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THE HULAHUL TIMES

Evolving Today For A Better Tomorrow



NATIONAL SPORTS DAY: CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF INDIA’S SPORTING EXCELLENCE



Every year on 29 August, India celebrates National Sports Day to honour the invaluable contribution of sportspersons and to recognise the importance of sports and physical fitness in our lives. The day commemorates the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand, one of the greatest athletes in Indian sporting history. National Sports Day is not simply a day to remember a sporting legend; it is an occasion to inspire every Indian, especially young people, to embrace sports, discipline, fitness and the spirit of determination.

Major Dhyan Chand was born on 29 August 1905 and became synonymous with Indian hockey's golden era. Known as the “Wizard of Hockey,” his exceptional control over the ball, extraordinary goal-scoring ability and dedication made him a sporting icon. He represented India at the Olympic Games and was part of the teams that won gold medals in 1928, 1932 and 1936. His achievements brought international recognition to Indian hockey and demonstrated how talent combined with discipline and hard work can create history.

The significance of National Sports Day goes far beyond one sport or one athlete. India today has a vibrant sporting landscape, with athletes achieving remarkable success in cricket, hockey, badminton, wrestling, boxing, athletics, shooting, weightlifting, football, tennis and numerous other disciplines. Indian sportspersons have repeatedly shown that success is not achieved overnight. Behind every medal is a story of years of practice, sacrifices, setbacks, determination and an unwavering belief in oneself.

Sports are particularly important for children and young people. In today's digital age, excessive screen time and sedentary lifestyles have become common. Regular participation in sports provides an effective way to remain physically active and healthy. More importantly, sports contribute to mental and emotional development. They teach children how to handle both victory and defeat, manage pressure, work with others and remain committed to their goals.

Team sports develop qualities such as leadership, cooperation, communication and responsibility, while individual sports teach self-discipline, patience and self-confidence. These qualities are not limited to the playing field. They help individuals become better students, professionals, leaders and responsible citizens. A child who learns to accept defeat on the sports field also learns that failure is not the end but an opportunity to improve.

National Sports Day also highlights the need to make sports accessible to everyone. India has immense sporting talent in rural areas and economically disadvantaged communities, but many talented children lack proper facilities, equipment, coaching and opportunities to compete. Schools, colleges, communities, governments and organisations have an important role to play in identifying such talent and creating an environment where every child gets an opportunity to participate.

Another important message of the day is that sports should not be viewed only as a career option or a path to medals. Sports should become a part of everyday life. Walking, running, cycling, yoga, swimming or playing a simple game with friends can contribute significantly to physical and mental well-being. A healthy population is an important foundation for a strong and productive nation.

National Sports Day therefore serves as both a celebration and a call to action. It reminds us to respect our athletes, support emerging talent and encourage children to step onto the playing field. The legacy of Major Dhyan Chand teaches us that greatness comes through passion, perseverance and discipline.

As India moves towards becoming a stronger sporting nation, the true spirit of National Sports Day lies in creating a culture where every child gets the opportunity to play, every athlete receives encouragement and every citizen understands the value of fitness. On 29 August, let us celebrate our sporting heroes, remember Major Dhyan Chand and pledge to make sports an integral part of a healthier, stronger and more confident India.

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THE MAN WHO TAUGHT INDIA TO REACH THE STARS: THE STORY OF VIKRAM SARABHAI



In 1919, in the city of Ahmedabad, a child was born into a prosperous family. His name was *Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai*. His family had wealth, but it also had something more valuable a deep respect for education, service and social responsibility. From an early age, Vikram was curious about the world around him. He did not simply accept things as they were. He wanted to understand why they were the way they were.

As a young boy, he would often look at the night sky and wonder about the countless stars beyond it. Perhaps he did not know it then, but those questions would eventually take him far beyond the limits of the earth.

Vikram went to Cambridge in 1937 for higher studies. The Second World War interrupted his education, and he returned to India. At the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, he had the opportunity to work under the great Indian physicist Sir C. V. Raman. There he began serious research in cosmic rays. Later, he returned to Cambridge and completed his PhD in cosmic ray physics in 1947.

But the young scientist was not interested in science merely for personal recognition. He wanted science to serve India. When he returned to an independent India in 1947, he faced a country struggling with poverty, illiteracy and limited scientific infrastructure. Many people might have thought that a developing country had more urgent problems than scientific research.

Sarabhai thought differently. He believed that a poor country needed science even more—not as a luxury, but as a tool for development.

At just 28 years of age, he established the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad on 11 November 1947. He persuaded charitable trusts associated with his family and friends to support the institution. PRL became the first major step in his extraordinary journey of institution-building.

One day, someone might have asked him, “Dr. Sarabhai, why build a research laboratory when India has so many immediate problems?” His answer would have been simple: “Because knowledge is not separate from development. Knowledge creates the tools with which problems can be solved.” This was the wisdom behind his scientific life.

Sarabhai was deeply influenced by the Indian idea that knowledge should ultimately contribute to lok-kalyan—the welfare of society. He did not want Indian scientists merely to imitate the achievements of advanced nations. He wanted them to develop scientific capabilities suited to India's own needs. Then came the beginning of his greatest dream: the Indian space programme.

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik. The event captured the world's imagination. For Sarabhai, however, the question was not simply, “Can India send something into space?”

His question was much more important: “How can space technology improve the life of an ordinary Indian?”

He saw possibilities in communication, weather forecasting, education and the management of natural resources. The Indian space programme, therefore, was never meant merely to demonstrate technological power. Sarabhai wanted advanced science to reach villages, farmers, students and ordinary citizens.

In 1962, the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR) was established under his leadership. Soon, he began searching for the right place to launch India's first rockets. He found it at Thumba, near Thiruvananthapuram, close to the magnetic equator.

The beginning was far from glamorous. There were no giant modern launch complexes. The early team worked with limited resources and enormous determination. A church building was used for office and laboratory work, and equipment had to be transported with remarkable ingenuity. But Sarabhai did not see poverty of resources as poverty of ambition.

On 21 November 1963, India's first sounding rocket was launched from Thumba with a sodium-vapour payload. It was a modest beginning, but it represented something enormous the birth of India's organised space effort.

Sarabhai's leadership had another special quality. He trusted young people. He understood that institutions do not become great because of buildings; they become great because of people. He encouraged talented scientists, gave them responsibility and allowed them to experiment. Many young scientists who later became important figures in India's space programme received opportunities during this formative period. Among them was a young engineer named A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. Sarabhai saw the potential of young minds and believed that India's future depended on giving them opportunities to learn, experiment and lead.

His vision was much larger than rockets. He dreamed of using satellites to bring education to remote villages. His dialogue with NASA later contributed to the development of the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE), which was conducted in 1975–76, after his death. His vision had already anticipated the social power of satellite communication.

In 1969, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was established, succeeding INCOSPAR. Sarabhai became the founding father of the Indian space programme. His contribution was not limited to space. He helped establish several important institutions, including ATIRA, IIM Ahmedabad and the Community Science Centre. In 1966, he also became Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission after the death of Homi J. Bhabha.

Yet, despite his achievements, Sarabhai remained remarkably humble. His strength was not in commanding people through fear but in inspiring them through trust. His life was tragically short. He died on 30 December 1971 at Kovalam, Kerala, at only 52 years of age.

He did not live to see the later achievements of Indian space science—the satellites, launch vehicles, planetary missions and remarkable successes that would follow. But that was perhaps the greatest lesson of his life. A visionary does not always live to see the complete harvest of the seeds he plants. Sarabhai planted the seeds. India continued to nurture them.

He received the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar

Award in 1962 and the Padma Bhushan in 1966. In 1972, after his death, he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan. The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram was named in his memory, and a crater on the Moon was also named after him.

Moral of the Story

The life of Vikram Sarabhai teaches us that true knowledge is never meant only for personal achievement. It must become a source of service, development and human welfare. His life reflects an important principle of the Indian Knowledge System: knowledge should lead to wisdom, and wisdom should lead to the welfare of society. He did not ask whether India could compete with powerful nations merely for prestige. He asked how science could solve India's real problems. His humility, faith in young people, respect for knowledge, courage to dream and commitment to national development teach us that greatness comes when talent is combined with responsibility and vision with service.

Conclusion: His Contribution to India's Space Programme

Dr. Vikram Sarabhai is rightly remembered as the Father or Founding Father of the Indian Space Programme. He established the Physical Research Laboratory, led the creation of INCOSPAR, established the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station, guided India's early rocket experiments and provided the vision that eventually led to ISRO in 1969. His greatest achievement, however, was not merely launching rockets. It was giving India a philosophy of space technology: space should serve society. His vision included communication, education, meteorology, resource management and development for ordinary people. He was also an extraordinary institution-builder who helped create or strengthen several major scientific and educational institutions. The India that now reaches the Moon and explores the planets stands on foundations laid by Sarabhai and his generation. His story therefore gives us a timeless message: Dream beyond your circumstances, use knowledge for humanity, trust young minds, and build something whose benefits will reach generations you may never live to see.

USTAAD BISMILLAH KHAN: THE MAN WHO CARRIED INDIA IN HIS SHEHNAI

People demonstrate their patriotism in various ways. Some dedicate their lives to serving the country in the defence force, and some contribute to the country by being builders. Bismillah Khan dedicated his life to playing the shehnai and brought the sound of India to the rest of the country. He did not carry a sword, but he was able to take Kashi, Ganga, the temples and the mosques, and the entire soil of India to the people who had never seen or experienced them. His story is not only the story of a legend who became a global icon but also of a great man who was a true patriot and carried his country in his music all his life.

Ustaad Bismillah Khan was born on 21 March 1916, in Dumraon, Bihar, into a musical family. Music was a part of his life since childhood, but it was only when he left his home town and reached Kashi that he found his true love – the shehnai. He used to sit on the banks of the Ganga and practice for hours, not for fame or fortune, but to explore the music in him. Imagine a young boy playing the shehnai that most people associate with weddings and auspicious occasions, practising the same notes on this instrument relentlessly till the sounds echoed with emotions and memories. Ganga continued to flow, Kashi watched silently, and in the aloneness of this young boy, a change happened. He transformed the shehnai and created magic with it.

The shehnai has a special place in Indian Classical Music, but it was not as prominent as other instruments. It was not until the young Bismillah started experimenting and practising relentlessly that the shehnai earned its place in the court of Indian Classical Music. One can take inspiration from his journey where years of practice shaped his performance, and he gave his instrument its due respect. One should also remember that the world does not give importance to your talent the day you are born; it takes relentless practice and performance. Bismillah Khan became a legend because he refused to leave the practice room even after becoming a legend.

15 August 1947 marked the day India gained independence after being ruled by the British for centuries. The tricolor was unfurled in the Red Fort, and shehnai music was played to celebrate this momentous occasion. Bismillah Khan was invited to play this memorable composition, and his music became

part of the history of free India. India had just shaken off colonial rule, and so had the shehnai. This instrument, which struggled to gain respect in the court of Indian Classical Music, had just played a significant role in independent India’s birth. Perhaps this was the most memorable performance of Ustaad Bismillah Khan, who went on to perform at the first Republic Day celebration in 1950.

His music had touched millions of hearts in India and abroad, but Kashi remained his true

ambience was similar to what it was in Kashi. In reply to his students, Ustaad asked if they could bring the Ganga with them. It was an overwhelming thought for Bismillah Khan to see his shehnai music recreated in another land, but Ganga would always be the prime source of water for Kashi.

Ustaad Bismillah Khan’s patriotism was reflected in his music in the most amazing ways. Bismillah was a devout Muslim, and his music was deeply entwined with the Kashi

culture across borders. India’s composite culture of harmony and co-existence is reflected in the life and music of Bismillah Khan. Hindus and Muslims both find solace in the music played on the shehnai, and the Ustaad was one such great artist who represented this unique Indian culture.

India has given countless patriots to the nation throughout its history. They demonstrated their patriotism in various ways, including fighting in the armed forces and working tirelessly for the country. Bismillah Khan expressed his patriotism through music. His love for the motherland was reflected in his performances through the music of Kashi, the Ganga, and the temples and mosques. In contrast to traditional patriots who demonstrated their patriotism through words or actions, Bismillah Khan expressed it through music. In fact, his patriotism was so deeply ingrained in his music that it is impossible to separate the two.

Ustaad Bismillah Khan passed away on 21 August 2006, in Varanasi. The legendary artiste had travelled worldwide and received India’s highest civilian honours, including the Padma Vibushan and the Bharat Seva Sindhu. The man who took India’s classical music to the world and made it famous passed away, and his shehnai was laid to rest with him. It is interesting to note that Ustaad Bismillah Khan’s shehnai was buried with him. It seems fitting that this great artiste left the world with the instrument that brought him so much fame and success.

Bismillah Khan, a legend, was a patriot whose journey was truly inspiring. He did not become famous for his words or deeds but for his music that carried India’s identity. He demonstrated how one can demonstrate patriotism by respecting tradition while embracing change and innovation. Bismillah Khan demonstrated that the road to excellence lies in dedication and devotion to one’s country. This great Ustaad’s journey serves as a constant reminder that patriotism is demonstrated through actions, not words or loud speeches.



love. Bismillah used to say that Kashi was his Achha din, and Ganga was his source of inspiration. The temples, ghats, and the entire ambience in Kashi had imbibed in him a certain kind of spiritual music, the essence of which he tried to recreate in his music. Even when he achieved international acclaim and got several awards and recognition, he always considered himself a son of Kashi. The Ustaad’s deep-rooted connection with Kashi serves as a source of motivation for everyone who searches for their roots.

There is one interesting incident that underlines this deep connection. When Ustaad Bismillah Khan was invited to set up a shehnai music school in America, his students suggested that they should replicate the Banaras experience. They suggested constructing the temples in America so that the

Vishwanath temple. This legendary artist used to practice in the Balaji temple in Kashi and spend his evenings in the mosque. He used to take a holy dip in the Ganga, and this routine used to keep him connected to the divine. He was a true believer in the Kashi Vishwanath’s temple music, Ganga’s peace, and the mosques’ Azaan. He was one of the most prominent voices in India’s freedom movement and was a patriot in every sense of the term.

Ustaad Bismillah Khan was a symbol of the country’s composite culture of temples and mosques rather than being an instrument of division. Hindus and Muslims both enjoy the music he created, and Ganga does not differentiate between Hindus and Muslims. Similarly, his shehnai did not distinguish between the beliefs and practices of people and served as a tool to spread India’s rich musical

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.

A warehouse is no longer just a storage space, it is becoming an intelligent business centre powered by automation, AI, data and robotics. The rapid growth of e-commerce, quick commerce and organised retail is transforming traditional warehouses into technology-driven hubs where goods are tracked, sorted, packed and dispatched with speed and precision. Automated systems, robotics, artificial intelligence, sensors and data analytics are changing the way businesses manage inventory and fulfil customer orders.

Smart warehousing improves inventory accuracy, customer service and cost control while creating new entrepreneurial opportunities and careers at the intersection of commerce, management and technology.”

The future of logistics is not just about moving goods faster it is about managing every movement intelligently.

Understanding Smart Warehouses

A smart warehouse uses connected technologies to make storage and distribution more efficient. Digital systems can track products, monitor inventory, optimise warehouse space and coordinate orders with less dependence on manual processes.

Key technologies include:

- Robotics and automated vehicles

SMART WAREHOUSES: THE NEW ENGINE OF INDIA'S LOGISTICS ECONOMY

- Artificial intelligence
- Warehouse Management Systems
- Barcode and RFID systems
- IoT sensors
- Automated sorting and packing
- Data analytics
- Automated storage and retrieval systems

Together, these technologies create a connected warehouse where businesses can monitor what they have, where it is and when it needs to move.

Why Businesses Are Going Smart

Customers increasingly expect quick deliveries, accurate orders and real-time updates. At the same time, businesses need to control inventory, labour and operating costs. Smart warehouses can help balance these demands.

Example: An online retailer can use automated sorting systems to direct products to the correct dispatch area, reducing handling time and speeding up order processing.

Similarly, digital inventory systems can alert businesses when stocks are running low, helping them avoid unnecessary shortages or excess inventory.

For businesses, warehouse technology is becoming an important tool for efficiency, accuracy and customer satisfaction.

The Power of Data in Warehousing

The real strength of a smart warehouse is not just automation it is the data generated by connected systems. Information about order volumes, product movement, storage capacity and customer demand can help managers make better decisions.

Example: If data shows that two products are frequently purchased together, they can be stored closer to each other, reducing the time required to pick and pack orders.

This makes warehouse management increasingly connected to business analytics, forecasting and cost control.

Business Opportunities in Smart Warehousing

The growth of smart warehouses is creating opportunities in:

- Warehouse automation and robotics

- Inventory software and data analytics
- IoT tracking and automated packaging
- Logistics consulting and supply-chain optimisation
- Warehouse design and maintenance

Example: A startup can offer affordable inventory software to small retailers for tracking stock, managing orders and reducing wastage.

Smart warehousing is creating opport-unities for businesses of every size.

A New Opportunity for Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs can enter smart warehousing through software, consulting, automation, maintenance, or logistics services without owning a warehouse.

Example: A startup could help a growing online business introduce barcode-based inventory tracking, digital order management and performance dashboards, improving efficiency without completely rebuilding its warehouse.

The opportunity lies not only in building smart warehouses but also in helping traditional warehouses become smarter.

Career Opportunities for Students

Smart warehousing requires professionals from commerce, management, finance, logistics, technology and operations.

Growing career opportunities include:

- Supply Chain & Inventory Analyst
- Warehouse & Logistics Manager
- Business Analyst
- Procurement Executive
- Data Analyst
- E-commerce Operations Executive
- Automation Project Coordinator
- Warehouse Management Specialist
- Entrepreneur

Example: A commerce graduate can work in inventory planning, procurement, logistics analysis, warehouse operations or supply-chain management without necessarily becoming a robotics specialist.

The sector is creating careers where



business knowledge and technology work together.

Skills Students Should Build

Students should develop skills in:

- Supply-chain and inventory management
- Business analytics and financial analysis
- Data interpretation and digital literacy
- Project management and problem-solving
- Communication and entrepreneurial thinking

Commerce students should understand how inventory decisions affect costs, cash flow, working capital and profitability an important career advantage.

The Bigger Shift

Smart warehouses mark a shift from traditional storage to faster, data-driven and automated operations. As e-commerce expands, warehouses are becoming increasingly connected with purchasing, finance, transportation and customer service.

The warehouse is evolving from a storage space into a centre of business intelligence.

The Take Away

Smart warehouses are transforming logistics through automation, AI, robotics and data, improving efficiency while creating new businesses and careers. For commerce students, modern logistics is about managing goods, data, costs and technology intelligently. Because in tomorrow's economy, those who move products intelligently will move ahead.

EDITOR



Prof. Dr. Savita Kishan Pawar
Principal
Bhavan's College, Andheri (W), Mumbai

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.

FRIENDSHIP IN POETRY: THE LANGUAGE OF HUMAN CONNECTION

Friendship is one of the most universal themes in literature. Across cultures and centuries, poets have celebrated the quiet strength of companionship, loyalty, trust, affection, and shared memories. Unlike romantic love, which often receives dramatic attention in literature, friendship is frequently expressed through simpler and more intimate moments a conversation, a shared journey, a helping hand, or simply the comfort of knowing that someone is there.

Poetry gives friendship a special language. William Shakespeare, in his sonnets and plays, presents friendship as a relationship capable of offering emotional strength and constancy. Ralph Waldo Emerson, in his writings on friendship, emphasises the value of intellectual and spiritual companionship. In Robert Frost's poetry, human beings often discover connections through ordinary encounters with one another. His poem The Tuft of Flowers, for instance, beautifully suggests that people can feel connected even when they have never met.

Indian literature also has a rich tradition of celebrating friendship. The friendship of Krishna and Sudama represents affection that rises above wealth, social status, and material differences. In poetry and devotional literature, friendship can even become a spiritual relationship, as seen in the bonds between the devotee and the divine.

Such traditions remind us that true friendship is founded on emotional closeness rather than worldly circumstances.

Modern poets have expanded the idea of friendship further. Friendship can cross geographical, cultural, linguistic, and social boundaries. Poems about friends often become poems about belonging the human need to be understood and accepted. A true friend may not remove our difficulties, but companionship can make those difficulties easier to face.

Perhaps this is why friendship continues to inspire poets. A poem about friendship does not merely describe a relationship; it preserves a feeling. Years after a friendship begins or even after circumstances separate friends the words remain as a reminder of shared experiences. Poetry gives friendship a lasting voice, transforming ordinary moments of companionship into something memorable and universal.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The word “friend” comes from the Old English “frēond,” meaning one who loves. The history of the word itself therefore connects friendship with the idea of love and affection
- The oldest known friendship story dates back thousands of years. The ancient Mesopotamian epic Gilgamesh features a deep friendship between Gilgamesh and Enkidu.
- The phrase “a friend in need is a friend indeed” has very old roots. Similar ideas about discovering true friends during difficult times appear in ancient writings.
- Friendship can influence our sense of belonging. Feeling connected to trusted people can make everyday experiences more meaningful.

GRAMMAR TIP

Friend vs. Friendship

Friend – a person whom you know and like.

She is my closest friend.

Friendship – the relationship between friends.

Their friendship has lasted for many years.

Remember: Friend is a person; friendship is a relationship.

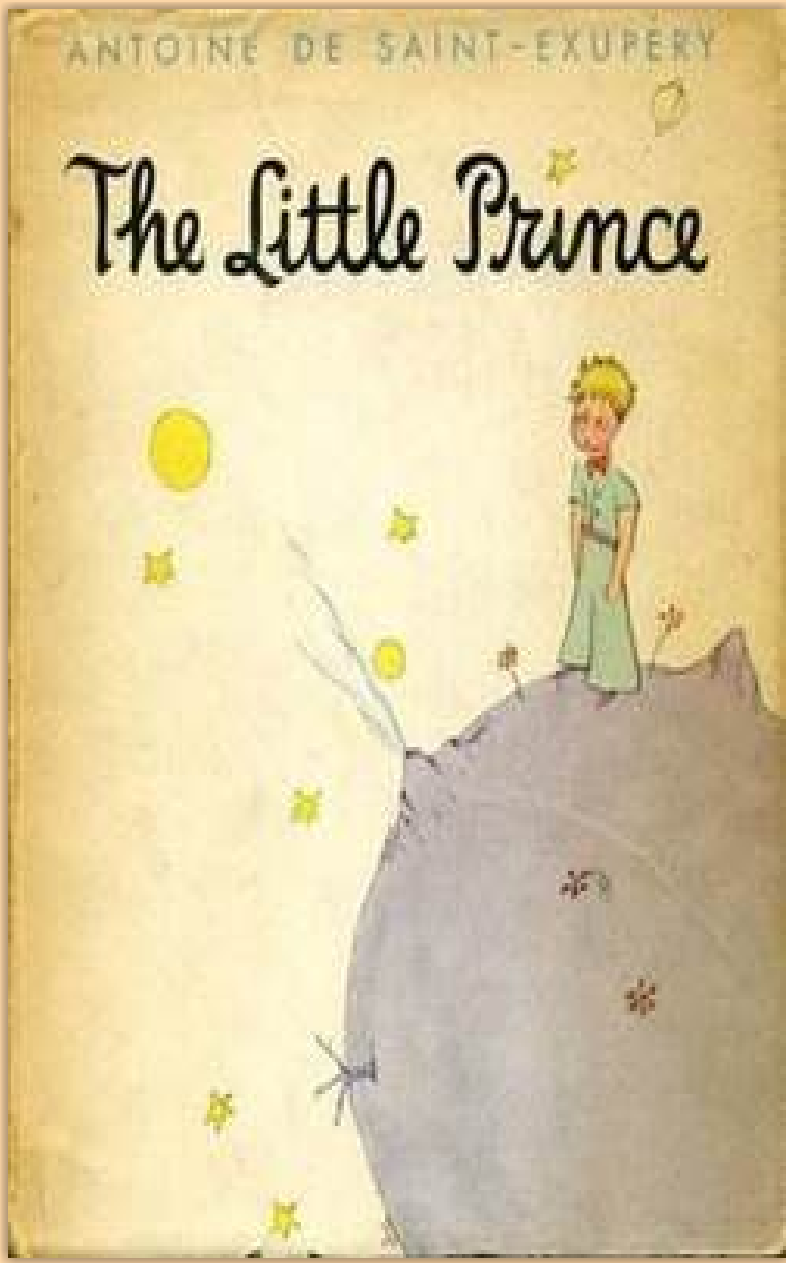
WRITER OF THE WEEK

A. A. Milne

A. A. Milne, the English author best known for the Winnie-the-Pooh stories, beautifully portrayed friendship through the simple yet profound relationships between Pooh, Christopher Robin, Piglet, and their friends. His writing reminds readers that friendship is built on kindness, loyalty, acceptance, and the joy of simply being together.

BOOK REVIEW

The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry - France



This beloved philosophical novella explores love, friendship, loneliness, and human relationships through the journey of a young prince visiting different planets. His friendship with the fox offers one of literature's most memorable reflections on what it means to form a meaningful bond with another being.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.”

— Walter Winchell

CREATIVE WRITING

Friendship

A ruddy drop of manly blood
The surging sea outweighs,
The world uncertain comes and goes;
The lover rooted stays.

I fancied he was fled, And,
after many a year,
Glowed unexhausted kindliness,
Like daily sunrise there.

My careful heart was free again,
O friend, my bosom said,
Through thee alone the sky is arched,
Through thee the rose is red;

All things through thee take nobler form,
And look beyond the earth,
The mill-round of our fate appears
A sun-path in thy worth.

Me too thy nobleness has taught
To master my despair;
The fountains of my hidden life
Are through thy friendship fair.

Poetry by
Ralph Waldo Emerson

WORD OF THE WEEK

Camaraderie
Meaning: A feeling of friendship, trust, and mutual understanding among people who spend time together.
Example: The students developed a strong sense of camaraderie while working on the project.

IDIOM HIGHLIGHT

“Through thick and thin”

Meaning: To remain loyal to someone in both good and difficult times.
Example: True friends stand by each other through thick and thin.

OPIUM FARMERS DEMAND POLICY OVERHAUL, HIGHER PROCUREMENT RATES AND MORE LICENCES

Licensed opium farmers from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh staged a demonstration at Jantar Mantar ahead of the Union Government's expected announcement of the 2026–27 opium licensing policy in September.



Organised under the Bharatiya Afeem Kisan Sangharsh Samiti, the farmers demanded major changes in cultivation and procurement policies. A key demand was an increase in the procurement price of medicinal opium gum from existing rates to ₹1 lakh per kilogram.

The protesters also sought expansion of cultivation licences, including the reinstatement of leases cancelled since 1990. They proposed that licensing should be based on a morphine-yield threshold of 3 kg per hectare.

Farmers strongly opposed the Concentrate of Poppy Straw (CPS) extraction method introduced in 2021–22 and called for a return to traditional lancing practices. They argued that the change has affected rural livelihoods and farming practices.

Another major demand was exemption of poppy straw from the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, with government procurement proposed at ₹2,000 per kilogram.

With more than 1.21 lakh farmers currently eligible for cultivation, protesters urged the government to balance farmers' livelihoods with the pharmaceutical sector's requirement for medicinal opium, particularly for palliative care.

BIOSECURITY RISKS MOUNT IN KASHMIR AS NEW PESTS ATTACK POPLAR AND APPLE ORCHARDS

Rising pest infestations affecting poplar trees and high-density apple orchards across the Kashmir Valley have raised serious concerns among growers, agricultural scientists and horticulture officials over the region's biosecurity.



Invasive pests, including leaf miners, aphids and borers, are increasingly threatening Kashmir's valuable horticulture sector. Experts have linked the growing risk to gaps in plant quarantine and changing climatic conditions.

The large-scale import of high-density apple rootstocks from countries including Italy, Belgium and Turkey, along with the unregulated movement of foreign produce, has raised concerns about the introduction of invasive species such as *Aspidiotus nerii* and codling moth.

At the same time, rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns are creating favourable conditions for faster pest reproduction and spread. Outbreaks can move from

roadside poplar trees into nearby commercial apple orchards, increasing the potential for crop losses.

To tackle the threat, the Department of Horticulture and SKUAST-Kashmir have initiated Integrated Pest Management measures, including surveillance and drone-assisted application of bio-insecticides.

Agricultural experts have called for stronger quarantine enforcement at entry points such as Lakhanpur, along with greater investment in indigenous, disease-free nursery infrastructure.

They stressed that stronger preventive measures are essential to protect Kashmir's horticulture economy and ensure sustainable fruit production.

KERALA SETS UP 11-MEMBER PANEL TO OVERSEE AGRISTACK OPERATIONS

The Kerala government has constituted an 11-member State AgriStack Data Governance Committee (SADGC) to oversee the management, security and responsible use of agricultural data under the AgriStack initiative.



Headed by the Chief Secretary, the committee has been formed in line with the Union government's 'State Core Handover Support' programme, under which states are expected to assume ownership and fiduciary responsibility for AgriStack data. The committee will act as the primary custodian of farmers' digital records and hold the data in public trust.

The panel will oversee three key foundational registries: a centralised farmers' database, geo-referenced village maps and real-time records of crops sown. These digital systems are intended to improve the delivery of agricultural schemes, subsidies and other government services.

Data privacy will also remain a major responsibility. The committee will assess requests from third parties seeking access to agricultural data and

approve or reject them based on applicable safeguards and state-specific governance requirements.

Senior officials from the Revenue, Law, Information Technology, Land Records and Agriculture departments, along with representatives of the National Informatics Centre, are part of the committee.

The move is aimed at strengthening data governance, transparency and coordination in Kerala's digital agriculture ecosystem.

INDIA ALLOWS DUTY-FREE IMPORT OF 1 MILLION TONNES OF RAW SUGAR

The Union Government has permitted the duty-free import of 1 million tonnes of raw sugar under a Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) until October 31, 2026, in a move aimed at improving domestic supplies and containing rising prices.



The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) announced the decision as ex-mill sugar prices climbed to around ₹5,400–₹5,500 per quintal. Tight opening stocks and expectations of lower production ahead of the 2026–27 crushing season have contributed to the price rise. The decision marks India's first approval for raw sugar imports in nearly a decade.

The import quota is expected to strengthen supplies ahead of the festive season, when sugar consumption traditionally rises during Ganesh Chaturthi, Dussehra and Diwali.

According to the policy, online applications were invited from functional sugar mills and refiners between August 21 and August 28. Preference will be given to applicants committing to complete shipments by

October 15.

Meanwhile, the Food Ministry has introduced the Sugar Order 2026, placing stock limits on bulk institutional consumers, including beverage manufacturers, confectioners and sweetmeat producers using more than 10 tonnes of sugar per month.

The measures are aimed at preventing hoarding and maintaining adequate sugar availability between September 1 and November 30.

PRECISION STORAGE: ADDRESSING THE UNIQUE WAREHOUSING DEMANDS OF INDIA'S SUGAR SECTOR



India's sugar industry faces unique warehousing challenges because refined sugar is highly sensitive to moisture and environmental conditions. Unlike food grains such as wheat and paddy, sugar readily absorbs atmospheric humidity, which can cause caking, lump formation, discoloration and weight loss, resulting in significant financial losses.

Effective sugar storage requires careful control of temperature and humidity. Relative humidity above 60% can increase moisture absorption, making climate monitoring, proper ventilation and moisture-resistant insulation essential for maintaining product quality.

Protection from ground moisture is equally important. Warehouses should use raised platforms, polyethylene dunnage sheets and elevated pallets to prevent moisture from reaching the bottom layers of stored bags. Such measures can significantly reduce spoilage and deterioration.

Scientific stacking is another critical requirement. Excessively dense stacks can restrict airflow and create heat pockets, potentially accelerating discoloration and quality degradation. Adequate spacing between stacks and sufficient clearance from ceilings and walls help maintain proper ventilation.

Sugar warehouses must also address contamination and pest risks. Food-grade sanitation, sealed entry points and appropriate non-chemical pest-control measures are essential for maintaining hygiene and protecting stored sugar.

As India's sugar production and distribution networks expand, investing in scientifically designed warehouses can help reduce storage losses, preserve quality and improve supply-chain efficiency. Precision storage is therefore becoming an increasingly important component of the sugar sector.

MUMBAI UNIVERSITY UNVEILS NEP ROADMAP

The University of Mumbai has outlined an ambitious roadmap for implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, including plans for 12 skill institutes, 516 open electives and an expanded cluster-based academic model. The initiatives aim to strengthen multidisciplinary education, industry-linked learning and student flexibility.



course selection. Under the expanded cluster model, colleges based on academic disciplines and geographical proximity will collaborate by sharing faculty, infrastructure and other resources. The university is also exploring joint and dual degrees, research clusters and revenue-sharing models.

The university has further strengthened Indian Knowledge Systems, community engagement, internships and Academic Bank of Credits initiatives. An external review of NEP implementation is also planned, with the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) expected to assess selected institutes and identify areas for improvement.

The university, which began implementing NEP in 2023, is planning 12 skill institutes across the Konkan region from the 2027-28 academic year. The proposal, approved by the university Senate, has been sent to the state government for approval. Proposed programmes include Finance and FinTech, Cybersecurity, Digital Media, Green Technology, AgriTech, Tourism and Hospitality, Data Science and Social Entrepreneurship.

Mumbai University currently offers a basket of 516 open electives, allowing students to explore subjects beyond their primary disciplines. The university has also adopted three academic models: a single major, a major with minor and a multiple-option model, providing greater flexibility in

KARNATAKA TO RESERVE 7.5% SEATS FOR RURAL STUDENTS

Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has announced plans to reserve 7.5% of seats in professional courses, including medicine and engineering, for students from rural government schools. The announcement was made during his Independence Day address in Bengaluru.

students for emerging career opportunities.

Karnataka also plans to establish India's first government-owned AI university in Bengaluru, according to Shivakumar.

The government is simultaneously working on reforms in the examination system, with an expert committee expected to submit its report within two months.

The education announcements form part of a broader youth and employment agenda. Shivakumar said the state plans to fill around 72,000 government vacancies within six months and introduce Udyoga Sethu to connect private-sector job seekers with employment opportunities.

The proposed quota marks a significant step towards making professional education more accessible to talented students from rural government schools.

The proposed reservation aims to improve access to professional higher education for students from rural areas and create greater opportunities for those studying in government schools. The government will implement the Sahaya-Hasta, Hosa-Hasta scheme alongside the reservation. However, details regarding eligibility, admission procedures and the implementation timeline are yet to be announced.

The Chief Minister also unveiled technology-focused education initiatives, including the AI Akshara Abhiyana and Coding Gurukula programmes. Under these initiatives, artificial intelligence education will be introduced in schools from Class 6, with coding and AI skills aimed at preparing

NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY STRENGTHENS EXAM SECURITY AND OVERSIGHT

The National Testing Agency (NTA) is accelerating reforms to strengthen examination security, improve question-paper quality and restore confidence in national-level tests. The move follows growing scrutiny over examination irregularities and errors.



According to the NTA Director General, a major revamp of the examination team has been completed, with 600 experts removed and new specialists onboarded. A four-tier question-paper checking system is also being introduced to strengthen scrutiny and reduce errors and vulnerabilities.

The agency will induct 20–25 officials over the next two to three weeks as part of its broader restructuring exercise. NTA offices will also be shifted to new premises, with security strengthened through the deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel.

The reforms come amid continued concerns over examination integrity, including irregularities linked to NEET-UG 2024. More recently, the NTA announced the re-conduct of UGC-NET

papers in Sociology, Commerce and English following errors in the original question papers.

An earlier review had directed a comprehensive audit of examination processes and an overhaul of confidential operations. The agency is also strengthening cybersecurity, test security, psychometrics and question-paper design by bringing in specialised professionals.

The latest measures combine personnel changes, multi-layered verification and enhanced physical security. Through these reforms, the NTA aims to build a more secure, transparent and reliable examination system for millions of students appearing for high-stakes national tests.

ODISHA LAUNCHES OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP FOR SC, ST STUDENTS

The Odisha government has launched the Bidesh Sikhyabruti Scholarship to help students from Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities pursue higher education at reputed universities abroad.



The scheme aims to make international education more accessible to meritorious students who may face financial barriers to studying overseas. It will provide financial assistance to eligible candidates pursuing postgraduate and doctoral programmes in recognised foreign institutions.

The scholarship is intended to cover major education and living expenses, reducing the financial burden associated with overseas study. Applicants will have to meet prescribed academic, income and other eligibility criteria, with selection based on merit and government guidelines.

The initiative seeks to promote educational equity and global exposure for students from disadvantaged communities. By enabling talented SC and ST students to access international

institutions, the government aims to help them gain advanced knowledge, specialised skills and wider professional opportunities.

The launch is part of Odisha's broader efforts to strengthen access to quality higher education and create opportunities for students from underrepresented communities.

Through Bidesh Sikhyabruti, the state hopes to turn overseas education into a more attainable opportunity for deserving students and encourage them to use their global learning and expertise for personal growth and the development of Odisha.

KERALA READY TO EXTEND MID-DAY MEALS TO CLASSES 9 TO 12



Kerala is ready to extend its school mid-day meal scheme to students of Classes 9 to 12, General Education Minister N Samsudheen said, signalling a wider nutritional support programme for secondary and higher secondary students. The state has already conveyed its consent to the Centre on expanding the PM POSHAN scheme.

Currently, PM POSHAN, popularly known as the mid-day meal scheme, covers students from Classes 1 to 8 in government and government-aided schools. The Centre had sought Kerala's views on extending the scheme to Classes 9 to 12, and the state communicated its approval at a meeting held in Delhi last month.

Samsudheen said food is a basic right of every citizen and should be protected in a welfare state. He was speaking at the state-level inauguration of the distribution of special Onam rice for school students in Thiruvananthapuram.

Food and Civil Supplies Minister Anoop Jacob said around 23.5 lakh students in government and aided schools would receive four kg of rice each under the special initiative. About 905 metric tonnes of rice is being distributed through Supplyco, benefiting an equal number of families.

The proposed expansion of PM POSHAN would provide nutritional support to older students and potentially ease the financial burden on families. The move also reflects Kerala's broader focus on student welfare, nutrition and inclusive access to education.

FSSAI TIGHTENS FOOD-SAFETY WATCH: NESTLÉ, PEPSICO, COCA-COLA AMONG MAJOR BRANDS FACING ACTION

India's food safety regulator has intensified its scrutiny of the country's fast-growing packaged food and beverage industry, issuing more than 150 notices in recent months over alleged misleading advertisements, false claims and violations of labelling requirements. The enforcement drive has brought several well-known consumer brands under the regulatory spotlight, including Nestlé India, PepsiCo India and Coca-Cola India, signalling that even established names are not outside the reach of food-safety compliance.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has expanded its action against food business operators across multiple categories. The list of companies facing action also includes businesses associated with energy drinks, packaged foods, beverages, confectionery and other consumer products. Other prominent names identified by the regulator include Abbott India, Red Bull India, Danone India, Monster Energy India, Mondelez India, Ferrero India, Kenvue and companies operating in the alcoholic beverage segment. The notices relate to concerns involving advertisements, product claims and information displayed on labels.

The regulatory action is significant because food advertising today plays a major role in shaping consumer choices. Words and claims suggesting that a product is healthier, more nutritious, superior or capable of delivering particular benefits can influence purchasing decisions, particularly when consumers encounter them on packaging, television, social media or online shopping platforms. The latest enforcement push reinforces the need for companies to ensure that marketing messages remain within the boundaries of food regulations and do not create an inaccurate impression about a product.

FSSAI's scrutiny is also moving beyond manufacturers and traditional retail outlets. Twelve notices have reportedly been issued to major e-commerce platforms, while the regulator said the licence of one Amazon warehouse was cancelled. This is important as online grocery and



food delivery have rapidly changed the way Indians purchase packaged food. Regulatory oversight therefore increasingly has to cover the entire journey of a product, from manufacturing and storage to advertising, digital listing and final sale.

The restaurant and food-service industry has also come under the

enforcement net. More than 30 notices were issued to establishments including KFC, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Domino's and Costa Coffee, while five Domino's licences were suspended, according to the regulator. Products from several businesses were also seized for alleged violations. The action demonstrates that food safety is being treated as a responsibility extending across the entire food ecosystem rather than being limited to factories and packaged products.

For large consumer companies, the development could encourage greater scrutiny of advertising campaigns and packaging claims before products reach the market. For consumers, meanwhile, stronger enforcement could improve transparency and make product information more dependable. FSSAI has also indicated that several companies have started taking corrective measures after receiving notices, suggesting that the regulatory process is already prompting changes within the industry.

The broader message is clear: brand reputation cannot replace regulatory compliance. As India's food market becomes larger, more sophisticated and increasingly digital, consumers are demanding not only convenience and attractive products but also honest information. The latest FSSAI action therefore represents an important shift towards greater accountability, where companies, large or small are expected to ensure that what they promise in advertisements and on labels matches what consumers actually receive.

RBI'S FOREX DRIVE DRAWS \$72.85 BILLION, GIVING INDIA A STRONGER EXTERNAL BUFFER

India's foreign exchange position has received a significant boost, with the Reserve Bank of India's special dollar-rupee swap facility mobilising \$72.85 billion in foreign currency inflows as of August 21, 2026. The response has been substantially stronger than initially expected, with Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank), or FCNR(B), deposits accounting for the overwhelming share of the money raised. The development strengthens India's external financial cushion at a time when global currency markets remain vulnerable to geopolitical tensions, changing interest rates and volatile capital flows.

Of the total inflows, \$65.40 billion came through FCNR(B) deposits, while Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings contributed around \$4.86 billion and External Commercial Borrowings added another \$2.59 billion. In other words, nearly nine-tenths of the foreign currency mobilised through the facility has come from non-resident deposits, underlining the strong response from overseas Indians and international banking channels.

The special swap mechanism was introduced by the RBI in June as a way to encourage banks to attract foreign currency and strengthen the country's balance of payments position. Under the arrangement, banks raise foreign currency from eligible sources and enter into swaps with the central bank, effectively bringing dollar resources into the domestic financial system while providing rupee liquidity. The facility was particularly relevant against the backdrop of pressure on emerging-market currencies and concerns over India's external financing requirements. The exceptional response also prompted the central bank to shorten the FCNR(B) window. What was initially intended to remain

available for a longer period was brought forward, with the deposit mobilisation window now closing on August 31, 2026. The separate facility covering ECBs and OFCBs continues for a longer period, giving banks additional time to tap overseas funding markets. The early closure of the FCNR(B) component indicates that the RBI believes the facility has already attracted a substantial amount of foreign currency.

The timing of the inflows is important for India's foreign exchange reserves. The country's reserves rose to around \$716.9 billion as of August 14, marking a six-month high and an increase of nearly \$10 billion in a week. Foreign currency assets and gold holdings both contributed to the improvement. The stronger reserve position gives the RBI greater room to manage periods of excessive currency volatility and external shocks.

For the banking sector, the scheme has created an additional channel for accessing relatively stable foreign currency resources. FCNR(B) deposits are particularly useful because they allow non-residents to hold deposits in foreign currency, reducing their direct exposure to movements in the rupee. For Indian banks, the resulting dollar resources can strengthen foreign currency liquidity and support their international funding operations.

However, the inflows should not be interpreted as free or permanent additions to India's wealth. Swap arrangements create corresponding obligations for the central bank, and foreign currency liabilities eventually have to be managed. The RBI therefore has to balance the immediate benefit of stronger reserves against the cost of swaps, future liquidity conditions and external repayment commitments. Analysts have also



pointed to the possibility that excessive inflows could complicate domestic liquidity management.

Even with these considerations, the scale of the response is noteworthy. The latest figures show that India was able to attract billions of dollars through a targeted financial mechanism in a relatively short period. The success reflects the depth of the Indian banking system, the importance of the overseas Indian community and confidence in the country's financial institutions. More importantly, it gives policymakers a stronger cushion while navigating an uncertain global economy. At a time when currency stability can influence everything from imported fuel prices to inflation and investment sentiment, a larger foreign exchange buffer provides India with valuable room to manoeuvre.

EXPERT



Dr. (Mrs) Chandra Hariharan Iyer

Veteran Academician,
Freelance 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](https://www.instagram.com/thehulahultimes)

Q. How to develop a sense of purpose?

Ans. A sense of purpose is the feeling that one's life has meaning, direction, and value. People with a clear purpose are generally more motivated, emotionally resilient, and better able to cope with stress and setbacks. In contrast, a lack of purpose often leads to confusion, emptiness, low motivation, and, in some cases, depression. Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), particularly the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads, and the concept of Dharma, provide practical guidance for discovering and developing a meaningful purpose in life.

1. Discover Your Dharma (Duties and Responsibilities): The Bhagavad Gita teaches that every individual has a unique Dharma, or rightful duty, based on one's abilities, values, and responsibilities. Purpose does not necessarily mean doing something extraordinary.

It often begins by sincerely fulfilling the responsibilities associated with one's role—as a student, parent, teacher, employee, entrepreneur, or citizen. Ask yourself: What responsibilities do I have? What positive contribution can I make? How can I serve others through my abilities? Purpose grows naturally when we perform our duties with sincerity.

2. Identify Your Strengths and Talents: Everyone possesses unique abilities.: Purpose becomes clearer when individuals recognize what they naturally enjoy and do well. Reflect on: Which activities give me energy? What skills do people appreciate in me? What problems do I enjoy solving? What work makes me lose track of time? Using one's strengths to benefit society creates lasting satisfaction.

3. Connect Your Goals with Service: Indian philosophy teaches that life gains deeper meaning when personal success also benefits others. Instead of asking, "What can I get?" Ask, "How can I contribute?" Purpose becomes stronger when work creates value for: family, students, customers, patients, society, the environment. Serving others transforms ordinary work into meaningful work.

4. Set Meaningful Long-Term Goals: Purpose requires direction. Instead of living only for short-term pleasures or immediate rewards, create goals that align with your values. Examples: becoming an ethical professional, educating underprivileged children, conducting meaningful research, building a socially responsible business, improving community health. Large goals can then be divided into smaller achievable steps.

5. Practice Nishkama Karma: The Bhagavad Gita advises individuals to focus on sincere action without becoming excessively attached to rewards. When purpose depends only on external success, failures become emotionally devastating. However, when purpose lies in doing meaningful work itself, motivation remains stable despite temporary setbacks. Purpose is strengthened through consistent action rather than constant expectation.

6. Continue Learning Throughout Life: Purpose evolves as people grow. Indian traditions encourage Svadhyaya (self-study and continuous learning). Learning new skills, reading inspiring books, acquiring knowledge, and reflecting upon experiences gradually reveal deeper interests and life directions. Curiosity often leads to purpose.

7. Develop Self-Awareness: Purpose cannot be discovered without understanding oneself. Spend time regularly reflecting on questions such as: What truly matters to me? What kind of person do I want to become? What values guide my decisions?

What legacy would I like to leave? Meditation, journaling, and quiet reflection help individuals listen to their inner voice rather than external pressures.

8. Build Meaningful Relationships: Purpose grows within supportive relationships. Family members, teachers, friends, mentors, and colleagues often help individuals recognize strengths they themselves may overlook. Discussing life goals with trusted people provides clarity and encouragement.

Gratitude shifts attention from what is missing to what is already available. People who appreciate their opportunities often become more motivated to use them wisely. Gratitude creates optimism, and optimism supports purposeful living.

10. Accept Challenges as Opportunities: Many people discover their life's purpose while overcoming difficulties. Instead of asking, "Why is this happening to me?" Ask, "What can this experience teach me?" Challenges often reveal hidden strengths, compassion, resilience, and new directions in life. The Bhagavad Gita itself begins with Arjuna's crisis, which ultimately becomes the starting point of his transformation.

11. Live According to Your Values: Purpose becomes stable when actions match personal values. Values such as: honesty (Satya), compassion (Karuna),non-violence (Ahimsa), humility (Vinaya), contentment (Santosha), selflessness (Tyaga) create inner harmony. When actions contradict personal values, individuals often experience guilt, confusion, and dissatisfaction. Living ethically strengthens self-respect and reinforces purpose.

12. Avoid Constant Comparison: Purpose is personal. Comparing oneself with others often creates unrealistic expectations and distracts from one's own journey. Indian philosophy teaches that every individual's Dharma is unique. Instead of copying another person's path, focus on becoming the best version of yourself.

13. Balance Material and Spiritual Goals: Indian Knowledge Systems recognize four Purusharthas: Dharma (righteous living), Artha (prosperity), Kama (healthy desires), Moksha (spiritual liberation). Purpose becomes richer when material success is balanced with ethical conduct, meaningful relationships, personal growth, and inner peace. Money alone rarely provides lasting fulfillment.

14. Engage in Seva (Selfless Service): Helping others creates one of the strongest sources of purpose. Acts such as: teaching, mentoring, volunteering, donating, caring for the elderly,

protecting the environment, provide a deep sense of contribution. Service shifts attention away from personal worries and strengthens one's connection with society.

15. Be Patient with the Process: Purpose is rarely discovered overnight. It develops gradually through: experiences, learning, reflection, relationships, successes, failures. Instead of waiting for one dramatic revelation, focus on taking meaningful steps each day. Small purposeful actions eventually shape a purposeful life.

Developing a sense of purpose is a lifelong journey rather than a single achievement. Indian Knowledge Systems teach that purpose emerges from understanding one's Dharma, performing duties with dedication, serving others, cultivating self-awareness, and living according to ethical values. The Bhagavad Gita reminds us that true fulfillment comes not from external rewards alone but from meaningful action performed with sincerity and detachment. By identifying personal strengths, setting value-based goals, practicing Nishkama Karma, engaging in Seva, and maintaining balance between material success and inner growth, individuals can develop a strong sense of purpose. Such purpose acts as a psychological anchor, enhancing resilience, promoting emotional well-being, and protecting against feelings of emptiness, hopelessness, and depression. Wish you much and more, stay blessed!

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WHO CARRIES THE ONE WHO CARRIES EVERYONE? THE SILENT STRUGGLE BEHIND STRONG LEADERSHIP

There is a side of leadership that very few people talk about the silent responsibility of being the person everyone depends on. When you become a leader, chairman, chief editor, professor, manager, or simply the person people trust, everyone begins to believe that you can handle everything. And perhaps you can. But being capable does not mean being limitless. There are days when your own schedule is overflowing, your own responsibilities are waiting, and your own mind is exhausted, yet you still hear, “I am busy, you can do it,” or “You will manage.” And somehow, you do manage not because you have more time than others, but because you understand responsibility differently.

When you are responsible for a team, an organisation, a publication, or a mission, you often do not have the luxury of simply walking away from your responsibilities. Deadlines do not disappear because you are tired. Decisions cannot always be postponed because you are busy. Problems still need solutions, people still need guidance, and work still has to move forward. Meanwhile, everyone else may have the option to say, “I cannot do this today,” but the person at the top often feels that there is no such option. That is the invisible pressure of leadership: everyone sees your position, but very few people see the weight that comes with it. Over time, something interesting happens. Your reliability becomes everyone's safety net. People begin



bringing their unfinished work to you because they know you will somehow find a way. They ask you to solve problems they could have solved themselves. They depend on your ability to step in whenever things go wrong. You help them because you care about the work, the people, and the larger purpose behind what you are doing. But sometimes, when the day finally becomes quiet, a question quietly appears in your mind: “Everyone has someone to help them. But who helps me?”

That question is not a sign of weakness. It is a sign that you are human. Leadership is often associated with strength, authority, confidence, and decision-making, but there is another side of leadership that is rarely visible the loneliness of carrying responsibility. The person who encourages everyone else may also need encouragement. The person who listens to everyone's problems may have problems of their own. The person who keeps telling everyone, “Don't worry, I will handle it,” may secretly wish that, just once, someone would tell them, “Don't worry, I will handle this for you.” But perhaps the answer is not to stop helping people. The answer is to change the way we lead. A great leader should not become the person who does everything for everyone. A great leader should become the person who develops people capable of doing things themselves. Instead of always solving problems, teach people how to solve them. Instead of

becoming everyone's permanent backup, build a team where responsibility is shared. Instead of creating dependence, create confidence. Because the greatest achievement of a leader is not being able to carry everyone's burden, it is building people who are strong enough to carry the responsibility when the leader needs support. If you are someone who is always there for others, remember that you are allowed to be tired. You are allowed to say, “I need help.” You are allowed to have a difficult day. You are allowed to step back without feeling guilty. Your value is not measured by how much work you can silently carry. You do not have to prove your strength by solving every problem that comes your way. Sometimes, true leadership means trusting someone else enough to let them carry a responsibility that you would normally carry yourself. So, to every leader who feels that everyone has the option to walk away while they have to stay and finish the work, remember this: you were never meant to carry the entire world alone. Continue to be dependable, but do not forget to build people who are dependable for you. Continue to give strength, but allow yourself to receive it too. Continue to lead, but remember that leadership is not about standing alone at the top, it is about creating people who are willing and capable of standing beside you.

Because behind every strong leader is a human being. Behind every confident decision is often a tired mind. Behind every “I will manage” is sometimes a silent wish that somebody else would say, “This time, you don't have to. I am here. Let me handle it.” And perhaps that is the most beautiful form of leadership, not being the person everyone needs forever, but building relationships and a team where, when you finally need someone, someone is there for you too.

THE PERSON YOU ARE BECOMING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE PERSON YOU WERE

There comes a time in life when we find ourselves looking backwards more often than we should. We remember the person we once were the mistakes we made, the opportunities we missed, the people we trusted, the chances we were afraid to take, and the dreams that somehow remained unfinished. We sometimes look at our younger selves with disappointment and wonder, “Why didn't I know better?” But that question forgets something important: we know better today because of what yesterday taught us. The real measure of life is not how perfect our past was, but how consciously we are shaping the person we are becoming.

Your past deserves a place in your story, but it should never be given the power to write your future. The person you were made decisions with the knowledge, maturity, circumstances and emotions available at that time. Today, you see things differently because life has taught you differently. You have experienced disappointment, happiness, rejection, friendship, responsibility, success and perhaps even loss. Every experience has quietly added another layer to your understanding of life. Expecting your younger self to possess today's wisdom is like expecting a student to know the lesson before entering the classroom. You were learning then, and in many ways, you are still learning now.

Growth is rarely dramatic. We imagine transformation as a moment when everything suddenly changes, but most personal growth happens silently. It appears when you stop arguing with people who are determined to misunderstand you. It appears when you learn to say “no” without spending the entire night feeling guilty. It appears when you stop needing applause for every good thing you do. It appears when failure no longer makes you question your worth, but instead makes you ask what you can learn. Sometimes, becoming a better person simply means reacting differently to something that once would have destroyed your peace.

compassion too. Perhaps they were confused, impatient, insecure or too trusting. Perhaps they stayed somewhere longer than they should have, believed someone they should not have, or gave up on something too early. Yet that person also carried you through difficult days. Some of your greatest wisdom exists today because that earlier version of you made mistakes. Certain lessons cannot be taught in classrooms or found in books; life insists that we experience them ourselves.

However, accepting your past does not mean continuing to live there. You are allowed to outgrow old habits, relationships, beliefs, ambitions and even identities. Something that once suited you may no longer belong in your life. There is no dishonour in admitting, “This is not who I want to be anymore.” In fact, one of life's greatest freedoms is understanding that you are not required to remain the person you once introduced to the world. Changing does not always mean you were wrong before; sometimes it simply means you have grown.

We often celebrate visible achievements degrees, promotions, money, awards and positions but some of life's greatest achievements cannot be displayed on a wall. Becoming calmer is an achievement. Learning to forgive yourself is an achievement. Setting boundaries is an achievement. Walking away from what repeatedly hurts you is an achievement. Remaining kind after experiencing disappointment is an achievement. Learning that your peace is more valuable than winning every argument is an achievement. These quiet victories may never receive



applause, but they shape the person you carry into every room.

So, do not spend your life trying to return to an older version of yourself. Look forward. Ask yourself whether today's choices are creating someone your future self will respect. You do not need to transform overnight. Become slightly more patient, courageous, disciplined, compassionate and honest each day. Small changes, repeated consistently, eventually create an entirely different life.

One day, the person you are today will also become someone you used to be. When that day arrives, may you look back not with regret, but with gratitude for having continued to grow.

Your past is your teacher, not your prison. Your mistakes are lessons, not your identity. Yesterday may explain parts of you, but it does not have the right to define tomorrow.

The person you were deserves forgiveness. The person you are today deserves patience. But above all, the person you are becoming deserves your attention because the

most beautiful part of your story may still be the person you have not yet become.

Do not hate the person you once were. That version of you deserves

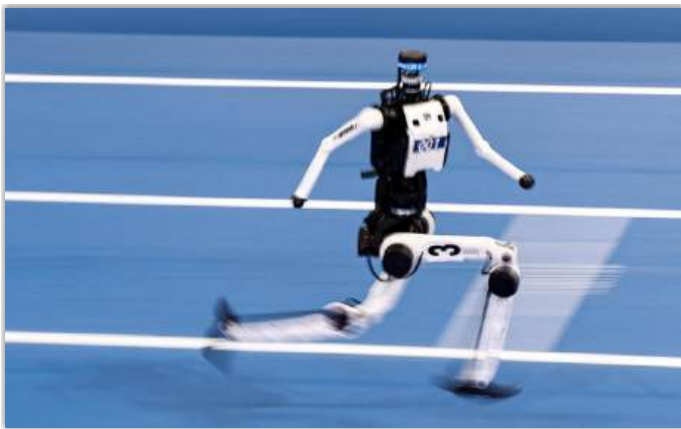
DOCKING TECHNOLOGY BECOMES CRUCIAL TO INDIA'S LUNAR AND SPACE MISSIONS

As India sets its sights on lunar sample returns and human spaceflight docking technology becomes essential. Speaking at the City Montessori School in Bengaluru, M. R. Raghavendra, Director of ISTRAC, highlighted that mastering space docking is critical to unlocking the nation's next era of space exploration. It will serve as the backbone for Chandrayaan-4 which is India's upcoming lunar sample return mission. The mission architecture involves two separate LVM3 rocket launches to send five distinct modules into space. Once on the Moon, a lander will gather soil, and an ascender module will blast off to dock with an orbiter in lunar orbit before returning the samples back to Earth. This technology is equally vital for constructing the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), India's planned modular space station. Designed with a five module approach, each unit will be launched incrementally and must dock autonomously in low Earth orbit to form the completed 52 tonne station between 2028 and 2035. Demonstrated through ISRO's Space Docking Experiment (SPADEX) which tests twin satellites executing orbital rendezvous, docking, and power transfer. This capability builds directly on the precision control achieved during Chandrayaan-3 joining India with the US, Russia, and China in mastering deep space assembly.



Chinese Humanoid Robots Break Human Records at Beijing Robot Games

Chinese humanoid robots have stunned audiences at the World Humanoid Robot Games in Beijing by surpassing long-standing human athletic records, highlighting the rapid progress of robotics and artificial intelligence. On the opening day of the five-day competition, a humanoid robot developed by X-Humanoid completed the 100-metre sprint in 9.39 seconds, beating Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt's human world record of 9.58 seconds set in 2009. Another robot also achieved an impressive standing high jump of 2.88 metres, exceeding the human record of 2.45 metres. The event features more than 2,000 humanoid robots competing across 51 events, including running, football, table tennis and other challenges. Participants from countries including Germany, Japan and the United States are also taking part. However, the remarkable performances also reveal the challenges facing robotic technology. Some machines struggled to stop after reaching high speeds, with several crashing into safety barriers. Experts say that while athletic demonstrations showcase impressive power and coordination, the real test for humanoid robots will be their ability to perform useful tasks autonomously in factories, warehouses, homes and other real-world environments. The Beijing games underline China's growing ambitions to become a global leader in humanoid robotics and embodied artificial intelligence.



FOUR KNOWLEDGE COMPENDIUMS DISCUSSED AT 12TH BRICS ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS' MEETING

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav chaired the 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi on August 18. Held under India's BRICS Chairship at Bharat Mandapam, the high-level summit convened ministers and delegates from member nations, including Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa, and the UAE. During the conference, member nations unveiled four collaborative knowledge compendiums to tackle urgent environmental challenges. The first compendium focusing on sustainable lifestyles highlights environmental education, sustainable consumption, clean energy, and ecosystem restoration featuring Indian initiatives like Mission LiFE, the Environment Education Programme, the SAMBHAV Campaign, and Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam. Further, the second mentioned integrated wildfire management offering solutions for early warning systems and disaster response. The discussion was essential as rising global temperatures and prolonged droughts became a major cause of concern. Greening landscape approaches as per the third document focuses to combat land degradation, desertification, and biodiversity loss. The fourth document covers Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and circular economy frameworks. Together the BRICS nations through knowledge sharing, technical capacity building, joint research, and unified approaches to common climate challenges promote global environment reforms .



DELHI ISSUES HEALTH ADVISORY AS H1N1 CASES SURGE

The Delhi government has issued a health advisory as cases of H1N1, commonly known as swine flu, continue to rise across the national capital. According to the latest health department data, Delhi has recorded 2,602 influenza cases this year, including 2,392 Influenza-A infections. Of these, 1,777 cases have been identified as H1N1, making it the dominant influenza strain in the city. The situation has prompted authorities to strengthen surveillance and public-health preparedness. As many as 114 H1N1 cases were reported in a single day on Thursday, highlighting the recent increase in infections. The government has kept 35 hospitals under special surveillance and designated referral laboratories at AIIMS and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). The advisory urges residents to maintain respiratory and hand hygiene, cover their mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing, wash hands regularly and consider masks in crowded places. People are also advised to avoid close contact with those suffering from respiratory infections. Doctors recommend seeking medical advice if symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, body ache, headache or breathing difficulty develop. Authorities have assured residents that Delhi has adequate hospital beds, doctors, medicines and essential medical equipment to manage the seasonal rise. The latest development underlines the importance of awareness, early medical attention and responsible preventive practices as seasonal influenza activity increases.



AKSHAYE KHANNA UNVEILS SHUKRACHARYA AVATAR IN MAHAKALI; TEASER DATE ANNOUNCED

Fans are buzzing with excitement as actor Akshaye Khanna unveils his striking look as Shukracharya, the formidable Guru of the Asuras, in the upcoming mythological epic Mahakali. Directed by Puja Aparna Kolluru and written by Prasanth Varma as part of the Prasanth Varma Cinematic Universe (PVCU), the film is produced by Riwaz Ramesh Duggal under the RKD Studios. Further 'Mahakali' stars Bhoomi Shetty as India's first female superhero in the role of Goddess Kali. Set against the unique backdrop of a circus in Bengal, the story explores themes of anti-discrimination, inner strength and reclaiming identity in a society that often judges people on physical appearance with skin tone in particular. Akshaye Khanna's intense avatar depicted as an enigmatic sage with a silver beard, a glowing eye, and a dark, moody background in the first look poster has captivated audiences. On July 14, the makers announced that production on the highly anticipated epic had officially entered its final leg, bringing a monumental 125-day shooting schedule to a close. The teaser will be released on August 24, 2026 under the tagline "The End Begins". The official theatrical release date is yet to be announced.



AMAZON PLANS DRONE DELIVERY EXPANSION TO NEARLY 500 U.S. CITIES

Amazon is preparing to take its futuristic delivery service to a much larger scale, announcing plans to expand its Prime Air drone delivery network to nearly 500 U.S. cities and towns by the end of 2026. The move represents a more than sixfold expansion from the company's current footprint and could bring drone-based deliveries to millions of additional customers. The autonomous drones are designed to deliver lightweight packages weighing up to five pounds, with eligible orders potentially reaching customers in around 30 minutes. The expansion will initially focus largely on suburban communities, where airspace and operational conditions are more suitable than densely populated urban centres. New locations are expected to include areas around Chicago, Atlanta, Cleveland and Boise. Amazon's move also intensifies competition with Walmart, which is expanding its own drone delivery operations. However, regulatory approvals, safety, noise and privacy concerns remain important challenges for wider adoption. Amazon must secure local approvals for individual delivery hubs and continue demonstrating that drone operations can be safe and reliable. The expansion signals a major shift in last-mile logistics, where autonomous technology could increasingly complement traditional delivery vehicles and redefine how quickly consumers receive everyday products.



SHETTY KNOCKS OUT SHI YU QI IN BWF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty defeated and knocked out World No. 1 badminton champion Shi Yu Qi of China at the BWF World Championship. The 21 year old beat him through an aggressive smash-attacking game securing a 21-14, 13-21, 21-19 victory at the Indira Gandhi Stadium. The match lasted for 73 minutes. From the start, Shetty took risks going for the kill at every opportunity. He kept the rallies short, searched for scoring chances, and capitalized on the better side of the court, scoring quickly with the drift backing his strokes. Notably, this was his first win over the top ranked player. The 6 feet 5 inch shuttler remarked that the supportive crowd gave him the energy he needed. Shetty mentioned that the final stretch was nerve wracking but he managed to pull through with immense relief after Qi mounted a second game comeback bringing the score to 21-13. He further described Shi Yu Qi as one of his toughest opponents. Shetty's coach, Sagar Chopda mentioned that Shi gained points in the middle game due to Shetty getting a bit jittery and over-focusing on the net. However, Chopda praised his final shot calling it a winning moment that showcased his talent.



VERMULA AND SARAYANA CLINCH GOLD AT ASIAN JUNIOR BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP

Vignesh Advait Vemula clinched the title in the Open section while Saranya Devi Narahari clinched the Girls' title as the host nation made a strong start in the Blitz category on the opening day of the Asian Junior Chess Championship 2026 at the ITC Maratha in Mumbai. The championship was formally inaugurated by Jairaj Pathak (IAS), former BMC Commissioner. Saranya Devi Narahari showed complete control and domination throughout the tournament. She finished with an undefeated score of 6.5/7 points and won the tournament with a half point lead. After drawing her second round match against Bhillva Krishna, she scored five wins in a row. In the final round, Prishita Gupta suffered a loss against Turkmenistan's Lala Shohradova, which secured second place for Shohradova, while Sannidhi Ramakrishna Bhat bagged third. Adding to the win, Vemula scored 6/7 points to become the 2026 Asian Junior Blitz Champion. He clinched the title after the match that ended with a tie breaking rule. Viresh took silver and Nandish took bronze. Vignesh suffered a loss in the fourth round against Akshay Borgaonkar but bounced back with three consecutive wins. The two wins power India's dominance at the championship.



INDIA DEFEAT SRI LANKA BY 165 RUNS TAKES 1-0 SERIES LEAD

The Men in Blue defeated Sri Lanka by 165 runs following an exceptional performance in the first Test match held at the Galle International Stadium taking a 1-0 lead in the series. Devdutt Padikkal clinched the Player of the Match after smashing a massive 167 off 230 balls in the first innings and adding a valuable 44 off 75 balls in the second. Powering the early momentum, KL Rahul scored 82 runs off 175 balls in the first innings. For Sri Lanka, Sonal Dinusha offered tough competition by scoring a century off 168 balls in the first innings and following it up with 84 runs off 128 balls in the second. However, the Sri Lankan team fell short of their 372 run target. Manav Suthar delivered a brilliant bowling spell, taking 6 wickets for 55 runs (6/55) in 23.4 overs to complete a 10 wicket match haul. Captain Shubman Gill celebrated the special achievement of India winning its 600th Test match and praised Suthar and Padikkal's stellar performances. The captain noted that the pitch was challenging and expressed his aim to seal the series in the next game to make the victory even more satisfying.



LANDO NORRIS CLAIMS DUTCH GP GLORY AS ANTONELLI EXTENDS CHAMPIONSHIP LEAD

Lando Norris delivered a thrilling victory at the Dutch Grand Prix on Sunday, securing McLaren's third consecutive win at Zandvoort and strengthening his challenge for the Formula 1 world championship. The reigning world champion, who started from pole position, had to fight back after losing the lead to Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli following a dramatic restart. The race was interrupted early after home favourite Max Verstappen crashed heavily on the opening lap. The Red Bull driver was unhurt, but his retirement brought a premature end to his final home Grand Prix at Zandvoort. The incident forced officials to stop and restart the race after clearing debris from the circuit. Antonelli appeared in control for much of the race, but Norris used a carefully managed tyre strategy to regain the advantage in the closing stages. The McLaren driver eventually crossed the finish line ahead of Antonelli, claiming his second consecutive victory after winning in Hungary. George Russell completed the podium in third after Mercedes instructed him to allow Antonelli through on fresher tyres. Lewis Hamilton finished fourth, followed by Charles Leclerc in fifth. Despite finishing second, Antonelli strengthened his championship position, extending his lead to 59 points over Russell and Hamilton, who are tied on 183 points. The Dutch GP also marked the final Formula 1 race at Zandvoort for the foreseeable future, bringing an emotional end to the circuit's latest chapter on the F1 calendar.



MANCHESTER CITY DIG DEEP TO SEAL DRAMATIC WIN OVER BOURNEMOUTH

Manchester City began the post-Pep Guardiola era with a dramatic 2-1 comeback victory over Bournemouth at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday, giving new manager Enzo Maresca a winning start in the Premier League. City looked set for a disappointing opening-day defeat after Marcus Tavernier put Bournemouth ahead in the 26th minute. Despite enjoying most of the possession, the hosts struggled to break through a disciplined Bournemouth defence and were repeatedly frustrated in attack. The turning point came late in the match. Marc Guéhi, deployed in an unusual midfield role, headed City level in the 84th minute following a corner. Substitute Rayan Cherki then became the decisive figure, providing the assist for Josko Gvardiol's stoppage-time winner. Gvardiol's effort was initially ruled offside, but a VAR review confirmed the goal, sparking huge celebrations at the Etihad. The victory was particularly important for Maresca, who faces the enormous challenge of succeeding Guardiola after the Spaniard's highly successful decade at the club. City have also undergone significant squad changes, with several established players leaving during the summer. Although the performance exposed areas that still need improvement, City's late resilience offered an encouraging beginning to a new chapter. For Bournemouth, the defeat ended their impressive 18-match unbeaten league run.



HARYANA CROWNED JUNIOR WOMEN'S NATIONAL HOCKEY CHAMPIONS

Haryana produced a determined comeback to defeat Jharkhand 2-1 and lift the title at the 16th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship in Pune on Sunday. The closely contested Division A final saw Jharkhand take an early advantage before Haryana turned the match around with a strong second-half performance. Jharkhand opened the scoring in the 19th minute when Mundri Saroj found the net, putting Haryana under early pressure. Haryana responded quickly, with Bhavya scoring in the 23rd minute to restore parity and bring the contest back on level terms. The decisive moment came in the 42nd minute when Khushi converted for Haryana, completing the comeback and putting her team ahead. Jharkhand pushed hard during the final stages in search of an equaliser, but Haryana's defence remained composed and successfully protected its narrow lead until the final whistle. Madhya Pradesh secured the bronze medal after defeating Chhattisgarh 3-1 in the third-place playoff. The championship, held in Pune, featured 30 teams competing across three divisions, providing young players with valuable competitive exposure and opportunities for promotion within India's domestic hockey structure. Haryana's triumph underlines the growing depth of women's hockey in the state and provides another encouraging sign for the future of Indian hockey.



KARNATAKA SCHOOL
EDUCATION RECRUITMENT
2026



The Karnataka School Education Department has released the official notification for the recruitment of 15,000+ Teacher posts in Government Schools across the state. The recruitment drive aims to fill vacancies for Primary School Teachers, Graduate Teachers and other teaching positions under the Department of School Education.

- Key Highlights**
- Organization: Karnataka School Education Department
 - Post Name: Teacher (Primary & Graduate Teacher Posts)
 - Total Vacancies: 15,000+ Posts
 - Category: Karnataka Government Recruitment
 - Application Mode: Online

- Educational Qualification**
- Candidates should possess the required educational qualification for the respective teaching post, including D.El.Ed., B.Ed., Graduation, Post Graduation and other qualifications prescribed under the recruitment rules.
 - Candidates must also satisfy the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) or other eligibility conditions wherever applicable.

- Age Limit**
- Minimum Age: 21
 - Maximum Age: 40

- Important Dates**
- Application Start Date: 18th August 2026
 - Last Date to Apply: 7 September 2026

- Salary**
- ₹44,425 to ₹99,400 along with Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance and other admissible benefits.

- Selection Process**
- Written Examination
 - Merit List
 - Document Verification
 - Certificate Verification
 - The selection process may vary depending on the category of teaching post.

How to Apply

- Visit the official Karnataka School Education recruitment portal. Complete the online registration, fill in the application form, upload the required documents, pay the prescribed application fee (if applicable) and submit the application before 7 September 2026.

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

AAI RECRUITMENT 2026 – APPLY ONLINE FOR 389 MANAGER & JUNIOR EXECUTIVE POSTS



The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has released the official notification for the recruitment of 389 Manager and Junior Executive posts in various disciplines. The vacancies are available in Fire Services, Human Resources, Official Language, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electronics, Information Technology, Operations and Air Traffic Control (ATC).

Recruitment Highlights

The Bank of Baroda (BOB) has released the official notification for the recruitment of 2,482 Local Bank Officer (LBO) posts on a regular basis. The recruitment aims to strengthen branch-level banking operations across multiple states.

- Key Highlights**
- Organization: Bank of Baroda (BOB)
 - Post Name: Local Bank Officer (LBO)
 - Total Vacancies: 2,482 Posts
 - Category: Banking Recruitment
 - Application Mode: Online

- Educational Qualification**
- Candidates must possess a Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from a recognized University or equivalent qualification.
 - Applicants should also possess the prescribed banking experience as mentioned in the detailed notification. Knowledge of the local language of the state for which the candidate is applying is desirable.

- Important Dates**
- Application Start Date: 8 August 2026
 - Last Date to Apply: 7 September 2026

- Age Limit**
- Minimum Age: 21 Years
 - Maximum Age: 30 Years

- Organisation: Airports Authority of India (AAI)
- Posts: Manager & Junior Executive
- Total Vacancies: 389
- Manager: 54 Posts
- Junior Executive: 335 Posts
- Application Mode: Online
- Job Location: India

- Eligibility**
- Candidates should possess B.E./B.Tech, Bachelor's / Master's Degree, MBA, CA, ICWA, Post Graduation or equivalent qualification in the relevant discipline from a recognised institution. Relevant experience is required for Manager-level posts, as prescribed.

- Important Dates**
- Online Application Starts: 08 August 2026
 - Last Date to Apply: 07 September 2026

- Age Limit**
- Junior Executive: Maximum 27 years
 - Manager: Maximum 32 years. Age relaxation

applicable to eligible reserved categories as per Government rules.

- Salary**
- Junior Executive: ₹40,000–₹1,40,000 (E-1)
 - Manager: ₹60,000–₹1,80,000 (E-3) Plus DA, HRA, medical benefits, CPF, gratuity and other admissible benefits.

- Selection Process**
- CBT → Application/Eligibility Verification → Interview (where applicable) → Document Verification → Medical Examination

- How To Apply**
- Visit the official AAI recruitment portal.
 - Register online,
 - select the relevant post,
 - complete the application
 - upload required documents, pay the applicable fee and submit the form. Download/print the submitted application for future reference.

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

BANK OF BARODA LOCAL BANK OFFICER RECRUITMENT 2026
APPLY ONLINE FOR 2,482 POSTS

- Age relaxation is applicable for reserved categories as per Government guidelines.

- Salary**
- Selected candidates will receive salary under the Junior Management Grade Scale-I (JMG/S-I) pay scale ₹48,480 – ₹85,920
 - along with Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance, Medical Benefits and other admissible allowances as per Bank of Baroda rules.

- Selection Process**
- Online Examination
 - Psychometric Test (if applicable)
 - Group Discussion/Interview
 - Document Verification



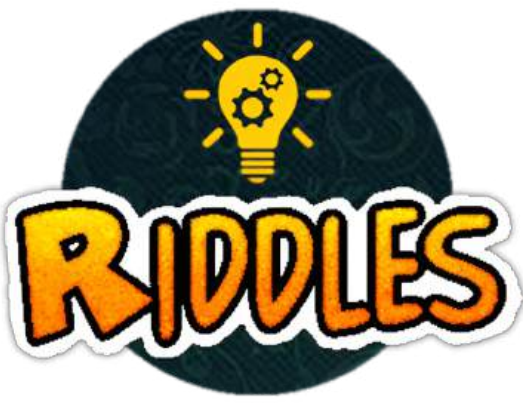
- How to Apply**
- Visit the official Bank of Baroda careers portal. Register online, complete the application form, upload the required documents, pay the prescribed application fee and submit the application before 7 September 2026.

For more details candidates are asked to visit the official website

Deepika Singh



1. Which organisation is moving launch-vehicle manufacturing towards the private sector?
2. Which day was observed in India on August 23 to commemorate Chandrayaan-3?
3. Which city hosted the BRICS ICT Track from August 17–21?
4. Which company unveiled an AI-powered space-surveillance network in India?
5. Which state announced a ₹100-crore AI initiative for students, startups and MSMEs?
6. Which country did India defeat 5–3 in the Hockey World Cup?
7. Who scored twice for India against Pakistan in the Hockey World Cup?
8. Which city is hosting the 2026 BWF World Championships?
9. Which organisation launched CYBER KUSHTI 2026?
10. Which city hosted the BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting on August 18?



1. I hang high in the sky, filled with a creamy surprise. Break me open, and the crowd cheers. What am I?
2. I am a festive game where people form a human pyramid to reach something hanging above. What am I?
3. I am the creamy treasure kept inside the pot. What am I?
4. I am the person who climbs the human pyramid to break the pot. Who am I?
5. I am the decorated pot that hangs high during the celebration. What am I?
6. I am the mischievous god associated with stealing butter and breaking pots. Who am I?
7. I am the group that forms the human pyramid during Dahi Handi. Who are we?

7. Govinda
 6. Krishna
 5. Matki
 4. Govinda
 3. Dahi
 2. DahiHandi
 1. Handi
- (II) RIDDLES
10. Delhi
 9. NIELIT
 8. Delhi
 7. Harmanpreet
 6. Pakistan
 5. Gujarat
 4. Digtanara
 3. Pune
 2. Space
 1. ISRO
- (I) QUIZ TIME
- ANSWERS



KRISHNA'S FAVOURITE MAKHAN MATKI CHAAT

This Week, We're Relishing Makhan Matki Chaat!

Makhan Matki Chaat is a fun and festive Janmashtami-inspired snack featuring creamy hung curd, crunchy makhana, potatoes, and fresh vegetables served in adorable mini matkis. Tangy, mildly spiced, and packed with texture, this chaat is perfect for Janmashtami celebrations and vrat-friendly gatherings.

Ingredients:

2 cups roasted makhana, 1 cup boiled potatoes (diced), 1 cup thick hung curd, ½ cup chopped cucumber, ½ cup chopped apple, 2 tablespoons roasted peanuts, 2 tablespoons chopped coriander, 1 teaspoon roasted cumin powder, ½ teaspoon black pepper powder, 1 teaspoon chaat masala, 1 tablespoon lemon juice, 1 tablespoon chopped green chilli, sendha namak to taste, and 1 tablespoon pomegranate seeds.

Preparation

- Roast the makhana in a pan until crisp and lightly golden. Allow them to cool and roughly crush a few pieces while keeping the rest whole.
- In a bowl, whisk the hung curd until smooth. Add roasted cumin powder, black pepper, sendha namak, and lemon juice. Mix well.
- Add the boiled potatoes, cucumber, apple, roasted peanuts, coriander, and green chilli to the curd mixture. Gently toss everything together.



- Add the roasted makhana just before serving so they retain their crunch. Mix lightly.
- Spoon the prepared chaat into small decorative matkis or clay cups.
- Sprinkle chaat masala and roasted cumin powder on top. Garnish with pomegranate seeds, coriander, and a few whole roasted makhana.

Serving Tip:

Serve the Makhan Matki Chaat chilled in individual mini matkis and garnish with colourful pomegranate seeds and fresh coriander. For a vrat-friendly version, use sendha namak and ensure all ingredients comply with your fasting tradition.

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

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