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THE HULAHUL TIMES

Evolving Today For A Better Tomorrow



TEACHERS' DAY: CELEBRATING THOSE WHO SHAPE MORE THAN MINDS

Teachers' Day is more than a celebration marked by greetings, flowers, cards and speeches. It is a moment to recognise the people who quietly influence our lives, shape our thinking and help us become the individuals we aspire to be. A teacher's contribution cannot always be measured by examination results or academic achievements. Often, the most valuable lessons taught by a teacher are the ones that remain with us long after we have left the classroom.

In the traditional sense, a teacher is considered someone who imparts knowledge. But education has changed dramatically. Today, information is available everywhere. Students can access digital books, online lectures, educational platforms and Artificial Intelligence tools within seconds. In such a world, the role of a teacher has become even more meaningful. When information is easily available, the teacher's responsibility is no longer simply to provide answers, but to teach students how to think, question, analyse and make responsible decisions.

The true strength of a teacher lies in the ability to transform information into understanding and knowledge into wisdom. A good teacher does not simply complete a syllabus; they create curiosity. They encourage students to ask questions, challenge assumptions and look at problems from different perspectives. Sometimes, a teacher may change a student's life through something as simple as a few encouraging words. A student who is struggling may need someone to say, “Believe in yourself.” A student who has failed may need someone to remind them that failure is not the end. These moments may seem small, but their impact can last for years.

The emergence of Artificial Intelligence has further transformed education. AI can explain concepts, generate ideas, assist with research and provide information almost instantly. However, technology cannot replace the human connection that lies at the heart of education. A machine can provide an answer, but a teacher can understand why a student is struggling to find that answer. Technology can generate content, but a teacher can develop character. AI can support learning, but teachers provide mentorship, empathy, values and direction. The future of education will therefore not be about choosing between teachers and technology; it will be about using technology wisely while keeping human intelligence and human values at the centre.

Another important responsibility of teachers is to recognise that every student is different. Every learner has a unique background, personality, ability and ambition. Some students are confident and outspoken, while others may have extraordinary potential but lack the confidence to express themselves. Some learn quickly, while others need patience and additional guidance. A great teacher understands these differences and creates an environment where every student feels respected and encouraged to grow.

Teachers themselves must also remain lifelong learners. In a rapidly changing world, knowledge and skills are constantly evolving. New technologies, new careers and new



challenges are emerging every day. An educator who continues to learn is better prepared to inspire students to become lifelong learners themselves. The best teachers are not those who claim to know everything, but those who remain curious enough to keep learning.

Years after students graduate, they may forget many details from their textbooks, but they often remember the teacher who believed in them, challenged them, corrected them or encouraged them at the right moment. A teacher may influence hundreds of students without ever knowing how far that influence travels. Those students eventually enter different professions and communities, carrying with them the values and lessons they received in the classroom.

Therefore, Teachers' Day should not be limited to thanking teachers for teaching us subjects. It should be about recognising their larger role in shaping responsible, confident and compassionate human beings. A teacher does not merely

prepare a student for an examination or a career; a teacher prepares a student for life.

A teacher may not change the entire world in one day, but they can certainly change one student's world in one moment. And sometimes, that is how meaningful change begins.

This Teachers' Day, let us celebrate every educator who continues to teach, inspire, guide and believe in the potential of every learner. Because the greatest teachers do not simply give us knowledge they give us the confidence to use it and the wisdom to use it well.

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THE DISCIPLE WHO BECAME A GUIDING LIGHT: THE LIFE OF MAHAPURUSH SRI SRI MADHABDEV

The evening prayer had just begun in a small Namghar in Assam. The sound of Naam-Kirtan filled the air, and an old grandfather sat quietly with his grandson outside the prayer hall. The boy had been listening to the devotional songs and suddenly asked, “Grandfather, why do people in Assam remember Madhabdev even after so many centuries?” The old man smiled and said, “Because Madhabdev was not only a saint. He was a scholar who learned humility, a disciple who became a leader, a poet who educated people through his words, and a servant who dedicated his life to the welfare of society. His story teaches us how a human being can transform himself and, through that transformation, influence generations.”

Mahapurush Sri Sri Madhabdev was born in 1489 at Letekupukhuri in Assam. His early life was not easy. He lost his father at a young age and had to face several difficulties in his family life. Yet these struggles did not prevent him from pursuing knowledge. He studied Sanskrit, scriptures, logic, philosophy and religious literature and became particularly learned in the Shakta tradition. He was intelligent, confident and deeply attached to his religious beliefs. He was not someone who accepted an idea simply because others followed it. He wanted to understand the truth through knowledge and reasoning.

The most important turning point in his life came when his brother-in-law, Ramadasa, who had accepted the teachings of Srimanta Sankardeva, disagreed with Madhabdev over religious practices. Madhabdev had planned to sacrifice goats to the goddess because of his mother's illness, while Ramadasa opposed the sacrifice. Their disagreement eventually took Madhabdev to Sankardeva. What followed was a long and serious discussion between the two scholars. According to traditional accounts, the debate continued for several hours. Sankardeva did not insult Madhabdev or dismiss his learning. Instead, he patiently explained the principle of devotion and the philosophy of Ekasarana Dharma. Madhabdev listened with an open mind and gradually became convinced. At the age of about thirty-two, in 1522, he accepted Sankardeva as his Guru.

That decision changed everything. Madhabdev broke his earlier engagement and chose a life dedicated to spiritual practice and service. His relationship with Sankardeva became one of the finest examples of the Indian Guru-Shishya tradition. He did not feel diminished by becoming a disciple of another

great scholar. Instead, he understood that true learning begins when the ego becomes humble. Sankardeva recognised his extraordinary intelligence, literary ability and devotion and eventually considered him his spiritual successor. Madhabdev, in turn, devoted himself completely to spreading his Guru's teachings.

Madhabdev soon realised that religious and philosophical knowledge should not remain confined to scholars. Ordinary villagers also



deserved access to wisdom. He therefore used poetry, music, drama and collective prayer to communicate spiritual and ethical ideas. This was an important feature of the Indian Knowledge System: knowledge was not treated merely as information but as a means of developing character and creating social harmony. Madhabdev's genius was that he could take deep philosophical ideas and express them in forms that common people could understand, remember and practise.

His service to his Guru continued through difficult circumstances. When Sankardeva passed away in 1568, Madhabdev inherited the enormous responsibility of carrying forward the movement. He could have withdrawn from public life, but instead he accepted the challenge. He became the principal spiritual and artistic

successor of Sankardeva and gave a new strength and direction to the movement.

Madhabdev's contribution was not limited to religious teaching. He became a remarkable poet, musician, dramatist and institution-builder. His greatest literary work, the Naam Ghosa, became one of the foundational texts of Assamese Vaishnavite literature. He also composed numerous Borgeets, devotional songs that remain an important part of Assam's musical

Government of Assam describes these Satras as institutions that gradually developed into broad socio-cultural centres involving education, music, dance, drama, art and other cultural activities.

There is a beautiful incident associated with Madhabdev's faith in his disciples. When the prayer hall at Barpeta was destroyed by fire, Mathura Das Burha Ata went to Madhabdev and explained that the community did not have sufficient money to rebuild it. Madhabdev gave him only two Nageri coins and asked him to return and rebuild the Satra, expressing his confidence that sincere devotees would continue to support the institution. More than the money itself, the incident reveals Madhabdev's wisdom: he trusted people, encouraged responsibility and believed that institutions built on devotion and collective effort could survive difficulties.

The old grandfather paused and looked towards the Namghar. His grandson asked, “Grandfather, what made Madhabdev truly great?” The old man replied, “His greatness was not only in his books or songs. It was in the change he brought within himself. A learned man became humble; a disciple became a guide; a poet became an educator; and a spiritual teacher became a builder of society. He understood that devotion without compassion is incomplete and knowledge without humility can become pride.”

Madhabdev passed away in 1596 at Bhelasatra in the Koch Bihar region, but the traditions he strengthened continued long after his death. His teachings survived through the Naam Ghosa, Borgeets, Satras, Namghars, devotional performances and generations of disciples. His work became deeply woven into the cultural identity of Assam.

Moral of the Story

The life of Mahapurush Sri Sri Madhabdev teaches us that true knowledge should make a person humble, compassionate and responsible towards society. His willingness to question, listen and finally accept his Guru demonstrates that changing one's beliefs after discovering a deeper truth is a sign of wisdom, not weakness. His life reflects the Indian Knowledge System's emphasis on Guru-bhakti, self-discipline, seva, humility, collective welfare and the use of knowledge for social good. His example reminds us that the greatest achievement is not to make people admire us, but to leave behind values and institutions that continue to benefit society.

SAFEENA HUSAIN: TURNING A PERSONAL STRUGGLE INTO A MOVEMENT FOR EVERY GIRL'S EDUCATION

Education is referred to as the “gift of opportunity.” For Safeena Husain, it was the “force that changed her life forever” and inspired her to create a nationwide movement to ensure that it is not missed by any girl.

The founder and Board Member of Educate Girls has become one of India's most influential social-impact champions, turning the country's neglected problem of female education into a large-scale development issue.

Husain's story is unique and inspiring in many ways, but her journey of perseverance and resilience is especially noteworthy.

Coming from poverty-stricken families in Delhi, Husain faced violence and harassment that forced her to drop out of school for a while, leaving her feeling “defeated and humiliated.” However, her aunt's help gave her a “second chance” to return to school.

That was the start of her long and exciting journey to the London School of Economics, but it also marked the beginning of her desire to give others, especially girls, the chance to receive an education. Her professional experience in the development sector, gained both in India and abroad, led her to realize that “it was education that opened the world to me” and that an equal opportunity should be given to every girl.

In 2007, she founded Educate Girls, an NGO that focused on some of the most disadvantaged regions of Rajasthan, initially. Instead of trying to solve the problem from above, Husain and her team went door-to-door, making sure that every family sent their daughters to school. They enlisted the support of parents, teachers, government officials, volunteers, and community leaders. Her organization created an effective community-based model called Team Balika that employed volunteers to help raise awareness about girls'

education and encourage parental engagement. Team Balika's efforts produced remarkable results as the local community was able to recognize the importance of girls' education and begin taking action.

The unique aspect of Husain's contributions lies in her ability to combine

which built accountability into the system and provided donors with concrete proof of social impact.

The impact of Husain's work has been truly outstanding. Over the years, the organization has been able to impact millions of children and families. Over 1.8 million girls

Therefore, Husain strongly focuses on community engagement and volunteer work because addressing the issue of girls' education requires a multi-faceted approach. Girls need access to education, agency to make choices, and a large-scale initiative that can reach millions of children.

The impact of Safeena Husain's efforts has been so outstanding that she has received numerous awards in India and abroad for her groundbreaking work. She has been awarded the NITI Aayog Women Transforming India Award, the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship, and other local and international distinctions. In 2023, Husain became the first Indian woman to receive the WISE Prize for Education, and in 2024, she was honored with an honorary degree from the London School of Economics.

The largest distinction, however, came in the form of the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2025, which not only recognized Husain's efforts but also acknowledged the outstanding work of the girls, families, teachers, volunteers, communities, and donors involved. According to the citation, Husain has “turned a private tragedy into a public cause,” demonstrating “visionary imagination” and promoting “human dignity without limits.”

Safeena Husain's contribution goes far beyond her own impact; she has become a key social agent who is making India a better place. By showing that one person's “second chance” can become a “first chance” for many, she has inspired people to recognize and address the complex set of issues affecting girls' education.



cutting-edge technology and community engagement. Educate Girls was among the first NGOs to use data analytics and machine learning to create a list of children who have dropped out of school or are at risk of doing so. Then, the community-based volunteers were able to reach out to them and explain why education is important. By bringing innovative technology and traditional community involvement together, the organization was able to maximize its impact.

Another special feature of the Educate Girls model is that it tries to make the most of the resources available. For example, Husain's team was able to secure the first-ever Development Impact Bond in the country,

have enrolled in schools with the help of Educate Girls, and over 2.2 million children received remedial education as of 2024. Additionally, thousands of community-based gender advocates were engaged to support the noble initiative.

Girls' education remains a pressing issue in India, and Husain made sure it was placed on the government's agenda. The issue is deeply embedded in the country's culture, and Husain has been working to tackle the root causes of girls' lack of access to education. In her speech at the WISE Summit 2023, she stated that poverty, patriarchy, and period poverty are the main barriers to girls' education in India, referring to them as the “triple P challenge.”

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EDITORIAL NOTE

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

Water is no longer only a basic necessity it is becoming a strategic economic resource. As cities expand, industries grow and agriculture faces increasing pressure on resources, the demand for reliable and efficient water management is rising. This is creating a new business landscape around purification, recycling, conservation, smart infrastructure and water technology. The future opportunity may not simply lie in finding more water, but in managing every drop more intelligently. Across India, businesses, housing societies, hotels, hospitals, factories and farms are looking for practical ways to reduce water consumption, recycle wastewater and control costs. This growing demand is encouraging startups and established companies to develop solutions that combine sustainability with commercial value.

The message is clear: water management is moving from an environmental concern to a strategic business opportunity.

Understanding the Water Economy

The water economy includes businesses involved in treating, distributing, recycling, monitoring, and conserving water. Major areas include:

- Water purification and treatment
- Water recycling and harvesting

THE BUSINESS OF WATER: TURNING EVERY DROP INTO ECONOMIC VALUE

- Desalination
- Smart monitoring and leak detection
- Industrial water management
- Water-quality testing
- Water infrastructure

Together, these sectors combine technology, infrastructure, finance, and sustainability, creating new opportunities across the economy.

Why Businesses Are Investing in Water Solutions

Water is essential across industries, from hotel operations and manufacturing to agriculture and residential use. Better water management can reduce costs, improve efficiency, and support business continuity. Example: Hotels can reuse treated wastewater for landscaping, while factories can recycle process water, reducing fresh-water use and expenses. Water efficiency is becoming a smart business strategy.

The Real Value Lies in Conservation

The water economy is not only about creating new sources it is also about preventing losses and making existing supplies more productive. Smart meters can track consumption, sensors can detect leaks and data analytics can identify unusual usage patterns. Recycling systems can give treated wastewater a second useful purpose. Example: A housing society using smart water meters can identify leaks and excessive consumption, allowing residents and managers to take corrective action before costs rise. In the modern economy, water saved can translate into money saved.

The Power of Water Data

Smart meters, sensors and analytics can help businesses track consumption, identify leaks, forecast demand and optimise water use. As water becomes a strategic resource, the ability to measure and manage it accurately will create new opportunities in technology, analytics and consulting.

Business Opportunities in the Water Economy

The sector is creating opportunities in both infrastructure and emerging technologies, including:

- Water treatment and recycling
- Smart metering and leak detection
- Rainwater harvesting
- Desalination
- Industrial water solutions
- Water-quality testing and analytics
- Water infrastructure management

Example: A startup can use smart sensors to help factories monitor water use, detect leaks and reduce wastage. These solutions create value through both conservation and cost savings.

A New Opportunity for Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs can create affordable water solutions for schools, housing societies, restaurants, hospitals, farms and small businesses. Business ideas include:

- Water-audit services
- Smart monitoring
- Rainwater harvesting
- Water recycling
- Water-quality testing
- Water-saving devices
- Digital water-management platforms

Example: A startup can help housing societies monitor consumption, detect leaks and manage rainwater harvesting. The biggest opportunities lie in solving everyday water challenges with simple, scalable solutions.

Career Opportunities for Students

The growing water economy is creating careers across commerce, finance, management, technology and sustainability. Opportunities include:

- Water Business Analyst
- Sustainability Consultant
- Infrastructure Finance Executive
- Project Manager
- Operations Manager
- Procurement Executive
- Data Analyst
- Business Development Executive
- Water-Management Consultant
- Entrepreneur

Example: A commerce graduate can work in infrastructure finance, procurement, project management, sustainability consulting or business development. The water economy offers careers where commerce, technology and sustainability



intersect.

Skills Students Should Build

Students should develop:

- Financial and business analytics
- Project management
- Sustainability awareness
- Data and digital skills
- Communication and problem-solving
- Entrepreneurial thinking

Understanding how resource efficiency affects costs, profitability and resilience can give commerce students a valuable edge. Today's awareness can become tomorrow's water business.

The Bigger Shift

The water economy reflects a shift in how businesses value natural resources. Water is increasingly being treated as an asset to measure, conserve, reuse and manage efficiently. Smart technology and recycling are creating new markets while helping businesses use fewer resources more effectively. The future of business will depend on creating greater value with fewer resources.

The Take Away

India's water economy is creating new opportunities at the intersection of technology, infrastructure, sustainability and commerce. For commerce students, resource management is becoming an essential business skill. Because in tomorrow's economy, success will belong to those who create greater value from every drop.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

The study of language and literature is not just an academic pursuit, but a journey into the world of imagination, critical thinking, and cultural exchange. This page celebrates creativity, knowledge, and expression by bridging the classics with contemporary voices.

FROM GURU–SHISHYA TO
TEACHER–LEARNER : INDIAN
PERSPECTIVE

The Indian tradition has always placed a profound value on the relationship between the teacher and the learner.

In the ancient Guru–Shishya Parampara, education was rooted in respect, discipline, trust and personal guidance.

The Guru was not merely a teacher but a mentor, philosopher and guide to the student.

Learning extended beyond textbooks and included values, ethics, responsibility and self-discipline.

The relationship was often strengthened through close interaction and shared experiences.

With the transformation of society, education gradually moved from the traditional Gurukul system to modern institutions.

Gurukul system to modern institutions. Today, the teacher–student relationship is more democratic, inclusive and collaborative.

The teacher is increasingly seen as a facilitator rather than the sole source of knowledge. Students are encouraged to question, explore, research and express independent opinions.

Technology has further transformed the classroom into a space of global and digital learning.

Yet, technology cannot replace the human qualities of empathy, encouragement and mentorship.

A good teacher recognises the uniqueness, abilities and challenges of every learner.

A good student, in turn, responds with respect, curiosity, responsibility and a willingness to learn.

Thus, the spirit of the Guru–Shishya tradition continues, even as its form evolves.

From reverence to partnership, the journey from Guru–Shishya to Teacher–Learner celebrates the timeless power of education to transform lives.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was not only a philosopher and President of India, but also a distinguished teacher and professor. His deep belief in education and the role of teachers is one of the reasons his birth anniversary became associated with Teachers’ Day in India.
- In ancient India, Nalanda was one of the world’s great centres of learning. Students travelled from different parts of Asia to study under renowned teachers and scholars, making it an early example of international education and knowledge exchange.
- In Indian tradition, the teacher is often called a “Guru.” The word carries a deeper meaning than simply “teacher”—it represents someone who helps a learner move from ignorance towards knowledge and understanding.

GRAMMAR TIP

Teach – Learn – Educate – Inspire

These words are related but not identical:

Teach – to give knowledge or skills
Learn – to acquire knowledge or skills
Educate – to develop knowledge, character and understanding
Inspire – to motivate someone to achieve or create something meaningful

A teacher may teach a subject, educate a mind and inspire a life.

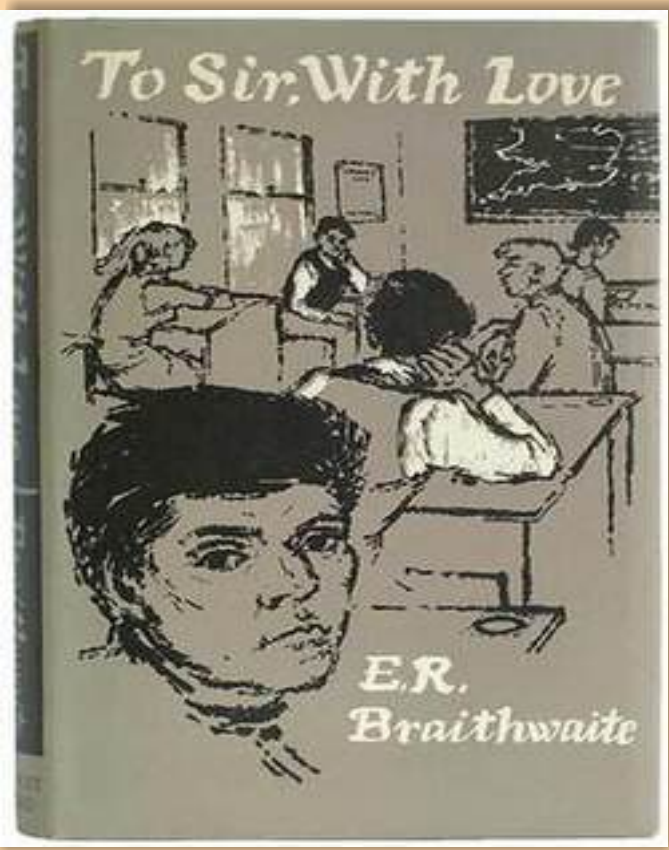
WRITER OF THE WEEK

E. R. Braithwaite (1912–2016)

E. R. Braithwaite (1912–2016) was a Guyanese-born British writer best known for his autobiographical novel *To Sir, With Love* (1959). His literary work draws heavily on his experiences as a teacher in a challenging school in London's East End. His writing explores themes of education, racism, social prejudice, dignity, discipline, and human transformation. In *To Sir, With Love*, Braithwaite presents the teacher–student relationship as a powerful force for building trust and changing lives. His simple, realistic and reflective style makes the work both socially significant and emotionally compelling. Braithwaite's literature ultimately celebrates education as a means of overcoming prejudice and promoting mutual respect and humanity.

BOOK REVIEW

To Sir, With Love — E. R. Braithwaite



E. R. Braithwaite's autobiographical novel explores the challenging relationship between a teacher and his students in a London school. Initially confronted by distrust and difficult circumstances, the teacher gradually builds a relationship based on dignity, responsibility and mutual respect. The book reminds us that education becomes transformative when teachers see students not as problems to be controlled but as individuals whose potential deserves to be recognised.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

— William Butler Yeats

CREATIVE WRITING

The Teacher

A teacher gives more than a lesson,
more than words upon a page;

They teach us how to question,
how to dream, and how to engage.

They notice the quiet learner,
the question no one hears;

They turn mistakes to stepping-stones,
and uncertainty to years.

And when the classroom journey ends,
and students go their way,

the lessons that truly mattered
continue every day.

For knowledge may fill a notebook,
but kindness fills the heart;

and sometimes one teacher's faith
can give a life its start.

Poetry by
Ashutosh

WORD OF THE WEEK

Mentor (noun)
Meaning: A trusted and experienced person who guides, advises and supports someone who is less experienced.
Example: My teacher became a mentor who guided me far beyond the classroom.

IDIOM HIGHLIGHT

“Learn the ropes”

Meaning: To learn the basic skills or practical knowledge needed to do something.
Example: With the guidance of her teacher, the student quickly learned the ropes of academic research.

INDIAN COTTON YARN MAKERS STEP UP CHINA MARKET
PUSH TO CAPTURE LARGER SHARE

Indian cotton yarn exporters and spinning mills are intensifying their export push toward China, aiming to capture a significantly larger share of the world's largest textile and apparel manufacturing hub as demand rebounds. With Chinese buyers actively seeking reliable alternative sourcing points amid global supply chain shifts, Indian yarn manufacturers are leveraging key industry platforms such as major international yarn expos in Shanghai to showcase high-quality ring-spun, combed, and carded cotton yarns.



surge in trade volumes. Monthly yarn shipments from India to China have expanded rapidly, climbing from historical averages of 300 containers per month to nearly 1,500 containers carrying roughly 30,000 tonnes of cotton yarn. This uptick is keeping major Indian spinning mills running at near-full operational capacity. With domestic Chinese cotton prices staying elevated and international buyers seeking competitive input costs ahead of peak manufacturing cycles, Indian exporters expect strong order momentum from China to continue through upcoming quarters.

These factors have triggered a

TEA ASSOCIATION OF INDIA EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER
SHARPLY DECLINING AUCTION PRICES

The Tea Association of India has raised serious concerns regarding a sharp drop in tea auction prices across major North Indian trading hubs, warning that falling realizations threaten the financial sustainability of gardens across Assam and West Bengal.



floods in Assam, severe heatwaves, and aggressive pest infestations caused an 8 percent crop decline in July, with an equivalent drop projected for August.

Geopolitical friction has also curtailed foreign demand, with Indian tea exports dropping 18 percent during the January to June period and trailing last year's performance by roughly 23 million kilograms. Planters now face mounting financial stress due to rising operational expenses, inflated fertilizer costs, higher mandatory wage structures, and upcoming festival bonus outflows, creating acute liquidity constraints ahead of the peak autumn harvest.

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

Ahead of the Union Government's annual opium licensing policy announcement, licensed opium farmers from major growing belts across Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh staged a massive demonstration at Jantar Mantar, demanding sweeping policy reforms and better financial security.



Organized under the banner of the Bharatiya Afeem Kisan Sangharsh Samiti, the protesting growers urged the central government to significantly hike procurement prices for medicinal opium gum from the current nominal rates to ₹1,00,000 per kilogram. The farmers also demanded a broader expansion of cultivation leases, calling for the unconditional reinstatement of licenses cancelled since 1990 and advocating for revised licensing criteria based on a manageable morphine yield threshold of 3 kg per hectare.

A central issue during the protest was the rejection of modern extraction frameworks. Farmers called for the immediate abolition of the Concentrate of Poppy Straw method introduced in recent years, urging a return to

traditional lancing methods to protect rural livelihoods. Furthermore, protesters demanded excluding poppy straw from the strict ambit of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, arguing that the agricultural husk should be purchased directly by the government at a minimum price of ₹2,000 per kilogram.

With tens of thousands of farming families depending on opium cultivation, leaders emphasized that state policies must prioritize traditional agricultural communities while meeting the nation's pharmaceutical demands for palliative care.

KERALA'S SEAFOOD SECTOR UNVEILS DRAFT
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

In a major step toward sustainable marine ecology and trade resilience, Kerala's seafood sector has unveiled a comprehensive draft Fisheries Management Plan (FMP).

Formulated through multi-stakeholder consultations involving exporter bodies, research institutions, and traditional fisher unions, the roadmap addresses overfishing, habitat degradation, and stringent international compliance norms.

Implementing scientific minimum legal sizes (MLS) for commercial fish species, mesh-size regulations for trawlers, and strict seasonal fishing bans to allow stock replenishment.

Establishing digital catch documentation ecosystems from vessel landing to processing plants to meet rigorous eco-labeling standards demanded by European and US export



markets.

Modernizing coastal harbor infrastructure, promoting solar-assisted fishing craft, and eliminating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing practices.

GLOBAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
FOR SUGARCANE RESEARCH TO
BE ESTABLISHED IN
COIMBATORE



India is set to bolster its agricultural research footprint with the establishment of a dedicated Global Centre of Excellence for sugarcane research in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Building upon the legacy of the ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute—one of the world's premier sugarcane research institutions—the upcoming center will focus on developing climate-resilient crop varieties, accelerating breeding technologies, and addressing global sustainability challenges facing the sugar and bioenergy sectors.

The new facility will prioritize advanced molecular breeding, genomic editing, and marker-assisted selection to develop high-yielding, drought-tolerant, and disease-resistant cane varieties suited for changing weather patterns. Beyond crop yield, researchers will optimize sugarcane traits for higher total fermentable sugars and biomass productivity to support India's E20 ethanol blending program and broader green energy transition goals.

Additionally, the center is designed to serve as a global hub for knowledge exchange, gene-bank preservation, and capacity-building programs for researchers and agricultural scientists from developing nations across Asia and Africa. The overall initiative aims to safeguard farmer profitability, reduce input costs through precision agriculture, and maintain long-term production stability across tropical and subtropical sugar belts.

BENGAL MOVES TOWARDS NEP 2020 IMPLEMENTATION

West Bengal is moving towards the full implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and plans to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to support the process. School Education Minister Dipak Barman announced the development during a state-level workshop attended by education officials from across the state.

Barman acknowledged that West Bengal is currently “somewhat behind” in implementing NEP 2020 but said the government is working to complete the process quickly. The proposed agreement with NCERT will focus on teacher orientation programmes and provide technical and academic guidance for implementing the new education framework at the school level.

The minister said NCERT's support will help the state address practical challenges in translating the policy into classroom practices. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) will also guide the state's curriculum, textbooks, teaching methods and assessment



systems. According to Barman, textbooks prepared under the new framework are expected to be introduced from the 2028 academic year. The state syllabus committee will take guidance from the NCF while developing the revised curriculum.

The minister also urged private schools to upload complete student-related information on the UDISE+ portal, noting that gaps in data from several schools have affected the accuracy of enrolment figures.

The planned NCERT partnership marks an important step towards strengthening teacher preparation, curriculum development and academic support while aligning West Bengal's school education system with NEP 2020.

TELANGANA PARTNERS WITH SOUTH KOREA FOR SPORTS EXCELLENCE

Telangana has taken a major step towards strengthening sports education and developing elite athletes by establishing a three-year partnership between the Young India Physical Education and Sports University (YIPESU) and South Korea's Korea National Sport University (KNSU).

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on August 24 at KNSU in Seoul by KNSU President Moon Won-Jae and YIPESU Vice-Chancellor Dr Kishore Gopinathan. The partnership aims to connect Telangana's sporting talent with international expertise in athlete training, sports science and high-performance education.

The collaboration will focus on five key areas: academic programmes, faculty and student exchanges, joint research, sports science and elite athlete development. The institutions will also share knowledge and best practices to improve training standards and create greater opportunities for emerging athletes.

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy highlighted the significance of the partnership, noting that KNSU-trained athletes contributed 16 of South Korea's 32 medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics. The state hopes to bring similar high-performance training systems and sporting excellence to Telangana.

The partnership is also linked to Telangana's preparations for the 2036 Olympics, with the government aiming to build an ecosystem capable of producing athletes who can compete successfully at international events.

The agreement is expected to create new opportunities for students, coaches and athletes while strengthening sports research and education, helping Telangana emerge as a stronger centre for high-performance sports in India.

EDUCATION MINISTER JOSHI REVIEWS EDUCATION INITIATIVES, CALLS FOR TIMELY ACTION

Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi held a meeting with senior officials of the Departments of Higher Education and School Education and Literacy to review the progress of ongoing education initiatives and directions issued by the ministry.



The meeting focused on monitoring implementation, ensuring timely execution and strengthening follow-up mechanisms. Joshi stressed the need for sustained attention to ongoing initiatives so that decisions and directions are translated into effective action.

The review covered programmes being implemented across both higher and school education, with officials assessing progress and identifying areas requiring continued attention. The minister emphasised that effective implementation is essential to strengthening the education system at every level.

Joshi also underlined the importance of maintaining momentum in education reforms and ensuring that directions issued by the ministry receive

appropriate follow-up. The meeting brought together senior officials responsible for overseeing key initiatives and their implementation.

The review comes as the government continues to focus on improving the delivery and effectiveness of education programmes across the country. By emphasising timely execution and systematic monitoring, the ministry aims to ensure that ongoing initiatives achieve their intended objectives.

The meeting signals a stronger focus on accountability, implementation and timely action, with regular reviews expected to help track progress and address challenges in strengthening India's education system.

KARNATAKA LAUNCHES STUDENT-CENTRIC EDUCATION REFORM DRIVE

The Karnataka government has constituted a five-member Cabinet sub-committee to examine key challenges faced by students and recommend comprehensive reforms in the state's education system. The panel, chaired by Health and Family Welfare Minister U T Khader, was formed following a Cabinet decision taken on August 21.

The committee includes Higher Education Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy, Home and IT Minister Priyank Kharge, Medical Education and Skill Development Minister Sharan Prakash Patil, and School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa. It has been directed to submit its report within one month.

The panel will examine several concerns affecting students, including examination and recruitment integrity, question paper leaks, malpractice and the need for transparent and time-bound examination schedules. It will also study education costs, regulation of private fees and coaching centres, with the aim of reducing the financial burden on students and families.

Another major focus will be improving the quality and infrastructure of government schools, pre-university colleges and universities. The committee will look into teacher vacancies and facilities such as laboratories, libraries and hostels.

The panel will also assess curriculum and skill development to strengthen links between education and employment, while examining student mental health, counselling and support systems. Scholarships, financial assistance, hostel facilities and equal access to education will also be reviewed.

The government plans to consult students, parents, teachers and educational institutions across Karnataka before finalising its recommendations, making student voices an important part of the reform process.

DELHI TO ASSESS LEARNING SKILLS ACROSS CLASSES 2-8



Schools across Delhi will conduct a baseline assessment for students of Classes 2 to 8 from August 27 under the NIPUN Sankalp programme to evaluate foundational literacy and numeracy skills. The exercise will cover schools under the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), Delhi Cantonment Board (DCB) and the Directorate of Education.

According to directions issued by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), the assessment will use OMR-based tests in Hindi, English and Mathematics. Hindi will be assessed on August 27, followed by English on August 29 and Mathematics on August 31.

Schools have been asked to register students on the NIPUN Sankalp online portal and verify their details before the tests. To ensure fairness and confidentiality, schools will follow a “one desk-one student” arrangement.

The assessment process will vary by class. For Classes 2 and 3, teachers will fill in the complete OMR sheets, including student details and responses. For Classes 4 to 8, teachers will enter student information and complete Part B, while students will attempt Part A themselves.

School heads will oversee the assessments, ensuring trained teachers are deployed and OMR sheets are properly verified and submitted. Zonal officials will monitor the process.

Students absent on the scheduled dates will receive another opportunity to take the assessment by September 5. The exercise will help schools identify learning gaps and plan targeted academic support.

INDIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE BILL RUNS ₹3.4 LAKH CRORE OVER BUDGET AS PROJECTS RACE AHEAD

India's infrastructure push is gathering speed, but the massive construction drive is also leaving behind a sizeable financial footprint. Central infrastructure projects worth more than ₹150 crore each have recorded a cumulative cost overrun of about ₹3.4 lakh crore, according to the latest data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The figures underline a familiar challenge for a rapidly developing economy: building roads, railways, power systems and urban infrastructure at scale while keeping projects within their original budgets.

The July 2026 report covers 1,775 ongoing projects spread across 17 Central ministries and departments. Their combined original estimated cost was ₹33.70 lakh crore, but the revised cost has climbed to ₹37.11 lakh crore, creating an overall increase of ₹3,40,504 crore. Importantly, the report does not identify how many individual projects have experienced cost overruns, so the figure should be viewed as the cumulative increase across the monitored project portfolio rather than as a count of delayed projects.

The scale of the programme itself explains why even relatively modest delays or revisions can translate into thousands of crores. The monitored portfolio includes some of the country's largest transport, energy and public infrastructure investments. Transport and logistics dominate the landscape, accounting for 1,246 projects, or around 70 per cent of the total, with a revised value of ₹19.81 lakh crore. Roads and highways alone account for 993 projects, while the Railways has 190 projects with a combined revised cost of ₹6.38 lakh crore.

Energy forms the second-largest group, with 205 projects and a

revised cost of ₹10.66 lakh crore. These include investments spanning petroleum and natural gas, electricity generation, transmission, distribution and energy storage. The concentration of spending in transport and energy reflects India's broader development strategy, where better connectivity



and reliable power are expected to support manufacturing, logistics, urbanisation and private investment.

Yet the numbers do not suggest that infrastructure development has stalled. Quite the opposite. The government says cumulative expenditure on the 1,775 projects has reached ₹19.26 lakh crore, equivalent to about 51.91 per cent of their revised cost. Around 675 projects have already crossed 80 per cent physical completion, while 305 have achieved more

than 80 per cent financial completion. These figures indicate that a substantial portion of the investment pipeline is moving towards completion even as some projects undergo cost revisions.

The challenge now is to understand why project costs rise and how future overruns can be contained. Land acquisition, changes in project design, delays in obtaining clearances, inflation in construction materials, financing costs and unexpected site conditions can all push up the final bill. In large, multi-year projects, even a delay of several months can have a cascading effect on labour, equipment, interest and material expenses.

The government's PAIMANA monitoring system is intended to provide closer tracking of such projects and support timely intervention. Better coordination between agencies, faster approvals, realistic initial cost estimates and stronger project-management practices could help prevent temporary delays from becoming permanent financial burdens.

India cannot afford to slow its infrastructure expansion at a time when better connectivity and modern public assets are central to its economic ambitions. But speed alone cannot be the measure of success. A road, railway, power plant or urban project delivers its greatest value when it is completed on time, within a credible budget and begins generating economic benefits quickly. The ₹3.4 lakh crore overrun is therefore not merely a financial statistic; it is a reminder that India's next infrastructure challenge is to build not only bigger and faster, but also smarter and more efficiently.

₹22,000 CRORE CLAIMS, ₹6.25 CRORE RECOVERY: WHY SUBHASH CHANDRA'S INSOLVENCY CASE HAS SPARKED A BANKING DISPUTE

The insolvency case involving Essel Group founder Subhash Chandra has turned into an unusual financial and legal battle, largely because of the enormous gap between the claims admitted against him and the amount proposed for creditors. Claims of around ₹22,006 crore were filed in the personal insolvency proceedings, of which approximately ₹21,696 crore were admitted. Yet the resolution plan provides only ₹6.25 crore for distribution among eligible creditors, along with ₹25 lakh towards insolvency-process expenses. On the face of it, the numbers suggest a recovery of barely 0.03 per cent, but the story behind the figures is considerably more complex.

The first point of confusion is the nature of the debt. The ₹22,000-crore figure does not mean that the businessman personally borrowed that amount from banks and financial institutions. Much of the liability arose from personal guarantees given in connection with loans raised by companies associated with the Essel Group. In other words, the insolvency proceedings concern the guarantor's liability rather than a conventional personal borrowing of ₹22,000 crore. The distinction is important because approval of the personal resolution plan does not automatically wipe out lenders' rights against the original borrowing companies or other available securities.

The case became more contentious because of the way creditors voted on the resolution plan. The proposal received 80.814 per cent of the votes cast, comfortably above the statutory 75 per cent threshold required for approval. However, five entities supporting the plan together controlled about 61.78 per cent of the total voting share. Several institutional lenders questioned whether these entities had sufficient

connections with Chandra to participate independently in the voting process. They argued that their inclusion had a decisive influence on the outcome.

The tribunal, however, did not accept the argument that family or business proximity alone was enough to classify these entities as associates of the debtor under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. The adjudicating process found that the objecting lenders had not established the level of ownership or control required under the law. The NCLT bench itself initially produced a split decision, with one member supporting the plan and another opposing it. The matter subsequently went to a third member, whose decision resulted in a majority in favour of approval.

The controversy has gained another dimension because of a large investment involving Zee Entertainment warrants. A promoter-group entity paid around ₹660 crore for 25 per cent of warrants valued at about ₹2,639 crore, with the balance payable if the warrants are converted into shares. Lenders have questioned how such substantial financial activity fits alongside the relatively modest personal net worth reported by Chandra. However, the warrant-holding entity is not legally identified as being owned by Chandra, and assets belonging to other adult family members or separate companies cannot automatically be treated as his personal property.

Chandra has maintained that he was a guarantor rather than a borrower and has disputed the interpretation of the lenders' claims. He has also pointed to the substantial repayment of debt by Essel-linked companies over the years. These arguments highlight why the ₹22,000-

crore figure should not be interpreted simply as money personally borrowed and then reduced to ₹6.25 crore.

The immediate battle is therefore not only about the size of the repayment but also about the credibility of the creditor voting process, the classification of connected entities and the extent of assets legally available to satisfy personal liabilities. HDFC Bank has indicated that it is examining an appeal before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal, while other dissenting lenders may also challenge the decision. The final outcome could have wider implications for how personal guarantees, related-party creditors and voting rights are treated in high-value insolvency cases.

At its heart, the case is a reminder that a headline number rarely tells the whole story in corporate insolvency. The ₹22,000 crore represents admitted claims linked to guarantees, while ₹6.25 crore represents the proposed recovery under the personal resolution plan. The real question now is whether the legal process that produced that settlement will withstand further scrutiny—and whether the lenders' challenge can alter the outcome.

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Q. How to Reduce Negative Thinking?

Ans. Negative thinking is a natural part of human experience, but when it becomes frequent and persistent, it can increase stress, anxiety, and the risk of depression. People may repeatedly think about past mistakes, worry excessively about the future, or assume the worst in every situation. Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), especially the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, Yoga, Upanishads, and Ayurveda, provide practical methods to reduce negative thinking and cultivate a calm, balanced, and resilient mind.

1. Become Aware of Your Thoughts: The first step is to recognize negative thoughts rather than automatically believing them. Ask yourself: Is this thought based on facts or assumptions? Am I exaggerating the situation? Would I advise a friend to think this way? Self-awareness helps separate reality from distorted thinking.

2. Focus on the Present Moment: Many negative thoughts arise from dwelling on the past or worrying about the future. The Bhagavad Gita encourages individuals to focus on their present duty rather than constantly worrying about future outcomes. Concentrating on today's responsibilities reduces unnecessary mental burden.

3. Practice Nishkama Karma: Much negative thinking comes from fear of failure or disappointment. Nishkama Karma teaches: perform your duties sincerely, give your best effort, accept that results are not completely under your control. When attention shifts from outcomes to actions, anxiety and negative thinking naturally decrease.

4. Challenge Negative Beliefs: Do not accept every negative thought as truth. For example: Instead of thinking: "I always fail." Ask: "Is that really true?" "Have I succeeded before?" "What evidence supports this thought?" Replacing irrational beliefs with balanced thinking reduces emotional distress.

5. Practice Meditation Daily: Meditation is one of the most effective tools recommended in Indian traditions. Meditation helps individuals: observe thoughts without reacting, reduce mental noise, improve concentration, develop emotional stability. Even 15–20 minutes of daily meditation can significantly reduce repetitive negative thinking.

6. Regulate Your Breathing: The mind and breath are closely connected. Practicing Pranayama (controlled breathing) calms the nervous system and reduces stress. Simple techniques such as deep breathing or alternate nostril breathing help interrupt cycles of worry and restore mental balance.

7. Cultivate Gratitude: Negative thinking focuses on what is missing. Gratitude focuses on what is already present. Each day, reflect on: good health, supportive family, education, friendships, opportunities, personal strengths. Gratitude gradually trains the brain to notice positive aspects of life.

8. Avoid Excessive Comparison: Comparing yourself constantly with others often produces feelings of inadequacy. The Bhagavad Gita teaches that each individual has a unique Dharma and life journey. Measure progress by comparing yourself with who you were yesterday—not with someone else.

9. Keep Good Company (Satsanga): The people around us strongly influence our thoughts. Spending time with: positive friends, supportive family, inspiring teachers, ethical role models

encourages optimism and emotional strength. Indian philosophy emphasizes Satsanga—the company of wise and virtuous people—as a means of improving one's mindset.

10. Limit Negative Inputs: Continuous exposure to: disturbing news, toxic social media, constant criticism, negative conversations can reinforce pessimistic thinking. Choose information that educates and inspires rather than overwhelms.

11. Stay Physically Active: The body and mind influence each other. Regular physical activity: improves mood, reduces stress hormones, increases energy, promotes better sleep. Yoga combines physical movement with breathing and mindfulness, making it particularly effective for mental well-being.

12. Replace Complaints with Solutions: Instead of repeatedly asking: "Why is this happening to me?" Ask: "What can I do now?" "What is one small step I can take?" "What can I learn from this?" Solution-focused thinking reduces helplessness and builds confidence.

13. Practice Compassion Toward Yourself: People often criticize themselves far more harshly than they criticize others. Accept that: mistakes are part of learning, nobody is perfect, setbacks are temporary. Self-compassion encourages growth rather than guilt.

14. Serve Others (Seva): Helping others shifts attention away from personal worries. Acts of kindness: create purpose, increase happiness, strengthen social connections, reduce loneliness. Service reminds individuals that they can make a positive difference despite their own difficulties.

15. Read Inspiring Literature: Indian scriptures such as the Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads, and inspirational biographies provide wisdom during difficult times. Positive reading gradually reshapes thinking by replacing fear with courage and confusion with clarity.

16. Maintain a Healthy Lifestyle: According to Ayurveda, mental health is influenced by daily habits. Maintain: regular sleep, nutritious food, adequate hydration, balanced routine, limited alcohol and harmful substances. A healthy body supports a healthy mind.

17. Accept That Difficult Emotions Are Temporary: The Bhagavad Gita reminds us that pleasure and pain are temporary experiences. Just as seasons change, emotions also change. Recognizing that sadness, disappointment, or fear will not last forever prevents hopelessness.

18. Develop a Sense of Purpose: People with meaningful goals experience fewer repetitive

negative thoughts. Purpose provides direction and motivation. Ask yourself: What values do I want to live by? How can I contribute to others? What meaningful goal can I pursue today? Purpose shifts attention from problems to possibilities.

19. Practice Positive Self-Talk: Replace harsh internal dialogue with constructive statements. Instead of saying: "I can't do this." Say: "This is difficult, but I can learn." "I have overcome challenges before." I will improve step by step." Positive self-talk builds confidence and resilience.

20. Seek Professional Help When Needed: If negative thinking becomes persistent, interferes with daily life, or is accompanied by prolonged sadness, hopelessness, or thoughts of self-harm, it is important to consult a qualified mental health professional. Practices from Indian Knowledge Systems such as yoga, meditation, and spiritual reflection—can complement professional treatment, but they should not replace appropriate medical or psychological care when it is needed.

Reducing negative thinking requires conscious practice, patience, and balanced living. Indian Knowledge Systems teach that the mind can be trained through self-awareness, meditation, disciplined action, gratitude, ethical living, and selfless service. The Bhagavad Gita encourages individuals to focus on their duties, remain detached from excessive expectations, and maintain equanimity in success and failure. By cultivating positive habits, building supportive relationships, practicing mindfulness, and developing a meaningful purpose, individuals can gradually replace negative thoughts with constructive and hopeful thinking. This transformation not only improves mental health but also promotes resilience, inner peace, and a more fulfilling life. Stay blessed!

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WHEN MACHINES WORK FASTER, HUMANS MUST WORK SMARTER

We are living in a time when technology can do in seconds what once took humans hours. Artificial Intelligence can write an article, prepare a presentation, analyse information, create images and even help solve complex problems. With such rapid technological progress, an important question is emerging: If AI can do so much of our work, does hard work still matter?

The answer is yes perhaps more than ever.

AI can make work faster, but it cannot replace the value of effort, experience and human judgement. A student can ask AI to write an assignment, but reading, understanding and questioning the subject is what creates real knowledge. An employee can use AI to prepare a report, but understanding the business problem and making the right decision still requires human thinking.

Hard work has never been only about spending long hours doing something. It is about practice, persistence and the willingness to improve. A musician may use technology to enhance a recording, but the skill behind the performance comes from years of practice. A teacher may use AI to prepare teaching material, but connecting with students and understanding their difficulties requires experience and empathy.

The biggest danger of AI is not that it will make humans lazy by itself. The danger is that people may become comfortable with shortcuts.

When everything is available instantly, we may lose the habit of struggling with a problem. But struggle is often where learning happens. When we try, fail, correct ourselves and try again, we develop abilities

that cannot simply be downloaded.

AI can give you an answer. Hard work teaches you how to find the answer yourself.

This distinction is especially important for young people. A student who uses AI only to complete assignments may get good-looking work but gain little understanding. Another student who uses AI as a learning assistant while doing the thinking, research and verification themselves develops a much stronger skill set.

The future, therefore, will not necessarily belong to people who compete against AI. It will belong to people who know how to work with AI without becoming dependent on it.

Hard work will also become more valuable because AI is making basic output easier to produce. When everyone can generate a decent presentation, article or design, what will differentiate people? Their originality, judgement, creativity, discipline, experience and ability to solve real problems.



Technology can provide tools, but tools do not create character.

We should not be afraid of AI. We should use it intelligently. Let AI reduce repetitive work, provide ideas and increase productivity. But let human beings continue to learn, experiment, question, practise and create.

The meaning of hard work is changing, not disappearing.

In the age of AI, working hard does not mean refusing technology. It means putting in the effort to become good enough that technology becomes your tool not your substitute.

Because at the end of the day, AI may help you reach the destination faster.

But the journey is what builds you.

MUST WE ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE? WHEN COMMUNICATION BECOMES PRESSURE!



There was a time when waiting for a reply was completely normal. We sent letters and waited for days, and even after mobile phones arrived, people understood that everyone had a life beyond the screen. Today, however, a delayed reply can sometimes feel like a personal insult. A message is seen, the two blue ticks appear, and within minutes comes the question, “Why haven’t you replied?” Welcome to the “Reply Immediately” culture.

Technology has made communication incredibly convenient. We can reach anyone, anywhere, at almost any time. But somewhere along the way, convenience has quietly turned into expectation. Being

reachable is no longer enough; people are increasingly expected to be instantly available. A message arrives during a meeting, a notification pops up while someone is eating, or a WhatsApp message comes while a person is spending time with family. Yet the pressure remains: reply now. We have slowly created a world where a few minutes of silence can be interpreted as negligence, disinterest or even disrespect.

The problem is that a message may take only ten seconds to answer, but our attention does not return in ten seconds. Every interruption breaks concentration. When this happens repeatedly, even simple tasks become mentally exhausting. We begin moving from one notification to another instead of giving our full attention to what actually matters. A student may be studying, an employee may be working on an important task, or a parent may be spending valuable time with their child, yet a simple notification can immediately pull their attention away.

More importantly, a delayed reply does not necessarily mean a lack of respect. Someone may be working, studying, travelling, driving, exercising, spending time with family, dealing with a personal problem, or simply taking a break from their phone. Not every silence needs an explanation. We have started confusing availability with responsibility. An employee who does not respond to a message after office hours may be labelled unprofessional. A friend who takes a few hours to reply may be considered uninterested. A student who does not immediately respond to a message may be judged as careless. But should responsiveness really be measured in minutes?

Of course, some situations genuinely require immediate communication. Emergencies, critical work matters and time-sensitive decisions are different. The problem begins when everything becomes urgent. When every message demands immediate attention, nothing receives meaningful attention. We become busy responding to people rather than being present in the moments that actually matter.

There is also a psychological cost to this culture. Constantly checking messages creates a habit of anticipation. We start wondering who has replied, who has seen our message and who has not. We may even feel anxious when someone does not respond to us quickly. Instead of controlling our devices, we slowly allow notifications to control our behaviour. Our phones begin deciding when we should stop working, stop studying, stop talking or stop relaxing.

Perhaps it is time to bring back a simple principle: people are allowed to have boundaries. A healthy communication culture should respect the difference between urgent and important. If something is genuinely urgent, say so clearly. If it can wait, let it wait. Similarly, if someone takes time to respond, we should resist the temptation to create a story around their silence. Their delayed reply may have nothing to do with us.

The next time your message remains unanswered, remember that a person is not necessarily ignoring you simply because they are not responding immediately. They may simply be working, thinking, resting, spending time with someone they love, or just living their life. Technology was designed to make communication easier, not to make human beings permanently available.

In a world that constantly tells us to respond faster, perhaps we need to learn something equally important: not every message needs an immediate reply, and not every moment needs to be interrupted. Sometimes, putting the phone down is also a form of communication a message to ourselves that our time, attention and life matter too.

INDIA'S FIRST DRONE RUNWAY TO BE BUILT IN MEERUT

India's First Drone Runway is all set to be built in Meerut, a city in the state of Uttar Pradesh. It can become a landmark step for the development of the drone infrastructure in India, as the country will have its first-ever drone runway there. As reported, tender amounting to Rs 371 crore will be floated on September 26. As per the project description, it should provide for the creation of necessary infrastructure which will be used for operation, testing and developing drones in the future. It happens in the context of rising importance of drone technologies in various areas, including agriculture, defense, healthcare, disaster management and delivering services. Thus, having dedicated runway may help to arrange drone operations in a more organised manner, as well as support both scientific researches and commercial applications. In addition, Meerut's location and good connection may become important in terms of building this kind of project. Moreover, the construction of a new runway will facilitate further development of drone ecosystem in the state of Uttar Pradesh and will create opportunities for companies and skilled specialists working with technologies. Thus, the upcoming drone runway becomes another example of Indian efforts to develop infrastructure for emerging technologies. If the project is implemented according to the plan, the facility can become a landmark moment in India's history.



TEEN CREATES AN INNOVATIVE WATER-GATHERING DEVICE TO HARVEST ATMOSPHERIC MOISTURE

The teenage scientist has created an innovative mechanism which makes it possible to collect water right out of the air. In fact, the invention suggests using atmospheric water gathering as a means to harvest moisture in the form of usable water. The idea is based on the fact that the humid air is drawn inside the mechanism where the moisture is collected. Contrary to the majority of water generation technologies which may cost and consume a lot of energy, the mechanism in question may make the gathering of water from the atmosphere less expensive and available for those regions which lack water. The fact shows that teenagers may use their knowledge in order to create innovations which may be helpful in solving some practical tasks. In fact, water shortage is becoming one of the serious problems in some regions due to climatic changes, overpopulation and reduction of ground waters. That is why some water-making technologies may be considered as a promising idea. The low cost of the mechanism may become one of its key advantages provided it will be possible to make the mechanism applicable on a bigger scale. In order to test the efficiency of the mechanism, further research should be made. The example proves that science is actively used by young people for practical purposes.



RESEARCHERS FIND NON-SURGICAL ALTERNATIVE TO EARLY STAGE RECTAL CANCER SURGERY

A non surgical combination of chemotherapy and radiotherapy could spare thousands of early stage rectal cancer patients from life altering operations. Currently, standard care for early stage rectal cancer often requires radical surgery to remove the entire rectum. While effective, the operation leaves many patients with permanent stomas, severe bowel dysfunction, or urinary issues. The STAR-TREC trial, co-led by the University of Birmingham and the University of Leeds, evaluated over 500 patients across the UK, Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, and Sweden. Researchers compared standard surgery against two organ-preserving options: a five-week chemoradiotherapy regimen and a five day short course radiotherapy regimen. Patients undergoing non surgical therapies were only referred for major surgery if the tumor failed to shrink adequately. Results at 12 months showed that five week chemoradiotherapy achieved an impressive 78.5% surgery-free survival rate, compared to 60.6% in the short course radiotherapy group. Overall, four out of five chemoradiotherapy patients successfully retained their rectum. Where minor residual tumor tissue remained, doctors performed localized, low impact removal rather than major organ resection.



INDIAN MINISTER PIYUSH GOYAL AIMS TO SEE JAPANESE COMPANIES DOUBLE IN INDIA

Union Commerce and Industry Minister of India Piyush Goyal has made a call for developing business and economic relations of the two countries. In a roundtable meeting in Tokyo, Goyal mentioned that the total number of Japanese companies in India needs to double in this decade. The meeting was organized by the Japan-India Business Consultative Committee and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Goyal talked about the close relations between the two countries and the importance of increased B2B cooperation. He encouraged Japanese firms to seize the opportunities available in the country. As one of the most rapidly growing economies in the world, India provides great potential for foreign investment and collaboration. Goyal also pointed out the necessity to engage in deeper economic interaction between the two countries. Enhanced cooperation will help both countries take advantage of each other. The message of the minister is an example of efforts on the part of India to receive more investments from Japan.



ANTONY PERUMBAVOOR CONFIRMS THE PRODUCTION OF "DRISHYAM 4"

Producer Antony Perumbavoor confirmed the production of 'Drishyam 4' following the success of the franchise's third installment, which hit theaters on May 21 and became a box office blockbuster. The third part in the crime-thriller series crossed the ₹100 crore benchmark within just a few days of its release. 'Drishyam 3' takes place five years after the events of 'Drishyam 2', where investigators probe the events connected to Varun's death, bringing renewed trouble for Georgekutty and his family. Antony shared this update at the Mazhavil Manorama Awards, noting director Jeethu Joseph's continuous motivation throughout the franchise. Jeethu mentioned that while working on the first film, Antony told him to think of a second; during the second, he advised him to plan the third; and now, following the third, he is encouraging work on a fourth installment. Sources confirm that Mohanlal is expected to return as Georgekutty in the film. While the sequel is confirmed, the filmmaker stated he will not rush production and will take time to properly develop the story and characters. The release date, plot, and additional cast members are yet to be confirmed.



INDIA FACES WEAK MONSOONS AS EL NINO PHENOMENON STRENGTHENS

India is on course to record its weakest monsoon season since 2009 as the strengthening El Niño phenomenon severely suppresses seasonal rainfall. Officials report that rainfall could drop up to 15% below the long term average, nearly double the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) initial 8% deficit forecast. This drop in monsoon activity, which provides roughly 70% of the country's annual water supply, threatens crop output, food price stability, and overall rural incomes. The moisture shortfall poses a double threat to India's agricultural calendar. Immediate dry conditions endanger summer sown Kharif crops such as cotton, soybean, corn, and pulses which rely heavily on late season moisture to mature. Simultaneously, the lack of late rains depletes vital topsoil moisture, creating adverse planting conditions for upcoming winter sown Rabi crops like wheat and rapeseed. With a 60 percent probability of a deficient monsoon season overall, large regions face severe dry spells or drought-like conditions. While the IMD's official monthly outlook is scheduled for release at the end of August, officials warn that September could suffer a double digit rainfall deficit across most parts of the country.



INDIA DEFEATS SRI LANKA IN THE TWO MATCH TEST SERIES

The Men in Blue won the Test series against Sri Lanka 1–0 after the second Test match ended in a draw. The Indian team maintained its dominance from the start with Devdutt Padikkal clinching the Player of the Series title. Sri Lanka tried to make a strong comeback in the second Test, where Sonal Dinusha scored 103(162) in the first innings and an unbeaten 133(264) in the second. He was declared the Player of the Match. During the first Test in Galle, Padikkal set the foundation with a stellar 167(230), followed by another exceptional batting performance in Colombo, where he scored 117(193) in the second Test. Manav Suthar delivered a brilliant bowling spell, taking 6 wickets for 55 runs (6/55) to complete a 10 wicket haul in the first Test. Although Sri Lanka's Asitha Fernando took 4/106 in 29 overs during the first innings of the second Test, it was not enough to secure a victory to draw the series. Indian Captain Shubman Gill focused on the positives praising Padikkal and KL Rahul for powering the batting lineup, as well as Manav Suthar for his exceptional bowling. He now turns his focus to the upcoming series against New Zealand.



ANSHUMAN JHINGRAN SET SECOND GUINNESS WORLD RECORD AS YOUNGEST MALE TO CROSS OCEANS SEVEN

Anshuman Jhingran, an Indian open water swimmer, has yet again done something exceptional and earned himself another Guinness World Records title. Anshuman Jhingran has set a new record and became the youngest male to cross the Oceans Seven challenge. It should be said that such a result testifies to outstanding endurance, discipline and willpower of the young Indian athlete. This challenge is regarded as one of the most difficult in the field of open-water swimming, as the swimmers need to overcome adverse weather conditions, powerful currents, low water temperature and extreme distances. For the young athlete from India, completion of the challenge has become a result of years of efforts and persistence on his part. Jhingran's latest Guinness World Records title adds up to his impressive list of achievements and makes him one of the best swimmers worldwide to accomplish the extremely difficult challenge. In addition, it should be noted that such an achievement is a great contribution of Indian swimming, especially in open-water sports, that are rather poorly represented as compared to some other popular competitive disciplines. This achievement can make many young athletes turn to endurance swimming and try themselves in the international competitions. Age is not a barrier if there is enough practice, persistence and willpower.



POOJA OLLA WEARS 1500M GOLD MEDAL AT WORLD ATHLETICS TOUR

An Indian middle-distance athlete named Pooja Olla was able to perform excellently in the World Athletics Tour competition, clinching the gold medal in women's 1500m discipline. Being part of Sports Authority of India (SAI), Olla proved her ability in terms of speed, endurance, and racing tactic to end up on top. This gold medal-winning performance adds another impressive performance to the growing international athletic success of India. In the 1500m, the athlete must be tactically aware and also have great kicking skills in order to win the race, but Olla managed to keep calm during the competition and overtake others when it mattered. This latest success is another indicator of how well the SAI training system works with its athletes who compete in international events. Olla's results prove that there is still much room for development within India's middle-distance running community. This win is likely to give Olla additional confidence in her abilities before future competitions. It is an important performance for fans of Indian athletics. With all the international experience and training, Olla now plans to move forward and become one of the promising middle-distance runners of India.



INDIAN JOCKEY SURAJ NARREDU CLINCHES THE JRA TITLE IN JAPAN

Suraj Narredu made history by becoming the first Indian rider to secure a victory at a Japan Racing Association (JRA) event held on August 22. Narredu competed against an elite international field comprising top riders from Japan, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and France. This landmark victory caps an extraordinary year for Narredu, who recently surpassed 2,500 career wins. His illustrious record includes over 250 domestic graded-race victories and more than 100 classic titles. Partnering with the three-year-old filly Fier Chanter trained by Kensuke Ogura over a distance of 2,600 metres, he brought home the sixth choice in the field to secure a stunning win, making the historic result even more remarkable. Expressing his joy after the race, Narredu remarked that riding in Japan had long been a major dream of his. He shared how meaningful it was to claim a victory on his very first day especially with his family present to witness the moment. Describing it as a significant milestone for Indian horse racing, he extended his heartfelt gratitude to fans supporting him on social media and to those in the stands waving the Indian flag.



MOTIVATED BY NEERAJ CHOPRA, ASHISH YADAV CLAIMS THE SILVER MEDAL AT U20 WORLDS MEN'S JAVELIN THROW

Young Indian thrower Ashish Yadav claimed the silver medal in the men's javelin throw event of the U20 World Championships. Motivated by the Olympic and world champion Neeraj Chopra, Yadav delivered a strong performance on the world stage. This silver medal for Ashish Yadav comes as yet another instance of good news for Indian athletics as well as for the event of javelin throw which has become increasingly popular thanks to Neeraj Chopra. The silver medal is not only a great honor for Yadav. He had to train for years to get ready for such a high-level competition. Moreover, he had to show confidence while competing with the world's top talents. One cannot fail to see how the achievements of the world champion Neeraj Chopra motivated young Indian athletes including Ashish Yadav. Perhaps, the U20 Worlds silver medal will be a good start for his career at the senior level. It can be said that Yadav's silver medal is good news for the future of India's athletics.



INDIAN SHUTTLERS CLINCH FOUR OUT OF FIVE TITLES AT THE INDIA JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL SERIES 2026

Indian shuttlers delivered an exceptional performance at the India Junior International Series 2026 clinching four of the five titles. The tournament concluded at the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy in Hyderabad on 23 August. In the men's singles final, top seed Dev Ruparelia defeated compatriot Kaushik Veeram Reddy 21-12, 21-18 in 38 minutes. In the women's singles event, unseeded Adarshini Shri Boopathy Balaji claimed the title by overcoming sixth seed Shaina Manimuthu. He claimed the title with a score of 21-10, 21-18. Adding to India's victory haul, second seeded Diya Bheemaiah and Baruni Parshwal edged out compatriots Lakshmi Ridhima Devineni and Anjana Manikandan scoring 21-18, 14-21, 22-20 in a thrilling women's doubles match lasting 1 hour and 12 minutes. In the men's doubles final, Charan Ram Thippana and Hari Krishna Veeramreddy secured the title by defeating Indonesia's Arybka Okta Disabian and Muhammad Zilazik Artando Zakaria. They had secured the title with scores of 23-21, 17-21, 25-23. However, Indonesia prevented an Indian clean sweep in the mixed doubles, where Muhammad Zilazik Artando Zakaria and Afizzah Rahmadhani defeated India's Yadunandan Kenchaiah and Krithya Sivasankar with scores of 18-21, 21-14, 21-17.



INDIA POST GDS
RECRUITMENT 2026



The Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, Government of India has announced Gramin Dak Sevak (GDS) Online Engagement Schedule-II, July 2026, inviting online applications for 23,757 vacancies of Branch Postmaster (BPM), Assistant Branch Postmaster (ABPM) and Dak Sevak across Postal Circles and Divisions throughout India.

Educational Qualification

- Applicants must have passed Class 10 (Secondary School Examination) from a recognised Board, with Mathematics and English as subjects. Candidates must also have studied the prescribed local language of the concerned Postal Circle up to Class 10.

Age Limit

- 18–40 years as on the last date of application submission. Age Relaxation: SC/ST – 5 years | OBC – 3 years | PwBD – 10 years. No age relaxation for EWS candidates.

Trca / Remuneration

- BPM: ₹12,000–₹29,380
- ABPM/ Dak Sevak: ₹10,000–₹24,470
- Plus Dearness Allowance and other applicable GDS benefits.

Selection Process

- No written examination or interview! Selection will be based on a system-generated merit list prepared from Class 10 marks/grades, followed by document/physical verification.

Important Dates

- OTR: 31 August–19 September 2026
- Online Application & Fee Payment: 2–21 September 2026, up to 5:00 PM
- Correction Window: 23–24 September 2026, Up To 5:00 PM

Application Fee

- ₹100 | Fee exempted for Female, SC/ST, PwBD and Transwomen applicants.

Job Opportunity

- Posts are available in rural offices of the Department of Posts across India, offering an excellent government-sector opportunity for eligible 10th-pass candidates.

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

SBI TRADE FINANCE OFFICER RECRUITMENT 2026
35 SPECIALIST OFFICER OPPORTUNITIES | JMGS-I & MMGS-II

State Bank of India (SBI) invites online applications from eligible Indian citizens for Trade Finance Officer – IBG (TFO-IBG) posts This recruitment offers 35 regular Specialist Cadre positions 14 vacancies in JMGS-I (Maker Role) and 21 vacancies in MMGS-II (Checker Role). Suggested places of posting are Hyderabad and Kolkata.

Educational Qualification

- Candidates must hold a Graduate degree in any discipline from a Government-recognised University/Institution and possess an IIBF Certification in Forex Operations, dated on or before 31 July 2026. Preferred certifications include CDCS, CSDG, CTFP, GTC, CITF or relevant IIBF certifications.

Experience

- JMGS-I: Minimum 1 year post-qualification experience in Trade Finance processing and operations in a scheduled commercial bank, preferably in a Maker role. MMGS-II: Minimum 3 years post-qualification experience in Trade Finance processing in a scheduled commercial bank.

Age Limit

- As on 31 July 2026:
- JMGS-I: 21–30 years | MMGS-II: 23–32 years. Age relaxation is applicable to eligible reserved categories as per Government of India guidelines.

Pay Scale & Benefits

- J M G S - I : ₹48,480–₹85,920
- MMGS-II: ₹64,820 – ₹93,960
- Additional benefits include DA, HRA, CCA, PF, NPS, LFC, medical facilities and other applicable perquisites.

Important Dates

- Online Registration: 29 August–19 September 2026
- Application Fee: ₹750 for General/EWS/OBC | SC/ST/PwBD: No Fee.



Selection

- Shortlisting + Interview (100 Marks). Final merit will be based on interview performance.

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

INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK (IOB) RECRUITMENT 2026–27
291 GENERALIST & SPECIALIST OFFICER VACANCIES



Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) invites online applications for 291 Generalist and Specialist Officer posts across 14 positions in JMGS Scale-I, MMGS Scale-II and MMGS Scale-III, dated 28 August 2026. Opportunities are available across India.

Major Opportunities

- Posts include Manager – Branch Management,

Manager – IT and various specialist roles in areas such as Engineering, Information Technology, Finance, Risk, Security and other professional domains. The recruitment comprises 117 UR, 79 OBC, 46 SC, 21 ST and 28 EWS vacancies, with 12 horizontal PwBD vacancies.

Eligibility

- Educational qualifications vary by post from Graduation in any discipline for Manager–Branch Management to

specialised qualifications such as Engineering degrees, MCA, MBA (Finance), CA/ CMA and other relevant professional qualifications. Required post-qualification experience also varies by position.

Age Limit

- Age eligibility varies by post, generally ranging

from 22–45 years, calculated as on 1 August 2026. Applicable relaxation is available for SC/ ST/ OBC /PwBD/ Ex-Servicemen candidates as per Government norms.

Attractive Pay Scales

- JMGS-I: ₹48,480–₹85,290
- MMGS-II: ₹64,820–₹93,960
- MMGS-III: ₹85,920–₹1,05,280
- Plus applicable DA, HRA, CCA and other allowances.

Selection Process

- Online Examination + Personal Interview. Final merit carries 80% weightage for the Online Examination and 20% for the Interview. The exam has ¼-mark negative marking for each wrong answer.

Important Dates

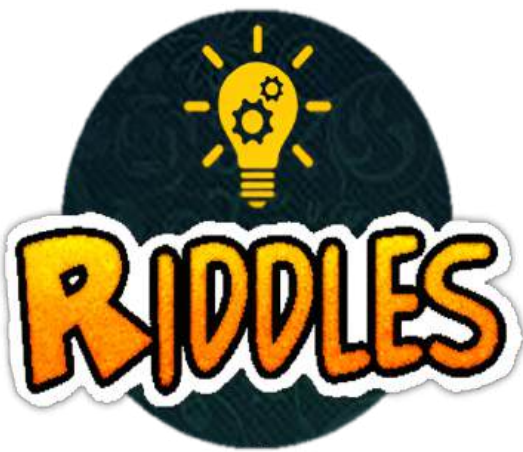
- Online Registration: 29 August–15 September 2026
- Application Fee: ₹1,000 for General/OBC/EWS | ₹175 for SC/ST/PwBD.

For more details candidates are asked to visit the official website

Deepika Singh



1. Which Indian organisation celebrated National Space Day in August?
2. Which technology did C-DOT showcase to strengthen secure communications?
3. Who held the 25th India-China Special Representatives talks?
4. Which country did PM Modi visit on August 29?
5. Which Indian athlete qualified for the 2026 Diamond League final?
6. Which Indian squash player won the PSA Budapest Squash Open?
7. Which team did India's women's hockey team defeat to finish fifth at the World Cup?
8. Who was elected President of the Esports Games Federation?
9. Which scheme received a ₹36,441-crore allocation for 2026–31?
10. Which institution signed an agreement to establish an optical-network testbed with DoT?



1. I turn a blank mind into a world of knowledge. Who am I?
2. I stand before students and make lessons interesting. Who am I?
3. I am the place where lessons, laughter and learning happen. What am I?
4. I carry knowledge between two covers and sit in a student's bag. What am I?
5. I am the person who learns from every lesson. Who am I?
6. I am given with love to say, “Thank you, Teacher!” What am I?
7. I was a philosopher, scholar and former President whose birthday is celebrated as Teachers' Day. Who am I?

1. Teacher
 2. Educator
 3. Classroom
 4. Textbook
 5. Student
 6. Gift
 7. Radhakrishnan
- ANSWERS



SWEET STROKES: CHOCOLATE PENCIL STICKS

This Week, We're Relishing Chocolate Pencil Sticks!

Chocolate Pencil Sticks are a fun and creative chocolate treat made with creamy melted chocolate, crunchy biscuits, and colourful toppings. Shaped like tiny pencils, they are perfect for kids' parties, school-themed celebrations, return gifts, or a playful dessert platter.

Ingredients:

200 g dark or milk chocolate, ½ cup crushed digestive biscuits, 2 tablespoons condensed milk, 1 tablespoon cocoa powder, 1 tablespoon butter, ¼ cup colourful sprinkles, 2 tablespoons chopped nuts, and edible food colours or chocolate for decoration.

Preparation

- Melt the chocolate and butter together using a double boiler or microwave, stirring until smooth.
- Add the condensed milk and cocoa powder. Mix well until the mixture becomes thick and glossy.
- Add the crushed biscuits and combine until a soft, mouldable mixture forms.
- Take small portions and roll them into thin, pencil-like sticks. Place them on a butter-paper-lined tray and refrigerate for 20–30 minutes until firm.
- Dip or coat the sticks lightly with melted chocolate. Decorate with colourful sprinkles or chopped nuts.
- For the pencil effect, use melted chocolate or coloured icing to draw thin stripes around the sticks and create a pointed “pencil tip.”
- Refrigerate again for 10–15 minutes until the chocolate sets completely.

Serving Tip:

Serve the Chocolate Pencil Sticks arranged in a glass or decorative box like a bunch of pencils. Add colourful sprinkles and edible decorations to make them especially appealing for kids' celebrations.



Introducing Our New Column

ARTWORK OF THE WEEK

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

CRITERIA

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

SUBMISSION DETAILS

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

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