and a deep love for her country. Her collections such as The Golden Threshold, The Bird of Time and The Broken Wing established her as an important voice in Indian English literature. At the same time, she actively participated in India's freedom movement and became the first Indian woman president of the Indian National Congress. Her literary and public life beautifully demonstrates how the power of words can become a force for social and national awakening.

BOOK REVIEW

Anandamath — Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay



Anandamath is one of the most significant works associated with the literary history of Indian nationalism. Set against the backdrop of the Sannyasi Rebellion, the novel portrays a struggle for freedom and sacrifice. Its enduring importance is closely connected with "Vande Mataram," which first appeared in the novel.

The work demonstrates how fiction can transform historical and political experiences into powerful cultural memory. Anandamath therefore remains an important text for understanding the relationship between literature, nationalism and the imagination of the Indian nation.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people."

— Mahatma Gandhi

CREATIVE WRITING

Where the Mind is Without Fear

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls;
Where words come out from the depth of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;
Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action—
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

Poetry by
Rabindranath Tagore,
from Gitanjali

WORD OF THE WEEK

Patriotism
Meaning: Love, devotion and commitment to one's country.
Literary usage: True patriotism is expressed not merely through words but through responsible action and service to the nation

LITERARY TRIBUTE

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay — "Vande Mataram"
Rabindranath Tagore — "Where the Mind is Without Fear"
Muhammad Iqbal — "Sare Jahan Se Achha"
Sarojini Naidu — "The Gift of India"
Subramania Bharati — Patriotic Tamil Poetry

Together, these voices remind us that India's freedom was not only fought on the battlefield or in political movements; it was also imagined, articulated and emotionally experienced through literature.

MESSAGE OF THE SPECIAL EDITION

Let us read the words that awakened a nation,
remember the lives that secured our freedom,
and write through our actions the next chapter of India's journey.

वन्दे मातरम् | जय हिन्द

PM MODI URGES FARMERS TO TURN INDIA'S FTAS INTO GLOBAL AGRO BRANDS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on farmers and agro-processors to make the best use of opportunities opened up by free trade agreements to turn Indian farm products into global brands. India has signed nine FTAs in recent years, many focused on easing access for Indian farm goods, including processed food.



Speaking from the Red Fort during his 80th Independence Day address, PM Modi said global markets were now open to Indian farmers because of these FTAs, urging traditional foods, millets, spices, fruits and flowers to become international brands. He also called for chemical-free farming as part of his seven commitments, saying global demand for such products would keep growing.

PM Modi added that meeting global quality parameters would help Indian agro products reach the world more easily.

On fertiliser costs, he said the government had shielded farmers from surging global prices: urea costing ₹3,000 per bag internationally is still sold to Indian farmers for ₹300, while DAP priced at ₹5,000 abroad is provided for ₹1,350.

India's fertiliser subsidy is projected to exceed ₹2.4 trillion in FY27, well above the budgeted ₹1.7 trillion, driven by a price spike linked to the West Asia war.

AMID THE RUBBLE, SMALL PLOTS AND GREENHOUSES GIVE GAZA'S FARMERS A WAY BACK

In central Gaza's Nuseirat camp, 50-year-old Mohammad al-Halabi tends tomato and eggplant seedlings on a rented 300-square-metre plot, trying to reclaim the farming life he once had with his father in northern Gaza's Jabalia. He once farmed roughly ten acres growing strawberries, tomatoes and flowers, but his land was bulldozed by Israeli forces in February 2024 and is now covered in rubble and war debris. His small plot yields barely enough to feed his family, yet he says watching a plant fruit reminds him he can still farm.



The destruction is vast: over 87 percent of Gaza's agricultural land has been destroyed, along with 8,700 wells and nearly 7,750 livestock farms, while annual produce output has collapsed from 524,000 tonnes to about 20,000.

Others are similarly rebuilding. Mohammad al-Jadba, 40, lost access to his farmland after it fell behind Gaza's "Yellow Line," so he rented land in Deir el-Balah, building a greenhouse with Belgian development funding. His monthly income has since reached around \$1,015, and he now employs two previously jobless farmers.

Officials warn that even farmers who return to their land face rehabilitation of soil, water systems and equipment before real production can resume.

MANGOES, RICE AND SPICES: WHY INDIA'S FARM EXPORTS ARE HITTING GLOBAL ROADBLOCKS

India's agricultural exports are facing mounting rejections abroad. In March, Japanese inspectors raised concerns over sterilisation procedures at a Lucknow facility, prompting Japan to suspend imports of mango shipments certified after March 25, the first major disruption in nearly two decades of trade. The halt hit six approved mango varieties during peak export season, costing farmers who had invested heavily to meet Japan's standards.



In April, China revoked licences for three Indian rice exporters after customs rejected shipments over alleged GMO traces, despite the consignments carrying GMO-free certification. Rice makes up over a fifth of India's farm exports.

Separately, Hong Kong suspended Indian spice products over pesticide residues, while the EU raised inspection frequency on Indian cumin following 312 spice alerts in 2024.

Experts point to a fragmented supply chain where pesticide records

vanish after the first sale, alongside just 207 registered pack houses and cold-chain costs eating up roughly 15 percent of export value nearly double advanced nations. With smallholders under two hectares making up over 86 percent of cultivators, standardising quality remains difficult.

Despite being the world's second-largest agricultural producer, India holds just 2.4 percent of global agri-exports, (share) officials say, as competitors like Thailand and Vietnam race ahead on traceability.

TOP COURT BACKS PEPSICO'S LAY'S POTATO PATENT, BUT LEAVES DOOR OPEN FOR FARMERS SUED UNDER IT

The Supreme Court has declined to revoke PepsiCo India's registration of its FL 2027 (FC-5) potato variety, used to make Lay's chips, while clarifying that farmers sued by the company can still invoke statutory protections.



A bench of justices JB Pardiwala and K Vinod Chandran ruled that PepsiCo's registration could not be revoked under Section 34(h) of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act merely because the company had sued Gujarat farmers for infringement. (share) However, the court clarified that individual farmers can still invoke protection under Section 39(1)(iv) of the Act if PepsiCo takes them to court.

The case traces back to 2018-2019, when PepsiCo India sued at least nine potato farmers in Gujarat for alleged infringement, seeking over Rs 1 crore in damages from each, before withdrawing all cases unconditionally in May 2019. Activist Kavitha Kuruganti then sought revocation of the

registration; the authority revoked it in December 2021, a single-judge Delhi High Court bench upheld that in 2023, but a Division Bench reversed it in January 2024, leading to the Supreme Court appeal.

Kuruganti called the verdict "deeply disappointing," saying the Bench upheld farmers' rights "in letter but not in spirit" by requiring farmers to prove their rights in court rather than treating PepsiCo's lawsuits as a public interest violation.

UK'S HISTORIC DROUGHT LAYS BARE A FRAGILE FOOD SYSTEM, EXPERTS PUSH FOR 25-YEAR RESILIENCE PLAN



Britain is facing a severe drought, with England and Wales receiving just 9-10 per cent of normal July rainfall, making it England's driest July since records began in 1836, and a fifth heatwave already forecast. Coming on top of war-driven price shocks, the crisis is shifting public concern from cost alone to food supply security.

The impact is significant: yields for wheat, spring barley and oats are running below the ten-year average, with a thinktank estimating drought-related losses could cost UK arable farmers £390 million, while collapsed grass growth is forcing livestock farmers to buy expensive feed. Wildlife is also suffering, as stressed rivers, wildfires and heat threaten pollinators, fish, birds and mammals.

Farming unions are demanding looser restrictions on building farm reservoirs and tax breaks to encourage climate adaptation, while the government's Climate Change Committee warns the UK isn't prepared for future warming.

The author argues short-term fixes like hosepipe bans aren't enough. Drawing on a "Roadmap for Resilience" project, they call for a 25-year transformation covering resilient farming, smarter land use, and affordable healthy diets, backed by clear strategy, accountability, and genuine involvement from farmers, food companies and communities, rather than continued crisis management.

UTTAR PRADESH MOVES TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED YOUTH POLICY

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to prepare an integrated youth policy aimed at creating better opportunities in education, employment and skill development for young people across the state. The proposed policy is expected to provide a coordinated framework for addressing the educational, professional and social needs of the youth.



self-employment and supporting young entrepreneurs. The Chief Minister stressed that the policy should benefit youth in both urban and rural areas. Better access to training, digital resources and employment-related programmes can help reduce regional disparities and improve economic participation among young people.

The integrated approach is intended to bring various youth-focused schemes under a common framework and improve their implementation. By linking education, skills and employment, the Uttar Pradesh government aims to empower its young population and strengthen their contribution to the state's economic and social development.

BIHAR FORMS PANEL TO IMPROVE SCHOOL EDUCATION

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary has announced the formation of a state-level committee to improve the quality of education in schools across the state. The announcement was made during a two-day state-level workshop organised by the Education Department on August 9, 2026. The initiative aims to make education more qualitative, student-centric, transparent and technology-driven.

established to address issues affecting students, while dedicated support camps will allow students to directly raise their educational grievances with government officials.

The move comes as Bihar continues to focus on strengthening its school education system. Earlier, the state launched live classes for government higher-secondary students and introduced model schools aimed at providing quality education and better preparation for competitive examinations.

The new panel is expected to bring greater accountability and consistency to school education. If implemented effectively, the initiative could help improve teaching quality, student learning outcomes and the overall educational environment in Bihar.

SWAYAM STRENGTHENS HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH CREDIT-BASED LEARNING

The Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) has emerged as an important platform for transforming higher education in India. According to the government, more than 450 universities and higher educational institutions (HEIs) have adopted the SWAYAM framework, allowing students to earn academic credits through online courses.



Under the framework, higher educational institutions can permit students to earn up to 40% of their academic credits in a semester through SWAYAM courses. This initiative provides students with greater flexibility and access to quality learning resources beyond the traditional classroom environment. Learners can choose courses from reputed institutions and study at their own pace.

The expansion of SWAYAM is also expected to promote digital education and improve learning opportunities for students across the country. It can be particularly beneficial for students who want to explore subjects that may not be offered by their own institutions.

ODISHA STRENGTHENS ANTI-RAGGING AND STUDENT GRIEVANCE SYSTEMS

The Odisha government has directed higher educational institutions across the state to revive and strengthen their anti-ragging committees and student grievance redressal systems. The move comes ahead of the new academic session, with authorities stressing the need to ensure safe, respectful and student-friendly campuses.



Institutions have been asked to ensure that anti-ragging committees, squads and monitoring cells are properly constituted and remain active. They must also maintain vigilance in campuses and hostels and periodically review their preventive measures. Student representatives and other required members should be included in these panels to make them more effective and accessible.

The government has also emphasised the importance of functioning grievance mechanisms through which students can safely report ragging, harassment and other concerns. Odisha's higher education system already provides a grievance-management facility where students

HARYANA TO STRENGTHEN STUDENT RESEARCH THROUGH MODERN LABS AND INNOVATION HUBS



Haryana Chief Minister has emphasised the need to strengthen research and innovation among students by establishing modern laboratories and innovation hubs across educational institutions in the state. The initiative aims to provide young learners with better facilities to experiment, develop new ideas and find practical solutions to real-world problems.

The Chief Minister said that educational institutions should move beyond traditional classroom teaching and encourage students to adopt scientific thinking and creativity. Modern laboratories equipped with advanced technology will give students opportunities to conduct experiments, gain practical knowledge and develop technical skills. Innovation hubs, meanwhile, will serve as platforms where students can work on projects, exchange ideas and explore emerging technologies.

The government is also focusing on creating an environment that encourages research and entrepreneurship among young people. Such facilities can help students transform innovative concepts into useful products and services. Greater collaboration between educational institutions, industries and research organisations is expected to further strengthen this ecosystem.

The initiative is particularly significant as Haryana continues to expand its focus on skill development and technology-driven education. Providing students with access to modern infrastructure can help prepare them for future careers in science, engineering, technology and other emerging fields.

The Chief Minister urged educational institutions to actively promote innovation and ensure that students receive adequate support for their research projects. The move is expected to nurture a culture of experimentation, creativity and problem-solving among Haryana's youth.

FROM INDIAN GIANTS TO GLOBAL CHAMPIONS: MODI SETS AMBITIOUS TARGET OF 50 FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES

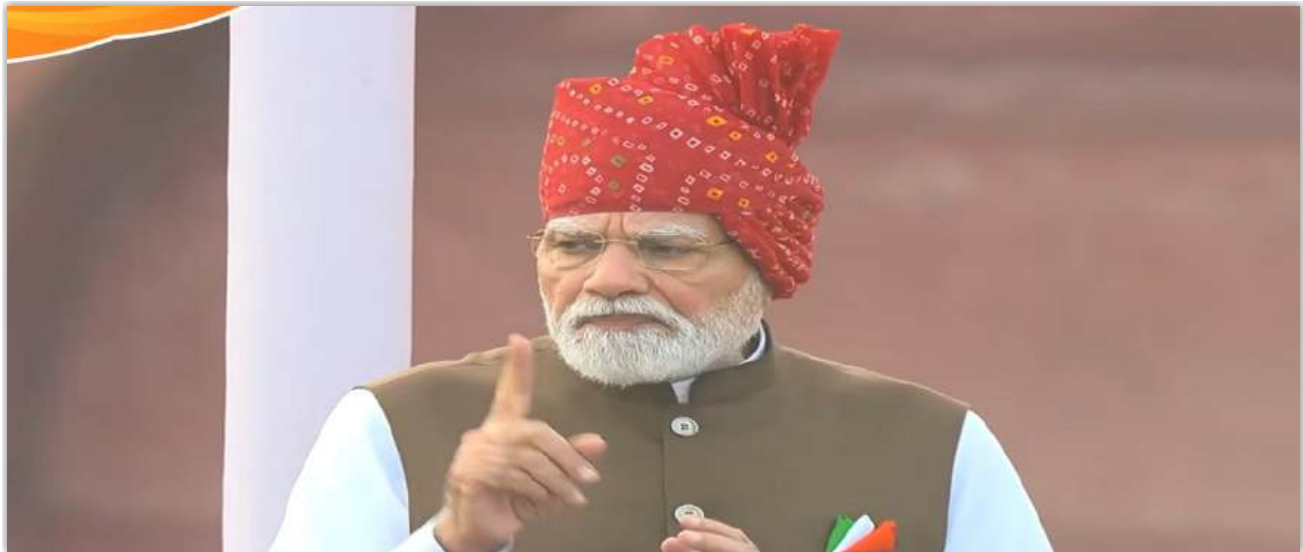
India's economic ambitions are entering a new phase, with the focus shifting from building a large domestic economy to creating companies capable of competing and leading on the global stage. In his Independence Day address from the Red Fort on August 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi set an ambitious target of having 50 Indian companies feature in the Fortune 500 list, calling on Indian businesses to think beyond conventional limits and expand their international footprint.

The target is significant because the Fortune 500 is widely regarded as a measure of corporate scale and global business strength. Reaching 50 companies on the list would require Indian enterprises to grow substantially in size, revenues, productivity and international reach. The message from the Red Fort was therefore not simply about adding more large companies; it was about creating a generation of globally competitive Indian businesses capable of shaping markets rather than merely participating in them.

The call comes at a time when India's corporate landscape is becoming increasingly diverse. Large conglomerates have expanded into infrastructure, energy, technology, manufacturing and financial services, while a growing group of startups and mid-sized enterprises is entering international markets. The next challenge is to convert this momentum into sustained global scale. That means Indian companies will have to invest more aggressively in research, technology, branding, skilled manpower and overseas operations while maintaining the quality and competitiveness of their products.

The Prime Minister's broader economic message also placed greater

emphasis on manufacturing and exports. India's expanding network of free-trade agreements provides domestic companies with opportunities to access new markets, but those opportunities will matter only if businesses can meet international standards on quality, cost, reliability and innovation. The government has increasingly sought to create an environment in which Indian manufacturers can integrate themselves into global supply chains rather than remain dependent on the domestic market.



The ambition extends beyond manufacturing. During the address, the Prime Minister also called for an Indian bank to enter the world's top five and for an Indian pharmaceutical company to feature among the global top five. These targets together indicate a broader aspiration: India should not merely have the world's largest population or one of its largest economies, but should also have institutions and companies that rank among the best globally.

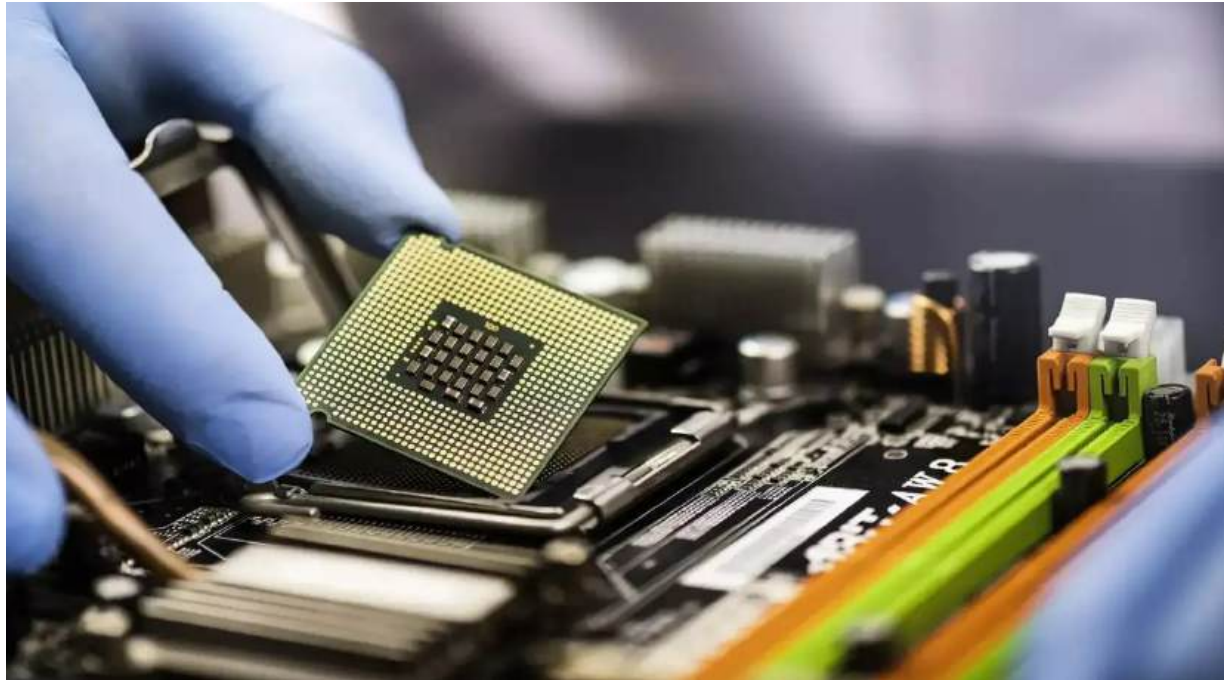
For Indian businesses, this could create a new competitive mindset. A

company seeking a place among the world's largest enterprises cannot rely solely on scale at home. It must develop globally recognised brands, build resilient supply chains, adopt advanced technologies and continuously improve productivity. Artificial intelligence, semiconductors, clean energy, pharmaceuticals, defence manufacturing and digital services are among the sectors where Indian firms could potentially find new international opportunities.

Small and medium enterprises will also have an important role in this transformation. India's large corporations depend on extensive networks of suppliers, technology firms and specialised manufacturers. If these smaller businesses become more productive and globally connected, they can strengthen the entire corporate ecosystem and create a pipeline of future large companies.

The target of 50 Fortune 500 companies may appear distant, but its real importance lies in the direction it establishes. India is increasingly moving from the mindset of becoming a major market to becoming a country that creates globally influential enterprises. The Fortune 500 goal, therefore, is more than a corporate ranking exercise. It is a call for Indian industry to match the country's growing economic weight with global corporate influence. If businesses respond with larger investments, better technology and greater international ambition, the next two decades could see the emergence of an entirely new generation of Indian companies that carry not only an Indian identity, but also a truly global footprint.

FROM IMPORTED CHIPS TO A SEMICONDUCTOR POWERHOUSE: INDIA EYES 5–8 MORE PLANTS IN THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS



India's semiconductor ambitions received a major push on Independence Day, with the country setting its sights on a much larger domestic chip manufacturing ecosystem over the coming years. Addressing the nation from the Red Fort on August 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India has already started production at three semiconductor plants and indicated that another five to eight facilities could become operational over the next seven to eight years. The announcement signals that semiconductors are moving from being a specialised industrial project to becoming a central pillar of India's broader economic and technological strategy.

The significance of this ambition goes well beyond the electronics industry. Semiconductors are the basic building blocks of smartphones,

automobiles, computers, telecommunications equipment, defence systems, medical devices and artificial intelligence infrastructure. As countries increasingly view access to advanced chips as a matter of economic and strategic security, India's effort to develop domestic capacity could reduce vulnerabilities created by dependence on overseas suppliers.

The Prime Minister's Independence Day message placed semiconductor manufacturing within a much wider vision of self-reliance. India has already moved from assembling finished electronic products towards producing increasingly sophisticated components. The next step is to establish a complete ecosystem covering chip design, fabrication, assembly, testing, packaging, specialised materials and equipment. If the proposed facilities materialise, they could help India move from being primarily a large consumer of semiconductor-enabled products to becoming an important producer within the global chip supply chain.

The emerging semiconductor clusters could also create an economic ripple effect. A large chip plant rarely functions in isolation. It requires specialised chemicals, precision machinery, testing laboratories, logistics services, engineering companies, clean-room technology and highly trained manpower. As more facilities are established, supporting businesses and technology startups could develop around them, creating a network of industrial activity and employment. This is particularly significant for India's young workforce, which is expected to play a central role in the country's technology-led growth.

The semiconductor push is also closely connected with the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence. The government has announced a programme to provide AI training to one crore young Indians within a year,

reflecting an attempt to prepare the workforce for an economy increasingly driven by advanced computing and automation. The combination of domestic chips and a skilled technology workforce could give Indian companies greater opportunities to develop AI applications, electronics and next-generation digital products within the country.

Yet, the road to becoming a semiconductor powerhouse will not be straightforward. Chip manufacturing demands huge investments, uninterrupted power and water supplies, sophisticated infrastructure, highly skilled engineers and long-term technological partnerships. Global competition is also intense, with established semiconductor economies possessing decades of experience. India will therefore need policy consistency, strong research capabilities and close cooperation between government, industry and educational institutions.

The timing, however, is favourable. Global companies are increasingly seeking diversified supply chains, while India already possesses strong capabilities in software, engineering services, electronics design and a large domestic market. The challenge is to connect these strengths with manufacturing capabilities and gradually develop a self-sustaining semiconductor ecosystem. If India can successfully convert today's announcements into sustained production, skilled jobs and indigenous innovation, the chip may well become one of the most important symbols of the country's economic transformation towards 2047.

EXPERT



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Q. How to reduce excessive expectations?

Ans. Excessive expectations are one of the major causes of stress, disappointment, anxiety, and depression. People often expect perfect results from themselves, appreciation from others, immediate success, or complete control over life situations. When reality does not match these expectations, negative emotions such as frustration, sadness, anger, and hopelessness arise. Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), especially the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, provide practical guidance for reducing excessive expectations while remaining motivated and responsible.

1) Focus on Effort Rather Than Results: The Bhagavad Gita teaches the principle of Nishkama Karma perform your duties sincerely without becoming attached to the outcome. Instead of constantly asking, "Will I succeed?", ask "Have I given

my best effort?" When attention shifts from results to actions, stress naturally decreases. Results depend on many factors beyond personal control, but effort always remains within our control. For example, a student should focus on studying consistently rather than worrying continuously about examination marks.

2) Accept That Not Everything Is Under Your Control: Many expectations arise because people assume they can control every outcome. In reality, success depends on preparation, opportunities, timing, circumstances, and the actions of others. Accepting uncertainty helps reduce unnecessary anxiety. Doing one's duty sincerely while accepting whatever result follows creates emotional balance and resilience.

3) Set Realistic Goals: High ambitions are valuable, but unrealistic expectations often create disappointment. Instead of expecting: Immediate success, Perfect performance, Constant happiness, set achievable and gradual goals. Breaking a large goal into smaller milestones creates motivation and reduces pressure.

4) Avoid Comparing Yourself with Others: Comparison is a major source of unrealistic expectations. Social media often creates the illusion that everyone else is happier, wealthier, or more successful. Constant comparison leads individuals to expect similar achievements within unrealistic timeframes. Indian philosophy teaches that every individual has a unique Dharma (life path). Success should therefore be measured by personal growth rather than by comparison with others.

5) Practice Gratitude: Excessive expectations usually arise from focusing on what is lacking. Gratitude shifts attention toward what already exists. Daily reflection on blessings family, health, education, friendships, opportunities, and personal strengths creates contentment (Santosha), an important value in Indian philosophy. Grateful people generally experience lower stress and greater emotional well-being.

6) Develop Contentment (Santosha): Indian wisdom considers Santosha (contentment) one of the highest virtues. Contentment does not mean giving up ambition. Instead, it means appreciating the present while working steadily toward future goals. A contented person continues striving for excellence without becoming emotionally dependent on external achievements.

7) Reduce Dependence on External Validation: Many expectations revolve around wanting appreciation, praise, recognition, or approval. When appreciation is not received, disappointment follows. Instead, develop intrinsic motivation by asking: Did I act honestly? Did I perform my duty

sincerely? Did I improve compared to yesterday? Self-respect is more stable than external approval.

8) Practice Mindfulness and Meditation: Meditation trains the mind to remain in the present rather than worrying about future outcomes. When people become mindful, they recognize unrealistic expectations before they grow into anxiety. Regular meditation: reduces overthinking, improves emotional regulation, increases acceptance, develops inner peace.

9) Accept Imperfection: Perfectionism often creates impossible expectations. Nobody performs perfectly all the time. Mistakes should be viewed as opportunities for learning rather than evidence of failure. The Bhagavad Gita encourages continuous self-improvement rather than perfection.

10) Strengthen Emotional Resilience: Life naturally contains success and failure, praise and criticism, gain and loss. The Bhagavad Gita advises maintaining equanimity during both pleasant and unpleasant situations. Emotionally resilient individuals recover more quickly from disappointments because they understand that circumstances constantly change.

11) Serve Others (Seva): Helping others shifts attention away from personal expectations. Acts of kindness increase empathy, gratitude, and life satisfaction. Selfless service reminds individuals that true happiness often comes from contributing to society rather than constantly seeking personal rewards.

12) Build Healthy Relationships: Communicate expectations clearly and realistically. Many interpersonal conflicts arise because people expect others to understand their thoughts without communication. Healthy relationships are strengthened through understanding, forgiveness, patience, and mutual respect rather than unrealistic demands.

13) Recognize That Happiness Is an Inner State: Indian philosophy teaches that lasting happiness comes from inner peace rather than external achievements. Money, promotions, grades, or recognition provide temporary satisfaction. Inner qualities such as wisdom, compassion, self-control, gratitude, and purpose create more enduring happiness.

14) Learn from Every Experience: Instead of viewing unmet expectations as failures, consider them opportunities for growth. Ask yourself: What did I learn? What can I improve? How can this experience make me stronger? This growth mindset reduces disappointment and encourages resilience.

15) Seek Professional Help When Needed: Sometimes persistent disappointment, unrealistic expectations, and hopelessness may be symptoms of anxiety or depression. If excessive expectations are causing severe emotional distress, interfere with daily functioning, or lead to persistent sadness, consulting a qualified mental health professional is important. Indian practices such as yoga, meditation, and spiritual reflection can complement but should not replace professional care when needed.

Reducing excessive expectations does not mean lowering one's aspirations; rather, it means developing a balanced and realistic approach to life. The Bhagavad Gita teaches that individuals should perform their duties with sincerity, remain detached from outcomes, cultivate contentment, and maintain emotional balance in both success and failure. By practicing Nishkama Karma, Dharma, Santosha, gratitude, mindfulness, and selfless service, individuals can free themselves from unnecessary stress and disappointment. Such an attitude not only improves mental health but also fosters resilience, inner peace, and lasting happiness. Wish you much and more, stay blessed!

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MANIFEST: THE POWER TOOL MOST PEOPLE OVERLOOK

Manifestation is a real power tool, yet many people don't fully understand how to use it. It's often dismissed as vague, mystical thinking, wishing hard enough for something and expecting it to appear. But strip away the spiritual packaging, and manifestation is really about something far more practical: mental rehearsal. And that practical version is backed by both athletes and psychologists alike.

Think about a moment that makes most people anxious, standing backstage before a big presentation, or preparing to speak in front of a thousand people. The palms sweat, the mind races, the nerves take over. This is exactly where manifestation becomes useful, not as magic, but as preparation.

Here's how it works. Before the event, close your eyes and manifest the experience in detail. Picture yourself walking toward the stage. See yourself meeting the host, exchanging a few words, feeling steady. Imagine the exact way you'll speak, your tone, your pace, your posture. Picture yourself interacting with the audience, sensing their attention, responding to their energy. Walk through the entire scene in your mind before it happens in reality.

When you do this with enough detail and repetition, something interesting happens: your brain begins to construct that scene as if it's real. Neuroscience backs this up, the brain doesn't fully distinguish between a vividly imagined experience and an actual one. The same neural pathways that fire when you perform an action also fire, to a lesser degree, when you intensely visualize performing it. This is why elite athletes visualize their races before running them, and why musicians mentally rehearse a

performance before walking on stage. They aren't hoping for good luck. They're training their brain and body to already feel familiar with success before it happens.

That's the real mechanism behind manifestation. You're not manifesting an outcome out of thin air, you're manifesting your own action. You are rehearsing your response, your composure, your voice, your presence, so that when the real moment arrives, it feels less like the unknown and more like something you've already done before. The nervousness has less power over you because part of your mind has already been there.

But there's a crucial detail that makes this practice work: your aim has to be crystal clear. Vague visualization produces vague results. If you simply imagine feeling "successful" without picturing specifics, your brain has nothing concrete to rehearse. The clearer the mental image, the exact walk, the exact words, the exact tone, the more precisely your brain can prepare for it. Clarity is what turns imagination into rehearsal, and rehearsal into readiness.

When your aim is clear, you'll know exactly where you are in relation to it. You won't be guessing whether you're on track, you'll be able to sense the gap between where you stand now and the version of yourself you've already rehearsed becoming.

So the next time nerves creep in before something big, don't just hope for the best. Close your eyes, walk through it with intention, and manifest it clearly. Your mind will start believing it before your body ever steps on stage.



YOU'RE NOT BEHIND: YOU'RE STILL DISCOVERING



What if a person doesn't have an aim in their life? Does that make them aimless, or worse, irresponsible? It's a question worth sitting with, because so many of us carry a quiet guilt about not having it all figured out.

The truth is, everyone on this planet is different. Some people seem to know exactly what they want from an early age, the career, the passion, the five-year plan. Others spend years trying to figure it out, testing paths, changing their minds, starting over. And some people, honestly, feel completely clueless, with no clear sense of direction at all. All three of these are normal. None of them make a person less capable or less worthy than the others.

If you're eighteen, or even older, and you still don't know what you want, that's okay. Society often pushes the idea that by a certain age you should have a plan, a purpose, a five-year vision. But clarity doesn't arrive on schedule. For most people, it comes gradually, through experience, not through pressure. The advice, then, isn't to force an answer before you're ready, it's simply to try different things and to work on yourself in the meantime.

But that raises a fair question: how do you work on yourself when you don't even know what you're working toward? The answer is that self-improvement doesn't require a destination. It starts with small, consistent habits that build discipline and self-awareness regardless of where you end up.

Waking up early is one of them. So is moving your body, running, exercising, giving yourself a little physical momentum before the day even starts. Planning your day, even loosely, helps too. When you structure your time intentionally, you naturally start noticing what you're drawn to and what drains you, what you're good at and what simply doesn't interest you. That awareness is direction forming in real time, even if it doesn't feel like

it yet.

Other habits matter just as much: reading regularly, eating food that actually nourishes you, and building a routine you can return to even on hard days. These aren't glamorous goals. They won't hand you a life purpose overnight. But they create the conditions in which purpose can eventually surface.

And then there's journaling, writing down your thoughts, your doubts, your small wins. Its value isn't just in the writing itself, but in the rereading. Go back to what you wrote weeks or months later, and you'll often see something you couldn't see in the moment: patterns in your thinking, the things you were circling without realizing it, and sometimes, the opportunities or moments you let slip by. That's when clarity starts to catch up with you.

So if you don't have an aim right now, don't rush to invent one just to feel settled. Keep showing up for yourself in small ways. The direction tends to reveal itself to those who keep moving, not to those who wait for certainty first.

'THUDAKKAM': FEMALE LED MALAYALAM FILM BECOMES A MASSIVE HIT

Vismaya Mohanlal and Ashish Joe Antony's co-directed film 'Thudakkam' is making waves at the box office, quickly emerging as one of the most successful female led Malayalam films in recent times. Released on August 7, the thriller features a stellar ensemble cast including veteran actors Sai Kumar, Manoj K. Jayan, K. B. Ganesh Kumar, Boban Alummoodan / Bobby Kurian, Kottayam Ramesh, Jaya Kurup and Jaffar Idukki alongside a high impact cameo appearance by Mohanlal. In addition to its domestic run, the film received a wide international roll out across the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other overseas markets. It opened strongly, earning an estimated ₹68 million (₹6.8 crore) worldwide on its opening weekend powered by a ₹20 million (₹2 crore) domestic haul across over 1,102 screens in India. Notably, Thudakkam collected ₹3 crore on Day 3, bringing the total overseas gross to 11.4 crore. This brings the worldwide gross collection to ₹23.7 crore. Further in the first week the film had an earning of ₹31.7 crore. It has crossed the collections of 'Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra'. For Vismaya Mohanlal, this remarkable box office reception marks an auspicious debut and sets an exciting trajectory for her directorial career.



INDIA TO PURSUE PREFERENTIAL TRADE PACTS OVER FTAS WITH DEVELOPING NATIONS

India will pursue Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) rather than full-fledged Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with developing economies such as South Africa, opting for a calibrated approach that opens up only select product categories rather than deep, across-the-board market access, according to a senior government official. The official told ANI that South Africa is not a highly developed economy and a full FTA would require a much deeper opening up of the Indian market, a move that may not necessarily serve India's interests. Instead, India has decided to pursue a PTA route, under which both sides will identify specific products of mutual strength and interest: South Africa will get market access in areas where it has strengths, while India will secure access to products of its own interest. The government is also moving ahead with PTA negotiations with Mercosur, the South American trade bloc comprising Brazil and other member nations. Discussions are also being explored for a possible PTA with Mexico and Kenya, while Ecuador has independently approached India expressing interest in a full FTA. In Chile, the official said the Commerce Secretary is scheduled to travel to the country by the end of August or next month to assess whether a mutually beneficial deal can be reached.



STATES TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION ON UNAPPROVED ENCLOMIPHENE DRUG FORMULATIONS

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) on August 10 directed all State and Union Territory Drugs Controllers to identify manufacturers, marketers, distributors and retailers dealing in unapproved drug products containing Enclomiphene and its combinations. The organisation warned against the unauthorized manufacturing and marketing of these formulations without prior approval from the Central Licensing Authority (CLA). The CDSCO clarified that Enclomiphene falls squarely within the definition of a "New Drug" under Rule 2(1)(w) read with Rule 19 of the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019 which mandates explicit permission from the CLA before any manufacture for sale or distribution can take place. State regulators were instructed to initiate appropriate regulatory action under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and its associated rules including the suspension or cancellation of manufacturing permissions where applicable. The CDSCO also instructed authorities to ensure that such unapproved formulations are neither manufactured nor marketed within their respective jurisdictions demanding the submission of a detailed action taken report covering identified entities, regulatory steps taken and current compliance status at the earliest.



GOOGLE DRIVE ENDS DIRECT DESKTOP BACKUP TO GOOGLE PHOTOS

The Google Drive desktop app no longer supports automatic syncing directly to Google Photos as of August 10. New media added to local computer folders will no longer automatically sync to Google Photos through the Google Drive application. Google has specified that after August 10, users must back up their photos and videos directly to Google Photos rather than relying on Google Drive, as the direct background connection between the two services has been discontinued. However, the company confirmed that any photos or videos uploaded prior to this date remain completely safe and intact. Standard file and folder backups within Google Drive itself are unaffected by the removal of this feature. To back up new media, users can click the "+" (Create/Upload) button on the Google Photos web interface, select "Back up folders" and choose the computer folders they want to back up, followed by granting photo permissions choosing either Allow or Allow on every visit. Backups will occur automatically but only if you keep either the Google Photos website or its dedicated web app open. Users can also select "Import from Google Drive" to transfer media manually from Drive into Google Photos.



NASA INVITES ISRO TO JOIN LUNAR MISSION

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has invited the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to join the Moon Base programme, building on the two countries' partnership under the Artemis Accords. The formal invitation was made to ISRO during the recently held India-U.S. Civil Space Joint Working Group (CSJWG) in Bengaluru. A statement read by the US Embassy to India was that the meeting advanced civil and commercial space cooperation under the U.S.-India Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology (TRUST) Initiative, in line with the February 2025 Joint Leaders' Statement issued by Prime Minister Modi and President Trump. As per the statement, they reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) guidelines on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, as well as reviewed ongoing multilateral efforts for ensuring the Committee's effectiveness. On the invitation sent to ISRO, the statement said that the NASA invited ISRO to join its Moon Base program, building on the two countries' partnership under the Artemis Accords. The two sides also agreed to advance discussions for cooperation on open scientific data sharing under the Accords.



DISRUPTED MONSOONS OF INDIA FORCE TO FACE CLIMATE THREAT

For generations, India has lived by the rhythm of the southwest monsoon. But with the country hit by dry spells, cloudbursts and deadly floods, climate swings now expose the costs of building for yesterday's weather. India's southwest monsoon usually arrives around June, bringing most of the country's annual rainfall, and begins to retreat by September. Its timing and intensity have always varied, but the broad pattern was predictable enough for farmers, cities and businesses to plan around it. Now, this natural rhythm increasingly seems like a thing of the past. More than 100 people have been killed across India since late July as heavy monsoon rains triggered floods, landslides and lightning strikes. The northeastern state of Assam has borne the brunt, with more than 120,000 people affected by flooding. Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar and Jharkhand have also reported deaths and widespread disruption. The problem is not necessarily that India is receiving more rain. It is the way the rain is arriving: longer dry spells are followed by short bursts of intense rainfall that can overwhelm rivers, drainage systems and hillsides. El Nino has added to this year's variability but scientists say the longer-term changes are being driven by a changing climate.



INDIAN PARA-CYCLISTS SHINE AT UCI PARASPORT DENMARK GRAND PRIX WITH 12-MEDAL HAUL

Indian para-cyclists put up an impressive show at the UCI Parasport Denmark Grand Prix in Odense, held from Aug 7 to 9, returning with a rich haul of 12 medals, including two gold, five silver and five bronze. Seventeen-year-old Gujarat cyclist Vishwa Vasani (WC3) was among the standout performers, winning four bronze medals in the 1km Individual Time Trial (ITT), Scratch Race, 200m Sprint and Elimination Race. Paralympian Arshad Shaikh (MC2) was India's most successful cyclist at the event, claiming six medals; two gold, three silver and one bronze, across various track events. His performances underlined his consistency on the international circuit. Sixteen-year-old Anshuman (MC1) added two silver medals to India's tally, marking another promising performance by one of the country's emerging para-cyclists. The three cyclists together pulled off what turned into a 12 medal haul for India, highlighting the country's growing presence in international para-cycling. All three cyclists train under chief coach Aditya Mehta, who has played a key role in identifying, developing and preparing Indian para-cyclists for international competitions. The performances in Odense also offered further evidence of the depth of talent emerging in Indian para-cycling, with experienced campaigners and young prospects making their mark on the international stage.



ASHISH YADAV WINS SILVER WITH 74.09M JAVELIN THROW AT WORLD ATHLETICS U-20 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ashish Yadav claimed India's first medal of the 2026 edition of the World Athletics U-20 Championships after bagging silver in the men's javelin throw in Oregon on Friday. Ashish sealed the podium finish with a 74.09m effort on his third throw in the final. He is now the second Indian to win a javelin medal at the U-20 Championships after Neeraj Chopra, who won gold in 2016. South Africa's Jan-Hendrik Heymans won gold in Oregon with a massive 80.50m throw, the best by a U-20 athlete this season. Heymans held the lead from his first throw and steadily increased his distance with each round, culminating in his first 80m-plus career throw. Meanwhile, Ashish started slowly, failing to go beyond 70m with his first two throws. But he found his rhythm with the third to secure the biggest medal of his career. Addison James of the Commonwealth of Dominica won the bronze with a 73.89m effort. T. Dharanidharan, the second Indian in the fray on Friday, finished sixth with a best throw of 72.35m.



MEGHWAL SECURE SILVER MEDAL IN HIGH JUMP AT WORLD U20 ATHLETICS

India recorded a historic day at the World Athletics U20 Championships in Eugene, Oregon, as Basant Kumar Meghwal secured a silver medal in the men's high jump final. Delivering a composed and calculated performance at Hayward Field, Meghwal became the first Indian athlete in the history of the junior global championships to stand on the high jump podium. The Rajasthan-born jumper navigated through the opening heights with solid rhythm and precision. He opened his card smoothly by clearing 2.06m on his first attempt, before overcoming 2.12m on his second try. Finding his momentum, Meghwal cleared 2.17m effortlessly on his very first attempt to firmly establish himself in contention for the top podium positions. The match reached its climax when the bar was raised to 2.21 metres. Meghwal matched his personal best by clearing the height on his second attempt, joining Algeria's Younes Ayachi who claimed the gold medal and Great Britain's Otis Poole as the only competitors to make the clearance. With the bar subsequently set at 2.24m, all three medal contenders failed their three respective attempts, bringing the final decision down to countback.



INDIA CLINCHES MAIDEN OVERALL TITLE AT COMMONWEALTH FENCING CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

In a landmark achievement for Indian sports, the national fencing contingent captured its first ever overall championship title at the Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2026. It was a 5 day championship held in Lagos, Nigeria. Team India topped the leaderboard with an unprecedented haul of 35 medals: 13 Gold, 8 Silver, and 14 Bronze officially earning the prestigious Wilkinson Sword Trophy, awarded to the top-performing nation. The four day campaign culminated in total dominance during the Senior Team competitions. Indian fencers captured five out of six gold medals across Men's and Women's Sabre, Men's and Women's Épee, and Women's Foil, along with a hard-fought silver in Men's Foil. Individual events laid the foundation for the historic victory. India opened Day 1 with 17 medals in U-23 events featuring a clean podium sweep in Men's Sabre led by gold medalist Nikhil Wagh. In the Senior individual division, stellar gold-medal performances by Tanishka Khatri, Kanaglakshmi, Rajendran Shanthimol Sherjin and Singh Karan Singh kept India ahead. Rajeev Mehta, Secretary General of the Fencing Association of India (FAI), lauded the athletes, coaches and support staff calling the historic championship a defining milestone that firmly establishes India as an emerging powerhouse in global fencing.



INDIAN WOMEN CLINCH GOLD AT WORLD ARCHERY KAA YOUTH INVITATIONAL 2026

In a major milestone for Indian archery, the Indian Under-21 Women's Recurve team secured the gold medal at the inaugural World Archery KAA Youth Invitational 2026. The championship was held in Incheon, South Korea from August 10 to 14. The elite tournament brought together top youth archers from prominent archery nations for high level joint training and matchplay. In the final clash on August 14, the Indian recurve unit delivered a standout performance to overcome tournament hosts South Korea (Korea A) with a commanding 5-3 set victory. The win highlighted India's growing dominance in recurve archery defeating traditional powerhouse Korea on home soil. The victory capped off a stellar showing for the Indian contingent in Incheon. Earlier in the tournament on August 13, the Indian Under-21 Women's Compound team earned a silver medal after an intense final against Chinese Taipei. The compound squad narrowly missed the top podium spot in a nail biting finish, falling by a single point with a scoreline of 228-229. A historic finish by the two teams underscore the depth and sharp precision of India's next generation of international archers.



SHAHNAVAZ KHAN CREATES HISTORY WITH LONG JUMP BRONZE AT WORLD U20 ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Shahnavaz Khan scripted history for India, by bagging the bronze medal in the men's long jump at the World Athletics U20 Championships 2026, held in Eugene, USA. The 18-year-old produced a best effort of 7.84m to secure a place on the podium, becoming the first Indian male athlete to win a long jump medal at the World Athletics U20 Championships. Italy's Daniele Leonardo Inzoli won the gold medal with a jump of 7.97m, while Australia's Mason McGroder claimed silver with a personal-best effort of 7.96m. Shahnavaz's bronze marks a significant milestone for Indian athletics. He became the first Indian man to win a long jump medal at the World Athletics U20 Championships. India had previously tasted success in the women's long jump at the competition when Shaili Singh won silver in 2021. At the senior World Athletics Championships, Anju Bobby George had won bronze in 2003. Shahnavaz's podium finish adds another major achievement to what has been an impressive season for the youngster. Earlier this year, he won gold at the Asian U20 Athletics Championships, also recording a 7.84m effort. He subsequently set a new national U20 record with a personal best of 8.30m at the National Inter-State Athletics Championship. However, he could not reproduce that mark in Eugene, with his best effort of 7.84m enough to secure the bronze medal.



SBI CLERK
RECRUITMENT 2026



The State Bank of India (SBI) has released the official notification for the recruitment of 9,766 Junior Associate (Customer Support & Sales) posts in the clerical cadre across various circles in India.

- Key Highlights**
- Organization: State Bank of India (SBI)
 - Post Name: Junior Associate (Customer Support & Sales)
 - Total Vacancies: 9,766 Posts
 - Regular Vacancies: 7,680
 - Backlog Vacancies: 2,086
 - Category: Banking Recruitment
 - Application Mode: Online

Educational Qualification

- Candidates should possess a Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from a recognized University or an equivalent qualification recognized by the Central Government.

- Important Dates**
- Application Start Date: 11 August 2026
 - Last Date to Apply: 31 August 2026
 - Preliminary Examination: September 2026
 - Main Examination: November 2026

- Age Limit**
- Minimum Age: 20 Years
 - Maximum Age: 28 Years
- Age relaxation is applicable for reserved categories as per Government of India rules.

- Salary**
- Starting Basic Pay: ₹26,730
 - The initial monthly emoluments, including allowances, are approximately ₹46,000, with the maximum pay reaching ₹64,480 as per SBI service rules.

- Application Fee**
- General/OBC/EWS: ₹750
 - SC/ST/PwBD/ESM: Nil

- Selection Process**
- Preliminary Examination
 - Main Examination
 - Local Language Test
 - Document Verification

How to Apply

- Visit the SBI Careers portal, register online, complete the application form, upload the required documents, pay the application fee (if applicable) and submit the application before 31 August 2026.

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

IBPS CLERK (CRP CSA-XVI) RECRUITMENT 2026 – APPLY ONLINE FOR 11,403
CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE POSTS

The Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) has released the official notification for the Common Recruitment Process (CRP CSA-XVI) for the recruitment of 11,403 Customer Service Associate (Clerk) posts in participating Public Sector Banks for the year 2027–28.

- Key Highlights**
- Organization: Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS)
 - Post Name: Customer Service Associate (Clerk) – CRP CSA-XVI
 - Total Vacancies: 11,403 Posts
 - Category: Banking Recruitment
 - Application Mode: Online

Educational Qualification

- Candidates must possess a Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from a recognized University or an equivalent qualification recognized by the Central Government. Candidates should also have working knowledge of computer systems.

- Important Dates**
- Application Start Date: 1 August 2026

- Last Date to Apply: 21 August 2026
- Preliminary Examination: October 2026
- Main Examination: November 2026

- Age Limit**
- Minimum Age: 20 Years
 - Maximum Age: 28 Years

- Salary**
- basic pay ₹24,050 along with Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance, Transport Allowance and other admissible benefits as per participating bank rules.

- Application Fee**
- General/OBC/EWS: ₹850
 - SC/ST/PwBD: ₹175

- Selection Process**
- Preliminary Online Examination
 - Main Online Examination
 - Provisional Allotment
 - Document Verification
 - Local Language Proficiency (where applicable)



- How to Apply**
- Visit the official IBPS website, complete the online registration, fill in the application form, upload the required documents, photograph and signature, pay the prescribed application fee and submit the application before the closing date.

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

RVUNL RECRUITMENT 2026 - 2,005 VACANCIES



Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL) has released Advertisement No. RVUN/Rectt.-2026-27/01 for common recruitment across five Rajasthan State Power Companies. The recruitment drive offers 2,005 vacancies for Junior Engineer-I, Junior Accountant and Junior Assistant/Commercial Assistant-II posts.

- Vacancy Details**
- JEN-I (Electrical): 727 Posts
 - JEN-I (Mechanical): 110 Posts

- JEN-I (Civil): 32 Posts
- Junior Accountant: 371 Posts
- Junior Assistant/Commercial Assistant-II: 765 Posts
- Participating Companies: RVUN, RVPN, JVVN, AVVN and JdVVN.

- Eligibility**
- Age: 18–40 years as on 01 January 2026, with applicable relaxation.
 - Qualification: Relevant Engineering Degree for JEN-I; Commerce-related Bachelor's Degree for Junior Accountant; Graduation for Junior

- Assistant/Commercial Assistant-II.
- Job Location: Rajasthan.

- Salary & Selection**
- Pay will be as per Rajasthan Power Companies' rules. Selection will be through Written Examination → Medical Examination → Document Verification.

- Application Fee**
- General: ₹1,000
 - MBC/BC/EWS/SC/ST/PH/Saharia: ₹500 (tentative)

- Important Dates**
- Online Registration: 05 August 2026
 - Last Date: 25 August 2026, 11:59 PM
 - Exam Date: To be announced.

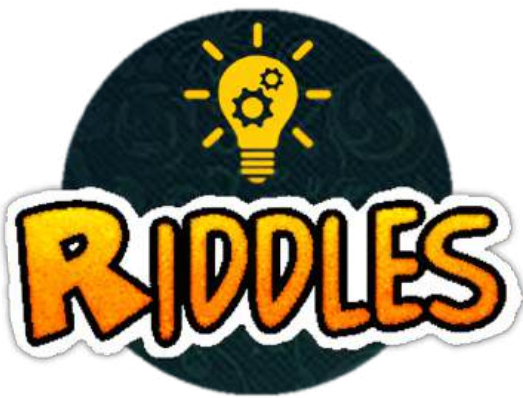
- How To Apply**
- Visit the official website of the participating Rajasthan Power Company,
 - Register with a valid email ID and mobile number,
 - Fill in the application form, upload the required documents,
 - Pay the applicable fee and submit the form.
 - Save the confirmation number and print the application for future reference.

For more details candidates are asked to visit the official website.

Deepika Singh



1. What vision did PM Modi reiterate for India by 2047?
2. How many new nuclear reactors did PM Modi target this decade?
3. How many youth will receive AI training under the new initiative?
4. What nuclear-energy capacity target was announced for 2047?
5. How many semiconductor plants did PM Modi announce plans for?
6. Which major issue among Indian youth prompted a focus on free online coaching?
7. Which technology did PM Modi highlight for India's future defence capabilities?
8. Which country did India defeat in its opening match of the 2026 Men's Hockey World Cup?
9. Who scored twice for India in the Hockey World Cup opener?
10. Which city is hosting the 2026 BWF World Championships?



1. I have three colours and fly proudly above the nation. What am I?
2. I have 24 spokes and sit at the centre of India's flag. What am I?
3. I am celebrated every year on 15 August to mark India's freedom. What am I?
4. I delivered the historic “Tryst with Destiny” speech. Who am I?
5. I am the historic Delhi fort where the Prime Minister hoists the national flag. What am I?
6. I was a freedom fighter who formed the Indian National Army. Who am I?
7. I am the movement launched in 1942 demanding an end to British rule. What am I?

1. Tricolour
2. Chakra
3. Independence
4. Nehru
5. RedFort
6. Subhas
7. QuitIndia

11) RIDDLES

10. New Delhi
9. Harmanpreet Singh
8. Wales
7. Hypersonics
6. Unemployment
5. Eight
4. 100 GW
3. One crore
2. Five

12) QUIZ TIME

ANSWERS



THE TRICOLOUR
SWEET
SYMPHONY

This Week, We're Relishing Tiranga Rasmalai Cups!

Tiranga Rasmalai Cups are a festive Independence Day dessert featuring three beautiful layers inspired by the Indian tricolour—saffron, creamy white, and pistachio green. Made with soft rasmalai, fragrant saffron, creamy milk, and pistachios, these elegant individual cups are perfect for celebrating Independence Day with a delicious Indian touch.

Ingredients:

8–10 rasmalai pieces, 3 cups thickened sweetened milk, ½ teaspoon saffron strands, 2 tablespoons warm milk, 2 tablespoons chopped pistachios, 1 tablespoon chopped almonds, ½ teaspoon cardamom powder, 1 tablespoon mango purée, 1 tablespoon pistachio paste or finely ground pistachios, and 1 tablespoon sugar (optional).

Preparation

- Soak the saffron strands in warm milk for 10 minutes. Heat the thickened milk in a pan and add cardamom powder, saffron milk, and sugar if required. Mix well and let it cool slightly.
- Gently squeeze excess syrup from the rasmalai pieces and cut them into small bite-sized pieces.
- For the saffron layer, mix a portion of the prepared milk with mango purée and a little saffron milk.
- For the white layer, keep a portion of the creamy milk plain.



- For the green layer, mix the remaining milk with pistachio paste or finely ground pistachios.
- Take small serving cups and create three layers—start with the saffron-flavoured milk and rasmalai pieces, followed by the creamy white layer, and finish with the pistachio-green layer.
- Refrigerate the cups for at least 1–2 hours so the flavours blend and the dessert becomes nicely chilled.
- Garnish with chopped pistachios, almonds, and a few saffron strands before serving.

Serving Tip:

Serve these chilled Tiranga Rasmalai Cups in individual transparent glasses to beautifully showcase the saffron, white, and green layers. They make an elegant and festive dessert for Independence Day celebrations.

Introducing Our New Column

ARTWORK OF THE WEEK

We invite all young artists to showcase their talent in our weekly e-newspaper, The HULAHUL Times. Submit your hand-drawn artwork to be featured!

CRITERIA

- Age Limit: Up to 24 years
- Artwork Size: A4
- Format: Hand-drawn only

SUBMISSION DETAILS

- Email your artwork to: thehulahultimes@gmail.com
- Subject Line: ARTWORK
- Include: Your Name, Age, School/College Name, and Phone Number

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