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HULAHUL FOUNDATION'S 'LOK AAHAR 2026' REACHES 200 FAMILIES, SUPPORTS 65 CHILDREN





















HULAHUL Foundation organised its annual Diwali humanitarian initiative, 'Lok Aahar – Project Aid the Needy 2026', on November 1, 2026, at Katkariwadi, Post Sogaon, Taluka Shahapur, District Thane. The initiative brought festive cheer to 200 underprivileged families and extended educational support to 65 children through the distribution of festive food items, clothing, household essentials and stationery supplies.

Guided by the message, “This Festive Season, Let's Light Up Lives Together,” the initiative reflected the spirit of Diwali by extending support to families facing economic challenges and helping ensure that the joy of the festival reached underserved communities.

As part of the programme, the Foundation distributed traditional Diwali faral, including karanji, chivda and laddoos, along with clothes, diyas, lanterns and essential household items. Stationery supplies for the second academic term were also provided to 65 children to support their educational needs and encourage them to continue their studies with confidence.

Emphasising the significance of the initiative, Mr. Ravi Singh, Trustee and Chairman of HULAHUL Foundation, said, “The true spirit of Diwali lies not merely in lighting lamps in our homes, but in bringing light, happiness and hope into the lives of others. Through Lok Aahar, we strive to ensure that families facing hardships can also experience the warmth and joy of the festival. Every contribution, however small, can make a meaningful difference when people come together with compassion and a shared purpose. Our commitment is to continue serving communities and building a more inclusive and caring society.”

The initiative was made possible through the collective efforts of the Foundation's trustees and members, including Mr. Ravi Singh, Mr. Durgesh Dubey, Mr. Yogesh Gupta, Dr. Smita Kuntay, Mr. Aman Tripathi, CA Vikas Chaurasia, CA Ashish Chorage, Mr. Hitesh Rawal, Mr. Sahil Chaurasia, Ms. Sakshi Mishra, Ms. Ajab Tinwala, Mr. Ganesha Gundu and Mr. Kailash Gaunder. Their work in planning, coordination, distribution and community engagement contributed to the smooth execution of the programme.

Mr. Vijay Bilsore, a teacher at the one-teacher school in Katkariwadi, also extended valuable support to the initiative. His cooperation in facilitating local coordination and supporting the successful implementation of the programme was greatly appreciated by the Foundation.

Individual donors, well-wishers, institutional supporters and associated organisations also contributed to the initiative, demonstrating the importance of community participation and collective philanthropy in addressing local needs.

HULAHUL Foundation expressed its sincere gratitude to The HULAHUL Times, Lilavati Lalji Dayal High School & College of Commerce, Punya Nagari and Saraswat International Pre-School, along with all individual donors and contributors, for their generosity and cooperation.

For HULAHUL Foundation, 'Lok Aahar – Project Aid the Needy' is part of its continuing commitment to humanitarian service, educational assistance and community development. By combining immediate household support with educational resources for children, the initiative seeks to address essential needs and contribute to the well-being of the community.

The programme highlighted how shared responsibility can make festive celebrations more inclusive, while helping families and children feel supported by the wider community.















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Durgesh K. Dubey

WHEN RETIREMENT BECAME A NEW BEGINNING: THE INSPIRING STORY OF BRIJ LAL BHAT

Boy was born in Anantnag on 16 March 1945 in the beautiful valley of Kashmir, where apple orchards cover the hills and change the colour of the scenery with the change of seasons. He was brought up in a place where fruit farming was not merely a profession. It was their living and bread-winner to thousands of families. This association with the land would guide his career as well as his service life as many years later.

Brij Lal believed in education. He pursued Horticulture and topped his postgraduate programme. His studies eventually moved him out of Kashmir to the United States and his specialised training in Marketing and Refrigeration was in Washington State University. He may have seen education as just an instrument to create a comfortable career. Rather, he went back to practice in the agricultural and horticultural fields in Jammu and Kashmir. There was much to be done.

Kashmir was a fine producer of apples, walnuts, almonds and other fruits but the production of good fruit was only half the battle. Farmers too required appropriate packaging, storage, transportation as well as accessibility to markets. It may happen that a beautiful apple would lose a lot of its worth when it was destroyed even before it was sold to the customer. Brij Lal knew that when the fruit was picked off the tree the farmer was not done with his job.

As a government worker, there were a number of significant duties that he had. He worked as the Project Director of Agri Export Zones, Chief Executive Officer of World Bank funded projects and Director of Horticulture Planning and Marketing in Jammu and Kashmir. His work involved research, production and after production. He assisted in the introduction of cardboard packaging, cold-chain development and creation of fruit and vegetable markets. Jammu and Kashmir was also proclaimed as an Agri Export Zone of apples and walnuts. To promote the export of fruits, he made a J&K delegation visit to the SAARC nations.

His work also extended to Ladakh where horticultural surveys were carried out and he helped in the improvement of better methods of propagating the walnuts and almonds as well as other nut fruits. They might be technical accomplishments, but behind all the advancements, there was a simple farmer. Less fruit wasted can be achieved through improved storage. A better price could be achieved through better packaging. The existence of a more powerful market might contribute to the sustenance of a whole family.

It was the common sense of his early life: knowledge is useful when it makes somebody a better person. Years passed. Eventually, retirement arrived.

To most individuals, retirement implies that the big work in life is complete. Brij Lal Bhat saw it in another light. He had been educated, experienced, given responsibility and recognition by the society, which he called his **Pay Back Stage. He would like to give something back now.

His second voyage started. He was elected as Chairman of Administrative Committee of Shri Ramakrishna Mahasammelan Ashram-Vivekananda Kendra, Nagdandi, Anantnag. Kashmir had experienced years of strife, exile and suffering. Numerous Kashmiri Hindus had lost their ancestral homes. Memories that were not easily erased were passed on through communities. When this happened, Bhat took the challenging task of mending relationship instead of becoming bitter.

During his reign Nagdandi grew to be a spiritual, cultural and social centre. Based on the concept of Swami Vivekananda, the Man Making and Nation Building, activities were arranged, to ensure that displaced Hindus are not lost to their Kashmir. Meanwhile, civil-society relations between individuals of other religions supported peace and normality. His work attempted to make people closer without the pretence that the wounds of the past were nonexistent.

This phase of his adventure indicates an ancient Indian concept of **Siva. It is no trouble to be serviced when things are comfortable. It is more effective in case the society is split and a person opts to talk, wait and do something useful. Bhat did not dedicate his last years to telling everyone about what was lost; rather, he replies to his hard memories. He attempted to construct something that was useful now.

Young people became a significant element in this. Vessu, Martand, Sheikhpora and Virvan are some of the areas where centres were established called Karyasthans. Yoga, Swadhyay and Sanskar Varg activities linked the young people in various districts. Once again his style was a blend of knowledge and character. Employment was not the only way of education. It also implied learning self-discipline, knowing cultural backgrounds and having a sense of responsibility to the society.

Curiously enough the horticulturist never went away out of him. At Nagdandi, he assisted in the development of high-density apple and walnut orchards as study blocks. Unproductive



and barren land might be subjected to scientific orcharding. The knowledge with which he had served government was now being applied to rural welfare, and to render the Ashram more independent. His work and social life had become harmonized.

The Ashram itself grew. The size of accommodation that previously could accommodate around twelve people was stretched to accommodate approximately 150 and additional work was done to ensure that the accommodation could accommodate a great number of people. The support of heritage-development was also guaranteed. This was not only to build buildings but to establish a living centre where spirituality, culture, tourism, youth activities and interaction of the community could converge.

Bhat had already been recognised with awards like the State Marketing Award and the National Udyog Rattan Award. His subsequent social work was also recognised by community organisations. However in 2026, a bigger national honour came by. Shri Brij Lal Bhat was chosen by the Government of India to be awarded Padma Shri in Social Work, who had shifted the service to the community, but retraced by the same sense of duty.

Moral of the Story: The life of Brij Lal Bhat informs us of something to which it is easy to become forgetful: usefulness does not cease, just because there is a job or a retirement date. Many years of experience may make it even more valuable when it is shared without any restrictions. He initially applied his knowledge to enhance horticulture and later took the same vigor to community service, youth development and peace-building. His Pay Back Stage provides a more practical interpretation of the Indian concepts of Seva, Swadhyay, Sanskar and Lok-Kalyan. A large part of life is about determining what society can provide to us. It must also come to a point that we question what we can give back.

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Ajab Tinwala & Ravi Singh

THE SURGEON WHO BROUGHT "NO SCAR" SURGERY TO THE FOREFRONT OF INDIAN MEDICINE

Few surgeons can claim to have changed how a specialty is practised in their country. Dr. Guduru Venkat Rao, honoured with the Padma Shri in 2026 for medicine, is one of them. He is Director of AIG Hospitals, Hyderabad, and one of India's foremost surgical gastroenterologists. Over more than four decades he has pushed the boundaries of minimally invasive surgery, therapeutic endoscopy and surgical education.



Dr. Rao was born on 15 June 1960. He is an alumnus of the Hyderabad Public School, Ramanthapur, which felicitated him in May 2026 for his journey from its classrooms to national recognition. He received his medical and surgical training in India and specialised in surgical gastroenterology during the early, formative years of the discipline in the country. In those years, tools that surgeons now take for granted were scarce or still emerging. That shaped his career. Rather than wait for global innovations to arrive, he chose to master them, adapt them and eventually contribute to them.

As a co-founder of AIG Hospitals, Dr. Rao helped create an integrated ecosystem that combines patient care, academics and research under one roof. Today the institute is recognised globally for excellence in gastroenterology and advanced surgery. He leads its Surgical Gastroenterology, GI Oncology, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Robotic Surgery and Transplantation Services.

His reputation rests on a rare combination of skills. Few surgeons worldwide have deep experience in both advanced endoscopy and laparoscopic gastrointestinal surgery. He has performed more than 12,000 complex gastrointestinal surgeries and nearly 16,000 advanced endoscopic procedures. His best-known contribution is in Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES), popularly called "No Scar Surgery". In this approach, surgeons operate through natural body openings such as the mouth, avoiding external incisions. This can mean less pain, faster recovery and no visible scarring. Dr. Rao co-pioneered the technique and is credited with performing the world's first Transoral Endoscopic Appendectomy, removing an appendix through the mouth. He also spearheaded India's Islet Cell Transplantation programme and developed several hybrid endoscopic surgical procedures that are now widely adopted in clinical practice.

Dr. Rao is as committed to teaching as to operating. He heads an advanced surgical training programme through which more than 150 surgeons have been mentored in modern gastrointestinal surgery. He has organised numerous national and international conferences, live operative workshops and master classes, and has delivered many named orations while serving as faculty at major global scientific forums. His academic output is substantial. He has authored over 224 scientific publications and several textbook chapters, and he serves on the editorial boards of leading peer-reviewed journals.

He has also held senior positions in national and international medical societies. As President of the Indian Association of Surgical Gastroenterology, he introduced structured non-technical skills training for surgical postgraduates. The aim was to strengthen leadership and clinical decision-making, qualities that matter in the operating theatre as much as manual skill. He is also Past President of the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association and the Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy of India.

Dr. Rao has promoted homegrown medical technology through partnerships with leading institutions. With the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, he worked on a surgical simulator for training. With IIT Hyderabad, he collaborated on a robotic nurse system designed to strengthen healthcare delivery in rural and underserved regions. These projects reflect his view that advanced medicine should not remain confined to large urban hospitals.

That view also drives his social outreach. Through the Asian Healthcare Foundation, he has led large-scale rural programmes across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh focused on early detection, treatment and awareness of gastrointestinal diseases. Screening camps and telemedicine initiatives have benefited over one lakh people, many of whom have limited access to specialist care.

His work has earned many distinctions. They include the Dr. B. C. Roy National Award, the Parliament Gold Medal awarded by the Government of India, and The Economic Times Inspiring Doctors of India Award. Several international surgical societies have granted him honorary fellowships, including the Royal College of Surgeons of Glasgow, in recognition of his contribution to surgical gastroenterology and healthcare innovation.

In January 2026 the Government of India announced him among the Padma Shri recipients in the field of medicine from Telangana. He was one of several doctors from southern India honoured that year. After receiving the award, he said he remained committed to serving patients, mentoring young professionals and contributing to the growth of healthcare in the country.

Dr. Guduru Venkat Rao's story shows how one clinician's vision can reshape a field. He has operated on thousands of patients, and he has also trained a generation of surgeons who now carry his methods into hospitals across India and beyond. He built an institution where care, research and education reinforce one another. He has also pushed for technology developed in India for Indian needs. His Padma Shri recognises these contributions, and it affirms that world-class surgical care can be created, taught and delivered from within India. For patients who walked into an operating theatre expecting a large scar and walked out with none, the honour is well deserved.

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EDITOR



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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.

THE SPACE ECONOMY: TURNING SPACE TECHNOLOGY INTO BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES ON EARTH

What connects a farmer deciding when to irrigate, a logistics company choosing the fastest route and an insurer assessing potential risks? All three can benefit from technology orbiting hundreds of kilometres above Earth. This is where space technology translates into business value, turning data from orbit into practical solutions on the ground.

This is the essence of the Space Economy a growing commercial ecosystem that combines satellite services, space-based data and scientific innovation to create new revenue streams and entrepreneurial opportunities. Once largely driven by government space agencies, the sector is increasingly attracting private companies, investors and startups seeking to turn space capabilities into commercially viable solutions.

Beyond Rockets: The Business of Satellite Services

Space exploration may capture public attention, but the commercial value of space extends beyond rockets and launch missions. Communication satellites enable connectivity, navigation systems support transportation and logistics, while Earth-observation satellites provide valuable data on agriculture, infrastructure and the environment. These capabilities help businesses improve efficiency, strengthen planning and reduce uncertainty.

Example: A logistics company can use satellite navigation and fleet-management software to track vehicles, optimise routes, reduce fuel costs and improve delivery schedules.

The business lesson is clear: technology creates economic value when it solves practical problems, saves resources and improves decision-making.

When Satellite Data Becomes a Business Asset

Satellites do more than transmit signals; they generate data that businesses can use to make informed decisions. Satellite imagery supports crop monitoring and yield estimation, helps insurers assess geographical risks, and enables urban planners to track changes in land use and infrastructure.

Example: Indian agritech company Satyukt Analytics uses satellite data and weather forecasts to help farmers make informed decisions about irrigation, crop health and potential risks. This creates value for farmers while opening business opportunities in data analytics and precision agriculture.

The commercial potential extends beyond collecting data. One company may gather it, other analyses it, and a third develops specialised services for customers. For commerce students, this illustrates how data becomes a marketable asset when transformed into useful insights that customers are willing to pay for.

India's Expanding Space Business

India's space sector is evolving from a government-led activity into a broader ecosystem of private enterprise and commercial innovation. Alongside ISRO, startups and established companies are exploring satellite manufacturing, launch systems, Earth observation and space-data applications.

A Government of India factsheet published in August 2026 valued India's Space Economy at approximately US$9 billion, with around 440 registered space startups. The sector is projected to reach US$40–45 billion over the following decade, subject to



investment, technological progress and sustained market demand.

Initiatives such as the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) and a dedicated ₹1,000-crore venture capital fund aim to encourage private participation and improve access to finance.

Opportunities extend beyond rockets and satellites to software development, data analytics, electronics, finance, marketing and business development, creating a wider range of entrepreneurial and employment opportunities.

Turning Space Innovation into Revenue

The Space Economy supports several business models. Companies can earn through launch services, equipment manufacturing, satellite-data licensing, communication services and subscription-based analytics platforms. Some work through contracts with governments and large institutions, while others provide ongoing services to businesses.

For instance, a company offering satellite-based monitoring could charge customers for regular reports or access to an analytics platform. By continually providing useful information, it can develop recurring revenue rather than relying solely on one-time sales.

However, technological achievement does not automatically translate into commercial success. Space ventures often involve substantial capital investment, long development cycles, regulatory requirements and uncertain demand. Businesses must establish that customers are willing to pay for their services and that the resulting revenue can justify the costs.

The Challenges Behind the Opportunity

High capital requirements, technical complexity, launch risks and competition can make the sector difficult to enter. Space debris, cybersecurity and the responsible use of sensitive data also require careful attention.

Entrepreneurs and investors must therefore balance innovation with financial discipline, risk assessment and long-term planning. Reliable technology, strong partnerships and a viable business model are essential to building sustainable enterprises in this demanding industry.

The Take Away

The Space Economy demonstrates how scientific innovation can create commercial value across industries, from agriculture and logistics to communication and risk management. For entrepreneurs, the opportunity lies in turning space technology into solutions customers are willing to pay for. For commerce students, it offers practical lessons in investment, innovation, risk assessment and emerging business models.

Because the future of the Space Economy will be measured not only by how far humanity travels into space, but also by the value that technology creates on Earth.

Prof. Dr. Savita Kishan Pawar

EDITOR



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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.

WHY WOMEN'S VOICES MATTER IN LITERATURE

Literature preserves experiences that history may overlook. When women write about education, family, work, identity and social expectations, they broaden the range of stories available to readers.

Studying women writers helps students question stereotypes, understand historical inequalities and appreciate different perspectives. Inclusive reading lists also help learners recognise that literary excellence is not limited by gender or social background.

A truly vibrant literary culture makes room for many voices.

READING CHALLENGE

Read a short story, poem or essay by a woman writer. Identify its central theme and explain how the writer's perspective shapes your understanding of the subject.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Sharks Are Older Than Trees! Sharks have existed for more than 400 million years, while the earliest known trees appeared around 350 million years ago.
- Octopuses Have Three Hearts! Two hearts pump blood to the gills, while the third pumps blood to the rest of the body.
- Bananas Are Technically Berries! Botanically, bananas qualify as berries, but strawberries do not!
- Honey Can Last for Thousands of Years! When stored properly in sealed containers, honey can remain edible for an extraordinarily long time without spoiling.
- Your Brain Generates Electrical Signals! Billions of interconnected nerve cells communicate through electrical impulses, allowing your brain to control thoughts, movements and memories.
- A Day on Venus Is Longer Than Its Year! Venus takes approximately 243 Earth days to rotate once but only 225 Earth days to complete one orbit around the Sun.
- Sea Otters Sometimes Hold Hands While Sleeping! These adorable marine mammals hold paws while floating on their backs to avoid drifting away from one another.
- The Eiffel Tower Becomes Taller in Summer! Heat causes the iron structure to expand, making the famous tower slightly taller during warmer weather.
- Some Mushrooms Glow in the Dark! Certain fungi produce their own natural light through a chemical process called bioluminescence.
- Butterflies Taste With Their Feet! Specialised sensory receptors on their feet help butterflies identify suitable plants and determine where to lay their eggs.

GRAMMAR TIP

Parallel Structure

Parallel structure means using the same grammatical pattern for related ideas.

Incorrect: She enjoys reading, writing and to debate.
Correct: She enjoys reading, writing and debating.

Why it matters: Parallel construction improves clarity, rhythm and balance in academic writing.

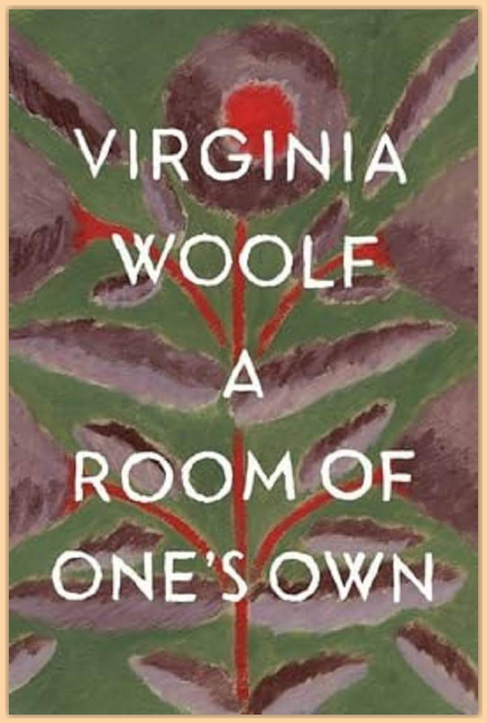
WRITER OF THE WEEK

Virginia Woolf (1882–1941)

Virginia Woolf was an influential English novelist, essayist and modernist writer. Her works explore consciousness, identity, gender, memory and the social limitations imposed on women. Her novels, including Mrs Dalloway and To the Lighthouse, experiment with stream of consciousness and the inner lives of characters. Literary significance: Woolf challenged conventional narrative forms and argued for women's intellectual and creative independence.

BOOK REVIEW

A Room of One's Own by Virginia Woolf



Based on lectures about women and fiction, this extended essay examines the material, social and educational conditions required for women to write. Woolf highlights the importance of financial independence, privacy and access to intellectual opportunities.

Discussion question: What conditions help students develop their creative and intellectual potential?

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"For most of history, Anonymous was a woman."

— Virginia Woolf

CREATIVE WRITING

Her Unwritten Page

She held a book, she held a dream,

Beyond the walls, beyond the seam.

A thought once hidden learned to fly,

A question rose into the sky.

She wrote her truth, she spoke her name,

Not seeking favour, not fearing blame.

And every page her courage drew

Opened a door for others too.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Autonomy

Meaning: The ability or right to make independent decisions.
Example: Education strengthens women's autonomy by expanding their opportunities and choices.

IDIOM HIGHLIGHT

Find One's Voice

Meaning: To become confident in expressing one's thoughts, feelings or opinions.
Example: Literature workshops encourage students to find their voices and communicate their ideas effectively.

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Ganesha Gundu & Ravi Singh

MUSTARD CULTIVATION IS POISED FOR EXPANSION



Mustard sowing is expected to edge higher this rabi season as higher support prices, better seed varieties and strong edible oil demand improve farmer incentives. The crop's expansion also reflects India's push to reduce dependence on imported oils, even as moisture availability and regional constraints remain important risks. Farmers are heading into the winter sowing season with a stronger incentive to plant mustard, as higher procurement support and tight edible oil supply conditions improve the crop's appeal.

In ayear when India's dependence on imported oils remains a strategic concern, the oilseed is gaining ground aa practical alternative to wheat in several rabi belts. The government's decision to raise the minimum support price for rapeseed and mustard has added to the momentum.

The Cabinet approved an MSP of ₹6,613 per quintal for the current rabi marketing season on 30 September 2026, up by ₹413 per quintal from the previous year. Traders and farm university osay the higher floor price is lto encouragemore acreage, especin areas where mustard already competes with w and other winter crops.

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CENTRE EXTENDS AIF SCHEME TO BOOST THE FARM INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS



The government has extended the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund until 31 March 2027, giving lenders and borrowers more time to build post-harvest assets. The move comes as India seeks to reduce large annual losses from farm inefficiencies and widen investment in storage, processing and cold-chain infrastructure. India's push to modernise farm infrastructure has received a fresh lease of time.

The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, the government's flagship financing programme for post-harvest assets and community farming facilities, has been extended until 31 March 2027, according to Livemint, which cited people aware of the decision. The extension comes as policymakers look to widen the flow of credit into storage, processing and logistics assets that can cut wastage and improve farmgate realisations. The timing is significant: government estimates suggest the country loses agricultural produce worth ₹1.53 trillion every year because of post-harvest inefficiencies.

The latest extension follows an earlier deadline of 30 September 2026. An official familiar with the matter said the Department of Expenditure has cleared the continuation of the programme through March 2027, a move intended to keep the financing window open for eligible borrowers and projects.

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INDIA MUST SHIFT FROM RICE VOLUME TO VALUE



Chirag Paswan said India must move beyond rice output and focus on processing, branding, traceability and value addition. Speaking at BIRC 2026, he linked the sector to exports, farmer incomes and the government's 2047 growth vision. India's rice story is no longer only about producing more grain.

The next phase, according to Food Processing Industries Minister Chirag Paswan, is about extracting greater value from every stage of the chain, from the farm to the export terminal and beyond. Speaking at the second edition of the Bharat International Rice Conference 2026 in New Delhi, Paswan argued that India has already secured its food supply position and now needs to turn scale into competitiveness. He said the country's rice ecosystem has room to grow not just in output, but in processing, branding, certification and product innovation. Paswan said India's post-Independence policy focus was rightly centred on food security and higher production, with the Green Revolution helping the country overcome shortages.

That phase, he said, has given India a strong production base, but the policy emphasis now has to shift towards quality, traceability, sustainability and value addition.

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RABI SOWING OPENS SLOWLY BECAUSE THE MONSOON SHORTFALL WEIGHS ON THE WHEAT ACREAGE



Wheat sowing has begun slowly this rabi season, with acreage far below last year's level as a deficient monsoon leaves soil moisture and reservoirs short. Other winter crops are also lagging, though coarse cereals have shown a small increase. Punjab and Rajasthan are among the most exposed states, and the next few weeks will determine whether planting can recover before the season closes.

The rabi season has opened on a cautious note, with wheat planting still at a very early stage and the broader winter crop basket trailing last year's pace. Early government data point to a tighter start for key staples, reflecting the lingering impact of a deficient monsoon on soil moisture and irrigation availability. By October 23, wheat had been sown on just 11,000 hectares, sharply below the 27,000-hectare covered in the same period a year earlier, according to agriculture ministry data. The crop, which is central to India's winter harvest, usually enters the ground in October and November before being harvested in March and April.

The ministry's latest sowing update shows that wheat planting has only begun in a handful of states so far. The slow start comes after a weak southwest monsoon, which left less moisture in the soil and reduced water availability in reservoirs and canals at the beginning of the rabi cycle.

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COTTON SQUEEZE DEEPENS AS EXPORT PUSH AND THE WEATHER RISKS TIGHTEN SUPPLY



India's cotton market is turning tighter as free trade agreements lift export expectations and weather risks threaten output. Imports have already hit record levels, while prices have climbed sharply ahead of the end of the duty exemption on raw cotton. Industry groups warn that the demand-supply gap could widen further in 2026-27, especially if UK and EU trade openings translate into stronger mill orders.

India's cotton market is heading into a tighter phase just as textile exporters prepare for a stronger order pipeline from new trade deals. The combination of rising export demand, patchy weather and uncertainty over import duty relief is already pushing prices higher and threatening to widen the gap between domestic supply and consumption.

With the new cotton year beginning on October 1, benchmark Gujarat 29-mm cotton has climbed by ₹4,500 a candy to ₹68,500 a candy, according to spot market data. The move reflects not only firmer buying interest but also a growing belief across the industry that the crop may undershoot demand by a wider margin than earlier expected.

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Yashavsi More & Prof. Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay

IIT KHARAGPUR, TRIPURA JOIN HANDS FOR LEARNING HUB

IIT Kharagpur and the Tripura government have signed an agreement to establish the Centre for Advanced Learning, Research and Innovation (CALRI), aimed at modernising higher education in the state. The Letter of Intent was signed on Thursday between the institute and Tripura's Higher Education Department, in the presence of IIT Kharagpur Director Suman Chakraborty and Higher Education Minister Kishor Barman. CALRI will function as a multidisciplinary platform for research in emerging technologies, digital education, faculty and student development, startup incubation and technology-driven solutions. It will operate under the academic guidance and technical mentorship of IIT Kharagpur, combining the institute's expertise with Tripura's infrastructure and regional priorities to build a sustainable model for the Northeast.



Under the proposed framework, IIT Kharagpur will mentor Tripura Technical University on curriculum modernisation, faculty development, research infrastructure, laboratory planning, quality assurance, accreditation and governance. Government degree colleges across the state will be strengthened through industry-aligned skill programmes, vocational education, practical training, certification courses and entrepreneurship initiatives.

The centre will draw on Tripura's strengths in bamboo, natural rubber, tea, agriculture and natural gas to encourage locally relevant research and enterprise development. Chakraborty said the goal is to help young people move from being job seekers to job creators through innovation and self-reliance. Barman described the partnership as a milestone for improving the quality and relevance of higher education, ensuring that learning leads to meaningful employment for students.

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MCD PLANS MORAL EDUCATION DRIVE FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi is preparing to bring moral education into its primary schools through everyday activities such as morning assemblies, sports and children's forums, officials said. The effort aims to teach children to respect elders, protect the environment and care for public property.



To shape the plan, the civic body has formed a five-member expert committee. It will recommend ways of weaving values such as honesty, discipline, compassion and social responsibility into school education. The panel will first assess the present status of value-based education in MCD schools and then suggest activities and teaching material, including inspirational stories and accounts of prominent personalities, to help pupils build these qualities.

An official said the initiative, titled "Education with Values -- The Foundation of a Better Future", is meant to complement academic learning with lessons in character and responsible citizenship. The programme seeks to ensure that children grow into thoughtful individuals who contribute positively to society, rather than focusing only on examination performance.

The committee has been asked to submit its recommendations to MCD Education Committee chairman Yogesh Verma within a month. Once the report arrives, the proposals will be discussed with officials before any decision is taken on implementation. If approved, the activities are likely to become part of the daily routine in municipal primary schools, giving teachers a structured way to nurture good habits from an early age.

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MAHARASHTRA NAMES NEW AUTHORITY FOR MINORITY CERTIFICATES



The Maharashtra government has changed who can grant minority status certificates to educational institutions and ended the temporary suspension on issuing them. Responsibility now moves from the joint secretary or deputy secretary of the minority development department to its additional chief secretary, principal secretary or secretary, who will act as the competent authority for religious and linguistic minority institutions across the state.

According to an official statement, the government had been considering ways to bring coherence and transparency to the process, settle pending cases within fixed timelines, implement certificate verification effectively and appoint a new competent authority. The government order states that the earlier stay on granting certificates has been lifted.

The move follows a controversy over minority status for educational institutions in the state. In July, the government announced a committee to reform and inspect the certification process. The joint secretary or deputy secretary had been the designated authority since May 27, 2013, while the department suspended issuance of the certificates on February 18, 2026, citing administrative reasons.

With the suspension withdrawn, eligible institutions can again apply for religious and linguistic minority recognition, and senior officials at the department's Mantralaya headquarters in Mumbai will now directly decide all such applications. The revised arrangement is expected to speed up pending cases and tighten oversight of the verification process, which had drawn considerable public criticism and prompted the review earlier this year.

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NCERT BRINGS COMPUTATIONAL THINKING, AI TO CLASSROOMS

The National Council of Educational Research and Training has developed an introductory module on Computational Thinking and Artificial Intelligence for students of Classes 9 to 12. The council announced the launch through a press release on October 23, 2026. The module is meant to help students understand emerging technologies and build problem-solving skills in line with the National Education Policy 2020.



Designed for beginners, the module encourages critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving through hands-on, activity-based learning. It follows an experiential approach built on discussions, practical exercises, experimentation and reflection. Activities can be carried out with or without digital devices, which allows meaningful participation across diverse school contexts, including those with limited access. A key focus is the ethical and safe use of AI. Students will learn about data privacy, misinformation, fairness, digital safety and the importance of critically verifying AI-generated information. The council wants learners to become informed, confident and responsible users of technology rather than passive consumers of it.

The module also stresses that technology should support learning, while decision-making must remain with human thinking and creativity. By combining practical activities with lessons on responsible use, NCERT hopes to prepare students to engage thoughtfully with AI-based tools. The approach moves away from theoretical instruction and gives learners opportunities to experiment, reflect and apply concepts, helping them understand how intelligent systems work and where human judgement remains essential in everyday life.

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JOSHI URGES EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OVER ROTE MEMORISATION

Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi has called for replacing rote learning with experiential learning, saying students and parents have become overly fixated on marks. He was speaking on Tuesday at the inauguration of an Experience Centre at the Central Board of Secondary Education's integrated office complex in Dwarka, Delhi.



Joshi remarked that much of a student's time goes into memorising and planning how to score, and that many parents feel marks must be secured somehow. He described this mindset as a different kind of "marks-wadi". According to him, the cost is that a child's understanding, learning capacity and interests go unexamined, while the pressure to score leaves students lacking confidence. Knowledge that stays in books and cannot be applied when needed serves little purpose, he said, adding that this thinking underpins the National Education Policy 2020.

The Experience Centre takes visitors through the changing story of education in India. Spread across 6,000 square feet, it houses 12 broad zones and 21 exhibits that link ancient traditions with modern learning and emerging career opportunities. A special section traces the rise of the board through historical photographs and archival material, including records dating back to 1935, offering a glimpse of how CBSE has shaped the evolution of school education.

The minister urged anxious parents to ease their focus on marks and let children learn through practical experience, so that education builds real skills.

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Dr. Saummya Rai & Durgesh K. Dubey

FROM CHINA'S AI SELL-OFF TO GOOGLE'S STOCK DECLINE: A WARNING FOR GLOBAL FINANCE



Intelligence has drawn huge investment with money moving into technology companies, chip makers and data centres. Most of that money relies on hope for profits. Recent drops in technology stocks and Alphabet shares make investors look more closely at those hopes. The main question is now practical: can these companies earn enough to justify what they spend?

In China the market fall has been big. On October 29 reports said the STAR 50 Index dropped than 40% in four months losing about $480 billion in value. The index includes technology firms beyond AI so the whole fall is not because of AI. Still, it shows worries about share prices, tough competition and uncertain profits.

Alphabet, the parent company of Google faced doubts. Its shares fell 12.6% on October 29 after quarterly results disappointed investors. Even though the business kept growing, slower growth in search advertising and higher infrastructure costs made confidence weaker. Shareholders asked for an explanation of how Alphabet's spending would become future earnings.Alphabet's cash flow numbers show the challenge. The company reported about $42.3 billion in operating cash flow while spending $51.4 billion on capital. Heavy investment today may help a business meet tomorrow's demand.. Shareholders still need to think about how that investment will be paid for and whether the eventual returns will justify the cost.

Chinese AI companies feel pressure. Rhodium Group's analysis shows they rely on equity funding and bank loans because operating cash flows are not enough to support growth. Falling share prices make it harder to raise money. Some companies might have to delay projects cut investment or borrow more leaving them more at risk if revenue drops.These developments do not prove that China's sell-off caused Alphabet's decline. Alphabet's immediate problems came from its results and spending plans. What links the two is a shift in investor expectations. Technological progress still matters,. Investors ask more questions about paying customers operating costs and realistic profits.The impact could go beyond technology shares. Suppliers might get orders if infrastructure spending slows. Funds that face withdrawals could sell investments while lenders might lose money if weaker borrowers fail to repay loans. These are ways that financial pressure could spread, not proof of a crisis.

India could also see volatility if foreign investors cut their exposure, to technology or emerging markets. At the time cheaper AI services could help Indian businesses become more efficient.In the end every business needs income to cover its costs and sustainable profits to stay alive. Investment can help expand. It cannot replace a solid business model forever. AI stays a field of discovery. It is also a commercial effort that should reward investors. Useful inventions must eventually bring paying customers and steady earnings. China's correction and Alphabet's decline show a truth: innovation brings money but income and profit keep a business running.

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GOLD THIS DIWALI: A FAMILY TRADITION AND A FINANCIAL DECISION

As Diwali comes closer many families will be thinking about buying gold. It could be a gold coin to mark the festival a gift for a loved one or gold that has been saved for months. In India gold means more than a shiny metal. It carries emotion. It brings peace of mind. That emotional value is real. It must be balanced with a clear look at whether it is affordable and whether it makes sense as an investment.

The outlook for gold has some signs though not everyone agrees. A Reuters poll released on October 27 said the average price of gold in 2027 could reach US$4,650 per troy ounce. While central bank purchases may support demand, a strong US dollar and higher US bond yields could limit how high prices go. This is a forecast, not a promise.

Goldman Sachs in September was more optimistic. They suggested gold prices might hit US$5,400 per troy ounce by the end of 2027. They said that banks adjusting their reserves could be one reason. These two forecasts look at gold in ways. So they cannot be compared directly. Still, they show that gold's future could go in directions. For families the global gold price is one part of the story. The value of the rupee against the dollar imports taxes and local market conditions also matter. If the rupee weakens gold becomes more expensive—even if the international price stays the same. Returns for people in India can be very different from those measured in dollars.

An analyst from Anand Rathi quoted on October 29 said gold on the MCX might range between ₹1,34,500 and ₹1,48,000 per 10 grams in November 2026. By the end of 2027 prices could climb to ₹1,75,000–₹1,78,000. These are estimates. They are not the prices you will see at jewellery shops.

So is it smart to buy gold this Diwali? A small purchase can make sense if it fits within the family budget. Taking a loan to buy gold or using money meant for emergencies is harder to justify. A festival should not leave a family in a position. It's also important to know why you are buying. Gold jewellery can bring joy. The cost of making it and the loss when selling it reduce returns.

Gold ETFs offer a way to invest without storing gold. They come with fees tracking differences and market risks. Gold itself does not earn interest. It does not generate income.

Some families might be better off making a choice. Paying off high-interest debt saves money. Saving in a bank account can help cover needs. Diversified stock investments might suit long-term goals if you can handle market volatility.



Buying gold also has an impact. Higher imports can increase India's import bill. This can strain the country's balance of payments even though the jewelry industry provides jobs and livelihoods.

This Diwali there is room for both tradition and smart financial planning. Buy gold if it matters to you and fits your needs. Let your budget decide how much to buy. Remember, a small purchase can still show respect for tradition much, as a bigger one.

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EXPERT



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INSIGHTS ON IKS RESEARCH - DHARMA DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

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Q. Chasing money costs me peace, and choosing peace costs me money: how can I have both?

Ans. Money and peace are not enemies. Our tradition counts Artha (wealth) among the four Purusharthas, alongside Dharma, Kama and Moksha. Peace is lost only when Artha breaks away from Dharma and runs ahead alone. The Rishis give us eight keys, an Ashta Sutra, to hold wealth and peace together.

Ashta Sutra: Eight Keys to Wealth with Peace

1. Dharma (धर्म): (Right Earning)

धर्मादर्थश्च कामश्च स किमर्थं न सेव्यते ॥
(Mahabharata, Svargarohana Parva)

Meaning: Wealth and pleasure flow from Dharma; why, then, is Dharma not followed?
Money earned honestly lets you sleep well. Money made through shortcuts, such as inflated bills, hidden commissions or poor-quality work, brings fear and guilt, however large the amount. Dharma is not the enemy of profit; it is the foundation that makes profit last. Before any deal, ask: would I be comfortable if my family knew exactly how I earned this?

2. Nishkama Karma (निष्काम कर्म): Effort Without Anxiety

कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन ।
(Bhagavad Gita 2.47)

Meaning: Your right is to the work alone, never to its fruits.
Peace does not mean working less; it means worrying less. Most restlessness comes not from work but from constant anxiety about results: the appraisal, the promotion, the market. A salesperson who gives full effort every day and then lets go of the monthly target usually performs better, and stays calmer, than one who checks the numbers every hour. Do your best, then leave the outcome to the Divine.

3. Tyaga (त्याग): Ownership Without Grasping

तेन त्यक्तेन भुञ्जीथा मा गृधः कस्यस्विद्धनम् ॥
(Isha Upanishad 1)

Meaning: Enjoy through renunciation; do not covet, for whose is wealth, after all?
The verse does not say "do not enjoy". It says enjoy with detachment. Think of yourself as a trustee, not an owner. A trustee manages property carefully but does not lose sleep over it, because it was never his to cling to. Enjoy your home, your car and your savings, but hold them lightly. When a loss comes, the trustee feels it but is not broken by it.

4. Santosha (सन्तोष): Knowing What Is Enough

सन्तोषादनुत्तमः सुखलाभः ॥
(Yoga Sutra 2.42)

Meaning: From contentment comes the highest happiness (sukha).
When Yama offered young Nachiketa gold and kingdoms, he refused, saying na vittena tarpaṇīyo manuṣyaḥ: no one is ever satisfied by wealth alone (Katha Upanishad 1.1.27). The hunger for "more" has no finish line, so decide what is enough. List your family's real needs: a home, food, education, health and savings for old age. Work hard for these. Beyond them, comparing yourself with neighbours and colleagues only feeds restlessness.

5. Anrinata (अनृणता): Freedom From Debt

अनृणी चाप्रवासी च स वारिचर मोदते ॥
(Mahabharata, Yaksha Prashna)

Meaning: One who is free of debt and lives among his own people is truly happy.
Yudhishthira's answer to the Yaksha mentions no riches at all. A simple meal at home, with no loan hanging over one's head, is real wealth. Many young professionals take loans for phones, cars and foreign holidays, then work in fear of EMIs for years. Borrow only for genuine needs such as a home or a child's education, and repay early. A modest debt-free life is more peaceful than a grand borrowed one.

6. Santulana (सन्तुलन): Balance Of Time

विभज्य काले कालज्ञ सर्वान्भरत सेवसे ॥
(Valmiki Ramayana, Ayodhya Kanda)

Meaning: Shri Rama asks Bharata: do you divide your time wisely among Dharma, Artha and Kama?
Rama does not ask Bharata to give up wealth. He asks him to give each aim its proper time, so that none swallows the others. This is the ancient form of work-life balance. Fix hours for work, family, health and prayer, and guard them. Keep office calls away from the dinner table. An hour with ageing parents or growing children cannot be bought back later, at any salary.

7. Daana (दान): sharing what you earn

श्रद्धया देयम् । श्रिया देयम् । ह्रिया देयम् ।
(Taittiriya Upanishad 1.11)

Meaning: Give with faith, give generously, give with humility.
Set aside a fixed share of your income, even a small one, for those in need: a poor student's fees, a meal programme, a temple or a hospital. Giving reminds us that money flows through us and does not belong to us. It loosens the grip of greed and brings a joy that spending never does. Give quietly, without pride and without expecting praise.

8. Shanti (शान्ति): Inner Stillness

अशान्तस्य कुतः सुखम् ॥
(Bhagavad Gita 2.66)

Meaning: For one without peace, where is happiness?
Shri Krishna compares the wise person to the ocean, which receives rivers constantly yet never overflows (Gita 2.70). A settled mind can receive both gains and losses without being shaken. Build this steadiness daily: ten minutes of japa, prayer or quiet breathing each morning, and a moment of gratitude before sleep. Peace does not come after we earn enough; it is the ground on which we earn well.

Conclusion: The conflict between money and peace is not a law of life; it is a sign that our priorities are out of order. The Rishis never asked the householder to renounce wealth. They asked him to place it rightly: Artha guided by Dharma, earned through sincere effort, held as a trustee and shared with others. When we chase money without these anchors, it becomes a burden that robs us of sleep, health and family time. When we seek peace by running away from work, our duties remain unfinished and worry returns. The Ashta Sutra lets us do both: work fully, want wisely, live within our means and keep some time each day for stillness. As the ocean stays calm while rivers pour in, a mind rooted in Santosha remains steady in gain and loss. Then Sukha and Shanti follow naturally, and money becomes a blessing rather than a bondage.

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Ajab Tinwala & Ravi Singh

THE SYMPHONY OF THE SOUL: HOW MUSIC SHAPES WHO WE BECOME



Music is important in life. It shapes our intellect, our behaviour, and, crucially, what we choose to listen to matters. Few forces in human experience are as universal, as ancient, or as quietly transformative as music. Long before written language took root, our ancestors gathered around fires to drum, chant, and sing, binding themselves to one another through rhythm and melody. Today, in an age of endless streaming and personalised playlists, music remains the invisible architecture of our inner lives.

The intellectual benefits of music are well documented. Learning an instrument demands sustained attention, disciplined memory, and the coordination of hand, eye, and ear. Research has repeatedly linked musical training to enhanced language processing, improved mathematical reasoning, and sharper executive function. Children who engage with music often display greater concentration and stronger problem-solving skills, as though the structure of a sonata quietly teaches the mind to organise itself. Even passive listening stimulates remarkable neural activity. Music engages regions of the brain associated with emotion, memory, and anticipation simultaneously. A single melody can summon a forgotten childhood afternoon with startling clarity, which is why music therapy has proven so valuable in supporting people living with dementia.

Yet music does not merely occupy the mind; it directs conduct. A rousing anthem can embolden the hesitant, while a gentle nocturne can soothe an agitated spirit. We instinctively choose music to suit or alter our moods: energetic rhythms to fuel a workout, soft instrumentals to accompany study, melancholic ballads to process grief. In this sense, music serves as a form of emotional self-regulation, a tool by which we tune our own temperament. Over time, the habits of our listening can influence our attitudes and dispositions. Music that celebrates compassion, resilience, and beauty tends to nurture those qualities in the listener, whereas music steeped in aggression or despair may, through repetition, reinforce similar currents within us. The relationship is not deterministic, for human beings are far too complex for such simple equations, yet the influence is undeniable.

This brings us to a crucial point: the choices we make as listeners are not trivial. Just as we are mindful of the food we consume and the company we keep, we ought to be thoughtful about the sounds we welcome into our consciousness. Lyrics, in particular, act as repeated suggestions, seeping into our thoughts and shaping our perception of relationships, success, and self-worth. This is not an argument for austerity or censorship. Music of every genre, from classical to folk, jazz to hip-hop, offers its own insights and pleasures. Rather, it is a call for intentionality. A discerning listener asks: how does this music make me feel, and what does it encourage me to become? Curating a varied, uplifting, and thought-provoking musical diet can enrich character in ways we rarely appreciate.

Music accompanies us through every chapter of life, from the lullabies of infancy to the wedding dances of adulthood and the hymns of farewell. It consoles us in sorrow, amplifies our joy, and reminds us of our shared humanity across borders and generations. To say that music is important in life is therefore an understatement. It is a teacher, a healer, and a companion, and it quietly sculpts the people we become. If what we listen to matters, then let us listen with care, curiosity, and conscience, so that the soundtrack of our lives may be worthy of the lives we hope to lead.

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THE BORROWED MIND: RECLAIMING OUR INTELLECT IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Our reliance on artificial intelligence and digital tools has grown so pervasive that we have begun to forget a rather fundamental truth: the human brain is a muscle, and like any muscle, it atrophies when left unused. What was once a convenient aid has quietly become a crutch, and many of us now lean on it for tasks we mastered as children.

Consider the simple act of sending a text message. Not long ago, composing a few sentences to a friend or colleague required nothing more than a moment's thought. Today, countless people turn to AI to frame even the most mundane messages, sentences whose grammar and structure they learned in first standard. We are outsourcing not merely complex labour but the elementary act of expressing ourselves. The irony is striking: we possess the knowledge, yet we have grown reluctant to retrieve it.

This growing dependence carries consequences that extend well beyond convenience. Chief among them is the erosion of two once-cherished habits: reading and journaling. Reading nourishes the mind with new words, fresh ideas and varied rhythms of expression. Journaling compels us to organise our thoughts and give shape to our emotions. When an algorithm offers instant summaries and ready-made prose, the patience required for both practices begins to wither. Why labour over a page when a polished paragraph can be summoned in seconds?

The result is a quiet but significant language crisis. Vocabulary, which is built through years of reading and deliberate writing, grows weak and shallow. People find themselves unable to articulate their thoughts without digital assistance, reaching for the same handful of words or waiting for a machine to supply the right phrase. Language is not merely a tool for communication; it is the very medium through which we think. When our command of it diminishes, so does the clarity and depth of our reasoning.

None of this is an argument for abandoning technology. AI is a remarkable invention, and rejecting it outright would be both impractical and unwise. The question is not whether we should use it, but how. The answer lies in treating AI as a guide rather than a substitute, a means of taking steps rather than being carried the entire distance.

One sensible approach is to use AI to discover topics, gather background information or outline a path of inquiry. From there, the real work should belong to us. Research the subject independently, absorb it, form your own opinions, and then speak or write about it in your own words. This method preserves the benefits of technology while keeping the mind actively engaged. Understanding that we have built ourselves is far more durable than answers we have merely received.



Equally important is the discipline of restraint. We should reach for AI only when it is genuinely necessary, not out of habit or idleness. A deliberate pause before opening an application, in which we ask whether we can manage the task ourselves, can be a powerful act of self-respect.

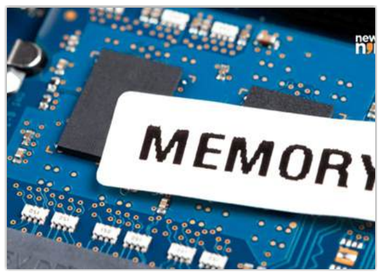
Ultimately, technology should extend our abilities, not replace them. If we allow our faculties to dull through disuse, we risk becoming spectators of our own intellect. Let us read more, write more and think more, and let the machine serve us rather than the other way around.

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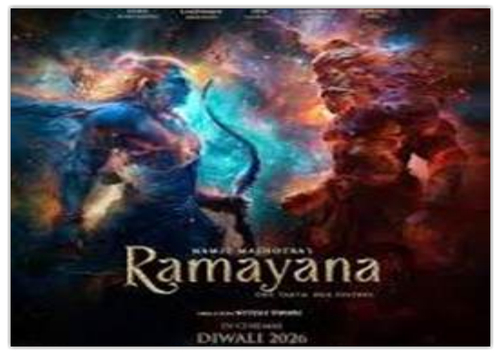
Srushti Panvalkar, Mridalini Tripathi & Afreen Mazgaonkar

GLOBAL RAM SHORTAGE COULD INCREASE PRICES OF SMARTPHONES, LAPTOPS, GAMING COMPUTERS



The memory chip shortage might persist for years, making smartphones, laptops, and gaming computers even more costly. The warning was made by South Korean semiconductor manufacturer SK Hynix, which reported its DRAM and high-bandwidth memory (HBM) chips are booked for manufacturing until 2029. The problem has its roots in the demand for artificial intelligence (AI). AI data centres need lots of memory to perform tasks. Therefore, memory chips will be used in AI servers before consumer electronics. TrendForce, a market research firm, estimates that conventional DRAM prices could increase by 10-15% in the fourth quarter of 2026. Higher costs of components will impact Indian consumers in particular those who plan to buy budget smartphones or laptops and build gaming PCs. As a response, manufacturers might raise prices, decrease profit margin, or make gadgets with less RAM. Budget devices will have to withstand the competition as there will be fewer opportunities for manufacturers to compensate for higher costs. Despite SK-Hynix increasing production capacity, memory availability is anticipated to stay limited until 2030. However, it is not guaranteed that RAM prices will decrease by 2030, because these are dependent on growth in production and demand. This situation shows buyers the need to compare the parameters of products and be careful about purchasing large electronics items.

DELHI TOPS IN CITY-WISE TICKET SALES OF RAMAYANA



As the festival of lights comes to our homes, Ramayana, a divine release of cinema, is going to reach the theatres on November 5, 2026, directed by Nitesh Tiwari. The film has a star-studded cast of Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi, Ravi Dubey, and Yash portraying their respective roles in the film. The first part of this duology also features strong performances delivered by Arun Govil as King Dashrath, Indira Krishnan as Kaushalya, and Lara Dutta as Queen Kaikeyi; along with supporting cast members such as Rakul Preet Singh as Shurpanakha, Sunny Deol as Hanuman, and Sheeba Chaddha as Manthara. Delhi-NCR emerged with the highest pre-bookings at around ₹3.6 crore, followed by Bengaluru (₹2.46-₹2.86 crore), Mumbai (₹2.16-₹2.30 crore), and Hyderabad (₹89.60 lakh), crossing ₹20 crore globally. These numbers are supported by ₹24.5 crore from overseas markets and ₹15.56 crore rupees ticket sales. The Hindi original dominates Indian ticket sales with over ₹13 crore. The Kannada dub leads with ₹2.04-₹2.37 crore, while the Telugu version contributes ₹46.38-₹49.77 lakh amount among regional dubbed versions. Strong positive fan reactions indicate that the first installment will be a large commercial success. Ramayana Part 2 is slated for an opening in theaters during Diwali 2027. Recent news reports say the opening might be delayed until Diwali 2028 because a lot more time is required for final completion of all of the very heavy visual effects and the massive battle scenes before final release.

PUNE-BASED FIRM JOINS ITALIAN AND CZECH ORGANISATIONS IN GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO COMBAT MICROPLASTIC POLLUTION



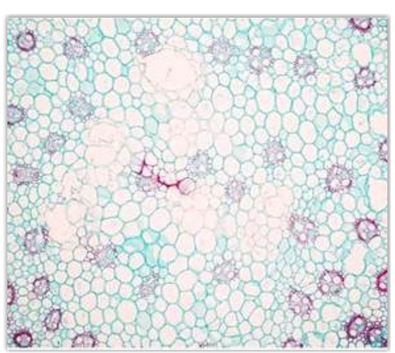
A joint effort among Indian, Italian, and Czech partners is created to address the world-wide menace of microplastic pollution through the transformation of end-of-life plastic waste to sustainable fuels and advanced materials. The technology collaboration involves Neev Bioroots Sustainable Fuels of India, Carbonyx Innovations SRL of Italy and the International Neurodegenerative Disorders Research Center (INDRC) of the Czech Republic. This partnership utilizes the catalytic pyrolysis technology expertise of India, the deployment expertise of Italy and the waste management expertise of the Czech Republic in an effort to create a circular economy concept that minimizes the environmental microplastics menace. The pilot program will be initiated in Turin, Italy and Prague, Czech Republic to assess the feasibility, scalability and resource recovery potential of these treatment technologies. Highlighting the purpose of the initiative, the directors stressed that environmental security needs to be given the same importance as national security. Swapnil Gavkar, Founder & CEO of Neev Bioroots Sustainable Fuels reiterated that conversion of plastic waste to valuable resources is an environmental security approach and a step towards sustainability and global peace.

INDIAN THEORETICAL PHYSICIST PROFESSOR ASHOKE SEN WAS CONFERRED WITH THE 2026 OSKAR KLEIN MEDAL



West Bengal shines on the global stage once more as Kolkata-based researcher Professor Ashoke Sen was honoured with the Oskar Klein Medal on October 22, 2026. This medal is jointly awarded by Stockholm University and the Nobel Committee for Physics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. He later delivered his memorial lecture titled “Gravity from Strings and Strings from Gravity”. This scientific discussion was organised at the AlbaNova University Centre in Stockholm. He was recognised for his major contributions to S-duality and String Field Theory, specifically for showing how tiny vibrating strings can unify the fundamental forces of nature. This also explains the quantum behavior of black holes. He serves at the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS) as an ICTS-Infosys Madhava Chair Professor of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Bengaluru, India. The scientist bagged various awards in the initial stage of his career. Important awards such as Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar in the year of 1994, Padma Shri in the year 2001, and Padma Bhushan in the year 2013. He has also bagged various international awards such as ICTP Award in 1989, Infosys Award in 2009, Breakthrough Prize in physics in 2012, and Dirac Prize in 2014. We feel proud of these Indian scientists and admire their commitment and hard work in order to prove their skills to the world despite limited access to the laboratories and computing facilities.

RESEARCH CONDUCTED ON ORGANOIDS ALLOWS FOR EASIER AND SAFER RESEARCH ON HUMAN BODIES



Organoid was first being used in 1946 by the two pathologists Albert Smith and George Cochrane who used it to describe a cystic tumor with organ-like structures. In 2009, Toshiro Sato and Hans Clevers used the first-ever modern 3D-structured tiny organ from mouse intestinal stem cells in a laboratory in the Netherlands. This is permitting scientists to watch closely and study disease development at various levels and test new medicines in a safe manner. This innovation shows a bright path for individual treatments while reducing cruelty and dependency on animal testing as filling the gap between medical lab research and clinical trials. As we are moving away from regular flat cell models, these micro-scale miniatures show real organ behavior, enabling researchers to detect diseases and trial new treatment ways safely. Organoids advantageously apply in disease research, drug discovery, and efficacy exploration. As same as any emerging technology, they also present key limitations, including observable trait differences among individuals, high operational costs, and tissues or structures that lack a blood vessel network. This breakthrough affects the global pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and precision medicine industries. The future applications are increasingly entering into advanced clinical tissue engineering and potential regenerative organ replacement via automated 3D bioprinting and microfluidics.

EXTENSION OF DUTY FREE COTTON IMPORTS IN INDIA UNTIL DECEMBER



India might be extending its policy of importing cotton without paying customs duty for another two months up to December 2026 to assist the textile industry amid soaring domestic cotton prices. Reuters reported on October 26 that the extension was expected after consultations among ministries. The government had removed the 11% customs duty on cotton imports from June 1 to October 31 to enhance supplies amid the scarcity. However, the price of cotton remained high in spite of the harvesting season's beginning. India is likely to produce less than 29 million bales of cotton in 2026-27, while the country will need more than 34 million bales. Poor rains, pest infestations, and outdated genetically modified cotton seeds have raised concerns over the reduced harvest. The extension of the exemption may assist textile factories to decrease production expenses and compete better with other countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh. The number of imported cotton from leading exporters may also increase, which includes the United States, Brazil and Australia. Nevertheless, increased international cotton prices, high costs of freight, and weakening rupee may undermine the effectiveness of the move. The proposed extension highlights the government's challenge of balancing farmers' interests with the needs of textile manufacturers and consumers.

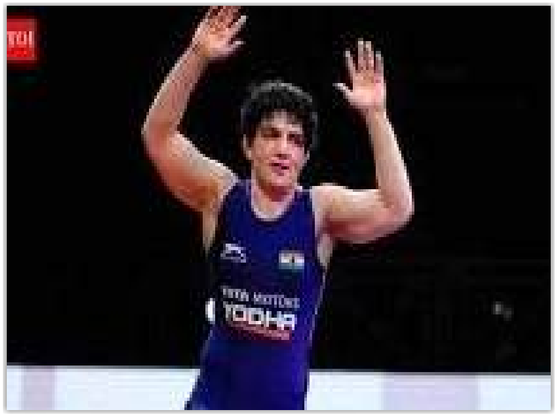
Srushti Panvalkar, Mridalini Tripathi & Afreen Mazgaonkar

SUN GODDESS SHINES AT BREEDERS' CUP AS LIBERTANGO CLAIMS JUVENILE TURF SPRINT VICTORY



Sun Goddess delivered a spectacular performance to win the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf at Keeneland, confirming her status as one of the outstanding two-year-old horses of the season. The victory marked her fourth Group One success and capped an impressive year for the talented filly. Ridden by Ryan Moore, Sun Goddess secured a favourable position early in the race before accelerating clear in the home straight. She comfortably defeated Green Empress, who finished runner-up for the fourth time behind the winner this year. Curracloe secured third place, while Amusingly finished fourth. The race also marked a significant achievement for trainer Aidan O'Brien, who recorded his 22nd Breeders' Cup winner with Sun Goddess. Meanwhile, Libertango captured the opening Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint under jockey Billy Loughnane. In a dramatic pre-race development, Loughnane secured the ride only shortly before the event after successfully meeting the required weight. Delivering an impressive late challenge, Libertango surged past her rivals to claim victory, with Hell Of A Spin finishing second. The victories highlighted the strength of European racing talent on the international stage, making it a memorable evening at Keeneland.

MANISHA MAKES HISTORY, WINS GOLD WHILE 2 INDIAN WRESTLERS BAG SILVER MEDALS AT THE SENIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



In a phenomenal feat at the Senior World Championships, 29-year-old Manisha Bhanwala from India produced a comeback. She won the match with a score of 8–6 at the Barys Arena in Astana, Kazakhstan on October 30, 2026. She bagged the gold medal in the women's 59 kg category, a non-Olympic weight class at the World Wrestling Championship. She is the first Indian woman and second Indian overall, following Sushil Kumar in 2010, to achieve this feat of winning a gold medal at the senior World Wrestling Championship. The historic clash of the former grappler is bound to remain one of the great tales of resilience in the history of Indian woman wrestling. Other important names are Neelam Sirohi, Tanu Sharma and Kajal Dhochak who have become popular names internationally. Sirohi in the flyweight category (50 kg) displayed great skills and defense in the tournament prior to facing off against Feng Ziqi of China to earn a silver medal in her event. Tanu Sharma, representing the 72 kg category, defeated Enkh-Amar Davaanasan of Mongolia in her bronze medal fight. Kajal Dhochak in the heavy-weight category defeated her opponents with strong counter-attacks throughout the event before facing Yuka Kagami of Japan in the final.

NISHCHAY OF HARYANA SETS NATIONAL RECORD AFTER 16 YEARS IN DISCUS THROW



A young man from Haryana, Nishchay, created a new history at the National Junior Athletics Championships that took place in Chennai on Monday, breaking a 16-year-old national record in the men's under-18 discus throw event. Nishchay got the gold medal after throwing the discus 66.75 metres, which is better than the earlier national and championship record of 64.09 metres held since 2010. The throw of 64.72 metres helped him make a strong start in the competition. He then made a second throw of 64.70 metres. Even though his next three throws were foul throws, his earlier throw was sufficient to help him take the top position. Vishal Kumar of Rajasthan came second and secured the silver medal, throwing the discus 57.72 metres. The bronze medal went to Dev Chauhan of Haryana who threw the discus 55.28 metres. This achievement comes as one of the successes of the young man during this season. In May, he got the silver medal at the Asian Under-20 Athletics Championships, where he threw the discus 60.10 metres and set the national under-20 record. He also represented India at the World Athletics Under-20 Championships in Eugene, United States, although he could not qualify for the final. By setting new records in both the under-18 and under-20 categories, Nishchay has established himself as a promising young talent in Indian athletics.

HARMANPREET'S HAT-TRICK LEADS INDIA TO FOURTH STRAIGHT WIN



India maintained its winning streak in the Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2026 by winning 4-2 against Malaysia in a match played on November 1, 2026, at the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium, Jalandhar. The defending champions registered their fourth consecutive win and consolidated their lead on the top of the points table, thereby making sure of a place in the semi-finals. The man of the match was Captain Harmanpreet Singh, who scored a marvelous hat trick in the 3rd, 33rd and 58th minute respectively. The first two goals were penalty corner goals and the third was a penalty stroke goal. He had help from Sukhjeet Singh who scored the third goal for India in the 43rd minute through a fine field goal after a wonderful pass from vice-captain Hardik Singh. Two goals for Malaysia were scored by Akhimullah Anuar (25th minute) and Shello Silverius (60th minute). India had earlier defeated Bangladesh (13-0), China (5-2) and Japan (4-1). The team will face South Korea in its final round-robin fixture on November 2 at the same venue, aiming to maintain its winning momentum ahead of the semi-finals.

NIZAMABAD'S YOUNG SWIMMING PRODIGY WINS GOLD AT ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP



With their strong determination and willingness to accomplish future challenges, female athletes have proved that they are going places and breaking existing records in sports. One such best example is the performance of Mitthapalli Rithvika from Telangana, who recently completed the 50 m breaststroke at the national level and won a Gold medal on October 27, 2026. She equalled the national record set by Chahat Arora by hitting a timing of 32.91 seconds to secure the 1st position. This historic moment took place when the 1st Short Course Senior National Aquatic Championship was held at the swimming pool of the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The event was held from October 25th to October 28th 2026. Beside her, in the Women's 50m Breaststroke event, Vasupalli Naga Greeshmini from Andhra Pradesh secured 2nd position (Silver), while S. Lakshya from Karnataka finished 3rd (Bronze) on the podium. She added a bronze medal in the 4×50m mixed relay event representing the Telangana relay team. In the category, Karnataka snatched the gold and Maharashtra secured Silver. She is a rising player in this aquatic sport who is inspiring a lot of women to enter the swimming sports.

OJASWINI SARASWAT RECEIVES BEST AMATEUR AWARD AT HERO WOMEN'S INDIAN OPEN



Young Indian golfer Ojaswini Saraswat has written a new chapter in the annals of history with her historic feat of receiving the Best Amateur Award at the Hero Women's Indian Open. She has also become the youngest participant to have made a cut at the renowned competition. The tournament was held at the DLF Golf and Country Club in Gurugram and witnessed some top-notch performances from the professional golfers. Ojaswini managed to showcase her skills amid the professionals despite being very young. One of the most significant moments during her participation in the competition occurred during the second round where she was able to get a score of three-under-par 69 which included seven birdies. In addition, she tied with professional golfer Vani Kapoor who had the best round of the day. Ojaswini kept participating in the game till the end and concluded it with the 16-over-par overall score where she got a four-over-par in the last round played on Sunday. Her achievement has brought attention to the growing potential of young Indian golfers on the international stage. Her father, Om Saraswat, expressed pride in her performance, describing it as an important milestone in her journey.

Prof. Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION RECRUITMENT 2026



The Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, has announced 327 vacancies for various managerial and executive positions.

Vacancy Details
- Assistant Manager (General): 70
- Assistant Manager (Technical): 60
- Assistant Manager (Finance): 10
- Assistant Manager (Engineering – Civil): 22
- Assistant Manager (Engineering – Electrical): 5
- Assistant Manager (Engineering – Mechanical): 4
- Junior Executive (General): 78
- Junior Executive (Technical): 78

Eligibility Criteria
- Qualifications vary by post and include postgraduate degrees or diplomas,
- Relevant engineering degrees, commerce qualifications with prescribed experience or CA/CMA Intermediate, a relevant B.Sc. Degree, and graduation with computer knowledge for Junior Executive (General).
- Candidates must possess the prescribed qualifications by the specified deadline; final-year students are not eligible.

Age Limit: 18–28 years as on 15 November 2026, with applicable relaxations for reserved categories and other eligible candidates.

Salary and Selection
- Assistant Managers will receive a pay scale of ₹40,000–₹1,40,000, while Junior Executives will receive ₹29,000–₹93,000, along with applicable allowances and benefits. Selection will involve an online test and document verification; Assistant Manager posts also require an interview.

Application Details
- Application Dates: 17 October to 15 November 2026
- Application Fee: ₹1,350 for UR/EWS/OBC candidates; ₹500 for SC/ST/PwBD/Ex-Servicemen/women.

Apply Online: Visit www.cewacor.nic.in and select Career @CWC – Direct Recruitment 2026.

For more details candidates are asked to visit the official website

RRB STATION MASTER RECRUITMENT 2026: 1,215 VACANCIES IN INDIAN RAILWAYS



The Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs), under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India, invite online applications for 1,215 Station Master posts under CEN 08/2026. Eligible graduates seeking a prestigious railway career are encouraged to apply.

- **Post: Station Master**
- Total Vacancies: 1,215
- Educational Qualification: Bachelor's degree or equivalent from a recognised university, obtained by the application closing date.
- Age Limit: 20–33 years as on 1 January 2027, with applicable relaxations for eligible categories.
- Salary: Initial basic pay of ₹35,400 per month under
- Level 6 of the 7th CPC Pay Matrix, plus admissible allowances.
- Job Location: Various Railway Zones across India.

Selection Process
- Selection will comprise a Computer-Based Test (CBT), Computer-Based Aptitude Test (CBAT), Document Verification and Medical Examination. Final merit will carry 70% weightage for CBT and 30% for CBAT. Candidates must qualify in every CBAT test battery with a minimum T-score of 42.
- **Medical Fitness:** A-2 medical standard is mandatory, including prescribed unaided vision requirements. Candidates who have undergone LASIK or other refractive-error correction surgery are ineligible, as stated in the notification.

Important Dates
- Online Applications Begin: 27 October 2026
- Last Date to Apply: 25 November 2026, 11:59 PM
- Fee Payment Deadline: 27 November 2026
- Correction Window: 28 November–7 December 2026

Application Fee: ₹500 for general fee categories; ₹250 for eligible concession categories. Applicable refunds are subject to CBT attendance and prescribed conditions.

Apply Online: https://rrbapply.gov.in

For more details candidates are asked to visit the official website

RRB NTPC UNDERGRADUATE RECRUITMENT 2026: 1,688 RAILWAY VACANCIES

The Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs), Ministry of Railways, Government of India, have announced 1,688 vacancies for undergraduate-level posts under Centralised Employment Notification. Eligible candidates can apply online for these promising railway career opportunities.



Vacancy and Salary Details
- Commercial cum Ticket Clerk: 700 posts | ₹21,700 basic pay (Level 3)
- Accounts Clerk cum Typist: 200 posts | ₹19,900 basic pay (Level 2)
- Junior Clerk cum Typist: 600 posts | ₹19,900 basic pay (Level 2)
- Trains Clerk: 188 posts | ₹19,900 basic pay (Level 2)
- Additional allowances are admissible as per Railway rules.

Educational Qualification: Class 12 or equivalent from a recognised board, generally with at least 50% aggregate marks. The minimum percentage requirement is relaxed for SC/ST, PwBD, Ex-Servicemen and candidates with higher qualifications, as specified in the notification.

Age Limit: 18–30 years as on 1 January 2027, with applicable category-wise relaxations.

Selection Process
- Selection comprises CBT-1, CBT-2, Document Verification and Medical Examination. There is no separate typing skill test under CEN 07/2026.

Important Dates
- Online Applications: 15 October–13 November 2026
- Last Date for Fee Payment: 15 November 2026
- Application Correction Window: 16–25 November 2026

Application Fee: ₹500 for general fee categories and ₹250 for eligible concessional categories. Applicable refunds are subject to CBT-1 attendance and prescribed conditions.

Apply Online: https://rrbapply.gov.in

For more details candidates are asked to visit the official website

Deepika Singh

THE STORY BEHIND...

Why Do We Yawn When Others Yawn?

Have you ever started yawning just because you saw someone else yawn? Even reading or thinking about yawning can sometimes make you do it! This curious phenomenon is called contagious yawning.

Scientists believe contagious yawning may be connected to how our brains respond to other people's actions and emotions. When we see someone yawn, certain brain networks involved in imitation and social awareness may become active, making us more likely to yawn too.

Interestingly, contagious yawning has also been observed in some animals, including chimpanzees and dogs. Research suggests it may be linked to social connections, although scientists are still studying exactly why it happens.

THE TAKEAWAY: A simple yawn may be more than just a sign of tiredness — it could reveal how our brains connect with the people around us!

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CAN YOU FIGURE IT OUT?

The Water Jug Puzzle

You have two empty jugs. One can hold exactly 3 litres of water, while the other can hold exactly 5 litres. You have an unlimited water supply but no measuring tools.

The Challenge: How can you measure exactly 4 litres of water?

****

Answer

Fill the 5-litre jug completely and pour water into the 3-litre jug until it is full. Now, 2 litres remain in the 5-litre jug. Empty the 3-litre jug and transfer the remaining 2 litres into it. Next, fill the 5-litre jug again and pour water into the 3-litre jug until it is full. Since the 3-litre jug already contains 2 litres, it will take only 1 more litre.

Exactly 4 litres of water will now remain in the 5-litre jug!

KHANA KHAZANA

GUJARATI SWEET GHUGHRA

This Week, We're Relishing Gujarati Sweet Ghughra!

Gujarati Sweet Ghughra is a traditional festive sweet made with crispy pastry pockets filled with coconut, sugar, dry fruits, and cardamom. Golden, crunchy, and delicious, these sweet dumplings are a Diwali favourite, perfect for festive celebrations and sharing with loved ones.

Ingredients:

2 cups maida, 4 tablespoons ghee, a pinch of salt, water as required, 1 cup grated dry coconut, ½ cup powdered sugar, 2 tablespoons chopped almonds, 2 tablespoons chopped cashews, 1 tablespoon raisins, 1 tablespoon poppy seeds, ½ teaspoon cardamom powder, 2 tablespoons semolina, and oil or ghee for frying.

Preparation



- Mix maida, salt, and ghee. Add water gradually and knead into a firm dough. Cover and rest for 20 minutes.
- Heat a little ghee in a pan and roast the semolina, coconut, and poppy seeds until aromatic. Let the mixture cool, then add powdered sugar, almonds, cashews, raisins, and cardamom powder. Mix well.
- Divide the dough into small balls and roll into round discs. Place a spoonful of filling in the centre, fold into a half-moon shape, and seal the edges using a ghughra mould or by hand.
- Heat oil or ghee and fry the ghughras on medium-low heat until golden and crispy. Remove and let them cool.

Serving Tip: Serve Gujarati Sweet Ghughra with a cup of hot masala chai during Diwali celebrations. Arrange them on a decorative festive platter and garnish with chopped pistachios or a light dusting of powdered sugar for an attractive presentation. These crunchy, sweet delights also make wonderful homemade festive gifts!

Introducing Our New Column

ARTWORK OF THE WEEK

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

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

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

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