

#GARDEN
Flowers On Wood
The Smartest Way to Grow Flowers on Wood: You Won't Believe the Result



Imagine walking into a room and seeing bright, blooming flowers sprouting directly from a piece of wood. No soil, no traditional pots, just a rustic wooden base transformed into a living work of art. What sounds like magic is actually a clever gardening trend that combines creativity with sustainability: growing flowers on wood.

This innovative method uses pieces of driftwood, tree bark, or wooden planks as the foundation for plant growth. Instead of planting directly into the ground, gardeners attach flowers or epiphytic plants, those that naturally grow on other surfaces, onto the wood. By securing roots with moss and biodegradable ties, and misting regularly the flowers thrive just as they would in soil. Orchids, bromeliads, and air plants are especially well-suited for this technique, as they naturally cling to trees in the wild.

The results are breathtaking. A simple wooden log can turn into a vertical garden, bursting with blossoms that look as if they are naturally growing out of the wood itself. Beyond its beauty, this approach offers several benefits.

- Eco-friendly décor: Upcycled wood becomes a sustainable planter.
- Space-saving: Perfect for small apartments or balconies where floor space is limited.
- Low maintenance: Many mounted plants require less frequent watering and thrive with just occasional misting.
- Artistic appeal: Each arrangement is unique, blending natural textures of wood with vibrant flowers.

Gardeners around the world are embracing this method not just as a hobby but as a form of living art. Some even craft entire 'flower walls' by mounting multiple pieces of wood with different blooms, creating striking displays indoors or outdoors.

What makes this practice so exciting is its blend of tradition and modern creativity. Ancient cultures often used natural materials to grow and display plants, and today's gardeners are reviving that practice with a fresh twist. With the right flowers, a bit of patience, and care, anyone can transform a lifeless piece of wood into a blooming masterpiece.

The smartest way to grow flowers on wood isn't just about gardening, it's about reimagining what's possible. The end result looks so natural, it's enchanting that you'll have to remind yourself that it's a creation, not a miracle of nature. Truly, you won't believe the result until you see it.



A Disillusioned Youth Is A World Wide Phenomenon

Sadly, by the 90's, disillusionment was palpable. Bureaucratic apathy, inefficiency, fiscal deficit and an unfavourable balance of payment created a crisis, pushing for a change. Liberalisation had to be embraced. A new era of market-driven structure, foreign investments, and private enterprise, all came in and once capitalism viewed with mistrust, became the engine of financial growth. Middle class prospered, technology sparked, and India was on the world map. And just as in the U. S., in the Indian youth, the shine has dimmed. Inequality, and wealth with only a few corporate houses, is visible. Farmers are protesting against corporate control. Youth face unemployment, although well educated. The system is rigged, to favour a few.



It is a disturbing world, more than that, it is a confusing world. America is nervous, and it's making others jittery too. Why this insecurity and feeling of doom? For this, we have to look at the world as a single picture. This 'single picture' is absolutely true today, we have to realize, that the world is no more islands of one culture, or one even colour.

No more can one separate 'yellow' Chinese from 'brown' Indians, or 'white' Europeans. These borders have been lost to the surging youth numbers in the world. Internet, communications, satellites have broken borders we knew and honoured. The young, all over the world, can actually see, not visualise, how others live and prosper. World politics is no more a space in the twilight, people read about it, and in fact, many versions of the same thing.

In a recent Gallup poll in the United States, a shocking thing was revealed. Only 54% of Americans now subscribe to capitalism; the backbone of American thought, or was up till now. This is the lowest it has ever got to. Meanwhile, it's socialism that has sneaked up, par-

ticularly amongst the young. For a 'one test' piece, the front runner for Mayor of New York, Zohra Mamdani, who swept the polls, speaks for the immigrants. It is well known that the Republicans largely favour capitalism, and the Democrats are more likely to want socialism, this has had a turn-around! Or it looks very close to it. But the story is incomplete!

For the emerging youth, a large number it is a story of discontent, a generational one. Capitalism appears to be made for a few and rich, not the many, not themselves. This is not the Youth of New York alone. Indian, Nepali, as was evident in the very recent violent protests we witnessed, also Cambodian and Indonesian youth have been on the streets protesting. Australia also saw protests. On the outset, it may seem that, all they want is their jobs. But no, it's not about the jobs. Unemployment in the U.S. has been at its lowest in the last Gallup numbers. It's about disillusionment. Disillusionment with the way things are stacked against fairness, a good chance at achieving

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dreams, aspirations and a future. Shockingly, this is looking rather true for the youth globally! Including India. India has been rooted in the socialist philosophy since



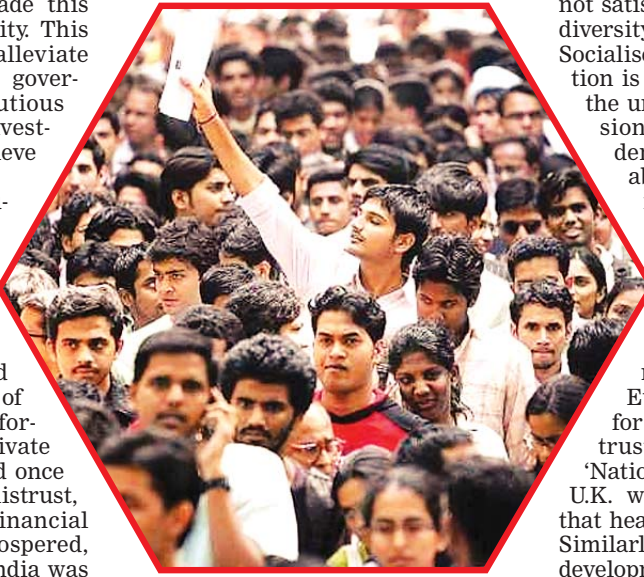
against corporate control. Youth face unemployment, or an employment they did not seek, although well educated. The system is rigged, to favour a few.

Today, India is neither. Not a socialist, nor a capitalist economy.

Prime Minister Nehru made this the Indian economic identity. This model was supposed to alleviate masses through state led governance, but mostly a cautious approach to foreign investments. The goal was to achieve self-reliance.

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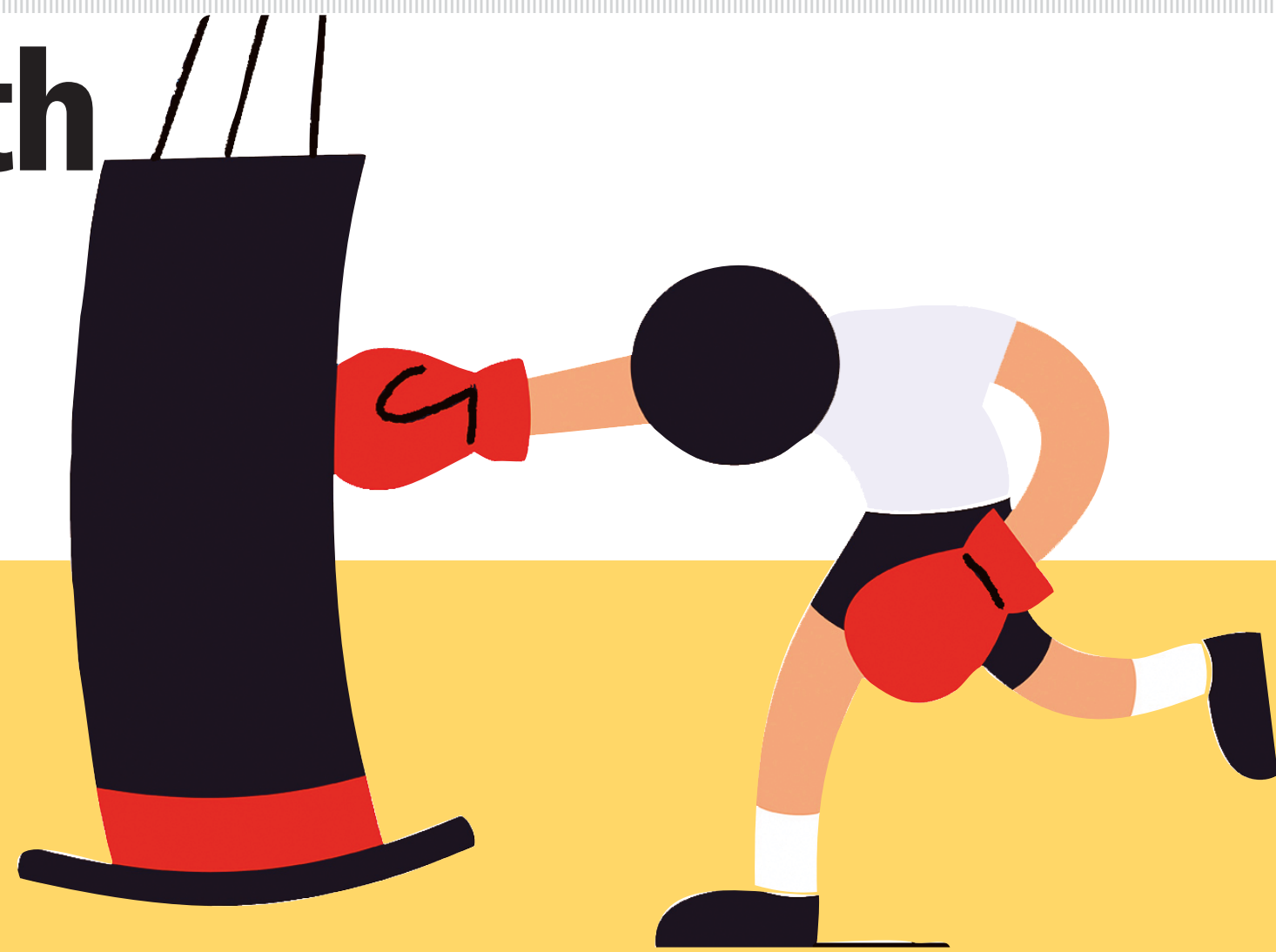


Mostly, a mix of both. We have private hospitals and schemes, multinational companies, and subsidized food, MGNREGA. This is by design. Either or of the economy types can



Save the Koala Day

Save the Koala Day, observed on September 26, 2025, shines a spotlight on one of Australia's most iconic and vulnerable animals. Koalas face serious threats from habitat destruction, climate change, bushfires, and disease, making conservation efforts critical for their survival. This day encourages global awareness and action, whether by supporting wildlife organizations, planting eucalyptus trees, or advocating for stronger environmental protections. Beyond their cuddly image, koalas play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. Save the Koala Day reminds us that protecting these marsupials is not only about preserving a species but also about safeguarding biodiversity for future generations.



#COINAGE The Dinar in Deccan

Roman coins unearthed in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka tell us that Roman traders came to Indian ports for pearls, spices, textiles, and gemstones

From the glittering markets of ancient Rome to the bustling temple towns of South India, the dinar, a coin born in the empires of the Mediterranean and the Middle East, traveled thousands of miles to become part of the economic and cultural life of the Deccan plateau. This is the story of how one of the world's most recognizable coins found its way to the heart of India, leaving behind clues to an extraordinary legacy of trade, power, and exchange.



Weight : 7.84 Grams

Origins: The Dinar in Rome and Beyond

The dinar has its roots in the Roman denarius, a silver coin first minted around the 3rd century BCE. As Rome expanded its influence across Europe and into parts of Asia and North Africa, its coins, especially silver dinarii, circulated

Legacy in Numismatics and Modern History

Today, Roman dinarii and Islamic dinars found in South India are prized pieces in museums and private collections. They are not just beautiful relics; they are evidence of South India's cosmopolitan past. These coins speak of kingdoms that were not insular, but global-connected to the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the Mediterranean through trade and diplomacy. Modern numismatists trace these coin trails to understand the economic, political, and religious interactions between civilizations that were once thought to be distant and disconnected.

But what does this have to do with India?

Plenty. India, especially South India, was not isolated. It was deeply plugged into maritime trade networks that spanned from Egypt to China. The Deccan, with its inland kingdoms like the Satavahanas,

and Chalukyas, and Rashtrakutas, sat at the crossroads of overland and seaborne trade. Ports along the Coromandel and Konkan coasts served as vital links to Roman, Persian, and later Arab merchants.

How the Dinar Reached the Deccan

Archaeological finds, particularly Roman coins unearthed in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka, tell us that Roman traders arrived in Indian ports in search of pearls, spices, textiles, and gemstones. In return, they paid in silver and gold coins. The Deccan's inland markets, connected by trade routes to these coastal cities, absorbed this foreign currency, sometimes melting them down, re-

minting them, or using them in raw form. By the 8th century CE, Arab traders had replaced Roman merchants as the dominant sea-faring commercial power. They brought with them Islamic gold dinars and silver dirhams, which began to circulate in Indian trade centers. The term 'dinar' itself likely influenced Indian currency terms like 'dinar' and 'tanka,' used in medieval inscriptions and minting records.

Cultural Adaptations and Influence

Interestingly, coins weren't just money, they were messengers. The arrival of Roman and Islamic coins in the Deccan influenced local coinage in style, script, and metal content. Local rulers sometimes imitated foreign coins to emphasize international connections, legitimacy, or sheer aesthetic appeal. Inscriptions on Indian coins occasionally reflect these

outside influences, blending Persian, Arabic, Brahmi, or Nagari scripts. Temples, too, played a key role. They functioned as banks and repositories of wealth. Foreign coins were donated, stored, or even offered as part of ritual practices. Over time, these coins became embedded in the religious and economic infrastructure of Deccan society.

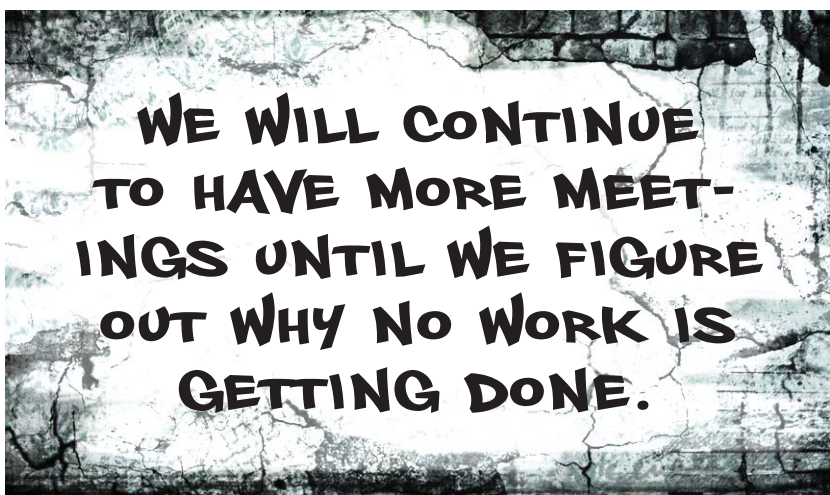


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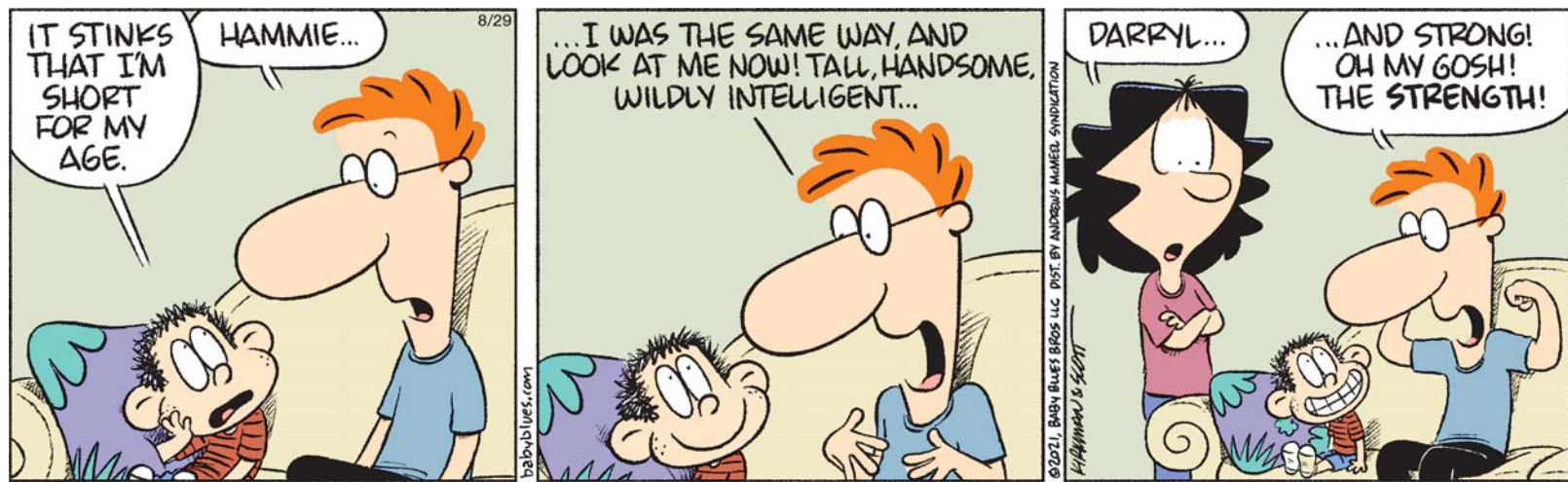
Coins as Silent Storytellers

The journey of the dinar through the Deccan is more than a story of trade. It is a story of shared history, of material culture that moved across boundaries, and of a subcontinent that was never truly isolated. These small, ancient coins, whether buried in temple vaults or dug from the soil of Karnataka, are silent storytellers of a time when gold spoke every language.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman