

NEW ERA BEGINS

Space travel has long been a symbol of national ambition, scientific innovation, and technological prowess. For India, it marked more than just scientific advancement—it heralded the beginning of a new era. The nation's foray into space, driven by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has not only transformed its global standing but also inspired generations, boosted economic development, and redefined its capabilities in science and defense.

India's space journey began in 1969 with the establishment of ISRO under the visionary leadership of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai. The country's first satellite, Aryabhata, was launched in 1975 with the help of the Soviet Union. Despite limited resources, India was determined to use space technology for the betterment of its people. Early goals focused on satellite communication, meteorology, and remote sensing, all aimed at supporting agriculture, education, and disaster management.

The real shift in India's space narrative came with the successful launch of Chandrayaan-1 in 2008, India's first mission to the Moon. This mission not only placed India on the global map of lunar exploration but also made a significant scientific discovery—confirming the presence of water molecules on the Moon.

In 2013, India stunned the world with its Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan). On its first attempt and with a fraction of the budget used by other nations, India became the first Asian country to reach Mars orbit and the fourth in the world to do so. This success was celebrated globally and earned ISRO a reputation for low-cost, high-efficiency missions.

In August 2023, India reached another major milestone when Chandrayaan-3 successfully landed near the Moon's south pole. This achievement made India the first country to land in that region and the fourth to achieve a soft landing on the Moon.

The impact of Chandrayaan-3 was profound. It sparked national pride, inspired millions of students, and demonstrated India's capabilities in planetary exploration.

India's space missions have had significant economic and strategic implications. The growth of ISRO's commercial arm, Antrix Corporation, and the establishment of IN-SPaCe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center) to support private space companies have transformed India into an emerging hub for space startups and satellite launches.

Perhaps the most transformative aspect of India's space journey has been its power to inspire. Space travel has ignited the imaginations of young Indians, motivating them to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The government's focus on education and innovation, coupled with popular support for ISRO's missions, has created a culture of scientific curiosity and ambition.

On June 25, 2025, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla launched from Kennedy Space Center aboard SpaceX's Crew Dragon (named Grace) as part of Axiom Mission 4 (AxT4)—a private mission arranged by Axiom Space in partnership with NASA and ISRO. He became the first Indian astronaut to visit the International Space Station (ISS) and the second Indian in space after Rakesh Sharma in 1984.

The announcement of future missions, including Gaganyaan (India's first human spaceflight), a Venus mission, and deeper lunar and Martian explorations, reflects India's determination to push boundaries.

19th National Statistics Day Statistics for the Present and Future: Applications and Advancements

■ PROF MANISH SHARMA

The renowned statistician P.C. Mahalanobis once stated, "Scientific laws are not advanced by the principle of authority or justified by faith or medieval philosophy; statistics is the only court of appeal to new knowledge." This powerful quote highlights the fundamental role of statistics in driving scientific progress across all disciplines. In today's world, statistics has become an indispensable tool in shaping innovation and guiding research. With the rapid expansion of data—commonly referred to as "big data"—statistical methods are crucial for extracting meaningful insights that inform decisions at every level. For the public, the impact of statistics is deeply embedded in everyday life: rising from bed. The government policies are increasingly based on data-driven evidence related to health, education, agriculture, industry and infrastructure. Through statistical analysis, resources can be allocated efficiently, interventions can be targeted more accurately, and outcomes can be measured effectively. For instance, in public health, statistics help in predicting disease outbreaks, evaluating the effectiveness of treatments, and improving patient care. In education, data analytics supports curriculum development, student performance tracking, and equitable access to resources. Moreover, statistics empowers citizens and researchers alike by promoting transparency, accountability, and informed participation in democratic processes. It ensures that policies are not just theoretical but are grounded in measurable reality. As such, the use of statistical methods is not only essential for research but is also vital in addressing societal challenges and improving the quality of life for all. In India we celebrate national events such as National Statistics Day, World Statistics Day, and National Mathematics Day are celebrated to raise public awareness—particularly among the younger generation—about the importance of statistics and related subjects. These occasions aim to highlight their relevance in shaping the future and promoting them as promising career paths in the evolving world of data-driven decision-making.

National Statistics Day 2025, marking its 19th observance on June 29, honours (Late) Professor P.C. Mahalanobis for his contributions to statistics and economic planning, highlighting the vital role of data in evidence-based governance and policymaking in India. The day is dedicated to highlighting the vital role of statistics in policy formulation, planning, and national development.

The celebration aims to raise awareness about the importance of statistical tools and techniques in addressing real-world challenges, while also recognizing the valuable contributions of statisticians and data scientists in producing accurate, reliable data that supports evidence-based decision-making at all levels of governance. Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis was a visionary who made foundational contributions to statistical theory and its applications across various fields in India. He was instrumental in promoting research and the practical use of statistics in national development. In 1931, he founded the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), which remains a premier institution for statistical education and research. His contributions extended beyond academia; he played a key role in shaping India's economic planning, particularly



through his involvement in the formulation and implementation of the Second Five-Year Plan (1956-1961), which focused on industrialization and economic self-reliance. In recognition of his exceptional contributions, Mahalanobis was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1945 and was conferred the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award, in 1968. He is widely honored as the 'Father of Indian Statistics.' To commemorate his legacy, the Government of India declared June 29th his birth anniversary as National Statistics Day, with the official announcement published in the Gazette of India on June 5, 2007. The first celebration took place in 2007, and in 2008, it was formally marked as a tribute to Mahalanobis. Since then, the day is celebrated annually with a specific theme, emphasizing the relevance of statistics in contemporary societal and developmental issues.

Year	Theme (National Statistics Day)	Year	Theme (National Statistics Day)
2009	Social development	2016	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
2010	Child Statistics	2017	Administrative Statistics
2011	Gender Statistics	2018	Quality Assurance in Official Statistics
2012	Industrial Statistics	2019	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
2013	Labour and Employment Statistics	2020	SDG3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all of all ages) & SDG-5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).
2014	Services Sector Statistics	2021	Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-2 (End Hunger, Achieve Food Security, Improve Nutrition, and Promote Sustainable Agriculture)
2015	Better data, better lives	2022	Data for Sustainable Development
2023	Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals	2024	Use of Data for decision Making
2025	"75 years of Sample survey" -		

The sample survey support to estimate guesses about how the whole group thinks or behaves by asking a small, carefully chosen group of people from a larger population through data. Government of India is actively working to strengthen its statistical infrastructure and harness the potential of data science for more efficient and transparent governance. The integration of AI and big data technologies across various sectors—from optimizing railway schedules to managing healthcare and judicial data systems. Platforms like the Open Government Data (OGD) Platform reflect India's push for greater transparency and citizen engagement through open data access. These comprehensive reforms in the statistical and data governance ecosystem collectively aim to empower citizens, enhance evidence-based policymaking, and modernize India's public administration.

The National Statistics Day is also interconnected in their focus on data, statistics, and sustainable development in 2019. In today's data-driven era, the overwhelming volume of information presents a significant challenge, demanding a transformative approach to data analytics. By leveraging advanced algorithms, data analytics can optimize performance, enhance efficiency, and strategically drive innovation. The fusion of statistical methods with machine learning enables the resolution of complex problems, while the integration of diverse data sources fosters richer analytical insights. This multidisciplinary approach leads to more precise and reliable statistical models. However, there remains a pressing need to develop techniques that identify and mitigate biases in data collection, modeling, and decision-making, ensuring greater emphasis on privacy, fairness, and transparency. The statistics and data analytics have become the backbone of informed decision-making. With the rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and Deep Learning technologies, we are now capable of extracting actionable insights from massive volumes of data across sectors like agriculture, healthcare, environmental sciences, and industry. These advancements enable us to identify key parameters, improve forecasting models, and drive innovation and sustainable development. Data analytics is not just a tool—it is the essence of modern statistics. As data continues to grow exponentially, there is a critical need for advanced statistical methodologies that can handle complexity, volume, and variability which are the key parameters of Big Data. The synergy between traditional statistical principles and cutting-edge technology is reshaping how we interpret and utilize data. Statistics forms the backbone of Artificial Intelligence, enabling it to support India in achieving its ambitious goals across sectors like healthcare, social development, industry and education. By harnessing statistical methods such as predictive analytics, data modeling, and pattern recognition, AI systems can make informed, data-driven decisions. Government initiatives promoting the widespread adoption of AI are, in essence, a push to utilize advanced statistical tools embedded in AI—such as algorithmic processing and machine learning—to bring about transformative change nationwide.

The visionary efforts of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, known as the 'Father of Indian Statistics,' laid the foundation for this transformative journey. His pioneering work has not only shaped India's statistical system but has also earned global recognition, making his legacy more relevant than ever in this era of intelligent analytics.

(The writer is from SKUAST Jammu)

Language Controversy Rekindled: Urdu for Naib Tehsildar Test

■ BAIRAJ CHAWALGAMI

All languages are good, fine and rich and they lend richness to our literature and to our lives. But alas! languages are being used to divide the people and communities. Languages should unite and not divide us. Urdu is also a rich and sweet language and it has produced many poets and writers of repute. Urdu language controversy is not new but it was also found in the old decades in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the recruitment test for the post of a Naib Tehsildar. There is no doubt that Urdu is official language in Jammu and Kashmir and it continues to be official. From, time to time we are witness to the fact that Urdu language has been made compulsory for the post of Naib Tehsildar and for qualifying the test an aspirant should also pass the Urdu language test. Other languages and national language Hindi should not be relegated to background and back seat. To make passing of Urdu test compulsory for a Naib Tehsildar post is total discriminatory and naturally it has generated much resentment not only among the Naib Tehsildar aspirants but among

the political parties of Jammu and the common citizens. This avoidable controversy should be bidding a good bye at the earliest otherwise it can ignite protests and demonstrations in whole Jammu region and can ignite flames in this region which will be difficult to control and extinguish. Omar Abdullah should show his acumen and foresight and thus should order the cancellation of the compulsory Urdu language test for the recruitment of a Naib Tehsildar post and doing so he can endear his party NC and government to the people of Jammu and it will also give the impression to Jammuites that NC-Congress coalition government cares for them. Making Urdu test mandatory for a Naib Tehsildar is unjust and discriminatory and as such a requirement of passing Urdu amounts to an assault on the rights of the educated youth of Jammu Province and Omar Abdullah should prove his credibility and non-partisan attitude of his administration by cancelling the compulsory clause of passing Urdu language test. Yes, for Naib Tehsildar post working knowledge is necessary and no sane person will

deny this fact. Then the government can give knowledge of Urdu to the Naib Tehsildar trainees by giving them capacity building courses in Urdu so that they can be made conversant with Urdu language before assuming the charge of the Naib Tehsildar post and doing so will ensure justice to those aspirants of NT post who do not have the knowledge of Urdu. The clamour of the people of Jammu especially of the young aspirants for the Naib Tehsildar post is genuine as the rights of the educated youth of Jammu are under assault by this partisan and biased decision made by the CM. LG Manoj Shina should intervene and order that Urdu should no longer be made compulsory for passing the recruitment test for the post of a Naib Tehsildar. NC government should not make the issue of Urdu a matter of ego and agree to the cancellation of this discriminatory, biased and unjust order. The NC-Congress coalition governments decision to make Urdu language test compulsory for Naib Tehsildar amounts to murder of the rights of the educated youth of Jammu region and therefore the LG should step in and cancel

the discriminatory decision so that justice is given to Jammu region. Such a decision of LG will give a sigh of relief to Naib Tehsildar Jammu aspirants. All eyes are now on the Honourable LG Manoj Shina and he will break the logjam and the controversy of Urdu language will come to an end. Languages should connect and not disconnect and disunite the people, regions and communities. The decision of the NC government will give rise to language chauvinism and this order is furthering the language controversy. Thus, such an order and decision will divide regions and communities and therefore it is in the fitness of things that the LG should cancel the decision of the NC government regarding compulsory test of Urdu language for the NT post. Closing the doors of the appointment for Naib Tehsildar post for the youth of Jammu region are grossly unjust and very discriminatory and the LG should cancel such partisan and biased decision of the NC-Congress government and address the genuine issues, aspirations and demand of the Jammuites and balm the hurt psyche of the educated youth of Jammu. In fact,

Urdu is the latest flashpoint between political parties in Jammu and Kashmir. A day after J&K BJP top brass sought LG Manoj Sinha's intervention for scrapping the mandatory Urdu test for recruitment to Naib Tehsildar post, opposition PDP pushed back and asked Omar Abdullah government not to bow to pressure, even as governing NC has kept mum. Urdu has been the official language of J&K for centuries and no one can deny this stark truth. But then Urdu language should not become a tool for dividing the regions and communities but instead the languages should connect and unite people. The fact that 90% of the minorities from Jammu region know only Hindi and English and all these educated youth from Jammu division cannot be denied the opportunities of employment only on the basis that they do not know Urdu and there should be no politics over the Urdu language test for Naib Tehsildar post and there should be no Jammu versus Kashmir but instead the decisions of the NC government should bridge the differences and gap between Jammu and Kashmir regions and Omar

Abdullah should himself rescind the draconian, unjust and most discriminatory decision of Urdu compulsory for the recruitment for Naib Tehsildar post. A Naib Tehsildar need not be a professor and teacher of Urdu and it is true that an aspirant for the post of Naib Tehsildar need not have a graduate or post graduate degree in Urdu language but an aspirant for NT post should have working and basic knowledge of Urdu and this can be done by acquainting those who qualify for the post of NT by giving the trainee NT's the basic knowledge of Urdu through induction courses in Urdu language. In this manner two birds can be killed with one stone. To sum up one can say that before it will be too late the government should rescind the draconian, discriminatory and biased decision so that there is no unrest in Jammu region and prove his commitment that his government treats both regions of Kashmir and Jammu equally. And start can be made by cancellation of the discriminatory decision of Urdu being compulsory for the recruitment for the NT post.

Stock Market: A Dream or Reality?

■ RATAN KESHRI

"I thought I'd invest a little money and get rich quickly... but instead, I ended up losing it all." If you've ever felt this way, you're not alone. Every year, millions of people in India invest in the stock market, and yet, a majority of them suffer losses. Some repeat the same mistakes over and over again, while others don't even realize what went wrong. Many people think of the stock market as a quick route to becoming wealthy. But the truth is, success in this field requires a deep understanding, accurate information, and a great deal of patience. If you invest wisely, the market can reward you. But if you dive in blindly, loss is almost certain. The stock market is a place where companies raise funds from the public and, in return, offer a small ownership stake in the form of shares. When you purchase a company's share, you become a part-owner of that business. If the company performs well, you benefit from its profits. India has two major stock exchanges - the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), where trading takes place from 9:15 AM to 3:30 PM on weekdays. Often, people invest without proper research. They may not know anything about the company's performance, its earnings, or future plans. Such investment is more like gambling. Sometimes, people invest based on tips they receive via social media or messaging apps, which later lead to big losses. Emotions also play a major role in poor investment decisions. People often buy rising stocks out of greed and sell falling ones out of fear. These rushed, emotional decisions usually result in long-term losses. Many think that daily trading or intraday trading will help them make more profit. They start buying and selling shares every day without a clear plan. While there might be some early gains, over time, such practices become risky. Another frequent mistake is not using a stop-loss. A stop-loss is a pre-decided level where one agrees to



exit a position to avoid larger losses. Without this, a small dip can turn into a massive loss. A lot of people also make the mistake of putting all their money into a single stock. If that company underperforms or crashes, their entire capital is wiped out. That's why it's crucial to diversify across sectors and companies. To succeed in the stock market, you must follow a disciplined

approach. Before investing in any stock, study the company thoroughly - check its balance sheet, past performance, and understand its business model. Also, aim for long-term investments. The market will always have short-term ups and downs, but strong companies tend to provide solid returns in the long run. There are two key tools for evaluating stocks - fundamental

analysis and technical analysis. Fundamental analysis helps assess a company's core financial health - including income, debt, and management quality. Technical analysis uses charts and price patterns to forecast potential price movements. Before investing, always define your investment amount, time frame, and financial goals. And once invested, regularly review your portfolio to make any necessary changes. Success in the stock market doesn't come overnight. It's a gradual journey that requires patience and consistency. If you avoid emotional decisions and stay focused on your plan, the stock market will eventually reward you.

A Real-Life Lesson to Remember:

Ravi and Manoj were close friends who entered the stock market together. Ravi, eager to earn fast, relied heavily on stock tips from social media and invested in a few low-cost shares. He expected quick gains. But within just six months, his portfolio was down by 40%. Manoj, on the other hand, held back initially. He spent time learning, understanding the market, analyzing company balance sheets and models. Then he began investing systematically via SIPs in strong companies. Two years later, while Ravi had left the market altogether, Manoj's investments had grown by 70%. This isn't just a story - it reflects the experience of countless investors. The key takeaway? Wisdom, patience, and the right strategy are essential to succeed in the stock market.

Conclusion:

The stock market is not a game of chance, but a field for strategic, thoughtful investors. If you're ready to learn and grow, it can be the path to your financial dreams. Understand the market, educate yourself, and invest with confidence - that's how you become a successful investor.

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