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THE DIWALI YOU DIDN'T KNOW: ONE FESTIVAL, A HUNDRED WAYS TO CELEBRATE



Diwali is the one Indian festival that belongs to several faiths at once. Hindus celebrate Lord Ram's return to Ayodhya. Jains mark the nirvana of Lord Mahavira at Pavapuri, and for them the new year begins the next day. Sikhs celebrate Bandi Chhor Divas, the day Guru Hargobind Ji was freed from Gwalior Fort and reached Amritsar. The Arya Samaj remembers its founder, Swami Dayananda Saraswati, who attained samadhi on Diwali in 1883. On a single night, the same diya carries all of these stories.

This year the festival also carries a new title. Deepavali was inscribed on UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December 2025, at the committee session held at New Delhi's Red Fort, making it the sixteenth Indian element on the list.

What sets Diwali apart is how differently each region tells it. In Goa, neighbourhoods spend weeks building giant, often comic effigies of the demon Narakasura, parade them at night and burn them before dawn on Naraka Chaturdashi. In Bengal, families mark Bhoot Chaturdashi by eating a dish of 14 leafy greens and lighting 14 lamps to welcome the souls of their ancestors home. Gujarat greets the morning after Diwali as New Year's Day with "Saal Mubarak," while Maharashtra celebrates Padwa, a day for husbands and wives, after a week of faral, chakli and karanji.

Maharashtra also has the tradition children love most. In courtyards from Pune to Kolhapur, kids build "Diwalicha killa," small clay forts modelled on Shivaji Maharaj's strongholds such as Raigad and Sinhagad, with sprouted seeds for grass and toy soldiers on the ramparts. Many Mumbai housing societies now hold killa competitions. In the lanes of Dadar and Mahim, hand-made paper kandils hang outside homes, the city's own sign that Diwali has arrived.

Some places refuse to celebrate on time, and for a lovely reason. In parts of Himachal Pradesh and the Jaunsar-Bawar region of Uttarakhand, villages hold "Budhi Diwali" a full month later, because, the story goes, news of Ram's homecoming reached their mountain valleys late. They lit their lamps the day they heard. Varanasi, meanwhile, celebrates twice. Two weeks after Diwali, on Kartik Purnima, its ghats glow with lakhs of diyas for Dev Deepawali, the Diwali of the gods.

Across the border in Nepal, the festival called Tihar makes room for animals. Crows are fed on Kag Tihar and cows are worshipped on Gai Tihar. On Kukur Tihar, every dog, pet or stray, gets a marigold garland, a red tilak and a proper meal.

Even the stock market joins in. On Diwali evening the NSE and BSE open for a one-hour Muhurat Trading session, and many families buy a single share as a blessing for the year ahead, the modern version of a trader opening a new bahi-khata at Lakshmi Puja.

The festival has quietly gone international. The US Postal Service issued a Diwali stamp in 2016, Canada Post followed in 2017, and Leicester in England now hosts one of the largest Diwali celebrations outside India.

For all its new titles, Diwali still asks for very little: a clay lamp, a little oil and a cotton wick. This year, light one more than usual, and take it to a home that needs it.

The HULAHUL Times wishes its readers a happy and safe Diwali.

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THE SAINT WHO NEVER LET ANYONE GO HUNGRY: THE INSPIRING STORY OF JALARAM BAPA

A young boy, in the little Gujarati village of Virpur, frequently witnessed his mother receiving travelling saints in their house. At times they came with fatigued bodies, hungry and dusty. His mother, Rajbai, would give him the food they had. There was something that the boy saw and remembered. A hungry guest came in their house being a stranger, went away blessed and smiling. That boy was Jalaram who was born in 1799 to Pradhan Thakkar and Rajbai. People would fondly refer to him as Jalaram Bapa, several years later.

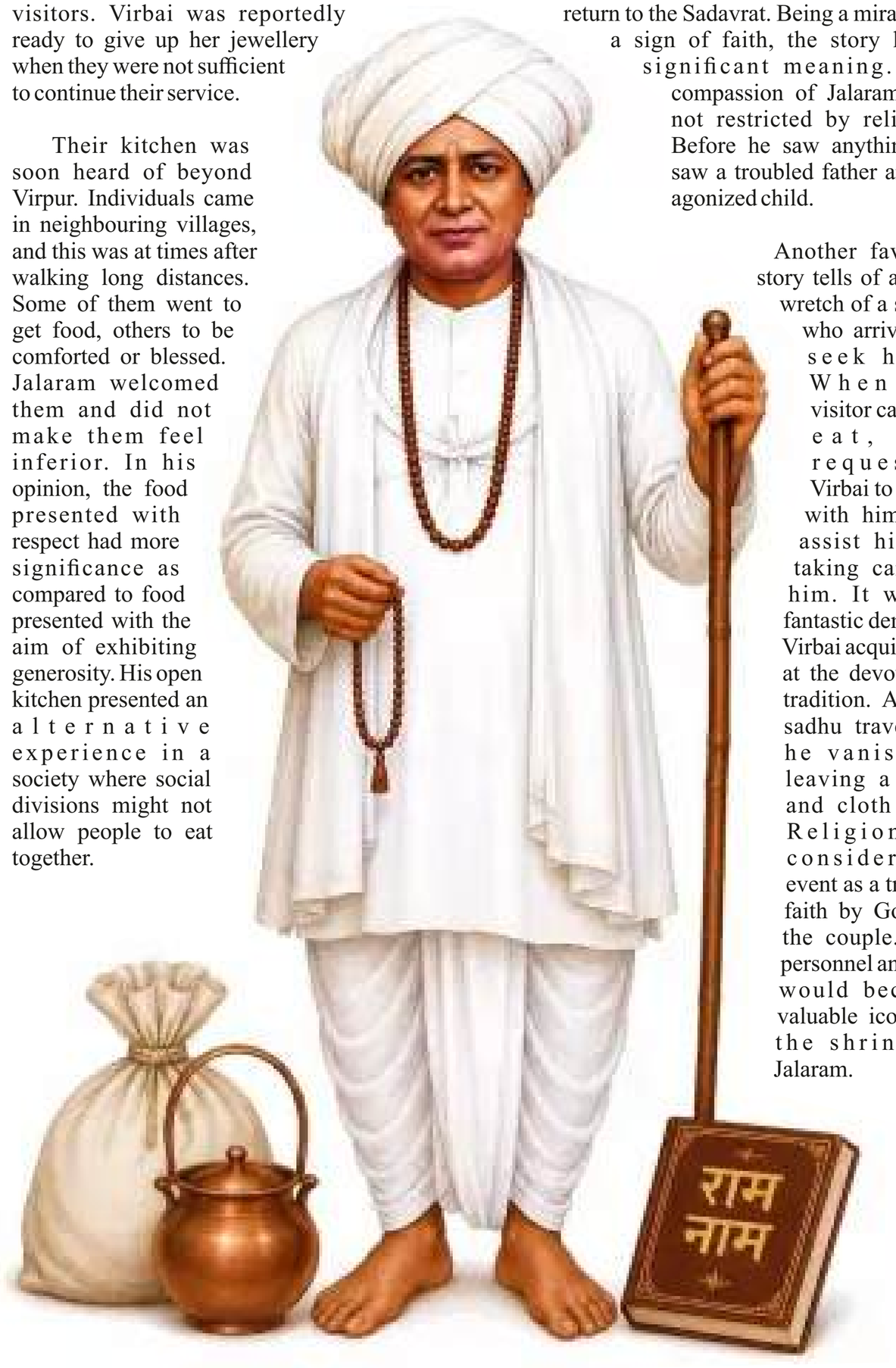
Jalaram's father was a businessman. He, like other parents, desired his son to know the trade of the family and live a comfortable life. Jalaram tried to help, but his attention often turned towards people who needed assistance. Once a sadhu went to the shop, he could hardly send him away without a present. He would give out grain, food or any other need. His generosity would concern his family at times. A shop could not survive if its goods were continually given away. Jalaram knew what they were about, but the vision of a person in need was even more troubling to him.

Later on, he started working with his uncle, Valjibhai. A common story is that Jalaram used to provide to travelling saints with provisions brought in the shop. Somebody even said he was squandering good stuff. The event led to the strain although Jalaram could not stop believing that there was no point in leaving a hungry man without help. To him, it was of little value to worship Lord Rama unless it led to kindness in daily behaviour.

Jalaram married Virbai at the age of sixteen and Virbai would turn out to be the best friend to his service. She knew he wanted to lead a simple life and assist people. The marriage slowly turned into a relationship founded on faith and compassion. They travelled to holy places and met spiritual teachers. Jalaram subsequently took as his Guru Bhoja Bhagat of Fatehpur. The teachings that he was given made him even stronger in his faith that serving people and remembering God should not be detached.

Jalaram and Virbai started a Sadavrat (charitable kitchen) in Virpur in 1820. They were just meant to be used. Everyone who was hungry ought to be fed. Caste, religion or wealth would not be a question. The travellers, workers, saints and poor peasants were welcome. The two struggled to keep the kitchen in business. They grew grain and used their resources to feed visitors. Virbai was reportedly ready to give up her jewellery when they were not sufficient to continue their service.

Their kitchen was soon heard of beyond Virpur. Individuals came in neighbouring villages, and this was at times after walking long distances. Some of them went to get food, others to be comforted or blessed. Jalaram welcomed them and did not make them feel inferior. In his opinion, the food presented with respect had more significance as compared to food presented with the aim of exhibiting generosity. His open kitchen presented an alternative experience in a society where social divisions might not allow people to eat together.



There was one incidence that is recalled by the devotees of a Muslim father called Jamal, his son was very sick. The classic explanation is that Jamal wanted Jalaram to wish him well and subsequently he thought that his son had been cured by divine intervention. He gave grain in return to the Sadavrat. Being a miracle or a sign of faith, the story has a significant meaning. The compassion of Jalaram was not restricted by religion. Before he saw anything he saw a troubled father and an agonized child.

Another favorite story tells of an old wretch of a sadhu who arrived to seek help. When the visitor came to eat, he requested Virbai to come with him and assist him in taking care of him. It was a fantastic demand. Virbai acquiesced at the devotional tradition. As the sadhu travelled, he vanished, leaving a staff and cloth bag. Religionists consider the event as a trial of faith by God on the couple. The personnel and bag would become valuable icons of the shrine of Jalaram.

The story also reveals how Virbai was full of responsibility of their work.

Years went by and Jalaram went on with his everyday routine. He prayed, received visitors and made sure that meals were taken. He never formed a royal court or wanted to be political. His house was one of such places where common people could get a meal and even some human warmth. Worshippers started giving him miracles, particularly those about grain which never got depleted. Jalaram himself was a follower of Lord Rama and whatever good occurred to him, he considered it as the grace of God.

Jalaram Bapa died on 23 February, 1881. His life here was over, but the kitchen which he and Virbai had opened still waited on people. The house which belonged to him in Virpur was turned into a sacred shrine. Visitors even now, many generations after, are still given free food there. His disciples have also instituted charities and places of worship in India and overseas in his model of hospitality and service.

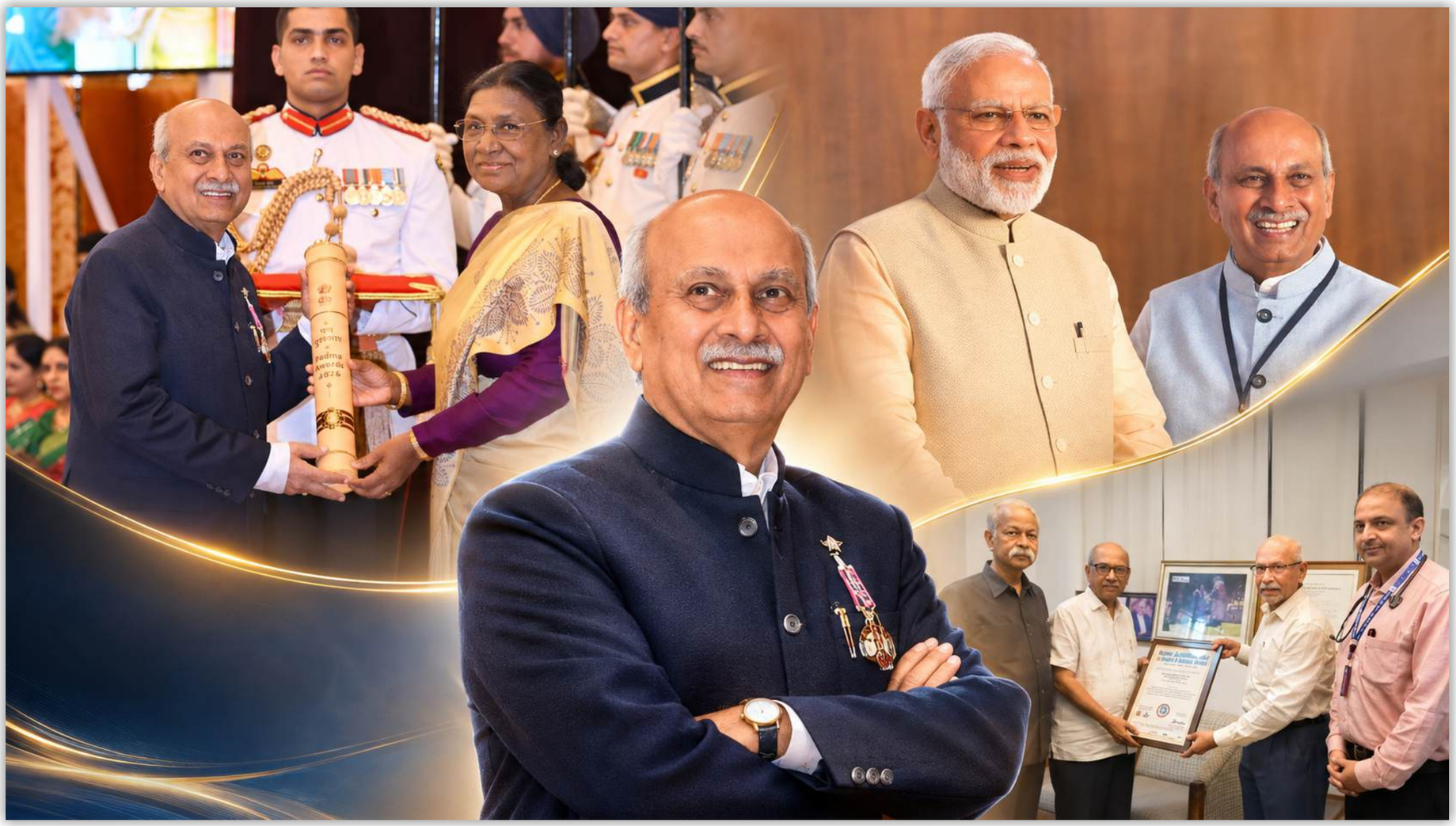
Moral of the Story: Jalaram Bapa demonstrated that being kind does not mean that you have to be very rich. It can start with a common meal sometimes. Anna Daan, Atithi Devo Bhava, Seva and Karuna of the Indian Knowledge System have practical sense in his life. Whether a starving man had the right to eat, was never a question he posed. He simply recognised a human need. Another lesson taught by Virbai is that, the key to meaningful service is the people who are silent shareworkers and share sacrificers. They lead us to act in order to help without making others feel like a humiliated person and bear in mind that even a little sign of kindness can rescue somebody with a bad day.

Conclusion; The most significant work of Jalaram Bapa was the Sadavrat that was created at Virpur in 1820. It made his service an institution. His work was spectacular owing to his attachment to Lord Rama, the encouragement of Virbai and his tolerance of the community members of other cultures. No contemporary national award was given to him, but the love of generations was his reward. His most apparent legacy is the ongoing tradition of free meals. His life teaches that spirituality does not have to be limited to prayer or scripture. It may be exercised by an open door, by an honourable greeting and a meal given to one in need.

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Ajab Tinwala & Ravi Singh

FROM 38 INSTITUTIONS TO 310: THE PADMA SHRI JOURNEY OF DR PRABHAKAR KORE



In May 1984, a man in his thirties from a farming family in Ankali took charge of an education society in Belagavi that ran 38 institutions. Today that society runs more than 310 of them, teaches close to 1.45 lakh students and treats patients from three states. On 23 June 2026, President Droupadi Murmu presented him with the Padma Shri at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Dr Prabhakar Basavaprabhu Kore was among the awardees announced on 25 January in the Literature and Education category from Karnataka, in recognition of more than four decades of work in education, healthcare and rural development in north Karnataka.

Dr Kore was born on 1 August 1947 in Ankali, a farming village in Chikodi taluk of Belagavi district, the youngest of seven children of the freedom fighter Basaprabhu Kore. Good colleges and hospitals were scarce in rural north Karnataka when he was growing up, and much of his working life has gone into changing that.

He was elected Chairman of the Karnatak Lingayat Education Society on 16 May 1984. KLE had been founded in Belagavi in 1916 by seven teachers. His approach was to set up colleges and hospitals in the districts where rural families lived, so that distance and cost would no longer decide who could study or receive treatment.

The expansion began within months. Polytechnics opened at Hubballi, Chikodi and Haveri in 1984, a dental college in Belagavi in 1985 and a 1,000-bed hospital in 1986. The KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research became a deemed university in 2006, and the society's engineering college at Hubballi was upgraded to KLE Technological University in 2015. When he completed forty years as Chairman in 2024, the society was running more than 310 institutions. KLE today has close to 1.45 lakh students and over 18,000 employees across Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Delhi, Dubai and Malaysia.

Healthcare grew alongside education. The KLE Dr Prabhakar Kore Hospital and Medical Research Centre in Belagavi has more than 2,000 beds, including a charitable hospital of nearly 1,000 beds, and performs heart, liver and kidney transplants. Patients from Goa and Maharashtra are regularly referred there for treatment.

In his message as KLE Chairman, Dr Kore names agriculture and education as the two areas that will shape the country's future, and his record covers both. At Chikodi he led the cooperative sugar movement, and the Chidanand Basaprabhu Kore Co-operative Sugar Factory there is regarded as a model cooperative that gives growers fair returns and provides local employment. He also served as a Director of the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories in New Delhi.

Rural credit was another priority. In 1988 he set up a credit cooperative at Ankali, which now has 46 branches across Karnataka and has financed irrigation for more than a thousand farmers. In 1997 he supported the launch of the Rani Channamma Mahila Sahakari Bank in Belagavi, which began operations with 3,036 women members and share capital of Rs 32 lakh.

In 2011 the Indian Council of Agricultural Research sanctioned a Krishi Vigyan Kendra to KLE Society. The ICAR–KLE Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Mattikopp in Bailhongal taluk was established on 30 September 2011 on a 25-hectare farm, and it trains farmers and farm women in current cultivation methods. KLE has since opened the KLE College of Agricultural Sciences near Yaragatti, the first private agricultural college in north Karnataka, which allows rural students to study agriculture without leaving the region.

These institutions support one another. A sugarcane grower in Chikodi can sell his crop to a cooperative factory, borrow from a local credit society, send his children to a nearby KLE college and get treatment at a KLE hospital in Belagavi. This is why reports on the award describe Dr Kore as an institution builder.

His career has also had a difficult chapter. On 19 October 2006 he was shot three times during a family dispute at Ankali. Doctors at KLE Hospital removed two of the bullets. The third, lodged in his liver, was reportedly left in place because removing it carried too great a risk. He returned to public life and to his work at KLE.

Dr Kore served three terms in the Rajya Sabha, from 1990 to 1996 and from 2008 to 2020, and was a Member of the Karnataka Legislative Council from 2001 to 2007.

Responding to the award, he credited the KLE family and the farmers of the region for their support. He dedicated the honour to every teacher and staff member of KLE, acknowledging the society's 110 years of work.

The Padma Shri is given to an individual, but this one also reflects the students, patients and farmers of north Karnataka who no longer need to leave the region for a degree, a hospital bed or a fair price for their crop. For many of them, opportunities that once meant moving to a distant city are now available within their own district.

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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.

INDIA'S WEDDING ECONOMY: THE BUSINESS BEHIND THE BIG CELEBRATION

A wedding may bring two families together, but it can also bring dozens of businesses to life. A single celebration generates demand for jewellers, designers, caterers, florists, photographers, hotels, travel operators and event planners. Behind the music, rituals and festivities lies a dynamic marketplace where consumer spending creates demand, entrepreneurs find customers and services generate revenue. India's wedding economy has evolved beyond traditional ceremonies into a diverse business ecosystem. From intimate family functions to destination weddings, celebrations increasingly involve professional planning, personalised services and coordinated vendor networks. The real commercial story is not simply how much people spend, but how businesses create value, compete for customers and convert seasonal demand into income.

From Celebrations to Business Opportunities

The wedding industry supports businesses across fashion, jewellery, hospitality, transportation, entertainment, décor, gifting and tourism. It also creates opportunities for small entrepreneurs, local artisans, freelancers and home-based businesses. Tailors, makeup artists, mehendi artists, invitation designers and sweet manufacturers can all benefit from wedding-related demand.

Example: a wedding planner coordinates caterers, decorators, photographers and transport providers, earning professional fees while generating business for other service providers. This interconnected ecosystem demonstrates how one event can create economic opportunities across multiple sectors. Understanding customer preferences and differentiating services are crucial for businesses competing in this crowded market.

How Technology Is Changing Wedding Planning

Digital platforms and social media have transformed how customers discover, compare and select wedding services. Vendors can showcase portfolios, share customer reviews, receive enquiries and connect with clients beyond their local markets. Digital invitations, online payments, virtual venue tours and shared guest lists have made planning more convenient. Artificial intelligence tools can also assist with invitation designs, budgeting and vendor discovery.

Example: a small décor business can display its work on social media and attract customers from other cities without maintaining an expensive physical showroom. Digital visibility can reduce customer acquisition costs, but it must be supported by reliable service, transparent pricing and timely delivery. In the wedding business, reputation and word-of-mouth recommendations remain valuable assets.

The Economics of Wedding Spending

Wedding expenditure stimulates demand across retail, hospitality, tourism, logistics and entertainment. Hotels may receive group bookings, travel operators may organise guest transportation, and local businesses may experience increased orders during the wedding season.

However, demand is often seasonal. Businesses must plan inventory, staffing, supplier arrangements and cash flow to manage busy and quieter periods. Diversifying into corporate events, birthdays and other celebrations can help generate income throughout the year.

Higher sales do not always mean higher profits.Entrepreneurs must account for labour, materials, transportation, marketing and other



operating expenses before determining their actual earnings. Sound financial planning is essential for long-term survival.

The Financial Risks Behind the Festivities

Rising wedding costs and social expectations can place considerable pressure on household budgets. Families may feel compelled to spend beyond their means to meet expectations or create elaborate celebrations. Setting a realistic budget and prioritising essential expenses can help prevent unnecessary financial stress.

Businesses face their own challenges, including intense competition, underpricing, cancellations, delayed payments and irregular income. For example, a decorator who accepts an order without documenting advance payments, cancellation charges and payment deadlines may incur losses if arrangements change.

Written agreements, contingency planning, careful cost calculations and timely payment collection can reduce these risks. Both customers and vendors benefit when financial expectations are clear from the beginning.

Can Sustainable Weddings Create New Markets?

Sustainability is creating opportunities for businesses offering reusable décor, locally sourced flowers, digital invitations, responsible gifting and food-waste management. Such choices can reduce waste while helping businesses control costs and develop distinctive services.

Example: a decorator who rents reusable structures and accessories can generate repeat revenue rather than relying entirely on one-time sales. Sustainable practices need not diminish a celebration; they can encourage innovation while offering customers more responsible choices.

Lessons for Commerce Students

For commerce students, the wedding economy offers practical insights into entrepreneurship, marketing, pricing, financial planning and customer relationship management. It demonstrates how understanding consumer preferences, identifying market gaps and managing costs can turn a service-based idea into a viable business. Students can also explore digital marketing, negotiation, vendor management and cash-flow planning. The industry shows that a promising business idea succeeds not merely through demand, but through efficient operations, customer trust and financial discipline.

The Take Away

India's wedding economy illustrates how cultural traditions can create a diverse marketplace. From independent artisans to digital platforms, businesses succeed by understanding customers, managing costs and delivering value. Because the true measure of a successful wedding business is not merely the size of the celebration, but the value it creates, the livelihoods it supports and the sustainability of the enterprise behind it.

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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.

CAN LITERATURE HELP US PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE?

Science fiction explores possible futures shaped by scientific discoveries, social change and political choices. It does not simply predict inventions; it asks what those inventions might mean for human life.

Questions about artificial intelligence, surveillance, environmental destruction and genetic technologies require more than technical knowledge. They also require empathy, critical thinking and ethical judgement.

Literature offers a space in which students can examine these dilemmas before they encounter them in real life. It reminds us that progress should be measured not only by what humanity can create, but also by how responsibly it uses its creations.

READING CHALLENGE

Read a short science-fiction story or an extract from a science-fiction novel. Identify one imagined technology or social system and discuss one benefit and one possible danger.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Sun Is So Big That 1.3 Million Earths Could Fit Inside It! The Sun is approximately 109 times wider than Earth and contains nearly 99.86% of the Solar System's total mass.
- Wombats Produce Cube-Shaped Poop! These unusual Australian animals produce cube-shaped droppings that help prevent them from rolling away when marking their territory.
- A Group of Flamingos Is Called a Flamboyance! These beautiful pink birds gather in large groups known by this colourful and fascinating name.
- Your Stomach Gets a New Lining Every Few Days! The stomach regularly replaces its protective mucus lining to prevent its own digestive acids from damaging its tissues.
- Dolphins Have Unique Whistles Like Human Names! Many dolphins develop distinctive signature whistles that help them identify and communicate with one another.
- The Moon Is Slowly Moving Away from Earth! Our Moon moves approximately 3.8 centimetres farther away from Earth every year.
- Cows Have Best Friends! Research suggests that cows form strong social bonds and can experience less stress when they are close to familiar companions.
- A Cloud Can Weigh More Than a Million Pounds! An average cumulus cloud can contain hundreds of thousands of kilograms of water droplets suspended in the atmosphere.

GRAMMAR TIP

May vs. Might

Both words can express possibility, although their use depends on context and the degree of uncertainty the speaker wishes to convey.

Examples:
Technology may improve access to education.

An unregulated system might create unexpected problems.

Writing tip: Avoid treating either word as a guaranteed indicator of probability; context determines meaning.

WRITER OF THE WEEK

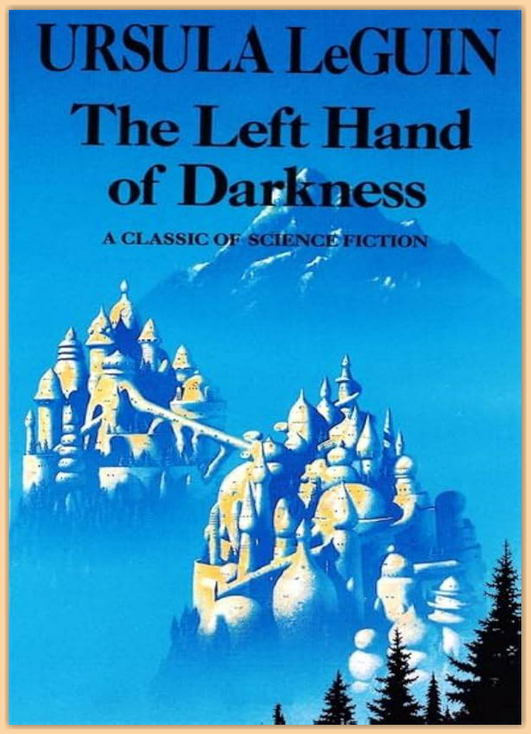
Ursula K. Le Guin (1929–2018)

Ursula K. Le Guin was an American author renowned for science fiction and fantasy. Her writing examines power, gender, culture, political systems, freedom and the relationship between individuals and society. Her major works include The Left Hand of Darkness and The Dispossessed.

Literary significance: Le Guin used imagined societies to question assumptions about the world we inhabit.

BOOK REVIEW

The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula K. Le Guin



Set on the planet Gethen, the novel follows an envoy navigating unfamiliar social customs and political tensions. Its exploration of gender, identity, trust and cultural difference encourages readers to question assumptions they may otherwise take for granted.

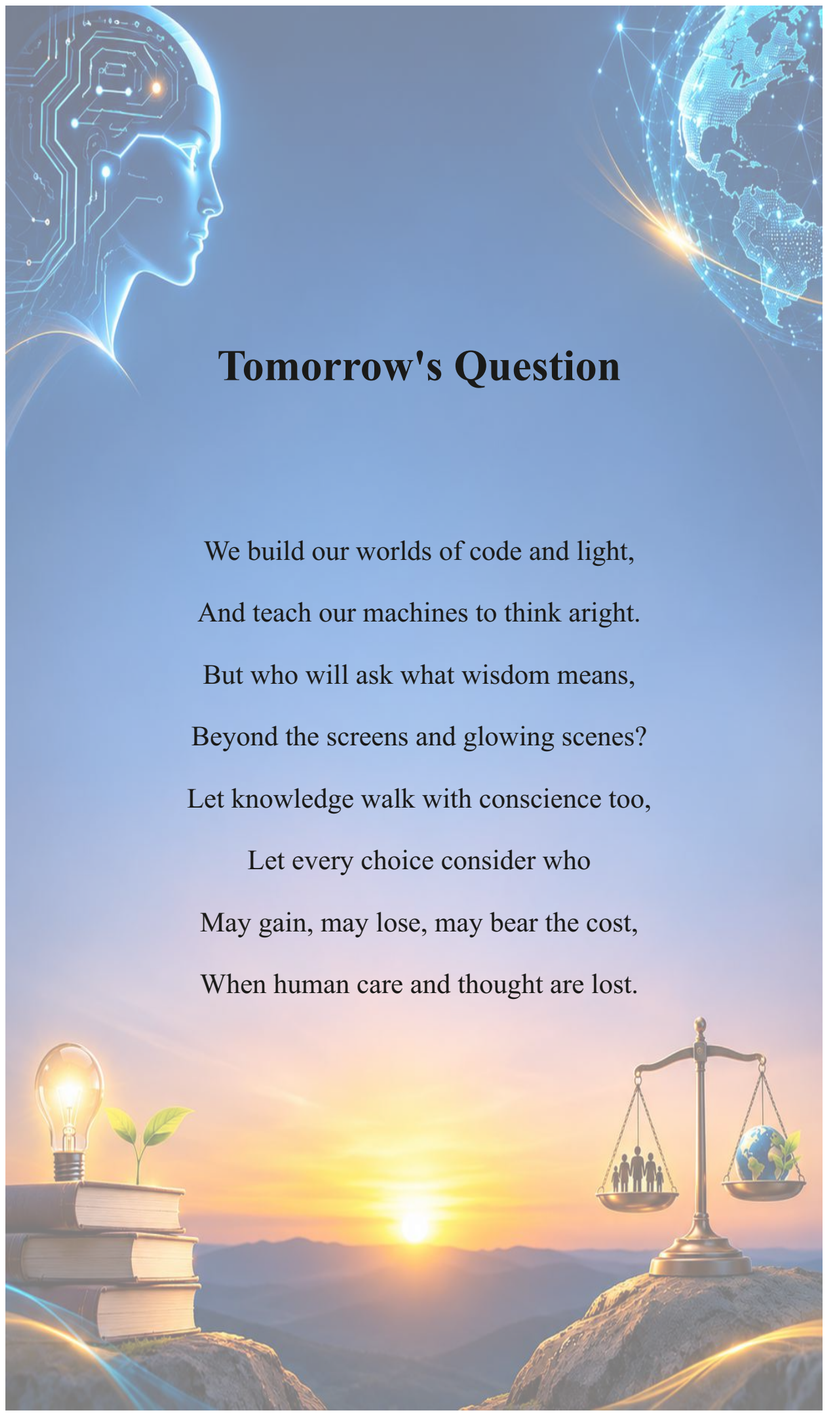
Discussion question: How can imagining an unfamiliar society help us understand our own?

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Science fiction is not predictive; it is descriptive."

— Ursula K. Le Guin

CREATIVE WRITING



Tomorrow's Question

We build our worlds of code and light,

And teach our machines to think aright.

But who will ask what wisdom means,

Beyond the screens and glowing scenes?

Let knowledge walk with conscience too,

Let every choice consider who

May gain, may lose, may bear the cost,

When human care and thought are lost.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Ethical

Meaning: Relating to principles of right and wrong behaviour.
Example: The development of artificial intelligence raises important ethical questions about privacy, fairness and accountability.

IDIOM HIGHLIGHT

A Double-Edged Sword

Meaning: Something that can have both beneficial and harmful consequences.
Example: Technology is a double-edged sword: it expands access to knowledge but can also spread misinformation.

Ganesha Gundu & Ravi Singh

SUGAR PRICES RISE AS THE BRAZIL'S RAINS HIT SUPPLY, WHILE THE ARABICA SLIPS TO A ONE-MONTH LOW



Sugar futures rose as fresh rain risks in Brazil tightened supply expectations, while arabica coffee fell to a one-month low on warehouse inflows and a weaker real. Cocoa was steadier, though analysts cut Ivory Coast's 2026/27 output forecast on moisture stress. The moves highlight how weather, currency and stock data continue to steer soft commodity markets.

Sugar and coffee markets moved in opposite directions on Thursday, with weather worries in Brazil giving raw sugar a lift even as arabica futures slipped to their weakest level in a month. The latest trading session reflected a market that is still being pulled by crop conditions, currency swings and stockpile data rather than by a single dominant theme.

The split in price direction also underlines how agricultural commodities are now reacting to local production risks as well as broader global supply expectations. In sugar, the immediate concern is Brazil, the world's biggest producer and exporter. In coffee, attention has shifted to warehouse inflows, the Brazilian real and harvest progress in other producing countries.

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REPORT FLAGS NUTRITION AFFORDABILITY GAP AND THE SUPPLY CHAIN WOES IN INDIA



KPMG India's latest food-system report argues that India's biggest challenge is no longer just production, but nutrition access. It flags a large affordability gap, major cold-chain shortfalls and post-harvest losses, and calls for a shift from food security to nutrition security through better productivity, logistics and sustainability.

India's food economy is producing more than enough on paper, yet millions still cannot access a healthy diet. That disconnects sits at the centre of a new KPMG India assessment that argues the country's next food challenge is not simply output, but whether nutritious food can be made affordable, traceable and resilient enough to reach consumers consistently.

The report, titled Future of food systems: Preparing for the next frontier, points to a food landscape being reshaped by changing consumption habits, population growth, climate stress and tighter resource constraints. Against that backdrop, the consultancy has mapped six levers that it believes will determine how India's food system evolves: productivity enhancement, food system efficiency, supply chain excellence, transparency and traceability, technology enablement and sustainability-led growth.

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HIMACHAL VILLAGES ARE ADAPTING DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE OF ONE CROP AND SPRING AT A TIME



Villages in Himachal Pradesh are adapting to climate stress through crop shifts, spring revival and local disaster planning, the community-led action, backed by institutions, is emerging as a practical model for mountain resilience.

Himachal Pradesh's mountain villages are no longer waiting for the next flood, landslide or crop failure to force change. Across several gram panchayats, farmers, women's collectives and local committees are already altering how they grow food, manage water and prepare for disasters, according to a study released by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water with support from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

The shift is being driven by repeated climate shocks over the past three years, which have damaged farms, water sources and village infrastructure in parts of Mandi, Kullu, Sirmaur and Shimla districts. What emerges from the study is not a single government programme or a top-down rescue plan, but a patchwork of local responses that are beginning to shape a new model of mountain resilience. One of the clearest signs of adaptation is in the fields.

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CENTRE ABSORBS THE FERTILISER PRICE THAT RISE TO SHIELD FARMERS, SAYS PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Centre is absorbing higher global fertiliser prices so farmers do not feel the squeeze. In Banaskantha, he also rolled out projects worth over ₹14,000 crore, from dairy and transport upgrades to irrigation and anganwadis. Why this matters: You can see the government trying to cushion farm costs while the world gets shakier.

Modi said urea and DAP are still sold far below international prices, and the Centre has spent about ₹1.6 lakh crore to keep fertiliser affordable. He also released the 24th PM-KISAN instalment, sending ₹18,680 crore to more than 9.34 crore farmers, while urging better use of science, water and technology in agriculture. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Centre is absorbing higher global fertiliser prices so farmers do not feel the squeeze.

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CENTRE EYES TIGHTER FERTILISER SUBSIDY CONTROLS AS STATES PREPARE FOR THE AGRI STACK ROLLOUT



The Centre is preparing to push states towards a fertiliser distribution model linked to Agri Stack data, QR-coded entitlements and Aadhaar-based verification. Officials say the move could rein in subsidy leakages, curb overuse and protect farmers' access as the fiscal burden rises again. India's fertiliser subsidy bill is again moving into the spotlight, but the government is now looking beyond short-term budget management.

The next phase of reform is expected to link fertiliser access more closely to farm data, with the aim of protecting genuine cultivators while reducing leakages, diversion and waste. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is preparing to press states to adopt an Agri Stack-linked mechanism that will calculate a farmer's fertiliser entitlement on the basis of landholding and cropping pattern. The proposal is expected to be taken up at a conference of chief secretaries of states and Union Territories in the last week of December.

The renewed push comes at a time when fertiliser subsidies have emerged as one of the most persistent strains on the Union government's finances. Global price volatility, especially in urea, liquefied natural gas and diammonium phosphate, has kept the subsidy bill elevated even after some moderation in previous years.

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Radhika Gholap & Prof. Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay

KERALA LAUNCHES ANTI-RAGGING APP AND PLANS 300 SCIENCE CENTRES



The Kerala government has announced initiatives to strengthen the safety of students and promote scientific thinking among young people in the state. These include an app for anonymously reporting ragging and a plan to establish 300 science centres aimed at reaching 15 lakh young people.

The state plans to set up 300 sub-centres under the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Scientific Temper project, led by the Kerala State Higher Education Council. The initiative promotes scientific temper, humanism and inquiry-based thinking through online courses, handbooks and video reels. An online course developed in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Imaging Technology (C-DIT) is also part of the programme.

The Siddharth Student Welfare App will allow students to report ragging and other campus problems confidentially. It will also enable users to record audio complaints anonymously and alert the concerned authorities about safety issues. The app is named after J S Sidharthan, a veterinary student who died in February 2024 after allegedly facing ragging at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences in Pookode, Wayanad.

The Kerala government is also considering the draft Siddharth Anti-Ragging Act to provide a legal framework for addressing ragging and establishing a state anti-ragging commission.

The initiatives are accompanied by a Student Aspiration Survey to understand the expectations of students in higher education. Together, these measures aim to address campus safety and promote scientific awareness across the state.

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KVS TO LAUNCH SAMVAAD APP



The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) is preparing to launch the KVS Samvaad Parent Connect App to help parents monitor their children's attendance, academic performance and school-related updates. It will provide important academic information and official communication from schools. The app will allow parents to check monthly attendance records, including the number of days their children were present or absent. They can also view academic progress and examination results, school announcements and other official updates.

Detailed verification of parents is essential to access the information. Before the launch, Kendriya Vidyalayas have been asked to verify parents' registered mobile numbers and email addresses through the SAMAGAM Portal. Meanwhile, KVS has warned parents, students and school staff against downloading unofficial applications using the names 'KVS SAMAGAM' and 'KVS Samvaad'. The Sangathan clarified that these applications are not associated with KVS and may put users' personal information at risk.

School principals have been instructed to share the advisory through school websites, WhatsApp groups and parent-teacher meetings so that parents and students are fully aware of the risks. They have also been advised not to register on such applications or share personal details through them. KVS has clarified that SAMAGAM is currently available only as a web portal. No official SAMAGAM mobile application has been released on the Google Play Store or Apple App Store. Parents have been advised to wait for an official announcement before downloading the Samvaad app.

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IIT DELHI ANNOUNCES REFORMS TO STRENGTHEN STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has announced measures to strengthen student mental health support. These include appointing an independent Student Grievance Ombudsperson, hiring clinical psychologists and counsellors, and conducting workshops for faculty and administrative staff.

The announcement follows the death of M.Sc. student Rishikesh Kumar on August 22, 2026. An external inquiry committee examined the circumstances and recommended improvements in student welfare and mental health support. The committee was chaired by retired Delhi High Court judge Justice Mukta Gupta, a senior expert from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), and two student representatives.

IIT Delhi has also proposed a formal re-entry procedure for students returning after extended leave to help them resume their academic activities with appropriate support. The institute will also conduct awareness campaigns on mental health issues and laws related to substance use.

A separate external committee will review the institute's existing Mental Health Support System and Wellness Policy, including support facilities, emergency response procedures, referral systems and student grievance mechanisms. It will include two senior mental health experts, a welfare professional and two student representatives.

Workshops on empathy, soft skills and mental health will be compulsory for faculty, hostel staff and administrative employees.

IIT Delhi aims to assess its support system and address students' concerns. The institute has not announced a timeline for completing the review or implementing the proposed changes.

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KARNATAKA SEEKS PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR RURAL SCHOOLS



Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has appealed to private school managements across the state to adopt government schools in rural areas and support their development through CSR initiatives. He appealed at the launch of the 'Namma Shaale Namma Javabdari' (Our School, Our Responsibility) programme in Bengaluru on November 4.

The initial target is to link 1,000 government schools with private institutions, with the plans to cover 2,000 schools. The programme aims to improve facilities and learning opportunities for rural students.

Shivakumar said private school managements could select government schools as per their convenience and financial capacity. Support could include trained teachers, computers, laboratory equipment and school buses, not just building construction. He described the partnership as an opportunity for knowledge exchange between private and government institutions.

During the programme, 15 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹206.10 crore were signed for the development of 56 government schools. Earlier in 2026, another 18 agreements worth ₹85 crore had been signed for 33 schools. Another 12 agreements worth ₹64 crore for 23 schools are nearing completion.

The Chief Minister said CSR-funded development work had started in 30 schools in Bengaluru South District. He cited Toyota's support in constructing 23 schools in Ramanagara district. The programme aims to strengthen rural school infrastructure and improve the quality of education by encouraging cooperation between private institutions, companies and the government.

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Jharkhand Proposes Multilingual Education in Schools



Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has reviewed the draft of the Jharkhand State Language Education Policy, which aims to promote multilingual education, practical skills and digital learning in schools. He has instructed officials to prepare a policy reflecting the state's linguistic and cultural diversity while meeting the educational needs of students.

The proposed framework follows a trilingual approach in which the mother tongue, Hindi and English would function as complementary languages and rather than competing mediums of instruction. It aims to help students learn additional languages without compromising their understanding and proficiency in their first language. The Chief Minister also stressed the need to introduce spoken English classes before students complete Class 12.

The draft divides school education into three stages: early childhood education to Class 2, Classes 3 to 5, and Classes 6 to 12. It proposes integrating mother tongues and local languages into learning at all three stages to make classroom learning more accessible, particularly for children who speak regional languages at home.

CM Soren emphasised that education should develop students' interests, talents and practical abilities alongside academic knowledge. He suggested including hockey in skill-based education, noting the state's contribution to the sport.

The ultimate aim of the policy is to improve digital proficiency among students and prepare them for future educational and employment opportunities. The proposed policy is currently under review and has not yet been announced as a final framework.

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Dr. Saummya Rai & Durgesh K. Dubey

ADNOC AND GUJARAT ENERGY SOURCES: WAS IT AN INDIAN COMPANY?

For factory owners, an unreliable gas supply can result in production interruptions, delivery delays, and unexpected costs. For your vehicle and overall transport, your energy sources must be aligned with current budgets. This is a long-term gas agreement of significant importance that extends far beyond the companies involved. The final deal terms between the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Gujarat Energy Limited are now available, meaning they can be applied to the following plans.

Starting November 6, 2026, it was announced that Gujarat Energy will expand its supply next year beginning in 2028 by another million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG). This represents the total volume for the entire decade. For ADNOC, this is already the fifth LNG supply agreement in India, where the energy cooperation between India and the United Arab Emirates is complemented by other commercial components.

The central advantage for Gujarat Energy lies in improved planning security. Anyone who purchases gas only on an as-needed basis is at the mercy of current market prices and momentary availability. Through the contractual safeguarding of a portion of future demand, management receives a solid foundation for making decisions in customer service, sales, and investments. While this does not completely eliminate uncertainty, it becomes much more manageable.

Now, with Gujarat Energy's supply increased to 0.4 million tonnes per annum, the pricing is tied to the "Henry Hub" index. This pricing structure forms a reasonable basis for the agreement. However, a ten-year supply obligation must not be confused with a fixed price locked in over that entire period. What Gujarat Energy ultimately pays depends on the agreed-upon price formula and the actual costs incurred in delivering the gas to end customers.

Consumers will inevitably wonder whether this means cheaper fuel prices. Some things have already been written, yet much remains to be done. Gujarat Energy relies on compressed natural gas (CNG) for vehicles as well as piped natural gas for cooking; therefore, a reliable supply is crucial for customers. Final consumer prices are also composed of transport costs, currency fluctuations, and distribution expenses. The most important argument for this agreement is therefore a higher level of supply security; if you want to avoid future volatility, you must look ahead to when the delivery cycle begins.

For ADNOC, this also means winning a long-term customer in India (noted as Allemand in the mixed draft). The gas is listed in the international portfolio of XRG, ADNOC's international investment management company; this marks the first sale from that portfolio. For ADNOC, it establishes a reliable sales market for its expanding gas business, while for Gujarat Energy, it provides an additional safeguard for existing gas consumption. It stops there no longer. Gujarat's energy is to be used for power generation and consumption, meaning gas will be stored as needed. The agreement, which appears today, must offer added value to customers even under changing market conditions.

The true significance of this agreement will become much clearer after 2028. Reliable deliveries, predictable costs, and consistent service are ultimately more important than the announcement itself. Therefore, this agreement should serve as a useful example of how international energy partnerships support everyday economic activity. When necessary especially in terms of storage and reserves daily operations will remain securely anchored to a dependable gas source.

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FROM BENGALURU ANALYST TO GLOBAL PARTNER: GOWRI SEKAR'S RECORD-BREAKING RISE AT GOLDMAN SACHS

Gowri Sekar joined Goldman Sachs in Bengaluru as an analyst 20 years ago. She joined a strenuous world in which technology was gaining importance in the world of finance. Today, the same trip has led her to one of the most exclusive leadership teams of the investment bank. It has appointed its first female partner in India, Sekar, an achievement that testifies to her success in the profession and the increasing reliance of international banking on Indian talent.

On November 5, Goldman Sachs announced its partner class of 2026, with 109 executives who will officially take up their jobs on January 1, 2027. This is the highest number of class partners to the firm since 2010, with 95 appointments in 2024. Some of the people that have been chosen include 14 Indian professionals based in international offices. Two of them have their base in India, both in Bengaluru: Gowri Sekar and Ashoke Sharma.

A graduate of PSG College of Technology, Sekar joined Goldman Sachs in 2006. She is now Global Head of Product Data Engineering and the Asia-Pacific AI strategy of Data Engineering. She has served as a Managing Director and Technology Fellow in data and controllers engineering, including in New York. Her roles have grown over the years to include addressing technical issues, leading multifaceted operations and teams in markets.

Her promotion is noteworthy since making a partner in Goldman Sachs is not a typical advancement. The partners are part of a small leadership team that determines the business-way of the bank, its organisational culture and long-term priorities. The choice identifies the long term contributions, professional judgement and leadership skills. The success of Sekar proves that technical competence may be a great basis of attaining the financial top leadership.

Her success also indicates the change in the position of India in the world financial industry. Goldman Sachs has over 8, 000 employees in Bengaluru, Mumbai and Hyderabad. Almost half of its Indian workforce is composed of engineers and about a third of the global engineering workforce of the firm is located in India. These statistics indicate that Indian technology specialists are playing a larger role in systems and decisions that facilitate international financial activities.

The time is also crucial. The world banks are putting a lot of investments in artificial intelligence, high-tech data systems and digital infrastructure. Technology experts are not limited to operation support. Innovation, efficiency and risk management is becoming more and more an expertise of theirs. This transformation is reflected in the latest partner class that has a record of 13 engineers.

Sekar has also contributed to the women in technology. In a previous profile of Goldman Sachs, she talked of her engagement with its Women in Technology Network that supports women engineers to be familiar with new technologies, to attend conferences and further their careers. These efforts are more meaningful when it comes to her own success.

Her career is inspiring to young women who are just starting their engineering or finance careers. But even personal ability cannot eliminate professional obstacles. Organisations should offer equitable opportunities,



demanding tasks, and mentoring and exposure to leadership to capable employees.

The success of Gowri Sekar is not just a personal success. It symbolizes two decades of study, hard work and increased accountability. Her experience as an analyst in Bengaluru to a global partner serves as a reminder to young professionals that significant opportunities can arise out of hard work and technical know-how. What is more to the point, it demonstrates that the paths that start in India can lead to the top of the global decision-making.

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Learning and Development through Ancient Indian Wisdom

Dr. (Mrs) Chandra Hariharan Iyer

EXPERT



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INSIGHTS ON IKS RESEARCH - DHARMA DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

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Q. What is the Relevance of Satsang in Personality Development?

Ans. Personality development is not merely about improving appearance, communication skills, confidence or professional abilities. In the Indian Knowledge System (IKS), it refers to the holistic development of an individual—physical, mental, intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual. A truly developed personality reflects self-discipline, compassion, humility, wisdom and responsibility towards society.

Satsang is an important practice for achieving such development. The word comes from two Sanskrit words: Sat, meaning truth or goodness, and Sanga, meaning association or companionship. Thus, Satsang means associating with noble people, wise teachers and spiritual seekers. It also includes listening to spiritual teachings, reflecting on scriptures and discussing ethical values. The company we keep influences our thoughts, behaviour and decisions. Satsang helps guide these influences in a positive direction.

1. Satsang promotes positive thinking: Our thoughts shape our personality. Negative emotions such as anger, jealousy, hatred, greed and selfishness weaken character. Satsang encourages positive thinking, patience and constructive attitudes. Through the teachings of saints and wise personalities, individuals learn to face difficulties with optimism and clarity. The Bhagavad Gita emphasises controlling the mind and directing it towards higher goals. Satsang supports this process by promoting mental purity and emotional balance.

2. Satsang strengthens moral and ethical values: A good personality is defined not only by intelligence or achievements but also by moral character. Honesty, truthfulness, integrity, compassion, forgiveness and respect are essential values. Satsang teaches the importance of Dharma, or righteous conduct, in everyday life. The Ramayana highlights truth, duty and commitment, while the Mahabharata explains ethical dilemmas and their consequences. Such teachings help individuals distinguish right from wrong and make principled decisions.

3. Satsang develops self-discipline and self-control: Knowledge and talent alone cannot ensure success without discipline. Satsang teaches individuals to control their thoughts, emotions, words and actions. Indian philosophy explains this through Dama (control of the senses) and Shama (tranquillity of the mind). Regular participation in Satsang encourages people to avoid harmful habits, manage anger and regulate desires. Gradually, they learn to respond thoughtfully rather than react impulsively.

4. Satsang improves emotional intelligence: Emotional intelligence involves understanding and managing our emotions while respecting the feelings of others. The Bhagavad Gita describes a Sthitaprajna, a person of steady wisdom who remains balanced during happiness and sorrow, success and failure. Satsang encourages such emotional stability. It helps individuals overcome fear, jealousy and disappointment while developing empathy, kindness, patience and forgiveness. These qualities strengthen relationships and promote peaceful behaviour.

5. Satsang encourages humility and respect: Humility means recognising that learning is a continuous process. The Guru–Shishya tradition highlights sincerity, respect and willingness to learn. Satsang encourages individuals to listen to different perspectives, appreciate others' experiences and recognise their limitations. It reduces arrogance and develops respect for parents, teachers, elders, colleagues and fellow human beings. The saying Vidya Dadati Vinayam, meaning knowledge gives humility, beautifully expresses this relationship between education and character.

6. Satsang provides role models for life: People learn not only through teachings but also by observing the lives of others. Satsang introduces individuals to saints, sages, Acharyas and social reformers whose lives reflect simplicity, discipline, service and dedication. Swami Vivekananda inspires confidence, courage and service, while Mahatma Gandhi teaches truth, non-violence and moral strength. Such examples encourage individuals to practise noble values rather than merely discuss them.

7. Satsang strengthens concentration and intellectual clarity: A developed personality requires clear thinking and sound judgement. Satsang promotes listening, reflection, questioning and meaningful discussion. Indian philosophy describes three stages of learning: Shravana (listening), Manana (reflection and analysis) and Nididhyasana (deep contemplation and internalisation). These stages explain that knowledge becomes meaningful only when understood and practised. Discussions on philosophy, ethics and human values improve concentration, critical thinking and decision-making abilities.

8. Satsang develops social responsibility and service: Indian Knowledge System considers every individual an integral part of family, society and nature. Satsang promotes Seva (selfless service), Karuna (compassion) and Lokasangraha (welfare of the world). The Bhagavad Gita encourages performing duties without selfish attachment to rewards. Helping needy people, supporting education, participating in community service and protecting the environment are practical expressions of these teachings. Thus, personal development also contributes to collective welfare.

9. Satsang promotes spiritual awareness and self-understanding: Satsang encourages individuals to reflect on fundamental questions: Who am I? What is my purpose in life? What brings lasting happiness? What responsibilities do I have towards others? The Upanishads emphasise self-enquiry and higher knowledge. Such reflection reduces excessive attachment to wealth, status and recognition. It develops contentment, inner stability and a meaningful sense of purpose. Individuals gradually understand that true success must include wisdom, character and responsibility.

10. Satsang creates a positive environment and healthy relationships: The people around us influence our habits and behaviour. The traditional expression Satsangatve Nissangatvam highlights how good company leads individuals away from negative influences towards inner freedom. Satsang creates an environment of mutual respect, cooperation and collective learning. People learn to communicate respectfully, resolve differences peacefully and appreciate diversity. These qualities strengthen relationships within families, educational institutions, workplaces and society.

11. Satsang connects personality development with Dharma: In Indian philosophy, personal growth is incomplete without righteous conduct and responsibility. Satsang helps individuals understand their duties in different roles. A student learns sincerity and discipline; a teacher develops patience and commitment; a professional practises honesty and accountability; a leader demonstrates fairness and compassion; and a citizen respects society, culture and the environment. In this way, Satsang connects individual excellence with social responsibility.

Conclusion: Satsang is an important means of holistic personality development in the Indian Knowledge System. It strengthens positive thinking, moral values, self-discipline, emotional stability, humility, intellectual clarity, spiritual awareness and social responsibility. However, its true benefit comes only when teachings are reflected upon and practised in daily life. Merely attending spiritual discourses is not enough. The ultimate purpose of Satsang is to develop individuals who are disciplined in personal life, compassionate in relationships, ethical in professional life and responsible towards society. It transforms knowledge into wisdom, selfishness into selflessness and emotional disturbance into inner balance. Satsang is therefore not merely a spiritual gathering but a continuous journey of character building and holistic human development. The company we keep influences the person we become.

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Ajab Tinwala & Ravi Singh

THE POWER OF THOUGHT: WHERE EVERY GOAL BEGINS



When you set out to do something meaningful, you rarely begin with everything in place. You may lack a proper plan, guidance, connections, or resources. So do you simply abandon the idea? Almost certainly not. Instead, you begin to think about it, and you turn it over in your mind from every angle.

At this stage, whether your thoughts are right or wrong hardly matters. What matters is the direction of your intent: every thought, however imperfect, is aimed at achieving the goal. This is where the journey truly starts. Before a single step is taken, the mind has already begun to clear the ground.

Something remarkable tends to follow. Even when you have nothing concrete to rely on, a path toward the goal can appear, often from an unexpected direction. A chance conversation, a forgotten contact, an opportunity you had overlooked: these seem to emerge once your mind is fully engaged. This is the power of thinking. As you hold your goal in focus, everything slowly begins to fall into place.

Yet this power cuts both ways. Your thinking can either make you or destroy you. The same mind that builds confidence and imagines possibilities can also manufacture doubt, fear, and endless what-ifs. Thought is a force, and like any force, its effect depends on how it is used.

Sometimes you may find yourself overthinking. It is worth being honest about this: overthinking cannot simply be switched off. The more you fight it, the louder it tends to become. But it can be directed. Rather than trying to silence your mind, give it a purpose. Turn the restless energy toward solutions instead of problems, toward the next small step instead of the distant, intimidating summit.

In practice, this means asking better questions. Instead of "What if I fail?", ask "What can I do today to move forward?" Instead of rehearsing worst-case scenarios, map out the resources you do have and the people you could approach. Small, deliberate redirections of thought, repeated over time, can transform anxiety into momentum.

The lesson is simple but profound. Your circumstances may be limited, but your thinking need not be. Where you place your attention shapes what you notice, what you attempt, and ultimately what you become. Guide your thoughts with intention, and they will guide you toward the life you envision.

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THE QUIET ART OF PARENTING: BEING PRESENT, NOT PERFECT

Parenting is often described as a duty, but it is better understood as a relationship, one built on the deep and patient work of truly knowing your child. It means understanding who they are in every dimension: their fears, their strengths, their moods, and the small quirks that make them who they are. Such knowledge cannot be gathered in a day. It grows from attention, consistency, and genuine curiosity.

A common misconception is that good parenting means becoming your child's friend. While warmth and approachability are essential, a parent's role is distinct. Children need someone who offers guidance, sets boundaries, and models the values they hope to instil. A friend may share in the moment; a parent shapes the future. Your child will observe how you speak, how you handle disappointment, and how you treat others, and they will quietly absorb it all. You are, whether you intend to be or not, their first and most influential role model.

Yet the opposite extreme is just as harmful. Authority does not require harshness. Constant scolding and physical punishment may produce obedience in the short term, but they often breed fear, resentment, and secrecy. A child who is afraid of a parent's reaction learns to hide the truth rather than face it. Discipline, when needed, should teach rather than wound, and it should always leave the child feeling secure in your love.

At the heart of healthy parenting lies trust. Your child should feel comfortable sharing anything and everything with you, from small triumphs at school to their deepest worries and mistakes. This openness does not happen by accident. It is earned through the way you listen: without hasty judgement, without ridicule, and without turning every confession into a lecture. When children sense that their words will be met with understanding, they continue to speak.

Above all, a child should hold an unshakeable belief: that even if the whole world seems against them, their parents stand beside them. This assurance is a powerful foundation. Life will inevitably bring failures, rejections, and moments of loneliness. A child who knows there is one safe place to return to will face these challenges with greater courage and resilience.

It is also worth remembering how early this journey begins. From the moment of birth, children are remarkably quick learners. They absorb language, emotions, habits, and attitudes long before they can articulate what they have learned. This is both a privilege and a responsibility. These formative years offer a precious opportunity to nurture kindness, honesty, empathy, and integrity, to gently mould a child into a good human being, not through force, but through example and patient guidance.

None of this demands perfection. Parents are human, and they will falter. What matters is the sincerity of the effort and the steadiness of presence.

Perhaps the simplest advice is also the most profound: spend time with them. In a world crowded with schedules, screens, and obligations, undivided attention is the rarest gift a parent can give. A shared meal, an evening walk, or an unhurried conversation may seem ordinary, but these



are the moments from which lasting bonds are made.

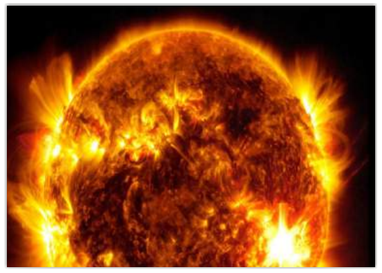
In the end, children may forget what we said, but they will rarely forget how we made them feel. Be present, be patient, and be the person they can always come home to.

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Srushti Panvalkar, Mridalini Tripathi & Afreen Mazgaonkar

HOW ADITYA-L1 REVEALED THE HIDDEN THIRD DIMENSION OF A SOLAR ERUPTION



ISRO's solar observatory Aditya-L1, which operates from a halo orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1), offers a continuous and uninterrupted view of the Sun. Its prime payload, the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC), was developed by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, with support from ISRO. Unlike a conventional coronagraph that only takes images, VELC uses spectroscopy to study the solar corona through its green emission line at 530.3 nm. In a recent study, IIA scientists used VELC data to examine a coronal mass ejection (CME), a massive eruption of magnetised solar plasma, observed on August 5, 2024. VELC measured Doppler shifts in the erupting plasma, showing parts of it moving towards the observer and parts moving away. The team combined these measurements with images from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) and a three-dimensional computer model, and found that the CME did not expand uniformly close to the Sun. Scientists normally need several spacecraft viewing an eruption from different angles to reconstruct its 3D shape. This study shows that VELC can do much of that from a single vantage point, which could help improve space weather forecasting and protect satellites and communication systems.

SHEHZAD POONAWALLA WINS RISE AND FALL SEASON 2, PLEDGES ₹35 LAKH PRIZE TO FLOOD RELIEF



Political commentator and former BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla has won the second season of the reality show Rise and Fall, taking home the trophy and a cash prize of ₹35 lakh. Actor Priyanka Chahar Choudhary finished as the first runner-up, while actor and former Bigg Boss winner Gautam Gulati took third place in the finale, which streamed on Prime Video and Amazon MX Player on November 6. Hosted by former cricketer Virender Sehwag, the six-week show began in September with 15 contestants. In a final twist, when the top three reached a deadlock, the remaining contestants voted to decide the winner. Poonawalla has pledged the entire prize amount to the Chief Ministers' relief funds of Bihar and Assam for flood relief, saying the floods were happening when he joined the show. His time on the show was marked by several confrontations. In the third episode, an argument with Siwet Tomar turned physical when Tomar grabbed him by the collar and pushed him down, leading to Tomar's eviction. Swara Bhasker and Karan Patel walked out in protest, arguing that Poonawalla's role in provoking the fight should not be ignored. Poonawalla later won the Ticket to Finale task to become the season's first finalist and chose Gulati to join him.

WHO URGES COUNTRIES TO FINISH PANDEMIC TREATY AS EBOLA EPIDEMIC SPREADS IN DR CONGO



The World Health Organization has urged member states to complete the remaining part of the global Pandemic Agreement, citing the deadly Ebola epidemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as a reminder of the threat posed by infectious diseases. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made the appeal on November 2, 2026, as the ninth round of negotiations opened in Geneva, calling on countries to "finish the job." The Ebola outbreak, declared in May, has killed nearly 5,000 of the more than 10,000 people infected, mostly in the DRC. Tedros also referred to a hantavirus outbreak in April that killed three people aboard a cruise ship. The World Health Assembly adopted the Pandemic Agreement on May 20, 2025, but countries left one key mechanism unresolved: the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) system. Under PABS, countries would share pathogen samples and genetic data and, in return, receive a fair share of the resulting vaccines, tests and treatments. The agreement cannot be opened for signature until the PABS annex is adopted, and it will enter into force only after 60 countries ratify it. Recalling COVID-19, Tedros noted that vaccines were developed in record time, yet many countries were left waiting while others secured far more than they needed. The current talks run until November 13.

COP30 FOSSIL FUEL ROADMAP RELEASED AS INDIA REJECTS COP31 ELECTRIFICATION PLEDGE



Brazil's COP30 Presidency released a roadmap on November 3, 2026, urging countries to reduce their dependence on coal, oil and natural gas and shift towards clean energy. Released ahead of COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, the roadmap builds on the commitment made at COP28 in Dubai to transition away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner. It asks countries to prepare national transition plans suited to their own economic conditions and energy needs. Under the proposed timeline, countries would assess their energy systems and develop these plans by 2028, ahead of the second Global Stocktake, with infrastructure upgrades and renewable energy investments underway by 2030. The roadmap is voluntary and not a negotiated or binding UN agreement. Separately, India has refused to sign the 35-by-35 Global Electrification Pledge proposed by Türkiye's incoming COP31 Presidency, which aims to raise electricity's share of global final energy consumption to 35 per cent by 2035. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said India would not sign any such pledge, calling it the Presidency's own agenda, and added that India would present its position at COP31. India also reiterated its opposition to the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which it fears will hurt Indian exporters, and called for greater climate finance for developing countries.

JOINT SECRETARY HIGHLIGHTS FTA BENEFITS FOR TRIPURA'S MSMES AT AGARTALA OUTREACH PROGRAMME



Dr C. Vanlalramsanga, Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, inaugurated a state-level outreach programme titled "Leveraging Free Trade Agreements" at Pragya Bhavan, Agartala, on November 4, 2026. The programme was organised by the Department of Commerce, Government of India, through the Regional Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Kolkata, in collaboration with the Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Tripura. Addressing the gathering, Dr Vanlalramsanga said India has signed several new-generation Free Trade Agreements and that their benefits must reach micro, small and medium enterprises at the grassroots level. He pointed to Tripura's strong potential owing to its proximity to international borders, noting that the state has around 3.7 lakh MSMEs and exported goods worth about USD 15 million last year. He described district-wise mapping of products as a key part of the outreach effort and urged entrepreneurs to explore niche markets and focus on value-added products to raise export earnings. He also outlined central initiatives such as digital reforms and the Export Promotion Mission, and said Tripura is well placed to lead export-oriented growth in the Northeast. Tripura's Industries and Commerce Secretary Kiran Gitte spoke about the state's infrastructure support, financial incentives and capacity-building measures for MSMEs. Technical sessions on customs duty benefits and Rules of Origin followed.

INDIA JOINS US-LED 6G INITIATIVE AFTER G20 INNOVATION MINISTERIAL IN CHAPEL HILL

India has joined the United States and 24 other countries in an initiative to ensure that next-generation 6G networks reflect shared security interests, strengthen competitiveness and drive innovation. The US Department of Commerce announced the move after a bilateral meeting between Union Minister of State Jitin Prasada and US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, held on the sidelines of the G20 Innovation Ministers' Meeting in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, on September 1–2, 2026. Prasada, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology and for Commerce and Industry, led the Indian delegation at the meeting, which was hosted by the US Department of Commerce and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. G20 ministers adopted an Innovation Ministerial Statement built on six pillars, including pro-innovation policy frameworks, skilled workforce development and industrial investment in supply chains. They also reached consensus on the Carolina Principles for Emerging Technologies, which call for investment in foundational research, stronger commercialisation pathways and trusted technology adoption. In his talks with Lutnick, Prasada discussed cooperation on semiconductors, artificial intelligence and data centres, encouraged greater US investment under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM 2.0), proposed stronger AI technology partnerships and discussed mechanisms for AI safeguards. He also met Anthropic co-founder Tom Brown on the sidelines and later visited Duke University.

Srushti Panvalkar, Mridalini Tripathi & Afreen Mazgaonkar

INDIA WINS FOUR MEDALS AT SWISS OPEN ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIP 2026



India finished with four medals, three silver and one bronze, at the Swiss Open Archery Championship 2026, held at the World Archery Excellence Centre in Lausanne, Switzerland, from October 30 to November 1. Indian women won two of the silver medals. Tania Rani finished runner-up in the Compound Under-21 Women's event after losing the final to Fenna Stallen of the Netherlands, while Priya Gurjar took silver in the senior Compound Women's category, where she faced Andrea Maya Becerra Arizaga of Mexico in the final. On the men's side, Sachin Chechi won silver in the Compound Under-21 Men's event, narrowly losing the title match 145–147 to Germany's Simon Moritz. Aditya Wadhwa, from Fazilka in Punjab, secured bronze in the Recurve Under-21 Men's event with a 6–2 win over Gal Frank of Slovenia. The championship served as Stage 1 of the 2026–27 Hyundai Indoor Archery World Series and the opening qualification event of the season. This year's edition drew 373 archers from 30 countries across several categories. For India, the results mark an encouraging start to the season, especially for its young archers, three of whom reached the podium in Under-21 events.

INDIAN SHOOTERS HAVE A DISAPPOINTING START AT ISSF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN DOHA



India's rifle shooters had a difficult opening day at the ISSF Shooting World Championships in Doha on November 3, 2026, with five of the six competing failing to reach the finals of their events. The setback was significant because the championships also offered quota places for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Elavenil Valarivan was the only Indian rifle shooter to make a final, finishing sixth in the women's 10m air rifle and missing out on both a medal and an Olympic quota. In the men's 10m air rifle, Parth Mane placed 16th, Himanshu Dhillon 41st and Parth Makhija 61st. In the women's event, Sonam Maskar finished 19th, while Shambhavi Kshirsagar also failed to qualify for the final. India fared better in non-Olympic events. The men's team of Ravinder Singh, Saurabh Chaudhary and Amanpreet Singh won gold in the 50m pistol team event, and Ravinder added an individual silver in the same discipline. The women's 10m air rifle team also won silver. Although the results in Olympic disciplines were below expectations, the medals in other events gave the Indian contingent some encouragement as the championships continue.

INDIA CLINCH RECORD SIXTH ASIAN MEN'S CHAMPIONS TROPHY TITLE WITH 4–1 WIN OVER JAPAN



The Indian men's hockey team won a record sixth Asian Champions Trophy title on November 5, beating Japan 4–1 in the final at the Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium in Mohali. India, unbeaten throughout the tournament, had to recover from a slow start after Japan took an early lead. The Japanese defence held firm in the first half, and India went into the break trailing 0–1. The hosts raised their game after the interval. Shilanand Lakra equalised in the 43rd minute, and Dilpreet Singh put India ahead five minutes later. Jugraj Singh extended the lead to 3–1 with a penalty corner conversion in the 53rd minute, and Vivek Sagar Prasad added the fourth goal a minute later to settle the contest. All four Indian goals came within an eleven-minute spell, turning the match around in the second half. The win gives India their third consecutive Asian Champions Trophy title and strengthens their position as the leading side in Asian men's hockey. Lifting the trophy in front of an enthusiastic home crowd in Mohali made the victory especially memorable for the players and supporters.

ANUJ SHRIVATRI BECOMES INDIA'S 100TH CHESS GRANDMASTER



International Master Anuj Shrivatri of Madhya Pradesh became India's 100th chess Grandmaster on November 8, 2026, after winning the 7th ASEAN Plus Individual Open Chess Championship in Ozamiz City, the Philippines. The tournament victory earned the 22-year-old a direct Grandmaster title. Shrivatri lost his first game of the event but recovered strongly to finish with seven points out of a possible eight. The achievement also makes him the first Grandmaster from Madhya Pradesh, a state that had long waited for one. Hailing from Katni, Shrivatri first drew attention in 2019, when he became the youngest International Master from Madhya Pradesh at the age of 15 years and 31 days. All India Chess Federation president Nitin Narang congratulated him on the milestone, which came on the day of Diwali. India's journey to 100 Grandmasters began in 1988, when Viswanathan Anand became the country's first. The pace has picked up sharply in recent years, and India gained its last five Grandmasters, from the 96th to the 100th, within just five months. Ethan Vaz, Harshvardhan GB, S Aswath and V Rathanvel earned the title shortly before Shrivatri, reflecting the growing depth of Indian chess talent.

DHINIDHI DESINGHU MAKES HISTORY AS INDIA WINS ITS FIRST WOMEN'S SWIMMING MEDAL AT THE YOUTH OLYMPICS



Sixteen-year-old Dhinidhi Desinghu became the first Indian swimmer to win a medal at the Youth Olympic Games, taking bronze in the women's 100m freestyle at Dakar 2026 in Senegal on November 2. The Bengaluru swimmer clocked 56.27 seconds in the final, a personal best and a new national record, finishing behind Croatia's Ana Bobanovic, who won gold in 55.89 seconds, and New Zealand's Alyssa Lawson, who took silver in 56.13 seconds. Earlier in the day, she had topped her heat in 56.80 seconds to become the first Indian female swimmer to reach a Youth Olympics final. India also won a medal in judo on the same day. Fifteen-year-old Khushbu Rajakbhai Darjada reached the final of the women's 63 kg category by beating Algeria's Dounia Berrahoual in the semi-final, but lost the title bout to Germany's Jolina Reinhold, the Cadet world champion, and settled for silver. Hailing from Somnath in Gujarat, Khushbu became only the second Indian judoka to win a Youth Olympic medal, after Thangjam Tababi Devi's silver in the 44 kg category at the 2018 Games in Buenos Aires. The two medals opened India's account at Dakar 2026.

ADKAR AND BHOSALE BECOME FIRST ALL-INDIAN WOMEN'S PAIR TO REACH A WTA DOUBLES FINAL



Vaishnavi Adkar and Rutuja Bhosale made history at the WTA 250 Chennai Open 2026 by becoming the first all-Indian pair to reach a doubles final at a WTA Tour-level event. The duo secured their place in the title match on November 7 with a hard-fought 6-2, 2-6, [10-8] semi-final win over second seeds Weronika Falkowska of Poland and Alana Smith of the USA at the SDAT Tennis Stadium in Chennai. Adkar sealed the victory with a forehand winner down the line, sparking celebrations for the Indian pair. No all-Indian women's combination had previously reached a final at the main Tour level. The closest earlier results came at the WTA 125 level, a tier below, where Ankita Raina and Karman Thandi won a doubles title in 2018. In the final on November 8, however, the Indian pair were outplayed by Switzerland's Naima Karamoko and Simona Waltert, losing 2-6, 0-6 in a one-sided contest. Karamoko dominated at the net while Waltert held firm from the baseline. Despite the defeat, the run marked a significant milestone for Indian women's tennis and gave a welcome boost to women's doubles in the country.

Prof. Dr. Smita Ravikumar Kuntay

BANK OF BARODA RECRUITMENT 2026



Bank of Baroda invites applications for 837 contractual positions in its Wealth Management Services (WMS) Department. Experienced professionals in banking, wealth management, investment advisory and financial services can seize this opportunity to advance their careers.

Positions & Vacancies
- Group Head (Assistant Vice President II) – 8
- Head Investment (Assistant Vice President II) – 1
- Territory Head (Assistant Vice President I) – 35
- Investment Product Manager (Assistant Vice President I) – 2
- Senior Relationship Manager (Deputy Manager) – 791

Eligibility Criteria
- Qualification: Graduation from a recognised university; prescribed NISM/IRDA certifications as applicable.
- Experience: 3–12 years of relevant post-qualification experience, depending on the post.
- Age Limit: 24–50 years, depending on the position, with applicable age relaxation.
- Employment Type: Contractual engagement for an initial five years, extendable subject to conditions.

Important Dates
- Online Applications Begin: 4 November 2026
- Last Date to Apply: 24 November 2026
- Eligibility Cut-off Date: 1 November 2026

Application Fee: ₹850 for General/EWS/OBC candidates; ₹175 for eligible SC/ST/PwBD/Ex-Servicemen and women candidates, plus applicable payment gateway charges.

How To Apply
- Visit the official website: https://bankofbaroda.bank.in Navigate to Careers → Current Opportunities and locate Advertisement No. BOB/HRM/REC/ADVT/2026/20.

For more details candidates are asked to visit the official website

RITES APPRENTICE RECRUITMENT 2026: 281 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATES, DIPLOMA HOLDERS & ITI CANDIDATES!



RITES Limited, a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Railways, invites applications for 281 Apprentice positions across India for one-year training.

Vacancies Available
- Graduate Apprentice (Engineering) – 125
- Graduate Apprentice (Non-Engineering) – 43
- Diploma Apprentice – 62
- Trade Apprentice (ITI) – 51

Eligibility Criteria
- Qualifications: B.E./B.Tech./B.Arch., B.A., BBA, B.Com., B.Sc., BCA, relevant Engineering Diploma or ITI, depending on the post.
- Minimum Age: 18 years as on 5 November 2026.
- Minimum Marks: Generally 60% for General/EWS and 50% for eligible reserved-category positions, subject to notification conditions.
- Degree and diploma results must meet the prescribed five-year eligibility window. ITI candidates have no specified passing-year restriction.
- Candidates with previous apprenticeship training or one year or more of post-qualification work experience are ineligible.

Monthly Stipend
- Graduate Apprentices: ₹15,650
- Diploma Apprentices: ₹13,450
- ITI Trade Apprentices: ₹10,560

Selection Process
- Merit based on qualifying examination marks, followed by document verification. No written examination or interview.

Important Dates
- Applications Open: 5 November 2026
- Last Date: 25 November 2026

How To Apply
- Graduate and Diploma candidates must apply through NATS; ITI candidates through NAPS. All applicants must also submit the separate RITES document form.
- Official Website: https://www.rites.com

For more details candidates are asked to visit the official website

INDIAN BANK APPRENTICE RECRUITMENT 2026: APPLY ONLINE FOR 1,500 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Indian Bank, a leading public sector bank headquartered in Chennai, invites online applications for 1,500 Apprentice training seats for FY 2026–27 under the Apprentices Act, 1961 for Graduates Across India!



Total Vacancies: 1,500 across 30 States/Union Territories, including 70 seats in Maharashtra.

Educational Qualification: Graduation in any discipline from a recognised university. Candidates must have completed graduation between 1 April 2022 and 1 November 2026, with results declared by the cut-off date.

Age Limit: 20–28 years as on 1 November 2026. Age relaxation: SC/ST – 5 years; OBC-NCL – 3 years; PwBD – 10 years, subject to notification rules.

Monthly Stipend:
- Metro/Urban branches: ₹15,000
- Rural/Semi-Urban branches: ₹12,300

Training Duration: 12 months of on-the-job training.

Selection Process: Online objective examination (100 marks, 60 minutes), Local Language Proficiency Test, document verification and medical fitness. An interview may be conducted at the bank's discretion.

Application Fee: General/OBC/EWS – ₹800 + GST; SC/ST/PwBD – ₹175 + GST. The fee is non-refundable and payable online.

How to Apply: Register on the NATS 2.0 portal, complete your profile, submit the Indian Bank apprenticeship application and pay the applicable fee.

Important Eligibility Conditions: Candidates who have already completed or are undergoing apprenticeship training, or have one year or more of post-qualification work experience, are ineligible. Applicants must select only one State/UT. Local-language proficiency requirements apply.

Apply Online: https://www.indianbank.in
NATS 2.0 Portal: https://nats.education.gov.in
Last Date: 25 November 2026

For more details candidates are asked to visit the official website

Deepika Singh



Why Do Fireworks Burst in Different Colours?

Every Diwali the sky over our buildings lights up in red, green, gold and, once in a while, a rare blue. Have you ever wondered where those colours come from? The answer is chemistry, packed inside each shell.

Along with gunpowder, every firework carries small amounts of metal compounds. When the shell bursts, the heat gives the electrons in these metals extra energy. As they settle back down, they release that energy as light, and each metal glows in a colour of its own. Strontium gives red, barium gives green, sodium gives bright yellow and copper gives blue.

Blue is the hardest colour to make. Copper compounds break down if the flame gets too hot, so firework makers have to control the temperature very carefully. That is why a deep, clear blue is still rare in the night sky.

THE TAKEAWAY: Every colour you see on Diwali night is a metal giving off light. Enjoy the show, and keep it safe, because the same chemicals that colour the sky stay in the air we breathe the next morning.

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The Diwali Diya Puzzle

Riya has 10 diyas to decorate her doorstep. Her grandmother gives her a challenge: arrange all 10 diyas so that they form 5 straight rows, with exactly 4 diyas in each row.

The Challenge: How can Riya do it?

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Answer

Arrange the diyas in the shape of a five-pointed star. Place one diya at each of the 5 outer points and one at each of the 5 inner corners where the lines of the star cross each other. Each of the star's 5 straight lines now passes through exactly 4 diyas. Riya gets a glowing star on her doorstep!



TAMIL ADHIRASAM

This Week, We're Relishing Tamil Adhirasam!

Adhirasam is one of the oldest sweets of Tamil Nadu and a must on the Deepavali plate in most Tamil homes. It is made with just rice flour and jaggery, with no maida and no sugar. Fried till dark brown, it stays crisp at the edges and soft and chewy in the middle. The dough needs a few hours of rest, so families usually start it a day before the festival.

Ingredients:

1 cup raw rice, ¾ cup grated jaggery, ¼ cup water, ½ teaspoon cardamom powder, a pinch of dry ginger powder, 1 tablespoon white sesame seeds, ghee for greasing, and oil for frying.

Preparation



- Wash the rice and soak it for 2 hours. Drain and spread it on a clean cloth for about 30 minutes until it feels dry but still slightly moist. Grind into a fine flour and sift it.
- Heat jaggery and water in a pan until the jaggery melts. Strain it and boil again until it reaches soft-ball stage (a drop in cold water should form a soft ball).
- Turn off the heat. Add cardamom, dry ginger and sesame seeds, then add the rice flour little by little and mix into a thick, sticky dough. Cover and rest for at least 6 hours, or overnight.
- Grease your palm with ghee, take a lemon-sized ball and pat it into a thick disc on a greased sheet or banana leaf.
- Fry one at a time in medium-hot oil, turning once, until deep brown. Press each adhirasam between two flat ladles to squeeze out the extra oil.

Serving Tip: Adhirasam tastes better the next day, once the jaggery settles in. Stored in an airtight box, it stays good for a week, which makes it a lovely sweet to pack in Diwali gift boxes for friends and neighbours.

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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