



Every Great Journey Begins with a Strong Foundation

Celebrating

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THE HULAHUL TIMES

Evolving Today For A Better Tomorrow



BEYOND MODAKS & AARTIS: THE GANESH CHATURTHI STORIES KIDS SHOULD KNOW

Every year around this time, someone explains Ganesh Chaturthi the same familiar way. Goddess Parvati created Ganesha, Lord Shiva did not recognise him, a confrontation followed, and Ganesha eventually received the head of an elephant. Kids nod along because they've heard the story a dozen times already, and honestly, it stops registering after the third repetition. What barely anyone bothers digging into are the smaller, stranger stories hiding around the festival, the ones that actually make a kid go, "Wait, what?"

Here are three that are far more fun to tell, and far more useful too.

Why Nobody's Supposed to Look at the Moon That Night

There's an old belief that you shouldn't look at the Moon on Ganesh Chaturthi, and most people simply follow it without knowing why.

According to a traditional story, Lord Ganesha was returning home after eating a large number of modaks when his mouse stumbled, causing him to fall. Seeing this, Lord Chandra, the Moon God, laughed at him. Lord Ganesha became angry and cursed Chandra. The curse was associated with the belief that anyone who looked at the Moon on the fourth day of the bright fortnight of Bhadrapada could face false accusations or slander.

Chandra eventually apologised, and the severity of the curse was reduced. This is why looking at the Moon on Ganesh Chaturthi is traditionally considered inauspicious in many Hindu traditions.

It's a strange little story, but it lands well with kids because it's basically about mocking someone and facing the consequences. More importantly, it opens up a conversation about how myths often use stories to explain beliefs and customs that communities have carried for generations.

The Time He Broke His Own Tusk Mid-Sentence

Most people already know the traditional story that Lord Ganesha wrote down the Mahabharata while Sage Vyasa recited it. What usually gets left out is the deal they struck first.

According to this later tradition, Vyasa agreed to dictate continuously, without stopping. Lord Ganesha agreed to write, but set his own condition: he would only write a verse after understanding it completely.

At one point, Ganesha's writing instrument broke. Rather than stopping the recitation, he broke off one of his own tusks and continued writing.

Told plainly, it's just a remarkable story about determination. But it also quietly teaches kids something about negotiating terms before agreeing to a difficult task, and about finding a solution when the original plan suddenly stops working.

How a Freedom Fighter Turned a Festival into a Movement

The large public version of Ganesh Chaturthi, with pandals, processions and entire communities taking part, is not simply an unchanged tradition from ancient times. Public Ganapati celebrations existed before the 1890s, but Bal Gangadhar Tilak played a major role in transforming and popularising the festival as a large-scale public celebration in the 1890s.

At a time when political gatherings faced restrictions under British rule, the festival provided a powerful space where people could gather, organise, exchange ideas and build a sense of community. Tilak helped turn Ganeshotsav into an important vehicle for social and nationalist mobilisation.



A celebration that had often been observed within homes and communities became a much larger public phenomenon.

That's a genuinely good bit of history to hand a kid. It shows how a religious festival could also become a powerful tool for community organisation and unity during India's freedom movement.

None of these stories need a worksheet or a moral tacked onto the end. Tell them the way you'd tell any interesting story. The meaning tends to land on its own.

Why This Festival Works So Well as a Teaching Tool

What makes Ganesh Chaturthi useful for teaching kids is that it doesn't feel like a lesson while it's happening.

The growing preference for eco-friendly clay idols over Plaster of Paris versions opens up a real conversation about water pollution, without anyone needing to sit the child down for an "environment class." Families who sculpt their own idols at home turn the whole thing into an art project.

Stories like the race Lord Ganesha won by circling his parents instead of travelling around the world teach priorities and clever thinking better than most textbook chapters manage. Even organising a pandal or planning an immersion procession quietly involves budgeting and teamwork, skills nobody labels as such because it's just "helping out."

A Few Things That Actually Help When Explaining It

Lead with the story that surprises them, not the one they already know by heart. Novelty holds a kid's attention far better than a story they can finish for you.

Let them get their hands dirty if you can. Moulding a small clay Ganesha themselves makes the idea of creation and impermanence feel real instead of just something an adult said.

Try connecting it to something personal instead of purely religious. Lord Ganesha is traditionally associated with removing obstacles, so ask a kid what obstacle they got past recently. That turns mythology into something about their own life.

Use more than just words. The aarti, the taste of a modak, the sight of a decorated idol, all of it together sticks in memory far longer than an explanation on its own.

The immersion itself is a good moment to talk about water pollution and what happens when materials enter aquatic ecosystems. It naturally bridges tradition with something practical they'll actually use later.

And when in doubt, ask instead of tell. "Why do you think we say goodbye to Lord Ganesha every year?" gets a kid thinking in a way that just stating the answer never will.

A Festival Worth Re-telling Properly

Ganesh Chaturthi isn't just a religious event; it's an open invitation to wonder about things. The stories most people skip over the Moon God's curse, the broken tusk, the freedom movement behind the public festival are exactly the ones that make a kid lean in, simply because they haven't heard them a hundred times already. Tell it that way, through the stories nobody bothers with, and the festival stops being something children just watch happen around them. It becomes something they actually get.

HAPPY GANESH CHATURTHI!

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THE SAINT WHO TURNED DEVOTION INTO A MOVEMENT: THE STORY OF SRIMANTA SANKARDEVA



The Brahmaputra flowed quietly through the villages of Assam. Life around it was simple, but society was not. People were separated by caste, customs and religious practices. In 1449, a extraordinary child was born at Bordowa in present-day Nagaon district. His name was Sankardeva. Nobody then could have imagined that this child would become a saint, poet, musician, playwright and social reformer, who would leave a lasting mark on Assam and Indian culture.

Sankardeva lost his parents when he was young. His grandmother took care of him. Even as a boy, he showed an unusual hunger for knowledge. He studied Sanskrit, scriptures, philosophy and religious thought. He was also physically strong. Traditional accounts describe his ability to swim across the Brahmaputra, a difficult task even for an experienced swimmer. Yet it was his questioning mind that set him apart. He wanted to understand the purpose of life and the true meaning of devotion.

As a young man, Sankardeva began a long pilgrimage across India. He visited important centres of learning and worship. He met people from different regions and observed their traditions. The journey widened his outlook. India appeared diverse on the surface, but he saw a deeper spiritual connection among its people. When he returned to Assam, he carried this wider vision with him.

He began spreading the philosophy of Ekasarana Naam Dharma. Its central idea was devotion to one Supreme Being, expressed especially through the remembrance and

chanting of the name of Krishna. Sankardeva believed that devotion should be open to all. A person's spiritual worth should not depend on wealth, birth or social position. His movement gradually attracted people from different communities and became an important force for social and cultural integration in Assam.

Sankardeva soon understood that a spiritual message would remain limited if only scholars could understand it. Most villagers had neither the time nor the opportunity to study complicated scriptures. So he found another way. He wrote poetry and devotional songs. He composed plays known as Ankiya Naat and developed the performance tradition of Bhaona. Through these forms, stories from Indian spiritual traditions came alive before ordinary audiences. Music, drama and devotion became instruments of education.

His approach was remarkably practical. A person who could not read a difficult scripture could still understand a moral lesson through a play. Someone who had never studied philosophy could experience devotion through a song. Sankardeva had brought learning out of the scholar's chamber and into the village community.

In 1468, he established an early Kirtanghar at Bordowa for devotional gatherings. The place later developed into Batadrava Than, one of the important centres associated with his legacy. Such spaces gradually became more than places of worship. They offered people a shared social and cultural environment. Prayer, discussion, music and learning could take place under the same roof.

His growing influence also brought opposition. Sankardeva's ideas challenged established practices and social divisions. He faced criticism and, at different stages of his life, had to move from one place to another. Yet he did not allow hostility to change his manner. He continued to teach, write and organise communities. His response to disagreement was generally persuasion rather than hatred.

One of the most important chapters of his life began when he met Madhavdev. Madhavdev was a learned and confident man who initially

followed a different religious tradition. Their meeting led to a serious discussion about faith and spiritual practice. Madhavdev questioned Sankardeva's ideas, while Sankardeva patiently explained his understanding of devotion. The discussion changed Madhavdev's life. He accepted Sankardeva as his Guru and eventually became his closest disciple and successor.

Their relationship became a remarkable example of the Indian Guru-Shishya tradition. Sankardeva did not demand blind obedience. Madhavdev did not surrender his intellect. Their relationship was built on understanding, learning and spiritual trust. The transformation of Madhavdev also reflected an important lesson: accepting a deeper truth after sincere reflection requires courage and humility.

In his later years, Sankardeva spent a considerable period at Patbaushi near Barpeta. It became an important centre of his literary and spiritual activities. There he produced major works and composed many Borgeets. His Kirtan Ghosa became one of the most influential works of Assamese Vaishnavite literature. His songs, plays and writings carried ethical and spiritual ideas to a much wider audience.

His creativity did not stop with literature. Sankardeva is closely associated with the development of Bhaona, a distinctive form of devotional theatre. He also contributed to the traditions that later developed into Sattriya dance. Painting, music, drama, storytelling and devotion came together in his cultural vision. For him, art was not merely entertainment. It could shape thought, refine emotions and teach values.

At the heart of his teaching was a simple human idea: devotion should make a person better. If prayer made someone proud, it had missed its purpose. If religion created hatred, something had gone wrong. A spiritual life should encourage humility, compassion, discipline and respect for others. His teachings therefore had a strong ethical foundation.

As Sankardeva grew older, his influence spread far beyond the places where he personally travelled. Namghars and Satras became important institutions of Assamese life. They supported devotional practice but also encouraged music, literature, education, art and community participation. His movement gradually became part of the cultural fabric of Assam.

In 1568, Sankardeva passed away at Cooch Behar. He did not live to see the full development

of the traditions he had begun. But his work had already taken root. Madhavdev and other disciples carried his teachings forward. The songs continued to be sung. The plays continued to be performed. Namghars and Satras continued to bring communities together.

Many years later, a young boy sitting in a Namghar asked his grandfather, “Why do people still remember Sankardeva?”

The grandfather smiled. “Because he gave people more than a religious teaching. He gave them a way of living. He showed them how devotion could bring people together, how art could educate the heart and how knowledge could serve society. That is why his work did not end with his lifetime.”

The boy listened to the evening prayer. Perhaps for the first time, he understood that history is not always about kings and battles. Sometimes, it is about one person's ability to change the way ordinary people think, learn and live.

Moral of the Story

The life of Srimanta Sankardeva teaches us that genuine spirituality must be reflected in human conduct. Knowledge becomes meaningful when it develops humility, compassion and wisdom. His journey shows the value of questioning, learning and remaining open to truth. His teachings also reflect important principles of the Indian Knowledge System, including Bhakti, Guru-Shishya tradition, Seva, self-discipline, social harmony and Lok-Kalyan.

Conclusion: Srimanta Sankardeva occupies a remarkable place in the spiritual, intellectual and cultural history of India. His contribution went far beyond the establishment of a religious movement. Through Kirtan Ghosa, Borgeets, Ankiya Naat and Bhaona, he enriched Assamese literature, music and theatre. His work also influenced the development of the Sattriya tradition. The Namghars and Satras associated with his movement became enduring centres of devotion, learning and community life. More importantly, he created a cultural framework in which spiritual ideas could reach ordinary people in their own language and through familiar artistic forms. His teachings encouraged devotion while challenging social divisions and promoting a sense of shared community.

FROM BHIMBETKA TO A HOME MUSEUM: THE LIFE OF DR. NARAYAN VYAS

The house in Nayapura, on Bhopal's Kolar Road, does not look like a museum from the outside. Step in, though, and the floor-to-ceiling shelves tell a different story: more than 800 pieces of pottery from the Maurya, Kushan, Gupta, Rajput and Mughal eras, over 50 pots salvaged from the Indus Valley civilisation, bricks that span twenty-two centuries, stone axes chipped by hands that lived before history had a name, and a fossilised seep-shell from the Thar desert, proof, its owner likes to point out, that Rajasthan was once underwater. This is where Dr. Narayan Vyas lives, and the 2,000-odd artifacts crowding his home are less a collection than a diary of a life spent digging up the past.

Vyas was born on 5 January 1949 in Ujjain, a city where history is not kept behind glass but worshipped at every street corner. As a child he would walk to temples with his mother, a deeply religious woman, and while she prayed, he found himself staring instead at the carvings, the stone friezes, the pillars, the sheer craft of buildings that had stood for centuries. His father, Anant Lal Vyas, a former freedom fighter, fed a different but related instinct: he encouraged the boy to collect old coins, postage stamps and postcards, an early lesson in the idea that ordinary objects carry history inside them if you know how to look.

That fascination with form took him first into art, not archaeology. Dr. Vyas completed a three-year diploma in fine and applied arts in his hometown, training his eye on line, proportion and detail skills that would later prove unexpectedly useful for sketching rock art and reconstructing broken pottery. It was a teacher from those years who changed the direction of his life: the legendary archaeologist Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar, the man who had discovered the Bhimbetka rock shelters, spotted something in the young art student and pushed him toward archaeology

instead. Dr. Vyas began his career at the Archaeological Survey of India as a technical assistant, the entry-level foot soldier of any excavation the person who measures, sketches, labels and carries, long before anyone lets them make the calls. It meant years of fieldwork under

the Vindhya ranges, spotting shelters others had missed, and painstakingly copying rock paintings onto paper so they could be studied, dated and, eventually, protected. Dr. Vyas carried that training into a long ASI career that saw him rise from technical assistant to Superintending Archaeologist, the rank he held until his retirement in 2009 after roughly four decades in government archaeology.

Rani ki Vav, and the Buddhist stupas of Sanchi, win UNESCO recognition, a rare instance of one person's fieldwork touching three separate World Heritage nominations. Alongside the official excavation record, Dr. Vyas kept building his personal one: the house in Nayapura filled up, artifact by artifact, over eight years of weekend trips to villages and riverbanks, until it held Mauryan-era punch-marked coins from Vidisha, copper-age pottery dredged from the banks of the Narmada in Harda district, and even a scattering of Ganesh-themed wedding cards and matchbox covers, each one dated and filed the way a scientist would log a specimen.

The recognition has followed slowly but steadily, the Dr. Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar Samman, entries in the Golden Book of World Records and the Incredible Book of Records for his artifact collection, and, in January 2026, the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian honour, awarded for a lifetime of work protecting the region's prehistoric and ancient heritage. He was one of four Padma Shri recipients from Madhya Pradesh that year, and the news set off celebrations in Ujjain, where local historians and citizens

called it a fitting tribute to a son of the city who never really stopped digging.

Even now, well past the age most people put their tools away, Dr. Vyas continues to visit rock shelters, mentor younger archaeologists and campaign for the protection of unguarded heritage sites that he says remain vulnerable to encroachment and neglect. Asked about his plans after the Padma Shri, his answer needed no embellishment: he was still working on the cave paintings that had shaped his entire life, the same paintings a young art student had once traced by hand under the guidance of a teacher he never stopped following.



Wakankar himself, most formatively at Bhimbetka, where thousands of rock shelters hide paintings that stretch back to the Mesolithic age. Dr. Vyas has recounted how Wakankar first spotted the distinctive rock formations of Bhimbetka from the window of a train at the Obaidullaganj railway station, then trekked out on foot to confirm what his eye had caught, a piece of field-archaeology folklore that Dr. Vyas, as one of the few surviving witnesses to that era, has helped keep alive in interviews and in a Hindi memoir he later wrote about his mentor, titled Humare Margdarshak Gurudev Dr. Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar.

Working alongside Wakankar meant learning archaeology the way apprentices learn a craft, not from textbooks alone but by walking

Retirement from the ASI did not mean retirement from the field. Over his career and after it, Dr. Vyas took part in excavations at sites including Dangwada near Ujjain, and conducted extensive documentation across the Vindhya Range, cataloguing rock art scattered across shelters that, in many cases, had no formal protection at all. He earned a doctorate for his research on Rani ki Vav, the ornately carved stepwell in Gujarat that is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and went on to complete a post-doctoral D.Litt. on the rock paintings of the Bhopal and Raisen region, with Bhimbetka as his central case study.

That research fed directly into the case files that helped three Indian sites, Bhimbetka,

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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.

When a festival arrives, it does more than bring people together, it sets markets in motion. As Ganeshotsav approaches, idol makers work late, flower and sweet vendors prepare for rising demand, pandals take shape and businesses stock up for the festive rush. But Ganeshotsav is only one example. From Diwali and Navratri to Eid, Christmas, Onam and Pongal, festivals across India trigger powerful waves of spending on products, services, travel, food, entertainment and experiences. Behind every idol purchased, decoration installed, meal served and event organised, money moves through a network of artisans, retailers, suppliers, workers and service providers. This is the Festival Economy, where culture creates demand, demand creates business, and celebration drives economic activity.

When Tradition Creates Demand

Festivals generate concentrated demand for clothing, flowers, sweets, decorations, gifts, food, travel and cultural products. Since much of this demand is seasonal, businesses must anticipate customer requirements, arrange inventory, plan pricing and manage cash flow. **Example:** A retailer stocking decorative lights must estimate demand, negotiate with suppliers, price competitively and sell

THE FESTIVAL ECONOMY: HOW CELEBRATIONS CREATE BUSINESS

inventory before the festive season ends.

Festivals therefore provide a real-world lesson in demand forecasting, inventory management and pricing.

The Business Behind Every Celebration

Behind festive consumption lies a supply network. Artisans, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and transporters work together to bring products to consumers. Ganeshotsav supports idol makers, Diwali creates demand for diyas and handicrafts, while other festivals generate markets for regional clothing, food and traditional crafts. For many artisans, this seasonal demand provides an important source of income while keeping specialised skills and cultural traditions alive.

From Products to Experiences

The festival economy extends beyond physical goods. Community celebrations require decorators, electricians, sound and lighting providers, caterers, photographers, event organisers, security teams and transport services. At the same time, consumers are increasingly spending on experiences such as events, entertainment and travel. This expands the marketplace from products to services and experiences, creating employment across multiple sectors.

The Multiplier Effect

Festival spending does not stop with the final seller. When a community pays a decorator, the decorator purchases materials from suppliers. Suppliers pay workers, transporters earn from moving goods, and workers spend their income in local markets. One transaction can therefore generate activity across several businesses. This is the economic multiplier effect at the community level.

Small Businesses, Bigger Markets

Festivals offer local retailers, temporary stalls, home-based food businesses, flower vendors, gift shops and small service providers an opportunity to reach new customers. Technology has expanded that opportunity. Social media allows businesses to showcase products beyond their neighbourhoods, while

e-commerce platforms and digital payments connect local sellers with wider markets. The result is a powerful combination of traditional festive demand and digital commerce.

New-Age Entrepreneurial Opportunities

Festive demand is also creating new business models. Opportunities are emerging in:

- Eco-friendly products and decorations
- Customised gifting and merchandise
- Event and community management
- Digital marketing
- Food and catering
- Photography and content creation
- Logistics and delivery
- Tourism and travel
- Festival-related waste management

The opportunity lies in solving recurring festive needs with convenience, affordability or creativity turning a seasonal idea into a year-round business.

The Sustainability Opportunity

Festive consumption is changing as environmental awareness grows. Eco-friendly idols, reusable decorations, sustainable packaging, locally produced goods and responsible waste management are creating new markets. For businesses, sustainability is no longer simply an environmental concern. It can become a source of innovation, differentiation and customer value.

What Commerce Students Can Learn

The Festival Economy is a live business classroom:

Demand → Supply → Pricing → Inventory → Marketing → Employment → Revenue → Consumer Behaviour

Students can see how businesses forecast demand, manage working capital, negotiate with suppliers and respond to consumers, while exploring careers in retail, marketing, e-commerce, supply chains, finance, tourism and entrepreneurship. Key skills include digital marketing, communication, negotiation, financial planning, data-driven decision-making and entrepreneurial thinking. The



bigger lesson: entrepreneurship can begin by identifying a familiar, recurring need and finding a better way to serve it.

The Bigger Picture

The Festival Economy shows that economic activity is shaped not only by prices and products, but also by traditions, emotions, communities and consumer behaviour. Its significance lies not simply in spending, but in the network connecting artisans, MSMEs, retailers, service providers, digital platforms and consumers. As technology and consumer preferences evolve, festive commerce is moving from neighbourhood markets to digital platforms, conventional products to personalised experiences, and traditional consumption to sustainable choices.

The Take Away

The Festival Economy shows how culture creates demand, demand creates business, and business creates livelihoods. From artisans and local vendors to online entrepreneurs, thousands of enterprises become part of India's festive economic cycle. Because festivals may begin with celebration, but they set an entire economy in motion.

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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.

ALLEGORY

Allegory is a literary device in which characters, events, objects, or settings represent deeper moral, political, social, religious, or philosophical ideas. An allegorical work therefore has two levels of meaning: the literal story and the symbolic meaning behind it. Through allegory, writers can discuss complex or sensitive issues in an imaginative and indirect manner. It is commonly found in poetry, fiction, drama, fables, and religious literature.

A well-known example is George Orwell's Animal Farm, where the story of farm animals represents the struggle for political power, corruption, propaganda, and inequality. Similarly, John Bunyan's The Pilgrim's Progress uses a traveller's journey as an allegory of the spiritual journey of human life. Allegory encourages readers to look beyond the surface of a narrative and interpret its deeper significance, making literature a powerful medium for social criticism and philosophical reflection.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- The word “salary” comes from the Latin salarium, a term associated with payment to Roman soldiers. It is often linked to sal, meaning “salt,” a valuable commodity in ancient times.
- The word “robot” comes from the Czech word robota, meaning “forced labour” or “drudgery.” It became popular through Karel Čapek's 1920 play R.U.R.
- “Quarantine” comes from the Italian quaranta, meaning “forty.” Venice once required ships to remain isolated for 40 days to help prevent the spread of disease.
- “Window” comes from the Old Norse vindauga, literally meaning “wind eye.” It originally described an opening that allowed air and light into a building.
- “Panic” comes from the Greek god Pan. Ancient Greeks believed Pan could suddenly create overwhelming fear, particularly in lonely or wild places.
- “Sandwich” is named after John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich. The popular story says he wanted food he could eat without leaving his card game.
- The word “alphabet” comes from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet: alpha and beta. The term eventually entered English through Latin and Old French.
- “Nightmare” originally referred to a mythical spirit called a mare, believed to sit on sleeping people and cause terrifying dreams or a feeling of suffocation.
- “Salary” and “soldier” are both connected historically to payment, but they come from different Latin roots. Their similar association with money and military service is largely coincidental.

GRAMMAR TIP

Less vs. Fewer

Fewer → used with countable nouns
Fewer students were absent today.

Less → used with uncountable nouns
There is less information in this edition.

Remember:
Fewer books, fewer pages, fewer mistakes
Less time, less information, less confusion

WRITER OF THE WEEK

George Orwell (1903–1950)

George Orwell was the pen name of Eric Arthur Blair, one of the most influential British writers and political essayists of the twentieth century. His writing is known for its clarity, social criticism and concern for freedom and individual dignity. His major works include Animal Farm and Nineteen Eighty-Four. Orwell explored themes such as political oppression, propaganda, surveillance, inequality and the misuse of language.

Literary Insight: Orwell believed that clear language supports clear thinking. His essays remain important for students of literature, politics and communication.

BOOK REVIEW

Animal Farm — George Orwell



Orwell's Animal Farm presents a group of farm animals who overthrow their human master hoping to create an equal society. Gradually, however, the new rulers become as oppressive as the old ones.

Major Themes: Power and corruption, Political propaganda, Inequality, Manipulation of language & Betrayal of revolutionary ideals.

Why Read It?

Though written as an allegory, the novel raises universal questions about power, leadership, freedom and the responsibilities of citizens.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one.”

— George R. R. Martin

CREATIVE WRITING

THE QUIET GIFT

An original poem for students

A word can open doors unseen,
A book can take us worlds between.

A teacher plants a little seed,
That grows with every thought we read.

A question asked, a doubt explored,
Can change the meaning of a word.

And when we learn to think and see,
Knowledge becomes the key to be free.

So read with wonder, speak with care,
Let thoughtful words enrich the air.

For every page that we turn today,
May light our minds along the way.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Serendipity (noun)

Meaning: The occurrence of a fortunate or valuable discovery by chance.

Example: Finding that rare book in the old library was a moment of pure serendipity.

IDIOM HIGHLIGHT

“Read between the lines”

Meaning: To understand the hidden or implied meaning of something.
Example: A good literary critic knows how to read between the lines of a poem.

INDIA'S FOOD SECURITY FUTURE DEPENDS ON NUTRIENT-USE EFFICIENCY

The global agricultural sector sits at a critical inflection point. Geopolitical volatility and unpredictable energy markets have exposed the deep vulnerabilities of our food systems, making nutrient security a non-negotiable priority for governments worldwide. For India, this global instability hits particularly hard. As agriculture remains the cornerstone of our economy, our farmers are currently weathering the dual storms of rising cultivation costs and supply chain inconsistencies.



Indian agriculture has transitioned admirably over the last many decades, growing from a food-deficit nation to today feeding nearly one-fifth of the world. Yet the coming decades present a new set of tests. We are asked to support 18% of the global population with just 2.4% of the world's land and 4% of its fast-depleting freshwater.

These constraints are compounded by the land itself. Nearly 36% of India's geographical area suffers from degradation, including widespread issues with salinity and soil acidity, and

the trend is not stabilizing. Successive national land degradation assessments have shown the degraded share of India's geography rising at every check-in over the last two decades, not falling. Layer erratic weather patterns and the financial burden of inputs onto these systemic challenges, and it becomes increasingly clear that our existing approach is reaching its limits.

GOOGLE UNVEILS FIVE NEW SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES IN INDIA SPANNING TARGETS SOLAR, CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE, CLEAN ENERGY

Google has announced five new sustainability initiatives in India spanning climate-smart agriculture, clean energy, climate technology, and circularity. The initiatives bring together AI, satellite imagery, and climate technologies with partnerships involving farmers, researchers, businesses, and startups.



Google's Solar API, part of its Earth AI initiative, can now generate rooftop solar insights for more than 300 million rooftops across India and over 1.2 billion buildings globally. The technology enables solar installers to assess a building's solar potential remotely, reducing the time and cost involved in physical site assessments. Platforms including Solar Ladder and

incentives. Google is also entering a long-term agreement with ReNew Power for a 150 MW solar generation project in Rajasthan. Google will receive the environmental attributes associated with the clean electricity generated by the project to help address electricity-related emissions across its value chain. The project marks Google's second Scope 3-focused solar initiative in India.

OILMEAL EXPORTS DECLINE IN FIRST QUARTER AS SOYBEAN MEAL SHIPMENTS PLUNGE

India's total oilmeal exports fell 13 percent year-on-year to 9.57 lakh tonnes during the first quarter of the 2026-27 fiscal year, according to data released by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India.



The overall contraction was heavily driven by a 66 percent plunge in soybean meal shipments, which dropped to 1.69 lakh tonnes from 4.93 lakh tonnes recorded in the corresponding period last year. High domestic soybean prices, combined with robust consumption from the domestic poultry and livestock feed sectors, significantly restricted exportable surpluses. Overseas buyers also turned away from Indian supplies due to severe pricing disadvantages compared to cheaper shipments from South American competitors like Argentina and Brazil. Lingering Red Sea shipping disruptions and elevated freight rates further weighed on export realizations.

Despite the steep drop in soybean meal, strong demand for Indian rapeseed meal provided a critical buffer,

with total exports increasing to 6.60 lakh tonnes. China emerged as the top destination for Indian oilmeals during the quarter, importing 3.13 lakh tonnes, followed by Bangladesh and Vietnam. Industry experts note that sustained buying from Asian aquaculture and feed markets will be essential to offset ongoing global price pressures in the coming months.

HARVESTING THE FUTURE: MECHANISATION, FREE TRADE, AND POLICY SHIFTS IN AGRICULTURE

Rapid technological transformation, evolving trade dynamics, and strategic policy interventions are reshaping the future of Indian agriculture, driving the sector from subsistence farming toward a high-tech, market-oriented ecosystem.



Central to this transition is farm mechanisation. While India's current mechanisation levels lag behind global benchmarks at roughly 40 to 45 percent, government interventions like the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation and Custom Hiring Centres are expanding access to modern machinery for smallholder farmers. Integrating digital platforms such as mobile equipment-leasing applications and AI-driven precision tools allows growers to deploy tractors, harvesters, and drones without heavy upfront capital investments.

Simultaneously, free trade frameworks and global market access are altering agricultural economics. Realigning domestic supply chains to meet international quality standards

enables exporters to capture emerging market shares in commodities like cotton yarn, rice, and horticultural produce. However, trade integration also exposes domestic growers to price volatility and foreign competition, highlighting the necessity of protective mechanisms like minimum import prices and strict biosecurity protocols.

Sustained growth ultimately hinges on policy alignment. Strategic convergence across digital infrastructure, climate-resilient crop research, and institutional credit frameworks ensures that farm modernisations enhance productivity, strengthen rural livelihoods, and fortify national food security.

INDIA AND ASEAN BOOST TIES FOR SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT AGRICULTURE FUTURE



The 9th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) – India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry, held on Wednesday in New Delhi, reaffirmed India and ASEAN's shared commitment to building a more food-secure, sustainable and resilient agricultural future.

Co-chaired by Francisco P Tiu Laurel, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, The Philippines, and Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, the Meeting placed strong emphasis on practical, farmer-centred cooperation and strengthening the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in agriculture and forestry. According to an official release, the Ministers welcomed ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future and the ASEAN Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectoral Plan 2026-2030 as strategic frameworks for advancing sustainable and resilient development.

They also looked forward to the adoption and implementation of the ASEAN-India Medium-Term Plan of Action for Cooperation in Agriculture and Forestry 2026-2030, with priorities spanning policy dialogue, digital innovation, technology cooperation, joint research, capacity building and farmer exchanges. The Meeting identified climate-resilient agriculture, low-emission rice, water productivity, AI-enabled digital agriculture, soil health, food safety, post-harvest management, circular bioeconomy, agroforestry and resilient value chains as key areas for practical and scalable cooperation. The Ministers also stressed stronger linkages among research institutions, technology developers, extension agencies, the private sector and farmers to accelerate the wider adoption of agricultural innovations.

CENTRE SEEKS KERALA'S DECISION ON PM SHRI SCHEME

The Centre has urged the Kerala government to take a decision on the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme at the earliest, Education Minister N Samsudheen said.



Samsudheen said the state received a letter from the Union Education Secretary to the Chief Secretary two or three days ago. The letter stated that an early decision was needed so that the remaining schemes could move forward.

The minister said the government would discuss the matter before deciding. He added that the state's position would be made clear after consultations, with the Chief Minister and UDF leadership taking the final call.

Kerala has differing views on the PM SHRI scheme, and the state government has reservations about it. Samsudheen said the UDF had opposed the scheme even before the elections and that its details needed further examination.

The previous LDF government had signed an MoU with the Centre to implement PM SHRI. However, following criticism within the LDF and protests by the UDF, the agreement was kept in abeyance.

After the UDF government assumed office, it appointed a Cabinet subcommittee to examine the issue and recommend whether Kerala should proceed with the scheme or withdraw from it.

The PM SHRI scheme aims to upgrade 14,500 schools as model institutions aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and is expected to benefit 1.8 million students.

JOSHI LAUNCHES BHARAT INNOVATES 2026 PUBLICATION

Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi has launched a commemorative publication for Bharat Innovates 2026, highlighting India's growing DeepTech and innovation ecosystem and its expanding links with global markets.

Joshi said the programme is helping build bridges between Indian innovators and global investors, industry leaders, research institutions and markets. He highlighted the role of the initiative in connecting innovations emerging from universities and laboratories with startups, industry and international markets.

The maiden edition of Bharat Innovates brought together more than 3,000 ventures and 120 innovators, along with over 1,350 business-to-business meetings. More than 50 collaboration agreements were also signed, resulting in approximately USD 254.5 million in funding commitments and advanced-stage investments, according to Joshi.

and French President Emmanuel Macron jointly inaugurated the maiden edition of Bharat Innovates 2026 in Paris in June.

The event showcased India's DeepTech ecosystem through 120 Indian innovators, more than 15 higher education institutions and over 500 global stakeholders, including CEOs, industry leaders and venture capital firms.

Bharat Innovates 2026 featured innovations across 13 key sectors, including advanced computing, semiconductors, space technology, biotechnology, energy, healthcare and manufacturing.

Joshi said India's journey from research to innovation, innovation to enterprise and India to the world was only beginning. He added that the expanding innovation ecosystem would contribute to building a technologically strong Viksit Bharat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

J&K ATTAINS 98.43% LITERACY RATE

Jammu and Kashmir has achieved a 98.43 per cent literacy rate and has been declared a “fully literate” Union Territory under the ULLAS-NBSK initiative, Education Minister Sakina Itoo said.



Itoo described the achievement as a historic milestone and credited teachers, education officers, volunteers and learners for taking education to communities across the Union Territory. She said their collective efforts had transformed lives and strengthened the foundation for a brighter future.

“From the mountains of Kashmir to the plains of Jammu,” teachers, officers, volunteers and learners carried the message of education into communities, the minister said, highlighting their dedication to improving literacy.

Itoo said the achievement belonged to every teacher who taught, every volunteer who contributed and every officer who supported the campaign, particularly the learners who participated in the programme.

She also expressed gratitude to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his leadership, guidance and commitment to strengthening the education sector.

The minister said the literacy milestone should not be viewed as the end of the journey. Instead, it marks the beginning of a new phase in which education will continue to contribute to peace, progress, dignity, equality and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

The declaration under ULLAS-NBSK reflects the combined contribution of educators, volunteers, officials and learners and reinforces education's role in promoting social development and creating greater opportunities across the Union Territory.

IIT MADRAS PRIORITISES STUDENT WELL-BEING

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has launched a new initiative called PREM — Parents' Role in Encouraging and Mentoring — to strengthen parental support for students and promote psychological well-being.

The initiative was launched as part of the institute's week-long observance of World Suicide Prevention Day, which falls on September 10. IIT Madras organised an interactive online session for parents to help them better understand, communicate with and support students during their academic journey.

As part of the initiative, IIT Madras Director Prof V Kamakoti also launched the SAFE — Building Psychological Safety for High-Achieving Students handbook. Written by Dr Yamini Kannapan, the handbook provides practical guidance to parents dealing with the academic and emotional pressures faced by high-achieving students.

The SAFE framework focuses on four areas — Secure Base, Autonomy

Support, Failure-Friendly Mindset and Early Recognition. It encourages parents to create an environment where students feel accepted and comfortable discussing difficulties without fear of judgement.

The institute also launched the MiTR Wellness Website, bringing together information about wellness resources, faculty coordinators, student coordinators, emergency contacts and support initiatives. A wellness app was also introduced to allow students to book confidential counselling appointments according to their preferred language and choice of professional.

Through these measures, IIT Madras aims to make mental-health support easier to access while encouraging parents, teachers and students to work together in building a supportive campus environment.

HIMACHAL LAUNCHES APPRENTICESHIP-EMBEDDED DEGREES



The Himachal Pradesh Higher Education Department has signed an MoU with the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Northern Region), Kanpur (BOAT-NR) to implement Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes (AEDPs) in 16 government degree colleges from the 2026-27 academic session.

Education Minister Rohit Thakur said the initiative aims to bridge the gap between classroom education and industry requirements by combining undergraduate degrees with workplace experience. The programmes will focus on industry-oriented courses in banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), retail operations management and logistics.

Five AEDP courses have been approved, with three introduced in the first phase: BCom in Banking, Financial Services and Insurance, BCom in Retail Operations Management and BCom in Logistics.

BCom BFSI is being offered in 11 colleges, BCom Retail Operations Management in two and BCom Logistics in three. A total of 685 students have enrolled across the three programmes in the first year.

The programmes include a mandatory apprenticeship of at least six months, with students receiving a minimum guaranteed stipend of Rs 10,900 per month. The initiative is supported by colleges, universities, BOAT-NR and CRISP for industry linkages, apprenticeship opportunities, training and placement support.

Himachal Pradesh is the third state after Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to implement apprenticeship-embedded degree programmes. The government may extend the initiative to more colleges and explore programmes in undergraduate streams such as BA and BSc, providing more students access to skill-based education.

RBI'S ₹1 LAKH CRORE BOND SALE: WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE ECONOMY



The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to sell government bonds worth ₹1 trillion (1lakh crore) via open market operations (OMOs) marks a significant step in liquidity management. Although the announcement may initially appear technical in nature, it could have far-reaching consequences for interest rates, government debt, financial markets, inflation, and consumers. The RBI's move comes against the backdrop of a liquidity surplus in the Indian banking system. Simply put, banks currently hold more funds than they require for lending and other business activities. While adequate liquidity fosters economic growth, excessive liquidity can push short-term interest rates below the central bank's targets and weaken the transmission of monetary policy.

A persistent liquidity surplus could also trigger rapid credit growth, drive up asset prices, and intensify inflationary pressures. The RBI therefore intends to absorb some of this excess liquidity.

As part of an open market operation, the RBI sells government bonds from its portfolio to banks and other financial institutions. Buyers pay the RBI for the bonds, thereby reducing the money supply circulating within the banking system.

In effect, the sale of government bonds worth ₹1 trillion could drain a similar amount of liquidity from the financial system. One of the first effects is likely to be felt in the government bond market. As the supply of bonds increases, their prices could come under pressure. Since bond prices and yields move inversely, a drop in price generally leads to a rise in yield. Government bond yields serve as a benchmark for pricing corporate bonds and other financial products. Consequently, higher yields could gradually increase financing costs for the economy as a whole. Existing bondholders—particularly those invested in long-term bond funds—could face short-term losses (based on mark-to-market valuations) as yields rise. However, higher yields could benefit new investors by offering more attractive returns on new investments.

The OMO sale does not constitute an increase in the repo rate. Consequently, mortgage payments and interest rates on other variable-rate loans will not automatically rise as a direct result of this announcement. However, should this liquidity situation persist over an extended period, banks' refinancing costs could increase. Over time, this could impact

lending and deposit rates. Borrowers might face slightly higher financing costs, while savers holding fixed deposits could benefit from better returns. Equity investors are also likely to monitor the situation closely. Reduced liquidity and higher bond yields could make fixed-income investments relatively more attractive. At the same time, rising borrowing costs can increase the cost of capital for companies.

Highly indebted companies and interest-rate-sensitive sectors could therefore come under pressure, especially if bond yields remain high for a prolonged period.

The RBI's decision highlights that monetary policy is not limited solely to adjusting the benchmark interest rate; the central bank also manages the volume, cost, and availability of money within the financial system.

The open market operation (OMO) to sell securities worth 1 trillion rupees (1 lakh crore) should not necessarily be interpreted as a sign of financial distress. Rather, it reflects the RBI's attempt to absorb excess liquidity and restore market equilibrium before surplus resources distort interest rates, asset prices, and inflation. In essence, the RBI withdraws a portion of the excess liquidity to ensure that financial conditions remain aligned with its overarching monetary policy objectives.

BRICS 2026: INDIA PUSHES GLOBAL SOUTH TOWARDS A NEW ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC ORDER

The 2026 BRICS Summit in New Delhi has placed India at the centre of an increasingly important debate over the future shape of the global economy. The expanded grouping now representing about half of the world's population. With around 40 per cent of global GDP and more than a quarter of global trade, the two-day meeting is significant. It is not merely a diplomatic gathering but as a platform where emerging economies are seeking a stronger voice in shaping global economic and political rules.

BRICS Summit is hosted under India's presidency, the theme of resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability. The summit focused on practical areas such as trade, energy security, technology, artificial intelligence, sustainable development and financial cooperation. The discussions come at a time when geopolitical engagements, supply-chain disruptions, sanctions and protectionist trade policies are increasingly influencing investment and business decisions. For BRICS economies, the challenge is to create greater economic resilience without turning the grouping into an exclusive bloc against established Western institutions.

One of the most important economic themes was the need to make cross-border trade less vulnerable to geopolitical shocks. BRICS countries are exploring ways to strengthen payment mechanisms and improve the efficiency of trade settlements. Particularly some members face restrictions linked to Western sanctions. Discussions around digital currencies and alternative payment arrangements indicate that the group wants greater flexibility in international commerce. However, the immediate objective appears less about replacing the dollar and more

about reducing excessive dependence on any single financial channel.

Trade and supply-chain security are also becoming central to the BRICS agenda. Greater cooperation among members could create new opportunities for businesses in energy, agriculture, manufacturing, minerals, infrastructure and technology. A more diversified trading network could help participating economies withstand sudden disruptions in shipping routes, commodity markets and access to strategic resources. For India, this creates an opportunity to position itself as a manufacturing, technology and services hub connecting different parts of the Global South.

The summit also highlighted sustainable development and the economic challenge of inequality. The New Delhi Declaration reaffirmed commitment to the UN's 2030 development agenda and recognised poverty eradication as a fundamental global priority. BRICS countries also backed further work on inequality, including a proposal for an international panel examining disparities within and between nations.

Geopolitically, the summit demonstrated the complexity as well as the growing relevance of BRICS. The grouping brings together countries with very different political systems, strategic interests and relationships with



the West. Yet their common demand for greater representation in global institutions is creating an increasingly influential platform for the Global South. India used the summit to emphasise that BRICS should contribute to global governance rather than simply become an opposing camp.

The summit also produced important diplomatic movement on India-China relations. On the sidelines, the two countries discussed the need for a long-term approach to bilateral ties and reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity along the border.

The broader message from New Delhi is therefore economic as much as geopolitical. BRICS countries are gradually evolving from a grouping built around emerging market cooperation into a platform which is capable of influencing debates on trade, finance, technology, energy and development. For India, the opportunity lies in ensuring that this changing global architecture remains open, commercially useful and development-oriented. The real test now will be whether the declarations made in New Delhi can translate into deeper trade, stronger investment flows and practical institutions capable of giving emerging economies a larger role in the world economy.

EXPERT



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Q. What is the Ideal Workplace
Culture According to the Indian
Knowledge System?

Ans. Many organizations use the phrase "We are a family" to promote teamwork, trust, loyalty, and a sense of belonging among employees. The intention is to encourage cooperation and mutual support. However, the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) offers a more nuanced understanding of relationships. According to IKS, every relationship is based on Dharma (duty) rather than emotions alone. Family relationships are unconditional and lifelong, whereas workplace relationships are professional and guided by responsibilities, ethics, and organizational objectives. The Sanskrit principle "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (The whole world is one family) teaches universal respect and compassion, not the elimination of professional boundaries. Therefore, IKS suggests that a workplace should cultivate

family-like values such as trust, respect, empathy, and cooperation while maintaining fairness, accountability, and professional discipline.

Indian philosophy clearly distinguishes between personal and professional relationships. A family is founded on unconditional love, lifelong commitment, and emotional bonds. Family members continue to support one another despite disagreements or failures. A workplace, however, is established to achieve shared organizational goals. Relationships are based on defined roles, competence, responsibilities, and institutional policies. Employees may receive promotions, transfers, rewards, or disciplinary action depending on their performance and organizational requirements. The Indian Knowledge System teaches that each relationship has its own Dharma. Confusing family relationships with professional relationships may lead to unrealistic expectations, favoritism, or compromised justice. Therefore, organizations should maintain professional boundaries while promoting respect, cooperation, and compassion.

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) envisions an ideal workplace as an ethical, value-driven community where individuals work together with a shared sense of purpose, responsibility, and mutual respect. Unlike the modern notion that a workplace should function like a family, IKS emphasizes that every relationship is governed by Dharma (righteous duty), which defines the rights, responsibilities, and ethical conduct of each individual. A healthy workplace is therefore built not on emotional slogans but on fairness, integrity, accountability, and collective well-being.

1) **Svadharm**a: One of the fundamental principles of IKS is Svadharm, as explained in the Bhagavad Gita. Every individual should perform their assigned duties sincerely, efficiently, and without selfish attachment to personal rewards. Employees are expected to work with honesty, discipline, and dedication, while leaders are expected to guide, mentor, and protect their teams through ethical decision-making and righteous conduct. This mutual commitment creates trust and strengthens organizational effectiveness. The Bhagavad Gita emphasizes the principle of Svadharm, which means performing one's rightful duty sincerely and without attachment to personal gain. Employees are expected to work honestly, ethically, and with dedication, while leaders are expected to guide and protect their teams through righteous conduct. Similarly, the Arthashastra by Kautilya explains that successful administration depends on merit-based appointments, transparent governance, justice, and accountability. Leaders should reward good performance, address misconduct impartially, and avoid favoritism. Together, these texts demonstrate that an organization succeeds

when every individual fulfills their responsibilities according to Dharma. Leadership is measured not by emotional claims but by ethical conduct, fairness, and commitment to the welfare of the organization.

2) **Nyaya**: Another important principle is Nyaya (justice). Indian philosophy teaches that all individuals should be treated fairly and without favoritism. Recruitment, promotions, rewards, and disciplinary actions should be based on merit, competence, and ethical behaviour rather than personal relationships or bias. The Arthashastra of Kautilya highlights that good governance depends on transparency, accountability, and impartial administration. An organization that practices justice earns the confidence and loyalty of its employees.

3) **Karuna and Seva**: The ideal workplace also embraces Karuna (compassion) and Seva (selfless service). Compassion encourages leaders to understand employees' challenges, support their well-being, and create a psychologically safe environment. At the same time, compassion should never replace accountability. Employees are encouraged to help one another, share knowledge, and contribute to the success of the entire organization rather than focusing solely on personal achievements.

4) **Lokasangraha**: IKS further promotes the concept of Lokasangraha, which means working for the welfare and stability of society. Every action in the workplace should contribute not only to organizational success but also to the larger good of employees, customers, stakeholders, and the community. Ethical leadership inspires trust and motivates employees to work with commitment and social responsibility.

5) **Respect**: Respect for diversity and human dignity is another essential characteristic of an ideal workplace. The principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" teaches that all human beings deserve respect and compassion regardless of their background. In an organizational context, this means creating an inclusive culture where every employee is valued, heard, and treated with dignity while maintaining professional boundaries and responsibilities.

An ideal workplace according to the Indian Knowledge System therefore combines ethical leadership, professional excellence, justice, compassion, transparency, accountability, teamwork, and continuous learning. It is not a family in the literal sense, because professional relationships are governed by defined roles and responsibilities. Instead, it is a community guided by Dharma, where individuals work together with integrity, mutual respect, and a commitment to collective progress.

In conclusion I wish to say that the Indian Knowledge System teaches that a successful workplace is one where leaders lead by example, employees perform their duties with sincerity, decisions are based on fairness and merit, and everyone contributes to the welfare of the organization and society. Such a workplace creates genuine trust and belonging not because it claims to be a family, but because it consistently upholds the timeless values of Dharma, justice, compassion, and ethical conduct.

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WHEN SUCCESS MAKES YOU STAND ALONE: THE QUIET BATTLE BEHIND EVERY ACHIEVEMENT

Success is often celebrated for its rewards, but rarely for the battles that come with it. When you work hard, achieve something meaningful, and begin to stand apart from others, you may also become a target of jealousy, criticism, and opposition. People may question your abilities, undermine your efforts, or try to pull you down. In such moments, the greatest lesson is not to surrender, but to learn how to stand your ground.

When people become jealous of your progress, they may try to isolate you, especially when you are part of a team. They may make you feel unwanted, question your contribution, or create situations that make you doubt yourself. However, not every battle requires external support. Sometimes, the strength you need is already within you. You do not always need a crowd standing behind you to prove your worth. There are moments when you must learn to stand alone and defend what you have worked so hard to build.

Fighting back does not necessarily mean responding with anger or hostility. It means refusing to let negativity define you. You may cry, feel hurt, become angry, or even lose confidence for a while, and that is perfectly human. But emotions should never become the reason you stop moving forward. Feel everything, but keep moving.

There will always be people who attempt to convince you that you have changed. As you grow, they may accuse you of having an ego, an attitude, or a sense of superiority. They may interpret your confidence as arrogance and your boundaries as pride. But growth naturally changes people. When you become stronger, more independent, and more aware of your worth, you may no longer behave in the same way you once did.

The opinions of others should not become the measure of your character. People will speak according to their own perceptions, insecurities, and expectations. You cannot control what they say about you, but you can control how much power you give their words. Sometimes, the strongest response is not an argument but continued progress.

Success can be lonely because not everyone will be comfortable watching you rise. Some people may celebrate you only when you remain within the limits they have imagined for you. The moment you exceed those limits, their admiration may turn into criticism. That is one of the lesser-discussed realities of growth.

Therefore, when life puts you in a difficult situation, do not assume that standing alone means you are weak. Resilience is built through resistance. Every challenge can make you stronger, every criticism can teach you something, and every attempt to bring you down can become another reason to rise higher.

Fight when you must. Cry when you need to. Feel angry when you are hurt. But never allow the negativity of others to determine your future.

Keep growing, keep fighting, and rise so high that the people who once tried to bring you down can no longer reach you.



THE STRENGTH IN FEELING: WHY EMOTIONAL HONESTY ISN'T WEAKNESS



There is a quiet myth we've all inherited somewhere along the way, that strength means silence, and that a steady face is the only proof of resilience. But emotional outbursts are not a flaw in our design. They are a part of human nature, as instinctive as breathing, and as necessary.

Crying, raising your voice, or simply admitting that something hurts is not a departure from strength, it is strength, expressed honestly. When you let yourself feel and express what's inside you, you are not falling apart. You are doing the harder, braver thing: learning to face what's difficult instead of burying it. Every time you allow yourself that release, you are quietly building the resilience it takes to survive the deadliest situations life throws your way, the losses, the disappointments, the days that ask more of you than you thought you had.

But there is a second half to this truth, one just as important as the first. Once you have let it out, once you've cried, spoken, or simply sat with the feeling until it softened, the work isn't to dwell there forever. Don't turn the release into a residence. Don't let a single outburst calcify into permanent numbness, where you cut yourself off from feeling altogether and call it protection. Feeling deeply and shutting down completely are not the same skill, and it's easy to mistake one for the other when you're exhausted.

This is also where the noise of other people's opinions tends to creep in, the worry over what they'll say, what they'll think, whether your tears made you look fragile in someone else's eyes. Let that worry go. What others say about your feelings was never really your responsibility to manage. Their opinions are not your burden to carry, and they were never

yours to begin with.

Still, there's a subtler danger worth naming honestly: the temptation to decide that emotionlessness itself is the goal, that if feeling hurts, then not feeling must be healthier. It rarely is. What actually serves your mental and physical health is not suppression, but balance: the ability to feel fully when something calls for it, and to release that feeling rather than store it. Armor that never comes off stops being protection and starts being isolation.

Because here is the truth beneath all of it, when something difficult happens, when life tests you in ways you didn't ask for, the person who shows up for you most reliably, most consistently, is you. Not because no one else cares, but because you are the one who is always there, in every version of every day. That makes you worth protecting, not through numbness, but through understanding: your own patience with yourself, your own willingness to let feelings move through you instead of around you.

So let yourself feel. Let yourself cry when it's real. Then let yourself rise, not as someone unfeeling, but as someone who knows exactly how much they can carry, because they've learned to carry it honestly.

Isha Mittal, Srushti Panvalkar & Afreen Mazgaonkar

ISRO'S EOS-05 SATELLITE ACHIEVES GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has made yet another successful launch with the successful deployment of EOS-05 (Earth Observation Satellite) in geosynchronous orbit. EOS-05, which had been launched using the GSLV-F17 rocket on September 4, successfully performed its third and final orbit raising manoeuvre on September 7. ISRO officials have announced that the manoeuvre has been successfully executed, and the satellite is currently in good health. The satellite has been placed at an altitude of approximately 35,000 km, where it can observe the Indian subcontinent continuously. Over the next few days, health and system checks will be performed by scientists, and then the imaging instruments will be activated to obtain the first images of the Earth observations by the EOS-05. It will have many potential applications, including weather prediction and Earth observation applications. In addition, the satellite will be helpful in meeting the strategic requirements of the Indian Navy in relation to imaging from space. EOS-05 is the first Earth Observation satellite launched by ISRO in a geosynchronous orbit. Successful deployment of the satellite has been a remarkable achievement in India's space program.



INDIA-PERU FTA TALKS ENTER FINAL STAGE, DEAL TARGETED FOR 2027

Negotiations between India and Peru for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) have entered their final stage, with Peru hoping to conclude and sign the pact in 2027. Peru's Trade Minister Rogers Valencia said Lima has already sent a counterproposal to New Delhi and is now awaiting India's response before the negotiations can be wrapped up. The proposed agreement is particularly significant as trade between the two countries has expanded sharply. Peruvian exports to India reached \$6.184 billion between January and July 2026, a 152% increase from the same period last year. India has consequently overtaken the United States to become Peru's second-largest export destination, with gold shipments accounting for much of the increase. India and Peru began FTA negotiations in 2017, making the discussions a lengthy process. Peru, meanwhile, continues to maintain strong trade ties with China, its largest export market, particularly for copper and other minerals. If concluded, the India-Peru FTA could provide businesses in both countries with improved market access and strengthen India's trade presence in Latin America.



NATIONAL FILM AWARDS CEREMONY TO BE HELD IN GUJARAT

In a historic departure from tradition, the 72nd National Film Awards ceremony will move out of the national capital and take place in Ekta Nagar (formerly Kevadia), Gujarat, on September 22. Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting officials confirmed that President Droupadi Murmu will present the honors near the iconic Statue of Unity. Since its inception in 1954, the prestigious event has almost exclusively been hosted at New Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan, with a rare exception in 1971 when the 17th edition took place in Chennai. The relocation coincides with the planned redevelopment of Delhi's Central Vista region including the upcoming demolition of Vigyan Bhawan. Organizers are assembling a temporary dome near the 182 meter Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel statue to accommodate nearly 1,000 attendees. The venue shift to Gujarat is a point of discussion across the entertainment sector. Filmmakers have questioned why state hubs with larger historical contributions to Indian cinema such as Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu or Kerala were not prioritized over Gujarat. Recognizing excellence in 2024 cinema, this year's major accolades will honor Article 370 for Best Feature Film, alongside leading acting awards shared by Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion), Mammootty (Bramayugam), and Yami Gautam.



DRDO DEVELOPS INDIGENOUS TECH TO STRENGTHEN INDIA'S BORDER SECURITY

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is developing an integrated, technology-driven security network to strengthen surveillance along India's challenging borders. Instead of depending primarily on physical fences and isolated surveillance equipment, the organisation is working on systems that can detect, identify, track and respond to threats in real time. The proposed network will combine fibre-optic intrusion sensors, high-resolution and infrared cameras, advanced radars, hyperspectral imaging and synthetic aperture radar (SAR) to monitor different terrains, including deserts, mountains and forested areas. With the use of AI and ML technology, data generation resulting from the sensors can be dealt with, providing information about the hazards involved, as well as reducing the number of false alarms. Another significant focus area for defence technology is tackling the problem of drones. The Defence Research and Development Organisation is working towards the integration of radar and electro-optics with laser counter-drone weapons that can spot and eliminate aerial threats. The project is another step by India in its pursuit of making its own weapons – by being autonomous and fast but still being less reliant on imports.



ARTHRITIS DRUG PROMISES TO REVERSE SEVERE HAIR LOSS

Patients with severe alopecia areata, an inflammatory condition that leads the immune system to mistakenly attack healthy hair follicles have shown remarkable success in hair restoration thanks to a medicine commonly recommended to treat arthritis. Results from clinical 3 physical trials revealed the oral medication upadacitinib notably increased hair growth. The sample was tested on around 1,399 people including minors (age group of 12 to 64 years) who had lost at least 50% of their scalp hair before treatment. For a duration of 24 weeks, subjects received daily dosages of 15 mg, 30 mg, or a placebo. According to the Severity of Alopecia Tool (SALT) upto 55% of patients who got the higher 30 mg daily dose restored at least 80% of their scalp hair within 24 weeks. Less than 3.5% of patients in the placebo group experienced similar regrowth compared to over 45% of those taking the 15 mg dose. Atleast 22.5% of high dose patients experienced complete scalp hair regeneration coupled with significant improvements in quality of life, and the first clinical improvements were observed as early as eight weeks



DELHI COULD CUT PM 2.5 BURDEN BY 20 PER CENT BY 2040

According to a report released by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), Delhi could reduce its PM 2.5 exposure burden by 20% by 2040 if India strictly adheres to and meets its national air quality targets on schedule starting in 2026. An eight year implementation delay the current expected global average would halve the projected gains, capping the reduction in PM 2.5 exposure at just 10%. This gap translates to significantly higher health impacts and premature mortality rates across the region over the coming decades. 25 actionable, dual-impact solutions to simultaneously mitigate climate change and tackle air pollution. At international levels, the economic return on these integrated measures could reach 2.8% of the global GDP in 2035, 4.5% in 2050 and 11.4% by 2100. Every single year of delay forgoes over \$1.5 trillion in market and non-market benefits equivalent to 0.5% of global GDP annually. Institutional barriers such as fragmented decision-making and weak enforcement capacity, as the primary drivers of execution lag, accounting for roughly 2.4 years of total delay over a typical 15-year policy implementation period.



Isha Mittal, Srushti Panvalkar & Afreen Mazgaonkar

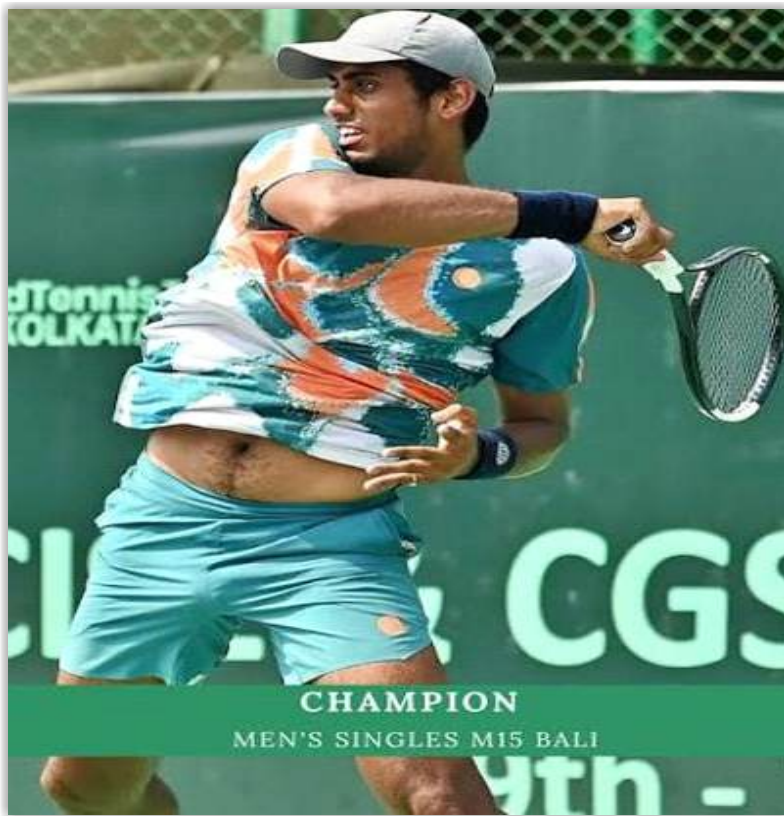
EAST ZONE ENDS 13 YEAR WAIT TO LIFT DULEEP TROPHY

East Zone ended a 13 year title wait by clinching the Duleep Trophy, beating South Zone on a first innings lead following a drawn final at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. Led by skipper Ishan Kishan, East Zone dominated the five-day summit clash from start to finish. After winning the toss and opting to bat, East Zone posted a colossal first-innings total of 708. Kishan smashed a record breaking knock of 270 becoming the first East Zone batter and wicketkeeper to score a double century in a Duleep Trophy final. He was ably supported by Kumar Kushagra who chipped in with 101. In response, South Zone struggled against East Zone's disciplined bowling attack. Despite a valiant 99 from Tilak Varma and solid resistance from Devdutt Padikkal, South Zone were bowled out for 336. Fast bowler Mukesh Kumar claimed 3 for 62 while veteran Indian pacer Mohammed Shami delivered crucial breakthroughs locking a massive 372 run first innings advantage. East Zone then declared their second innings at 388/7, extending their lead past 700 runs before the match ended in a draw on Day 5. Marked by first-innings rules, East Zone secured their first Duleep Trophy title since the 2012–13 season.



KARAN SINGH CLINCHES ITF M15 BALI SINGLES CROWN

Indian tennis player Karan Singh delivered a dominant performance to lift the men's singles title at the ITF Men's World Tennis Tour M15 tournament in Bali, Indonesia. Seeded fourth and ranked World No. 604, the 23 year old defeated fifth seeded Isaac Becroft of New Zealand 7-5, 7-6(3) in a hard fought final. The victory marks Karan's fourth career title, his third of the 2026 season, and his second singles trophy of the year. The Karnal born athlete enjoyed an exceptional week on the hard courts without dropping a single set. Training out of the Roundglass Tennis Academy, Karan opened his campaign against Indonesian qualifier Gunawan Trismuwantara (6-3, 7-5), before easing past local wildcards Rafalentino Ali Da Costa (6-3, 6-2) and Nathan Anthony Barki (6-1, 6-4) in subsequent rounds. In the semifinals, he put on a commanding display to eliminate seventh seed Ryotaro Taguchi of Japan 6-3, 6-3. This victory continues a stellar run for the former World No. 388 coming shortly after his doubles title triumph at the ITF M15 Astana alongside Russia's Martin Borisouk. With multiple international titles in his name, Karan's impressive form highlights his growing stature in Indian tennis.



INDIA BEAT CHINA 1-0 TO WIN THIRD CONSECUTIVE JUNIOR WOMEN'S ASIA CUP TITLE

India's junior women's hockey team created history by defeating hosts China 1-0 in the final of the 2026 Women's Junior Asia Cup in Moqi, China, to secure their third consecutive continental title. The victory capped an impressive unbeaten campaign for the defending champions. The decisive moment came in the 17th minute, when Sanika Chandrakant Mane scored to put India ahead. China pressed for an equaliser, but India's disciplined defence held firm to preserve the narrow lead until the final whistle. India had earlier topped the Elite Pool with 10 points from three wins and a goalless draw against China. Goalkeeper Nidhi played a key role in the draw, saving a penalty stroke and helping India remain unbeaten. In a stunning performance during the knockout rounds, India crushed Pakistan 19-0 to make it to the quarter finals and later overcame South Korea by a score of 5-1 in the semi finals, with Supriya earning 3 goals in her match. This adds to the victories scored by India in 2023 and 2024, and is a great milestone for them in the history of sports.



KALYANI VISHWAKARMA CREATES HISTORY WITH SILVER AT ASIAN KARATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

India has made history thanks to Kalyani Vishwakarma who won a silver medal in the U-21 women's +68 kg kumite section at the Asian Karate Championships 2026 held in Glasgow, Scotland. With this podium win, she is now an Indian woman to clinch a silver medal in the aforementioned category at the Asian Championships. Vishwakarma, who previously trained at the Madhya Pradesh Karate Academy, is currently serving as a Mahila Constable in the Border Security Force (BSF). Her international success follows a strong domestic season. At the 5th Senior National Karate Championship in New Delhi earlier this year, she won gold in the U-21 +68 kg category and earned direct selection for the South Asian, Asian and Commonwealth Karate Championships. Her silver in Glasgow represents a significant milestone in Indian women's karate and highlights the progress of athletes competing at the U-21 level. Vishwakarma's progress from the Madhya Pradesh Karate Academy to the global stage, all while being a part of BSF, makes for yet another achievement in her career.



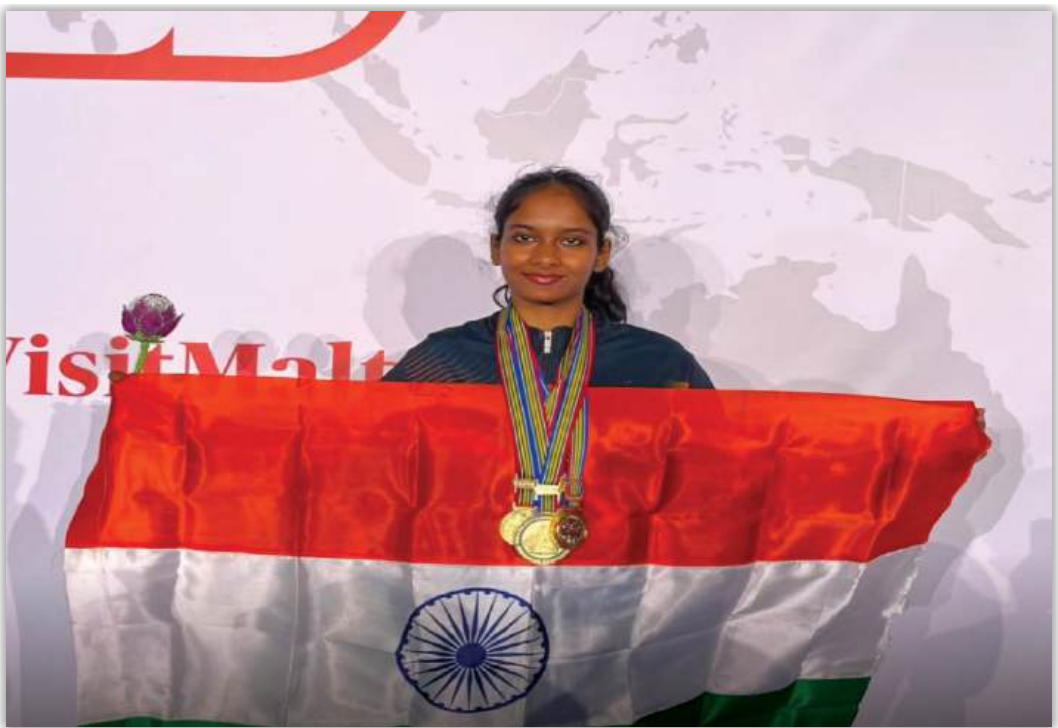
SATWIK-CHIRAG STAGE THRILLING COMEBACK TO CLAIM CHINA MASTERS TITLE

India's top ranked men's doubles pair, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, mounted a sensational comeback to defeat China's He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu in the China Masters final. The Indian duo rallied from a set down to secure an 11-21, 21-13, 21-17 victory in a grueling 70 minute summit clash. The Indian star pair struggled with unforced errors initially dropping the opening game 11-21 to the aggressive local favorites but shifted gears in the second game. Satwik and Chirag had dominated the rallies with relentless smashes to level the match 21-13. The deciding game turned into a high octane battle. Trailing 9-11 at the interval, the Indian duo erased the deficit through tactical defense and clinical net play, leveling the score at 16-16 before pulling ahead to close out the victory. For the two who placed second in the event in 2023 and 2025 the victory represents a major advancement. Notably, they had also won the Singapore Open Super 750 title which makes this their second remarkable title of the year. On their win Satwik mentioned that they did not have a second plan in mind and considered it essential to analyse their opponents and their playing techniques.



17-YEAR-OLD MADHURA KAR WINS FOUR GOLD MEDALS AT WORLD POWERLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Seventeen-year-old Madhura Kar from Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, has delivered a remarkable performance for India at the 2026 IPF World Sub-Junior and Junior Classic Powerlifting Championships in Sun City, South Africa. Competing in the Sub-Junior Women's 52 kg category, Kar won gold in the squat, bench press, deadlift and overall total, completing a clean sweep. Weighing just 49.35 kg, Kar lifted 107.5 kg in the squat, 60 kg in the bench press and 125 kg in the deadlift, finishing with a combined total of 292.5 kg. Her total was nearly six times her body weight. The world title adds to an impressive record for the Class XII student. Kar won the National Sub-Junior and Junior Classic Powerlifting Championship in 2024 and 2025, successfully defending her title. Earlier in 2026, she also won a national bench press title and secured silver at the Asian Powerlifting Championships in China. Kar's four-gold haul marks the biggest international achievement of her young career and puts her among India's most promising emerging powerlifters.



UIIC AO RECRUITMENT 2026



The United India Insurance Company Limited (UIIC) has released the official notification for the recruitment of 225 Administrative Officer (Scale-I) posts in Generalist and Hindi Officer disciplines.

- Key Highlights**
- Organization: United India Insurance Company Limited (UIIC)
 - Post Name: Administrative Officer (Scale-I)
 - Total Vacancies: 225 Posts
 - Generalist: 200 Posts
 - Hindi Officer: 25 Posts

Educational Qualification

- For Generalist posts, candidates should possess a Graduation degree in any discipline from a recognized university or institution. Hindi Officer candidates must possess the educational qualifications prescribed for the respective post.

- Important Dates**
- Application Start Date: 08 September 2026
 - Last Date to Apply: 28 September 2026
 - Preliminary Examination: 22 October 2026 (Tentative)
 - Main Examination: 30 November 2026 (Tentative)

- Age Limit**
- Minimum Age: 21 Years
 - Maximum Age: 30 Years
 - The age limit is calculated as on 30 June 2026. Age relaxation is applicable to reserved categories as per Government rules.

- Salary**
- Administrative Officer (Scale-I): Approximately ₹1,10,000 per month including applicable allowances and benefits.

- Application Fee**
- General/OBC/EWS: ₹1,000
 - SC/ST/PwBD: ₹250

- Selection Process**
- Preliminary Examination
 - Main Examination
 - Interview
 - Document Verification

How to Apply

- Visit the official UIIC recruitment portal, complete the online registration, enter the required details, upload the necessary documents, pay the application fee and submit the application before 28 September 2026.

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

SSC CHSL RECRUITMENT 2026 – APPLY ONLINE FOR 2,536 POSTS



The Staff Selection Commission (SSC) has released the official notification for the Combined Higher Secondary (10+2) Level Examination, 2026 for approximately 2,536 Group C posts. Key Highlights

- Key Highlights**
- Organization: Staff Selection Commission (SSC)
 - Exam Name: Combined Higher Secondary Level (CHSL) Examination 2026
 - Major Posts: LDC, JSA, DEO & DEO Grade 'A'

- Total Vacancies: 2,536 Posts (Tentative)
- Category: Central Government Recruitment
- Application Mode: Online

Educational Qualification

- Candidates should have passed Class 12th or an equivalent examination from a recognized board or institution. For certain Data Entry Operator posts, candidates are required to have passed 12th Standard with Science stream and Mathematics as a subject.

- Important Dates**
- Application Start Date: 07 September 2026

- Last Date to Apply: 07 October 2026
- Last Date for Fee Payment: 08 October 2026
- Correction Window: 14–16 October 2026

- Age Limit**
- Minimum Age: 18 Years
 - Maximum Age: 27 Years
- Age relaxation is applicable to eligible reserved categories as per Government norms.

- Salary**
- LDC/JSA: Pay Level 2
 - DEO: Pay Level 4 / Level 5
 - DEO Grade 'A': Pay Level 4

- Application Fee**
- General/OBC/EWS: ₹100
 - SC/ST/PwBD/Women/Eligible Ex-Servicemen: No Fee

- Selection Process**
- Tier-I Examination
 - Tier-II Examination
 - Skill Test/Typing Test (where applicable)
 - Document Verification

How to Apply

- Visit the official SSC website, complete the registration process, fill in the application form, upload the required documents, pay the application fee wherever applicable and submit the application before 07 October 2026.

For more details candidates are asked to visit the official website

SOUTHERN RAILWAY APPRENTICE RECRUITMENT 2026
APPLY ONLINE FOR 4,471 POSTS

Southern Railway has released the official notification for the engagement of Act Apprentices under the Apprentices Act, 1961. A total of 4,471 apprentice training slots are available, including 163 Fresher and 4,308 Ex-ITI opportunities.

- Key Highlights**
- Organization: Southern Railway
 - Post Name: Act Apprentice
 - Total Vacancies: 4,471 Posts
 - Fresher Posts: 163
 - Ex-ITI Posts: 4,308
 - Category: Railway Apprentice Recruitment
 - Application Mode: Online

Educational Qualification

- For Fresher posts, candidates should have passed 10th Standard with the required percentage. Candidates applying under the Ex-ITI category should have passed 10th Standard and possess an ITI certificate in the relevant trade. For certain MLT posts, the prescribed 12th Standard qualification with Physics, Chemistry and Biology is required.

- Important Dates**
- Application Start Date: 28 August 2026
 - Last Date to Apply: 27 September 2026
 - Last Time to Apply: 5:00 PM
 - Tentative Document Verification Shortlist: 15

October 2026

- Age Limit**
- Fresher: 15–22 Years
 - Ex-ITI: 15–24 Years
 - MLT: Up to 24 Years

- Stipend**
- Fresher – 10th Standard: ₹8,200 per month
 - Fresher – 12th Standard: ₹9,600 per month
 - Ex-ITI: ₹9,600 per month

- Application Fee**
- General/OBC/EWS: ₹100
 - SC/ST/PwBD/Women: No Fee

- Selection Process**
- Merit List
 - Document Verification
 - Medical Examination

How to Apply

- Visit the official Southern Railway website, access the Apprentice Recruitment notification, complete



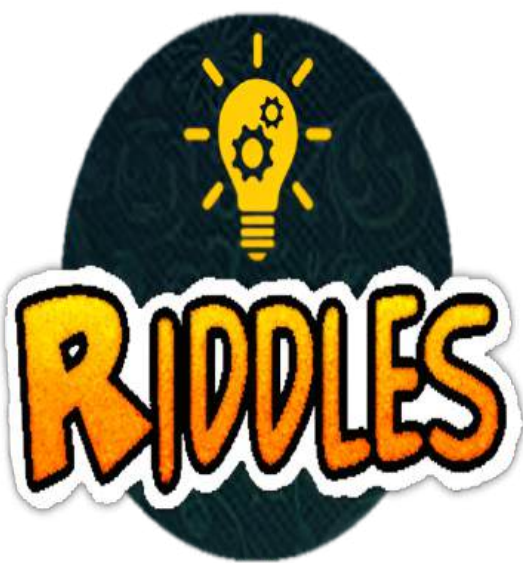
the online registration, enter the required details, upload the necessary documents, pay the application fee

For more details candidates are asked to visit the official website

Deepika Singh



1. Which country hosted the 18th BRICS Summit in 2026?
2. Which city hosted the 2026 BRICS Summit?
3. Which Chinese President visited India for the BRICS Summit?
4. Which Indian cricketer scored a double century in the Duleep Trophy final?
5. Which Indian pair won the China Masters Super 750 badminton title?
6. Which company launched the first foldable iPhone?
7. Which company launched an AI agent capable of sending emails and making payments through other apps?
8. Which Indian IT company said its AI push freed capacity equivalent to 20,000 workers?
9. Which Indian bank submitted two candidates to the RBI for its next CEO?
10. Which organisation warned that the AI boom could create financial-stability risks?



1. I have an elephant’s head and bring wisdom and good fortune. Who am I?
2. I am Bappa’s favourite sweet, made with coconut and jaggery. What am I?
3. I am Bappa’s tiny vehicle, always seen beside him. Who am I?
4. I have one tusk and am known as the remover of obstacles. Who am I?
5. I am celebrated to welcome Bappa into our homes. What festival am I?
6. I am offered to Bappa and have 21 leaves in a traditional offering. What am I?

1. Ganesha
2. Modak
3. Mushak
4. Ekadanta
5. GaneshaChaturthi
6. Durva

10 RIDDLES

10. BIS
9. HDFC
8. Wipro
7. Meta
6. Apple
5. Satwik-Chirag
4. Kishan
3. Xi
2. Delhi
1. India

10 QUIZ TIME

ANSWERS



GANPATI BAPPA'S
FAVOURITE:
TRADITIONAL
UKADICHE
MODAK

This Week, We're Relishing Authentic Ukadiche Modaks!

Ukadiche Modak is a traditional Maharashtrian steamed sweet prepared especially during Ganesh Chaturthi. Made with a soft rice-flour covering and a fragrant filling of fresh coconut, jaggery, cardamom, and nutmeg, these modaks are delicate, naturally sweet, and delicious.

Ingredients:

For the covering - 1 cup rice flour, 1¼ cups water, 1 teaspoon ghee, and a pinch of salt.
For the filling - 1 cup freshly grated coconut, ¾ cup grated jaggery, ½ teaspoon cardamom powder, ¼ teaspoon nutmeg powder, 1 tablespoon poppy seeds, and 1 teaspoon ghee.

Preparation

- Prepare the filling: Heat ghee and lightly roast the poppy seeds. Add grated coconut and jaggery and cook on low heat until the mixture thickens. Add cardamom and nutmeg powder, mix well, and let it cool.
- Prepare the dough: Bring water to a boil with ghee and a pinch of salt. Lower the heat, gradually add rice flour, and stir continuously. Cover and cook for 2–3 minutes.
- Knead the dough: Transfer the warm mixture to a plate. Wet your hands and knead gently until you get a smooth, soft dough. Keep it covered with a damp cloth.
- Shape the modaks: Take a small portion of dough and flatten it into a thin circle. Place a spoonful of filling in the centre and make small pleats around the edges.
- Steam: Bring the pleated edges together at the top to form the traditional modak shape. Place the modaks in a greased steamer basket and steam for 10–12 minutes.
- Serve: Once cooked, gently remove the modaks and brush them with a little ghee. Serve warm as a traditional offering to Lord Ganesha.



Serving Tip:

Serve the Ukadiche Modaks warm with a drizzle of homemade ghee. They are traditionally offered as naivedya to Lord Ganesha and taste best when freshly steamed.

Introducing Our New Column

ARTWORK OF THE WEEK

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

CRITERIA

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

SUBMISSION DETAILS

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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