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### Delhi\_Police\_Typing-Dated-2026-01-01-Test NO.-24301

For all the focus on how Russia economy is in trouble, isolated and battered by Western sanctions for its war on Ukraine, its most important ally, China faces serious tremors as well. No other major country is showing deeper sinkholes of economic trouble than China. After building for months, financial stress emanating from the Chinese property sector has blown out to unprecedented levels in recent weeks, destabilising an already brittle economy, and making it less likely that Beijing will aggressively support Russia ambitions in Ukraine. Data presented by a parliamentary standing committee show that vacancies in the IAS, earlier only thought to be at the central government level, are affecting state governments too. Gol had mooted an amendment to service rules to ensure more officers are available for central deputation by making states consent immaterial, triggering stiff pushback from opposition governed states. Gol was unhappy that though the number of IAS officers had increased from a decade ago, officers on the central deputation reserve had reduced by 27. Now the parliamentary committee has revealed that over 1,500 sanctioned IAS officer posts 22 at the state level lie vacant with some states reporting greater gaps than others. This is despite quick fixes like conferring IAS on state civil service officers or temporarily appointing other central or state cadre officers to posts reserved for IAS. The last review of IAS cadre strengths in 2012 had fixed the annual intake at 180 officers. The parliamentary committee has remarked that a panel constituted to revise this number for 2022 onwards can significantly increase the intake to fill sanctioned posts. But alongside quantity, bureaucracy is also battling a crisis of quality. Recent Gol initiatives like Mission Karma yogi and Capacity Building Commission must lead to a performance management system that can reward the best and brightest and deter young officers from sliding into mediocrity. Underperformers must be retired prematurely so that they don't drag down governance. Currently, talented officers, sandwiched between mediocrity and officer scarcity, are heavily overworked. This is not a sustainable path. Unlike pyramidal hierarchies in typical organisations, central cadres like IAS and IPS have cylindrical structures because of assured promotions. For instance, Punjab police has around 30 DGP ADGP level officers. This top heaviness is contributing to governance: look at Punjab entrenched drug and liquor mafia. Meanwhile, Gol efforts at lateral entry have struggled because unlike many IAS officers who rise **to** the mid and senior levels with deep rooted knowledge of the terrain and strong support networks, lateral entrants face the outsider tag despite industry or research or grassroots experience they may possess. But where quantity or quality won't fix the bureaucracy deficit that the parliamentary committee observed is the role of bad politics. There is no political incentive to review the number of officers parked in non-essential departments, commissions, corporations and schemes that symbolise big government. This would be a starting point to cut governance flab at not just the personnel level. Maybe Gol can show the way to states.

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The two day Bharat Bandh called by a joint platform of central trade unions got off to a very uneven start across states yesterday. The agenda of the protesting unions include both staple fare such as an end to privatisation and also higher budgetary allocation for MGNREGA. The patchy response to a wide agenda aimed at canvassing broad support tells a tale. It that the unions represent a sliver of the workforce. Their irrelevance to the larger workforce organised sector workers are just about 13 of the total labour supply is only matched by Gol 14 year legislation to provide social security for unorganised workers. The long trek home for millions of migrant workers after the imposition of a harsh national lockdown at short notice two years ago symbolised the precariousness of their jobs. Tragic worker deaths in incidents like factory or godown fires speak of their job conditions. The pandemic has worsened their lot despite Gol attempts beginning October 2020 to provide limited duration fiscal support to create jobs with social security benefits. A year into the policy, the majority of urban jobs were either casual labour or self employed. About 51 of urban employed, according to latest Gol data, belonged to these two categories in the July September 2021 quarter. This is a higher proportion than the pre pandemic level. CMIE jobs data for the September December 2021 period indicated that India labour force is 436 million strong. Of it, 32 million were unemployed and actively seeking work. It the age composition of the unemployed that is striking. Of 32 million, as many as 30 million were the 15 29 age group. Unemployment rates suddenly collapse for older age groups. It a proxy indicator that many Indians willy silly end up in jobs with poor work conditions and low pay. Only sustained high economic growth and investment in enhancing human capital will help. As for Gol fiscal support, which will end this week, it helped about 5 million people, a little over 1 of the labour force. After its drubbing in the recently concluded assembly elections, will Congress revive, will its internal squabbling finally end, and what are the other challenges ahead Swati Mathur spoke about these issues with Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Congress Now that Covid is skulking in the shadows recharging its batteries or whatever viruses do when they are pooped, we **went** to the movies. All the people who should be banned from the hall were there. The latecomer who stomps on your toes. The guy in the row behind you who smacks your head as he stumbles past in the dark. The canoodling couple who have no interest in the movie and are cooing like bilious pigeons. The three ladies who have done their shopping and now stagger in with six bags and spread them around like they were beneath an Xmas tree, then begin to hunt for some item, rustling about, brailing in their bags, driving you crazy as they.

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Search then right in front of you sits that mobile phone lover who must check for messages every few minutes and tries to conceal the lit screen but does it so clumsily that yes, you are disturbed and annoyed and you want to yell, shut it off, you are not that important. In your row is the one cine goer with the weak bladder who has to go and scrunches past you, ouch my toes, makes it worse with a string of sorriest, then repeats all the felonies on his return trip. We also had a 3D version of the food crunching brigade in front, on the right and behind and they munch, chomp, slurp, mash, in a sort of wild symphony of eating sounds that are like chalk on a blackboard. Then there are the chatterboxes who feel it is fine to natter in stage whispers, so what if others are inconvenienced, our seats, our money. The person behind my wife was a thudded and sprawled, pushing at her seat every few moments with his foot, an activity that can lead to war. With us too was the acme of cinematic agony, a friend who has seen the movie before and needs to warn you of the good parts, the funny parts, the watch this scene, it great stuff, parts. I am watching it if you let me, that is why I came. To watch some of this tribe even spouts the dialogue for you in advance and they sing along. Happy you are enjoying yourself because I am not. Two rows behind us was a group of youngsters, giggling and squealing and the mandatory humorist was making them laugh with his running commentary and they found it even funnier when someone told them to shut up already. The only person who did not make it to this party was the newly endowed mother with the crying baby. The recent decision of the Bombay High court in *Rebuke Shined and Seem Gait v s. The union of India and the state of Maharashtra* has once again put the spotlight on this sad reality. The court has commuted the death sentence given to convict petitioners to that of life imprisonment due to unexplained and gross delay of long eight years in disposal of their mercy petitions by both executive and constitutional authorities. This decision is based on rationale of **several** earlier Supreme Court verdicts given in past several years commuting death sentence to life imprisonment due to unexplained long delay in disposal of mercy petitions. And yet the callousness, irresponsibility and inefficiency of the executive and constitutional authorities continue unabated, giving reprieve to the convict and resulting in travesty of justice for the victim of the grievous crime committed by the convict. Mercy petition and powers of President, Governor and Government Mercy petition is a petition which can be filed by the convict to the President asking him to change his death sentence into life imprisonment. The court has lambasted.

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In the annals of recent memory, the spectacle of our beloved boys in blue shedding tears has captured the collective heart of our nation. These tears, emanating from sheer joy and happiness, have been a poignant experience for every Indian. Witnessing our icons openly display their emotions be it through jubilant Bhangra, ecstatic jumping, affectionate kissing, triumphant shouting, or heartfelt crying has been profoundly moving. It is a testament to the breaking of the antiquated taboo that men should not cry. Tears, the divine endowment from God, are the purest expression of human emotion. Traditionally, the realm of tears was seen as exclusively feminine, a biased belief that men must always remain stoic. However, this archaic perception is rapidly being dismantled. Men, too, are blessed with emotions and the ability to express them. When a believer is struck by a calamity, the tears that flow are a soulful turning towards the Divine, irrespective of gender. Humanity often awaits grand, mystical signs, but those with a lively consciousness find profound meaning in the quotidian happenings around them. Their hearts beat in tandem with the roll of thunder and the flash of lightning, and as raindrops fall, tears stream down their faces. God holds in high regard the individual who uncovers truth through personal intellectual effort, who perceives the Divine in the unseen realms, who champions absolute truth, whose soul is immersed in God love, and whose eyes weep with reverence. The shedding of tears lightens the burden on one heart, and in the intimate whispers shared with the Divine, one feels a profound sense of fulfillment. In contemporary society, men coexist and interact within a complex web of social relationships. Trust and mutual confidence are paramount in maintaining this intricate social fabric. Agreements and decisions between individuals often require solemn oaths, invoking God name to underscore their gravity. The breach of such agreements disrupts social harmony and hinders constructive progress. There are two ways to solemnize an agreement in God name: one is through the formal utterance of an oath, and the other involves an implicit reference to the Divine. Breaking an agreement sanctified by God name is particularly egregious, revealing a troubling hypocrisy using God name to gain trust while disregarding divine principles for personal gain. Empathy and a well-wishing mentality can infuse any discourse with a transformative power. Let us strive to bring this empathy and understanding to **our** societal discourse, where everyone emotions are respected and valued. Let us strive to instill in our young men the invaluable lesson of expressing their emotions rather than stifling their feelings of joy, happiness, sadness, or sorrow. The act of expression, far from diminishing their masculinity, lightens the soul and alleviates the burdens of mental stress. There is no rationale for one to carry the heavy load of unspoken emotions. Rather, true strength lies in the courage to reveal one inner emotional landscape. It time we challenge the societal norms that dictate men should be stoic and unemotional and instead empower them to express their feelings openly. This change will benefit the individual and contribute to a more empathetic society. The Republic Day parade is not as compelling as goats think it is. The reason is that it is a state-sponsored event. As are many other big public shows. Then there are marches and processions



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Filling our streets with colorful costumes, music, dance and pageantry. Think of Mardi Gras in New Orleans, or Samba parades in Rio Carnival. Closer to our borders, the Chinese New Year parades are a spectacle to watch and envy. Ditto for Esala Peripheral, or the tooth festival, in Sri Lanka. The annual carnival in Goa could well be the thing the rest of India emulates. By drawing people across communities, such parades would reinforce our secular culture. They would also foster a stronger sense of community. Religious festivals, of course, already bring a lot of enjoyment to our streets. Giddy Padua, the spring-time festival, is a good example of this. The sight of women reveling on Mumbai roads, some even on motorbikes, is as heartening as it can get in a patriarchal society like ours. If there is a caveat at all, it is that we must make public spaces safe enough for women to join the party without reservations. Two years ago, Rishi Sunak became the first person with Indian roots to become Prime Minister of Britain. Some people wondered if this meant race was important in politics anymore. Now, his party is losing badly in elections. In America, some people are asking why Kamala Harris, who is part Indian and part Black, is being chosen to run for president. In many countries, people often talk about how different groups vote like how Black people, poor people, or women in cities might vote. This is called identity politics. But it not simple. Rishi Sunak is not white, but he also very rich. The person running against him is white, but he grew up poor and uses public healthcare. Sometimes, being rich or poor matters more than skin color in politics. In France, they have their own way of thinking about identity in politics. Even a politician from a party that usually does like immigrants has a deputy leader whose parents were immigrants! The important thing to remember is that everyone has many parts to their identity. Someone can be a woman, a doctor, a sports fan, and have parents from another country all at the same time. In a democracy, all these different identities have to work together and find ways to get along. Politics can get complicated, but it about finding a balance between different groups and ideas. The great thing about democracy is that it lets **all** these different groups talk to each other and make decisions together. Two years ago, when Rishi Sunak party elected him Britain first Asian-origin PM, the buzz was whether the country had entered a post-race era. Today, when voters have crashed Conservatives to a historic low, is it on account of Rishi being brown? Across the pond, is Democrats reluctance to bump Kamala up the presidential ticket also racially rooted? We ask similar questions of voting blocs in different democracies how Blacks or Dalits or white suburban women or banlieues are tilting. The questions are legit, reflecting how identity politics has deepened everywhere. But the answers are complicated, because one brand of politics, say leftwing or rightwing, can host different kinds of identities. Rishi is brown, but also rich, richer than his king. Keir Starmer is white, but was the first from his working-class family to go to uni, and he uses NHS. Class is as important a political identity marker as race or religion. Also, Conservatives thumping has been on the cards since the Boris-Liz mess that made Rishi PM. But Kamala identity is more of a millstone. She has managed to make all her hyphenation cohere e

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The casual approach of the officers of the executive. Article 72 of the constitution empowers President to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the death sentence to that of life imprisonment. Article 161 bestows similar powers on Governor of the state. Sections 432 to 435 of the Criminal Code of Procedure and sections 54 and 55 of Indian Penal Code deal with power of government to suspend, remit, commute the death or imprisonment for life sentence. Exercise of power by Constitutional authorities and duty of court It is a principle of law well settled through the catena of Supreme Court judgments, that the power of President or the Governor under article 72 161 is a constitutional obligation and is not a prerogative. Considering the high status of office though the Constitutional makers may not have found it fit to stipulate any time limit for disposal of mercy petitions these should be decided within a reasonable period time. However, when the delay in disposal is seen to be unreasonable, unexplained and exorbitant, it is the duty of this Court to step in and consider this aspect. Every Constitutional duty must be fulfilled with due care and diligence. Logic of power bestowed on President The logic and rationale behind this power given to President is well stated by Supreme Court in *Lehar Singh vs. Union of India* in these words The deprivation of personal liberty and the threat of the deprivation of life by the action of the State is in most civilised societies regarded seriously and, recourse, either under express constitutional provision or through legislative enactment is provided to the judicial organ. But, the fallibility of human judgment being undeniable even in the most trained mind, a mind resourced by a harvest of experience, it has been considered appropriate that in the matter of life and personal liberty, the protection should be extended by entrusting power further to some high authority to scrutinize the validity of the threatened denial of life or the threatened or continued denial of personal liberty. The power so entrusted is a power belonging to the people and reposed in the highest dignitary of the State. It is a power which is capable of being exercised on a variety of grounds, for reasons of State as well as the desire to safeguard against judicial error. It is an **act** of grace. Lawful execution of sentence and role of judiciary The Supreme Court has time and again held that just as the death sentence is passed lawfully, the execution of the sentence must also be done in accordance with constitutional principles. The convict petitioner approaches Supreme Court under article 32 seeking commutation of sentence on the basis of undue delay caused in execution of their death sentence, which amounts to torture and is therefore violative of Article 21 of the Constitution guarantying protection of life and personal liberty. The distinction between both the circumstances is clear. Earlier the petitioners would.

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Be the convict with death sentence but later on petitioner is a victim who approaches the court for violation of guaranteed fundamental rights under the Constitution seeking commutation of death sentence. When the judiciary interferes in such matters, it does not interfere with the powers of executive or constitutional authorities but it does so only to uphold the protection provided by the Constitution to every convict including death convicts. The court does not go into merits of it earlier judgement convicting the petitioner and awarding him death sentence. Exercise of power must be lawful and expeditious The constitutional powers and all public powers should not be exercised in an arbitrary and mala fide manner. There should be proper restrictions, proper guidelines and a fair procedure. The absence of which contravenes with the guarantees of protection of life and personal liberty and violates human rights. The Supreme Court has time and again impressed upon the Government of India and the State Governments that mercy petitions must be disposed of expeditiously. Hearing a petition in May 2020 Supreme court had expressed it keenness to explore the possibility of setting a time limit for the Ministry of Home Affairs which deals with mercy petitions. Given the fact that the undue delay in disposal of mercy petitions has perhaps an unintended consequence of the convict getting rewarded by way of commutation of death sentence to life imprisonment and the victims and it family weeping and suffering silently without any legal recourse the authorities concerned must pull up their socks to avoid delay in decision making. In an era of decaying of value systems and knowing the delays involved in executive machinery the convict may move a mercy petition as a stepping stone for a petition seeking commutation of death sentence to life imprisonment and which when secured would further pave the way for remission of the remainder of imprisonment from the Competent Authority. The visit of Wang Yi, the Chinese foreign minister and the State Councillor to India, which remained under wraps till he arrived at New Delhi after visiting Pakistan and Afghanistan, had multiple objectives. China assessing the geopolitical changes resulting from the Russia Ukraine conflict, appeared to have tried to push its agenda in this region with the larger objective in the South China Sea. The broad objective of China was three fold: first, to take steps for the expansion of **its** BRI in the region, second to exploit Afghanistan deteriorating economic condition by having mining rights where practically there is no competition, and third diplomatically push the Sino Indian border issue to the back burner to formalise the military gains with a view to focus on grabbing Taiwan. Wang Yi utterances in Pakistan at the OIC indicating its support to the Pak view on J&K before coming to India could be taken as a diplomatic blunder. However, it was a deliberate statement to project India that China had an upper hand in the region and this was the time that India.

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Diplomatically formalised the Chinese military gains at the border. Unfortunately for Wang, the Indian NSA Ajit Doval and Foreign Minister Jaishankar clearly told Wang that unless the border situation improves, there cannot be normal relations between the two countries. Wang, as is normal for the Chinese diplomacy, came out with nicely camouflaged concepts to press that normalisation of the relations between the two countries should be given priority and for this the border issue should be placed at an appropriate position meaning not giving it any importance. Wang proposed three concepts to take forward the Sino Indian relationship. First, both countries should take a long term view, put the border issue in an appropriate position, and adhere to the correct direction for development in ties. Second, China and India should have a win win mindset. This meant that India accepts the current Chinese position and work with China for mutual benefits. This sentence reminds the Chinese military spokesperson statement after the Galwan Valley clashes that India should be happy with the gains already made at the border. Surprising statement as the India territory is under the Chinese occupation. Third, both countries should take part in the multilateral process with a cooperative posture. This was to ensure that Indian PM participates in the next BRICS Summit to be hosted by China and also to make India agree to work in Russia China India format, obviously under its leadership. India approach towards Russia in the current environment may have given Wang a hope of finding a common ground against the West that could weaken the Quad. China does not realise that India close relations with Russia are not merely because of India dependence for defence equipment on Russia or its support in the UNSC but because India realises its importance for the Central Asia and that Russia is also a leverage against China. Moreover, India approach towards Russia even in the present conflict is quite different from the Chinese. The only convergence is the emphasis on immediate ceasefire and return to diplomacy and dialogue. Indian NSA and foreign minister firmly stuck to the known Indian position. Ajit Doval clearly told that an early and complete disengagement and de escalation was in the mutual interest. Doval is reported to have conveyed that he would visit China as soon as the immediate issues are resolved successfully, when he was invited by Wang for **the** next round of talks between the Special Representatives of the two countries. Jaishankar responded to the suggestion from Wang that India and China return to normalcy in relationship by stating that the prerequisite was peace and tranquillity a hint to the past agreements on the border, which China has been violating with impunity. While other issues were also discussed, there was no joint statement. Wang also could not meet PM Modi. Thus, from the bilateral point of view it was just an opportunity for photo op. However, there could be a larger objective of the Wang visit to this region.



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China knowing that the world attention is now focused on the Ukraine Russia conflict, it could achieve its objective of grabbing Taiwan. It may be recalled that Xi at the new year speech had said: The complete reunification of our motherland is an aspiration shared by people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. In the past whenever the International Community was focused on other areas, it occupied features in the South China Sea. When the world was in a flux after the dissolution of the Soviet Union and countries were readjusting their relations, China grabbed the Mischief Island and later militarised it. Again, when the world attention was more focussed on the West Asian issues and Afghanistan, China occupied the Scarborough feature, created artificial islands and militarised them. It is very likely that China could make bold attempts to occupy Taiwan finding the circumstances favourable for this objective. To achieve this, China would not want any crisis at the Sino Indian border. Wang visit could have this as one of the main objectives. The US and other countries need to keep this possibility in their calculus and take appropriate pre emptive steps to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21, was sent to a parliamentary standing committee for further discussion. The bill is built on the assumption that raising the age of marriage will eradicate the practice of child marriage. However, this rationale does have any prior evidence to support it, because even when the legal age was set at 18, child marriages continued to take place without any fear of the law. This begs the question: Can legislation alone possibly curb child marriage

Prevalence of child marriage Child marriage, according to UNICEF, is defined as a marriage of a girl or boy before the age of 18, and refers to both formal marriages and informal unions in which children under the age of 18 live with a partner as if married. It is a consequence of deep rooted socio cultural norms and entrenched gender inequalities, which end up disproportionately impacting girls. In a patriarchal society such as India, girls are often raised with the ultimate goal of marriage. They are confined to the household and not educated or expected to enter the workforce. Thus, until they are married, they are seen as a financial burden by the families, and marrying them off **early** is not only consistent with tradition but also more economically feasible. The risk of an extramarital pregnancy which can endanger marriage prospects and make the girl a financial liability for an indefinite period also makes child marriage seem to be a solution instead of a problem for many Indian communities. Thus, even though they illegal, child marriages have wide societal sanction. This is evident from the recently released fifth round of the National Family Health Survey, according to which nearly one fourth of women aged between 20 and 24 were reported to have been married before 18. The decrease is.

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Marginal from the last round of the survey conducted in 2015 16, despite the fact that the existing child marriage law has been in place for over four decades. While there was an impressive drop in child marriages from 2005 06 and 2015 16, this might be attributable to better educational opportunities and other factors rather than the law. Concerns about the proposed legislation The proposed legislation to raise the legal marriage age for girls to 21 can have several harmful consequences. The Possible misuse of the law According to a survey by Partners for Law in Development, 65 percent of the cases under the existing child marriage law were in response to elopement not necessarily involving marriage and were filed by disapproving parents or families. These cases would be wrongfully filed to harass the couple, their age or legality of the marriage notwithstanding. Increasing the age to 21 will bring more consenting adults who choose to marry under the threat of such harassment, and could become a tool for people to oppose inter religious and inter caste marriages. 2. Disempowerment of women A 2008 Law Commission report on reforming family law recommended a uniform age of marriage for boys and girls at 18 years and not 21. The reason: If all citizens can vote, enter contracts, be guardians, tried as adults for crimes they commit at 18, why should they be allowed to get married as well, regardless of their gender The new law could curtail the freedom of choice of a greater number of women. 3. Possible increase in sex selective practices The current socio economic system makes people want to marry their daughters as soon as they can or choose not to have a daughter at all. Increasing the legal marriage age without changing patriarchal social norms can result in parents feeling even more burdened by what they view as additional responsibility of the girl child, which in turn could lead to an increase in sex selective practices. Recommendations There are several strategies that have worked globally in reducing the incidence of child marriages. Some solutions that might work in the Indian context are discussed below. 1. Bringing about parity in the legal age of marriage We endorse the recommendation of the 2008 Law Commission to make the legal age of marriage for boys and girls uniform at 18 years and not 21. When individuals can **vote** at 18, they should also be allowed to choose their partners at this age. The to Investing in girls education There is clear evidence that allowing girls to complete their education delays marriage and provides them with the opportunity of being financially independent. According to the NFHS 4, the median age of marriage increases from 17.2 years for women with no schooling to 22.7 years for women with 12 or more years of schooling. Education enables them to fulfill their aspirations and live a life of dignity, and affords them the agency to uphold their sexual and reproductive rights in their.

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In **The Game changers Women Entrepreneurs Redefining Success**, Kiran Manral turns the spotlight on a generation of women who've quietly upended the way we think about ambition. Gone are the hash tags of girl boss grit and 4 a. m. hustle in their place stand stories of purpose, empathy, and authentic leadership. Through candid conversations and sharp observations, Manral's portraits reveal that success today isn't about shouting the loudest; it's about lasting the longest, and doing it on your own terms. With her trademark wit and warmth, Manral nudges readers to look beyond the buzzwords. The women in **The Game changers** aren't chasing validation, they're building value. And in a world addicted to speed, their calm confidence might just be the most radical move of all. Here are excerpts from an interview with the author Surya. The title **The Game Changers** sounds bold and almost like a challenge. Was that deliberate? Kiran Manral (KM) absolutely, the title was a very deliberate choice. **The Game Changers** isn't just about women who broke through barriers; it is about women who are steadily redefining the rules of the entrepreneurial game entirely. The title had to carry energy, intent, and definitely a certain defiance, to reflect the women I was writing about. I've constantly tried new things, thanks to a low boredom threshold, and by virtue of that I seem to have constantly reinvented myself every decade of my life. In that sense, yes, this book does seem to mirror my own refusal to stay confined to a single definition of who I am. SHK You've written of, for, and about women for years, but this time you've stepped into the entrepreneurial arena. What made you want to explore this space now? KM My earlier books profiled women who shaped India across fields politics, science, cinema, sports, entrepreneurship and more. With **The Game Changers**, I wanted to focus specifically on women entrepreneurs. This is an exciting moment for women in business in India. From unicorn founders to small-town innovators building sustainable ventures, women are claiming space with courage, creativity and resilience. Yet I noticed a gap their stories were often reduced to metrics and milestones, instead of mind set and meaning. What drives many of these entrepreneurs isn't just opportunity or profit. It's lived experience responding to a need they felt personally or witnessed around them, or entering spaces where women are rarely **seen**. I wanted to explore what anchors them, what empowers them, and what fuels them beyond performance. In many ways, this book is a natural continuation of my commitment to telling women's stories this time through the lens of leadership and enterprise. SHK You've said the book is about authenticity, not hustle. In a world obsessed with productivity, what does authentic success look like to you? KM For me, authentic success is when who you are aligns with what you do when you don't have to perform an idea of success for the world. Hustle culture tells us that busyness equals worth and exhaustion is an achievement. But every woman I interviewed had, in her own way, rejected that myth. They valued meaning over motion. Authentic success is quiet. It focuses on building something sustainable, choosing integrity over optics, and knowing when to pause as much as when to push. It's the confidence to say no when something doesn't align with your values, and the joy of creating despite critics or doubt. That, to me, is what true success looks like.

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Were there any stories that stayed with you, ones that changed the way you think about ambition or failure? KM Vineeta Singh stands out for her resilience after two failed ventures; she built Sugar Cosmetics into a major brand. Rachana Gupta of Gynoveda brought together women's health, Ayurveda, and technology in a way no one had attempted before. Apurva Purohit chose to step away from a powerful corporate role to empower women at the grassroots. Neelu Khatri's shift from the Indian Air Force to entrepreneurship shows that ambition has no expiry date. And Rashi Narang built a thriving pet-care business when the very idea of pet parents was still new. Across these conversations, what struck me most were the stories of setbacks rejections, pivots, reinventions and fresh starts. They were a powerful reminder that failure is not the end, but often the most important lesson in resilience and self-belief. It made me see ambition not as a straight ladder, but a journey of detours that ultimately lead you back to yourself. SHK From venture capital to home-grown brands, these women come from wildly different worlds. Did you spot a common thread running through them? KM Absolutely. Despite differences in industry, scale, and background, what united them was a strong sense of purpose a desire to create something that adds real value to people's lives. Whether it was making series cool again for young women or pushing for 50% women's representation across an airline, they were all, in some way, lifting other women as they built. They shared a solutions-first mind set practical, determined, and driven to get it done. Each one was building something larger than her, whether through livelihoods, innovation, or shifting gender norms. And perhaps most importantly, they all led with empathy. Their emotional intelligence sets them apart shaping leadership that sustains rather than leadership that burns out. SHK The book highlights both the sparkle and the slog of entrepreneurship. How do you balance honesty with inspiration when telling these stories? KM That balances was integral to the book. I was clear that I did not want the book to become either a hagiography or a hard-luck chronicle. The sparkle and the glamour is what we see, but it is the behind the scenes, the failures, the relentless slog, the long hours, the self-doubt, the trade-offs, that was where the real story lay. My approach was to **let** the women's voices lead, which is why I chose the Q&A format rather than the narrative format. Their candour and honesty shaped the tone of the book. Hopefully, the readers will see the joys and the struggles, and be inspired to set off on their own entrepreneurial journeys. SHK There's a lot of warmth in your writing, even when you're making tough points. How do you stay tactful, especially when calling out uncomfortable truths? KM For me, its empathy. I don't write to judge I write to understand and to share stories that deserve to be heard. When I explore difficult subjects like failure or flawed decisions, it's through the lens of humanity What can a reader learn from this? Can it help them make better choices? Warmth encourages engagement, not defensiveness. My aim is always to present the truth with sincerity, allowing readers to reflect while staying rooted in facts. 'Centrism isn't nostalgia, it is survival' Rethinking stray dogs From crisis to opportunity From silence to support Building a human-first safety net in India Curiosity may have killed



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India retail landscape is set for a seismic shift with the government launch of the Open Network for Digital Commerce platform. The ambitious project aims to empower small retailers and mom-and-pop stores by integrating them into the country burgeoning ecommerce ecosystem, and creating a more level playing field with large e-commerce companies. Represents a watershed moment in India retail sector, offering small sellers from every corner of the country the opportunity to reap significant gains from the digital marketplace. The government commitment to nurturing the growth of small retailers signals a major shift in policy and a concerted effort to promote a more equitable retail landscape. Achieving a level playing field is only the first step towards realizing the full potential of the Open Network for Digital Commerce platform for small retailers in India. To truly benefit from this game-changing initiative, small sellers must take proactive measures to hit the ground running and capitalize on the opportunities it presents. In order to make the most of the platform, small retailers will need to take decisive action and implement some basic measures a proactive and strategic approach to achieve meaningful success. For small retailers, establishing a strong brand identity is crucial. Building a reputable brand helps to establish credibility and engender trust with customers, enables connecting with the target audience on a deeper level. A compelling brand identity can foster strong relationships that lead to increased customer loyalty and repeat business, making it an essential element of any successful e-commerce strategy. Equally important is the creation of a comprehensive product catalogue and listing. In the crowded world of e-commerce, a well-organized and well-curated product catalogue can be a game-changer for small retailers. By providing customers with detailed information about each product, such as features, dimensions, price, availability, color, and customer reviews, small retailers can instill confidence in their brand and increase the likelihood of making a sale. This marketing tool can be standardized across all sales channels to provide consistency and reinforce the credibility of the brand. Leveraging social media is another key element. Social media platforms have become a critical component of e-commerce marketing strategies, providing a cost-effective means of promoting products, building brand awareness, and engaging with customers. By effectively utilizing popular social platforms, small retailers can extend their reach and precisely target their desired audience, boosting their visibility and driving sales. For small retailers looking to succeed **on** the ONDC platform, a strategic and comprehensive approach that incorporates branding, product listing, and social media engagement is essential for achieving meaningful success. Data analytics has emerged as a powerful tool in the world of e-commerce, enabling retailers to gain a deeper understanding of their customer base and optimize their business operations. By analyzing key data points such as website traffic and effectiveness, small retailers can gain valuable insights into their customers behavior and preferences, allowing them to make data-driven decisions to enhance their e-commerce strategy. In the competitive landscape of e-commerce, understanding customer behavior is essential for sellers looking to remain competitive and drive sales. By utilizing data ana

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Industries, we are hoping that this year will bring good to the telecom medication sector as well, and see that how key priorities and challenges for the sector will change. Last year was yet another challenging year for Telco valuations, with share prices dropping significantly across the board. In 2021, many telcos had to reevaluate and adjust their plans due to the onset of the global pandemic and the impact on their businesses and customers. 2022 is definitively the year when we will see telcos coming back into action. Here are three major themes shaping the telco agenda in 2022: returning to value growth, accelerating digital transformation, and focusing more on the environment and society. Regenerating value growth after years of inaction, telcos will now shift their focus more on creating, capturing, and returning more value to their shareholders and one best way is through inorganic growth. In the last one and a half year, we ve seen several deals closing in the telco space, and the pace is not expected to slow down this year. In some of the associations, telcos are merging to grow their market share or acquire new assets. While for many players, M&A is critical to diversify into adjacent areas and expand their portfolios; this opens up opportunities as they look forward to offering a wider range of services and tap alternative revenue streams. This M&A boom will likely shift the landscape in many telco markets, driving consolidation and some scale. Several telcos are seen as bargains, especially as concerns about interest rate hikes shift the focus away from frothy growth assets to cheaper value choices after years of underperformance. However, while executing deals there is a lot that any telecom providers need to get right. The coming together of any new businesses and technologies, along with the harmonization of processes and cultures can be a daunting task. Since 5G is expected to be a major driver of new growth value, with telcos investing in 5G networks and services at an unprecedented rate, they will continue their effort to grow organically. We believe that 5G will not only enable new experiences for consumers but also create new opportunities for businesses of all sizes and nature, helping them drives innovation and efficiency. Continuous rollout and commercial experimentation of 5G are therefore key priorities for telcos in 2022. We also expect many telecom companies business divisions **to** witness revenue growth return, with higher attention on IT services. However, telcos must continue to build up capabilities in this segment if they want to fully capitalize on the growing demand of their clients for digital transformation and new technologies. This is the reason why this year telcos will seek to mature their vertical strategy and offering, focusing on opportunities for example around smart cities, healthcare, industrial manufacturing and more. Telcos will increasingly tie up with suppliers and partners, especially in areas such as security, to the cloud, and edge. We have seen quite a promising number of such partnerships.

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Can identify trends, patterns, and areas for improvement, enabling them to optimize their website and marketing strategies to better meet their customer needs and expectations. In a country where small retailers and mom-and-pop stores dominate the retail landscape, ONDC represents a significant shift in policy and a major opportunity for small sellers across India. The platform aims to empower small retailers, enabling them to reap significant gains from the digital marketplace. But it will require a strategic and comprehensive approach for small retailers to fully realize its potential and achieve meaningful success in the digital marketplace. With the start of the epidemic, a brand-new learning platform online education became popular across the world to maintain the momentum of learning among students. The daily preparation for education and the lengthy commute there and back became no longer necessary. Although it was originally thought of as a last-ditch effort to keep the kids in school, it ended up being one of the most crucial tools for high-quality education. Online learning has become more important and prevalent as a result of the continued development and growing reliance on digital technologies. With the touch of a screen, online learning platforms, including mobile apps, link students from all over the world. They offer a tactile learning environment where, despite the distance, students feel a connection to the course material and their peers. The ability to learn from a mobile app while doing chores, travelling or commuting provides a valuable experience that highlights the usefulness of getting an education as an adult. The increased flexibility of online education can be credited with its efficacy. The majority of online programmes are self-paced, allowing students to finish their education in a timeframe that works for them particularly those who are caring for loved ones, like young children or elderly parents. It has been demonstrated that adults benefit the most from this autonomy in selecting a timetable for learning. Needless to mention how much simpler it has become to communicate and interact with people around the world thanks to the internet. Online education, which is based on the internet, makes it possible to serve children educational needs holistically. Numerous advantages and learning opportunities that mimic real-world situations are provided by online learning, and these elements have the potential to keep students interested and focused. It is beneficial to familiarise kids with the various instructional techniques and learning strategies **used** in different nations. Additionally, it makes it simpler to organise meetings, conferences, and webinars on a national and foreign level to introduce students to their peer educational practices. Online education is an incredibly effective way to spark interest and clarity among students regarding various concepts, thanks to the correct use of end-tech and various AR and VR tools in teaching. In addition to the classroom, the use of various technological instruments, like 3-D images and videos, aid students in vividly reimagining their studies. It keeps them interested and eager to learn while also empowering them to independently search for, consider, and comprehend the various facets of a subject in their own manner. The greatest benefit of online learning is a flexible schedule that kids can modify to fit their learning styles and other extracurricular activities

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Mobile jobs and people with transferable jobs who find it challenging to frequently visit the school campus or follow their children on a set schedule can all benefit from it. My grandfather often tells me to try to feel blessed for every bit of what is available to us every day. As good as it sounds; I often find it difficult to think this way. The usual tendency has been to look for things that I do not have. Over the past few years, I have started to reflect on this thought quite deeply. Credit again goes to conversations with my grandfather, who has often encouraged and motivated me to think differently, step out of the box, do things that are uncomfortable, be disciplined with routines, and more than anything to listen to the heart, and follow dreams! Initially, I thought that all of this made sense, and would be things that I could easily adopt. Only with time, experience and detailed reflections was when I started to realize that this was not as easy as I thought it to be. It has been taking a great amount of effort, will power, and consciously trying to tell myself to be as self-aware and mindful as I can be. It truly is a journey and is something that one can get better at if practiced diligently daily. Internet and social media today are filled with influencers and motivational speakers spreading similar messages. I realized that personally I get quite motivated, as soon as I listen to these, but normal tendency has been to forget these as the motivation dips, and as we tend to get busy with other things and continue our day. I feel that it is good to absorb good messages and learning coming out of different people journeys, but the most important part of the whole picture is how much we can adopt the same in our lives, and not just for a once off basis, but in a sustainable manner. When we say try to feel blessed for every bit that we have, it would also include trying to also soak in and enjoy the tough times, the grind, things that make us uncomfortable. My grandfather often told me when I was younger to not shy away from things you are not good at, or just not do things that are easy to do. It is **important** to grind, take up difficult challenges, and push towards the goals passion we may have in our lives. There are situations where we might be confused about what to do next. It is important to have a group of people mentors who we can bounce our thoughts off, and as we come to a decision, there are again times where we might be in a situation where taking a leap of faith might be needed! This entire process instead of being looked at as a stressful one can be looked at as a one that is quite exciting and interesting from a different perspective, which is if we feel grateful for what we have and feel lucky to be present and alive, then these challenges can be looked as something that might end up giving us more new experiences, and hence adding more flavor and light to our lives! Personally, it has been a good practice to be thankful for all I have, and then keep reminding myself of how lucky I am to be here, and since I am here might as well make the most of it. Of course, there are days when the mind is all over the place, but the conscious effort has been to follow the above as diligently as possible, and hence this always will be work in progress. Wake up every day, be grateful, and then just push hard to give and get the best out in whatever activity we might take up. Also, try to eliminate excuses for things that I am



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Enter a digital, futuristic world. We have witnessed the growth of technologies that are the drivers of innovation. Right from the birth of Artificial Intelligence to its practical use cases across industries, the rise of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT and Bard, the inception of metaverse and conducting experiments in borderless virtual 4D environments that is transforming business we must ask ourselves if the innovation we envision is inclusive, equitable, and sustainable for long term socio-economic growth. According to a report released by Oxfam India, Indian women are 15% less likely to own a mobile phone and 33% less likely to use mobile internet services than men. Up skilling women for an equitable digital future is crucial in addressing the gender gap and ensuring equal access to learning opportunities for women in the digital workforce. So how do we curate a learning mindset and work towards up skilling women in an inclusive manner? Equitable access to education, training and functional skills Limited access to electricity, to the internet, and to digital devices all factor into the country digital divide, and it will take the collaborative partnership of many organizations in the private and public sector to address the divide. Providing access to education and training programs in digital skills is key to enabling women to participate in the digital economy. Especially in their formative years, there must be conscious focus on providing access to learning opportunities for young students. Encouraging girls to study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects from an early age can help build a pipeline of female talent in technology. It is equally important to have better representation of female role models to inspire more young female students to pursue career paths. Fostering collaborative learning communities Building a network of allies that act as advocates for women growth and providing a safe space for them to discuss and address challenges to growth also provides opportunities to learn and collaborate. Online communities can provide women with access to peer support, mentorship, and networking opportunities, while also creating a supportive and inclusive culture for up skilling. At Dell Technologies, The Women in Action (employee resource group) empowers women with several programs that consist of networking, mentoring, and opportunity building. These programs aim to identify key objectives that enable women team members to grow and reach their intended goals successfully. When it comes to democratizing learning, **online** learning platforms and mobile apps can provide women with access to digital skills training from anywhere, at any time. This can include gamified learning experiences, virtual and augmented reality simulations, and personalized learning pathways. Additionally, organizations that do not already have a framework in place for hosting events, webinars, and online communities that bring women together to connect, collaborate, and share their experiences are already far behind on the path to progress. Supporting female innovators and entrepreneurs With India now taking center-stage in the world of digital transformation, it is imperative to address how we can integrate innovation with inclusivity for a truly sustainable growth. Women bring a unique perspective and can contribute new ideas and ways of thinking throughout the innovation cycle. Working towards creating a platform to connect

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Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man. Education is the training by which the current and the expression of will are brought under control and becomes fruitful in life. Your inner self is divine, perfect and beautiful. Our purpose in life is to live & discover our inner nature. When we are in our inner self or close to it, we know what to do, and are filled with energy and drive. We have a sense of conviction and courage to do what we must. Doubts fall away and life has meaning. Our inner self becomes the basis of goals, vocation and interest in life, the fulfilment of which brings contentment and happiness in our lives. We in fact become a fountainhead, which brings joy to our own self and also to others. Our deepest source of power and perfection has been left miserably undeveloped. The mind is hidden within the living matter, completely neglected by physiologists and economists, almost unnoticed by physicians. Yet it is the most colossal power of this world. In the deeper levels of the mind are resources of power, strength, and courage hardly imagined. There are, fortunately, untold resources in each of us if we will only find and utilize them. Part of psyche is beyond time and space and is unknown to us. That which is beyond time and space is also beyond causation. The unconscious can serve man as a unique guide, provided he can resist the lure of being misguided. The conclusion became firmly established that the mind does indeed possess properties not belonging to physics as we know it. Since space and time are the surest indications of what is physical, the mind must therefore be extra-physical or spiritual in nature. Learning: The Treasure within. Life, potential, divinity is the treasure. Learning to be is added to: Learning to do & to know. Learning to live together. Only in and as Life SELF, we are ONE. UNESCO reflects To resolve one inner problem first of all one has to learn to look within and observe how the mind works. The problems distressing the mind have to be perceived and understood. Helping children to look within and understand the self is an important life skill. The gravity of this need in education is evident by the kind of immature acts people commit throughout the world. Obviously one who cannot **live** in peace with oneself cannot live in peace with others. Peace in one's life arises from the deep human spirit that underlies all faiths. Peace education deals with the depth of the human mind. Touching the seat of spirituality is necessary. Here by spirituality, we mean that essence rooted in man, which seeks for fulfilment through expressing and experiencing goodness in the highest degree. It drives us to do good, be kind, search for the true meaning and values lying deep within us. Are we giving adequate attention to teach peace? Are our schools really interested in producing a peaceful young generation? Those who want war, consumerism, sex, violence, drugs, lower pleasures and entertainment prepare the young for war; but those who want peace have neglected training the young for peace. Peace can be cultivated only through training of the mind to control desire, balancing between deserving and desiring, developing tolerance and respect for differences, concern and love for others, and moving from competition to cooperation. Wars begin in the minds of men and peace can be installed by cleansing of the minds of men. One of the significant functions of human intelligence is to look within and understand

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To wise action. In other words, self-knowledge produces wisdom. Wisdom flashes in us as insights. Self-knowledge also fosters our inward growth and it leads to the discovery of the true self. Materialistic views predominated at the beginning of the 20th century looked down upon and held in contempt, introspection as unscientific. However, as psychology expanded its frontiers, the narrow materialistic views are losing ground rapidly. How can self-understanding help, facilitate, and improve children personality development and effective learning? First of all, the child intelligence is distorted by self-centeredness. According to J. Piaget, self-centeredness is the inability to discern reality from imagination. As the children develop in self-knowledge, their self-centeredness diminishes. The child needs to be helped to grow emotionally. One of the serious problems in human interaction is people emotional maturity. The emphasis on intellectuality in academic learning represses emotions within. Peace education tries to bring in emotional or affective learning and cognitive learning together in harmony. When children positive emotions are tapped the impetus for learning is increased in many forms such as participation, creativity, interest and commitment. Emotion has its own intelligence, which is still to be properly understood by educationists. In fact, as educators, we shy away from student emotions, because we do not know how to deal with them. The more a child understands its emotions the more it develops mentally. Self-understanding leads to inward growth of children, by shedding light into their subconscious blocks, which inhibits flowering of their potentials in creativity, imagination and insight, ability to learn. Self-understanding releases blocked energies within us. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visit to Moscow on July 8-9 for the 22nd India-Russia Annual Summit is significant in many aspects. This is his first bilateral visit since starting his third term as India prime minister. Modi visit to Italy shortly after coming back to power was to participate in the G7 Summit, a multilateral event. For its part, Kremlin maintains that Modi visit will be an extensive one and no topic would be off-limits in the meeting between Modi and the Russian President Vladimir Putin. Modi visit to Russia not only emphasizes the importance of Russia for India, it also highlights how India is navigating through the fragmented world order as this bilateral meeting is being held between two summits that represent two opposing groups. The India-Russia Annual Summit is preceded by the 24th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation SCO Summit **held** in Astana, Kazakhstan on July 3-4 and will be followed by the Nato Summit which will be held in Washington D.C. on July 9-11. Modi opted not to attend the SCO Summit and instead sent the External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar to represent India. Modi giving SCO Summit a miss could be interpreted as India lack of interest in deepening engagements with this grouping. India primary interest in the SCO was to get access to a platform to engage with the Central Asian countries. However, the presence of China and Pakistan in the SCO restricts India maneuvering in this grouping. Over the years, Russia gradual weakening of the economy and China economic and military growth has meant that China is the dominant power in the SCO. In the Russia-China relations as well, China is now the senior partner. Further, Russia influenc



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Industries, we are hoping that this year will bring good to the telecom medication sector as well, and see that how key priorities and challenges for the sector will change. Last year was yet another challenging year for Telco valuations, with share prices dropping significantly across the board. In 2021, many telcos had to reevaluate and adjust their plans due to the onset of the global pandemic and the impact on their businesses and customers. 2022 is definitively the year when we will see telcos coming back into action. Here are three major themes shaping the telco agenda in 2022: returning to value growth, accelerating digital transformation, and focusing more on the environment and society. Regenerating value growth after years of inaction, telcos will now shift their focus more on creating, capturing, and returning more value to their shareholders and one best way is through inorganic growth. In the last one and a half year, we ve seen several deals closing in the telco space, and the pace is not expected to slow down this year. In some of the associations, telcos are merging to grow their market share or acquire new assets. While for many players, M&A is critical to diversify into adjacent areas and expand their portfolios; this opens up opportunities as they look forward to offering a wider range of services and tap alternative revenue streams. This M&A boom will likely shift the landscape in many telco markets, driving consolidation and some scale. Several telcos are seen as bargains, especially as concerns about interest rate hikes shift the focus away from frothy growth assets to cheaper value choices after years of underperformance. However, while executing deals there is a lot that any telecom providers need to get right. The coming together of any new businesses and technologies, along with the harmonization of processes and cultures can be a daunting task. Since 5G is expected to be a major driver of new growth value, with telcos investing in 5G networks and services at an unprecedented rate, they will continue their effort to grow organically. We believe that 5G will not only enable new experiences for consumers but also create new opportunities for businesses of all sizes and nature, helping them drives innovation and efficiency. Continuous rollout and commercial experimentation of 5G are therefore key priorities for telcos in 2022. We also expect many telecom companies business divisions **to** witness revenue growth return, with higher attention on IT services. However, telcos must continue to build up capabilities in this segment if they want to fully capitalize on the growing demand of their clients for digital transformation and new technologies. This is the reason why this year telcos will seek to mature their vertical strategy and offering, focusing on opportunities for example around smart cities, healthcare, industrial manufacturing and more. Telcos will increasingly tie up with suppliers and partners, especially in areas such as security, to the cloud, and edge. We have seen quite a promising number of such partnerships.



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With these telecom majors. Acceleration of digital transformation a big transformational push will drive fitter and better performing businesses models this year. Digital transformation has been a focus by all the telecom majors for some time now, but 2022 is when we truly expect to reach critical mass. According to Analysys Mason, telecom companies are supposed to spend a cumulative 990 billion in capex for 5G between 2020 and 2027; many are hoping for this new technology. Basically 5G is a proposition, nor it is a business model; it just a network technology or primarily an enabler. A big transformational push is required for telcos particularly in areas such as cloud and edge native technology, coupled with far higher levels of automation and better customer offerings all of which must be supported by solid data foundations. This is where digital transformation comes in. To deal with shifting customer demands and tap into new business opportunities, telecom companies need to change how they operate and shed substantial amounts of technical debt. They will also have to rethink their internal structures to level this kind of change and sometimes need overhaul of their internal processes. Many telecommunications companies have already adopted agile strategies for at least some parts of their operations. Telecom giant Aortal have recently announced do an overhaul of its existing ERP Financial and SCM processes to upgrade them with the power of AI ML. 3. Environment and society to be a key focus Telecom industry have always been a significant part of the infrastructure that underpins societies, but this year they will need to become more engaged with societal and environmental causes not just for the sake of it but also because it makes good business sense. When it comes to the environment, telecom companies energy usage has come under scrutiny as all businesses are considering how to lower their carbon footprints. Many companies have already set up goals to reduce their carbon emissions, and an key step now is to eliminate vagueness and green washing in their reporting. We believe that telcos also have opportunities to look at ways to help society become more sustainable as a whole. This might include working with communities at local level on renewable energy projects or investing in more innovative technologies that can help reduce the environmental impact of telecoms operations. Looking forward For telcos, this year they will need to **focus** on returning to value growth, accelerating digital transformation, and taking society and the environment seriously. We think that companies can turn these three areas into a virtuous cycle. New opportunities for organic as well as inorganic growth will be more easily realized and further enhanced by an enhanced ESG agenda. While there are undoubtedly huddles ahead but we believe that telecom companies are more than up to the task. Two years ago, when I was diagnosed with tuberculosis TB, I had little to no information about it. I was preparing for competitive examinations and was living away from the family.

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A different town altogether. I remember it was the festive time of the year Diwali when I caught a cold. My throat would feel scratchy, and I'd cough a lot. To manage my cold, I relied on home based remedies and some medicines prescribed by the local chemist, which provided temporary relief. But a week later when my condition did not improve, I went to a local private doctor. He prescribed a cough syrup and some medicines which did not help much. Another week passed by, and I travelled back home to family. By then my cough had worsened and upon my parents request, I visited our family doctor. He too did recognize the seriousness of the cough and prescribed some medicines without advising any tests. Without much relief, a few days later, during a conversation with my wife, it was I who began suspecting TB. Immediately, I went to the nearest primary health center. The doctor at the center suspected TB and for the first time since my cough started, that I was prescribed tests including, an x ray, CBNAAT cartridge based nucleic acid amplification test, which confirmed my TB. The very diagnosis took me over a month. I was put on treatment immediately and was told that this would continue for 6 months. A couple of weeks into the treatment I began experiencing intense joint pains, which hindered my movement. I kept thinking, how can TB happen to me I felt ashamed and guilty of contracting TB. On top it all, despite taking all precautions, a member of my family caught it too. This made me feel even worse. When the side effects became unbearable, I mustered the courage to confide in my doctor. First, he prescribed medication for the joint pains, which brought respite. He also explained the importance of physical and mental health, especially when recovering from TB. He encouraged me to exercise and follow a healthier lifestyle. My conversation with the doctor helped me in understanding TB better. Inspired, I decided to educate myself on TB. I, along with my family began watching videos on YouTube, to understand TB better. We watched several survivor accounts and realised that the stigma of TB is real. Those helped in dispelling the stigma, I felt. The videos also helped me in understanding the importance of treatment adherence and how interrupted TB treatment can fuel drug resistant **TB** a more lethal form of TB. Finally, after six months of uninterrupted treatment, I was declared TB free. Today, I have gone back to preparing for the competitive exams for a government officer job. I also work within TB affected communities as a TB champion. I like to share my own example when I talk to other TB patients. I counsel them specifically on stigma and treatment adherence. TB taught me important lessons support of loved ones, family members is important in defeating TB. Hence, I try to establish a rapport when talking to TB patients. With trust and empathy.

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It's what keeps me kicking! Culture Communication Curation Collaboration Convergence  
Currently- Chief of Staff to Samir Jain, Vice Chairman, Times Group Previously- Young India Fellow Salzburg Global Fellow Ashoka Uni Bangalore Lit Fest Under25 Lit Fest etc  
Coordinates- San Francisco Bay Area New Delhi Bombay Bangalore Tweet to me the suryahki iDare isn't just another app. It's a movement rooted in empathy, multilingual access and steady hands for those navigating the hardest questions. Vaamaa Baldota shows why support must start before a crisis and stay after. If you've ever wondered what safety looks like when it doesn't shout, meet Vaamaa Baldota. She doesn't just tick boxes, she builds them. The founder, CEO, and driving force behind iDare, Baldota turned her teenage brush with silence, abuse, and therapy into a mission a full-spectrum platform that says you are not alone in every language, on every device, at every racket of fear. Through counselling, legal guidance, life coaching and workshops, iDare tackles the invisible, the awkward and the am I over-reacting? Moments. Ahead of our talk, we teased out her vision, why the system finally needs to be gentler, and how her team does the tactical work of building safety into everyday life. Here are excerpts from an interview with the entrepreneur Surya HK (SHK) You've said that iDare was born from a deeply personal place, a reaction to silence. How did that silence, and your early experience with therapy, shape what you wanted iDare to become? Vaamaa Baldota (VB) Silence shapes you in ways you only understand much later. I grew up seeing abuse being normalised within families and relationships, and that minimising makes survivors doubt their own pain. It also stops them from recognising that what they're experiencing is wrong, or from seeking help. Therapy changed that for me. It gave me tools to understand myself, unpack trauma, and break patterns I didn't even realise I carried. It showed me how transformative the right support can be. That's what inspired iDare a single safe space where people don't have to navigate their pain alone or keep retelling their story to different professionals. Here, they can come with anything confusion, fear, or hope and receive emotional, legal, relational, and practical support. A space where they feel seen, not judged, and held through every step. SHK The idea of safety is often reduced to SOS buttons or self-defence workshops. iDare takes a much wider view therapy, legal aid, life coaching. What made you see these as connected, not separate silos? VB Real safety doesn't come from panic buttons it comes from understanding, healing, and empowerment. In India, most abuse is committed by someone the survivor knows. When harm is tied to love, dependence, or social pressure, quick fixes like SOS buttons or self-defence workshops aren't enough. Traditional approaches still treat abuse as stranger danger. But many survivors face emotional, financial, and psychological abuse alongside physical harm. And while interventions focus on victims, real prevention must also address those who cause harm. Abuse affects every part of a person's life identity, confidence, relationships, finances, mental health. So healing has to be holistic and personalised. One survivor may need legal guidance, another therapy, another support rebuilding their future. SHK India's conversations around abuse often focus on crisis, not prevention. Why did you choose to invest so much in

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**VB If we only react after abuse, we've already failed. In India, harmful behaviours are normalised long before they escalate into crisis. We grow up without real conversations about boundaries, consent, respect, or healthy communication we address them only when something goes wrong. A major part of prevention lies in how we raise boys. They're taught to suppress feelings and express emotion mainly through anger. That often turns into control or violence. Teaching men emotional regulation, empathy, and accountability is crucial to stopping harm before it happens. Building emotional literacy helps everyone recognise red flags early, express needs clearly, and resolve conflict safely which is what true prevention looks like. SHK You've built iDare as a multilingual, trauma-informed platform in a country as vast and varied as India. How do you balance empathy with scale, making sure every user still feels personally seen? VB Empathy is the foundation, not the afterthought. From day one, we knew scale couldn't come at the cost of intimacy. Every counsellor and therapist at iDare is trained in trauma-informed, culturally sensitive care. That means listening without bias, using language people actually think in, and understanding their social realities from family pressures to caste to community dynamics. Technology helps us reach people faster, but empathy is at the centre of what we do. Each chat, call, or session is a real conversation, not a transaction. Because for someone in distress, what matters most is not the platform's scale but whether they feel truly heard and receive the support they actually need. SHK Many survivors still hesitate to reach out, fearing judgment or disbelief. What have you learned about building trust? Trust is built in small moments in tone, language, and how someone feels when they reach out. Most survivors aren't looking for instant solutions they're looking for safety and belief. That's why every part of iDare, from the first message to the last session, is designed to feel non-judgmental and confidential. Empathy also requires constant inner work. Our team actively examines and unlearns biases through reflection, supervision, and continuous learning so we can show up without judgement. We never pressure someone into decisions. We listen, understand their context, respect their pace, and gently highlight patterns without shame. We hold their story with dignity. Technology gives us reach, but trust comes from how we care. SHK If daring is in the name, what's the next big **dare** for you? What frontier of safety or support are you hoping to reimagine next? VB Our biggest mission is to make safety and emotional wellbeing a normal part of everyday life. That means reaching schools, workplaces, communities and eventually rural areas where technology access is still limited. We are harmed in community, but we also heal in community, so collective emotional education is central to our vision. We're working to make iDare accessible across languages and diverse needs. The long-term goal is simple no one in India should ever feel alone in their struggle. Wherever they are, whatever they're facing, they should know support exists. SHK And for anyone quietly reading this, unsure if what they're feeling counts as abuse what would you want them to hear from you, right now? VB If you are questioning it, something inside you already knows. Abuse is not always bruises or screaming. It can be control, manipulation, fear, or the**



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Defeating TB can become an easier feat. Micro, small and medium enterprises MSMEs such as small manufacturers and retailers are the growth engines of India economy, accounting for almost 30 percent of GDP, 40 percent of the workforce, and around 45 percent of total exports. In India currently, there are over 5.5 crore small business enterprises that boost our GDP through manufacturing, trading, exporting and importing. As per msme.gov.in, over 15 million people are employed in this sector per annum, according to a survey conducted by CII. Majority of these businesses are unorganized or traditional facing credit crunch and limited scope of expansion. To ensure these small and traditional businesses continue to lead the country towards economic growth, there an urgent need for the sector to embrace a digital first approach that can help businesses reap immediate benefits and prepare for a future in flux. This was recently realized when the Covid 19 pandemic broke the spine of the sector with several businesses experiencing considerably reduced employment and sales revenues especially in the starting few months. Not just India, but globally MSMEs were forced to handle multiple challenges like inadequate cash flows and disrupted supply chains at the same time. As the brick and mortar world locked down, customers too moved online in waves. The economic hardship caused by the pandemic accelerated digitization in a seismic way for many MSMEs by driving home the perils of relying purely on physical storefronts for conducting business. In many countries, enabling MSMEs to seize growth opportunities over time is a policy priority to address low productivity growth and widening wage and income gaps. In India too, the government has continually sought to improve the digital infrastructure of this sector through its multiple initiatives including Vocal for Local mission, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Making India Self Reliant, and the Digital India campaign. Statistically speaking, according to a survey report by LocalCircle, 28 percent of MSMEs and startups witnessed a growth between 100 500 percent in their sales through online channels in the last 12 months. The report summarized that one key to survival through the two COVID waves for consumer startups and MSMEs has been their ability to digitize themselves and serve existing customers digitally while finding newer ones to serve. The scaling up of small businesses is key to enhancing productivity and achieve inclusive growth. Digitising a business introduces new digital technologies to improve **processes**, functions, and operational efficiency. Data driven decisions can reduce human bias and assess the MSME owner analyse various trends and benefit all stakeholders involved. Today tech based approaches can also help speed up the loan process and offer information in the vernacular language that can support a wider range of business owners in tier 2 and tier 3 cities across India, making the ecosystem more inclusive. This marriage of technology, digitization, and on ground interventions can ensure a safer, data driven approach to credit lending, with insights on creditworthiness, repayment ability, among others, thereby reducing risk and increasing the lending.

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Little patch of grass in the right position, or sometimes even a foot-mark or a crack. Little else about fast bowling is as intricately dependent on the nature of the pitch as a ball on a good length. Not the Yorker obviously, and not even the bouncer which requires more from the body than the turf. This zone was best exploited by the likes of Glenn McGrath, Vernon Philander, and Ryan Harris in the past. You can add Mohammed Shami to that list from those going around today. On Thursday, both Jason Holder and Kumar Roach showed early that there was something on this Old Trafford pitch in that area. Particularly running in from the Brian Statham end. Four of the five wickets the duo picked came from this end. Jasprit Bumrah would later pick up his first wicket (Braithwaite nicking behind), after changing over to the Statham end, and then one more next ball (Fabian Allen LBW by one nipping in). It was from this end that Shami launched India attack and he did take long to find his spot. It was in the quintessential Shami zone, where his real threat comes through. His upright seam is most useful when there help off that length, breaking the ball in or out. The skids pace gets exaggerated with the batsman unsure how to line the ball up. The line when just outside off threatens both edges, stumps, pads and more. In his first over, Shami had Gayle edging one inside and then beat him on the outside. Then, he had go on to have Sunil Ambris playing off the inside half of his bat, hit him on the thigh and generally make him look all at sea. It was also from this end that Shai Hope creamed a boundary off that Shami length. Typically such a shot would have received a bouncer riposte. The bowler can then claim to have the morale upper ground. But at Old Trafford, Shami could afford to go one better. He proceeded to bowl fuller than the 6-8m lengths that he was targeting. It resulted too in what could be arguably (Holder did something similar with KL Rahul) the ball of the day - the seam upright, the ball pitching and breaking in sharply to go between bat and pad and onto the top of the stumps. Shami other wicket in his first spell **of** 5-0-15-2 had come with him shifting the length other way around. The plan to Gayle, he revealed, was simple. The one thing that I thought was that if I don allow him to open his arms, then it will be good because at some stage, he will go for it. Job done. This was not a hat-trick that would make the headlines, but it had given India exactly what they want from Shami, to strike in the power play, and allow the spinners some breathing space before they come into the game. That magic he produces from the length to get the ball to move off the seam, does not come easy, even for Shami. It is a long procedure, a lot of hard work is required and then the results will come, said Shami after the game. I always concentrate on keeping the seam upright, so that off the pitch it can cut. And you could see that today. I always prefer to use the new ball in the nets also. I keep practicing and try to notice if the ball is going in or out. You saw since the morning, the ball was seaming and cutting and there was not proper bounce. One thing was to keep focusing on your line and length.

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He was once the best hope for peace in South Asia best hope, perhaps, since India split into two and then three countries after the Partition. But 44 months of Imran Khan as Prime Minister of Pakistan have been a period of relentless assault on that hope to the point that the hope has turned into dread. The dread that the man who was once swooned over on both sides of the border will leave India Pakistan relations in a mess far worse than the one he inherited. Not just that, he is likely to leave Pakistan a much worse country than it was when he took over as its PM. For over two decades that Imran struggled to get to the prime ministerial position, he had witnessed how insecurity and pettiness of politicians were the biggest hurdles in his country progress. Yet he missed no opportunity for pettiness and insecurity internally with his opponents and externally with India. In less than 35 days of coming to power he used Twitter a weapon of mass self destruction for many to call Narendra Modi a small man occupying a big office. That he could use such strong words so soon showed how inadequately his 24 years in politics had prepared him for the top position. The Criminal Procedure Identification Bill authorising the collection, storage and analysis of biological samples, biometrics and physical measurements of convicts, arrested persons and those in preventive detention is let down by bad drafting. The Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920, which the Bill seeks to replace restricts itself to finger foot prints of arrested persons and their storage only for convicted persons, needed an upgrade. Agencies like FBI have moved on to advanced biometrics. And such data certainly has crime fighting uses. But this positive intent is defeated by the Bill provisions. Take the carte blanche to police officers in sample collection. While those arrested for offences carrying less than seven years imprisonment or not facing sexual crimes against women or children can refuse to give samples, actual policing in India rarely gives such leeway to ordinary citizens to withhold their consent. With computing power no longer a finite phenomenon, data collection eased by handheld devices, and all state governments competing to build multidimensional databases, there may be no holding back the thana cop. A better legislative design would have inverted the process to mandate police **officers** to secure a magistrate order to collect samples. Lumping those in preventive detention, who are essentially held on apprehension of breach of public order even before committing any act of criminality, with convicts and those arrested for major offences, has rightly irked opposition parliamentarians. Centre mustn see this as the usual pushback against anything it proposes; India has a long history of state governments using police departments to hound opponents. The Bill has simply not provided enough checks and balances to prevent abuse of its provisions by police to harass or implicate innocent persons. Also, it neither dwells on unauthorised.

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Access to stored data through hacking, nor on misuse of data by the police. Even dubious techniques like narco analysis, which the Supreme Court ruled inadmissible as evidence, or prone to abuse facial recognition can become commonplace. The Bill definition of measurements surpasses biometrics and biological data to offer a wide berth for any other examination referred to in Section 53 and 53A of Criminal Procedure Code. These two CrPC sections are, in turn, loosely worded to allow for such other tests which a registered medical practitioner thinks necessary. Finally, while the Bill bet on big data to increase conviction rate is understandable, there no government action on bolstering fundamentals like more forensic facilities. In 2019, only 27% of India cops reported always having access to forensic technology at thanas. And courts across India bemoan delays caused by too few forensic science labs. With CODA winning this year Best Picture Oscar, the Hollywood establishment battle to keep small screen films out of the big screen league was decisively lost. The closest runner up was also from a streaming platform. Both CODA and The Power of the Dog did have a theatrical release, but very limited. While powerful studio executives and filmmakers like Steven Spielberg have ensured that the Oscar requirement of a theatrical release persists, streaming platforms have creatively found a hybrid route around it. This is indicative of the larger creative revolution spurred by them. The pandemic lockdowns drove new audiences to small screens, looking for entertainment, passing time and even maintaining sanity. Will this relationship stay strong even as we return to theatres In India the OTT explosion of diverse content has revealed a richness of supply and demand, which once seen cannot be unseen. Having grown to over 40 platform providers from two in a decade, this entire ecosystem is exuding irrepressible energy, enthusiasm and confidence. Actors to writers, directors to cinematographers, more work and more experimentation are new normals. You name a genre, there is a show or many in it. And this booming local content has a global audience. Delhi Crime tasted Emmy success. Hoping for a Squid Game like global hit from India is no pipedream. Studio or production house backed theatrical releases face more market uncertainty in terms of recouping costs or making profits that often constrains experimentation. Streaming platforms can take more creative risks because their business models allow them to **spread** bets widely. An estimated 47% of OTT originals in India were in Hindi in 2021, and the rest were in other vernaculars and in English. It good those cinema theatres are open. But expect many more CODAs to good movies on streaming platforms. The recent compromise between the US, EU, India and South Africa at the World Trade Organisation around the intellectual property waiver for Covid vaccines is good but not enough. It omits therapies and diagnostics for now. What will this cost the world and what India role in changing the outcome Why are generics so crucial in lifesaving.



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Medicines Evidence suggests that a monopoly based mechanism of manufacturing lifesaving medicines poses a critical barrier to the entry of price lowering generics a concern witnessed in the HIV epidemic, as well as in treatments for hepatitis C, tuberculosis and cancer. Once upon a history an ancient civilisation was usurped by foreigners. The people launched a movement, led by a paladin of non violence whose only weapons were self sacrifice and a spinning wheel. His followers called him Father. There was also a political party, the Circle, whose objective was also liberation from colonial rule. The Circle was so named because the sphere is the shape of our globe which embraces all, irrespective of creed, caste or color. When Independence was won, the Circle became the cradle of the new nation, accommodating within its capacious fold the myriad dreams, and hopes, and aspirations of all its people. The Circle was for everyone, and everyone was for the Circle. The leadership of the country, which together with the boon of freedom had been afflicted by a murderous Partition, devolved on the spiritual son of the Father of the nation. It was a crushing responsibility and, for all the foibles that hindsight has attributed to him, he did a creditable job in keeping together a nascent nation more populous and diverse than the EU. After him, with brief intervals, the mantle of leadership fell on his daughter, who remains among the most controversial politicians, seen by her admirers as a Ma Durga who liberated a neighbouring nation, and a champion of socialism, and impugned by her critics as an autocrat, the initiator of the licence raj which stifled enterprise, and the perpetrator of an Emergency which gagged all opposition. With remarkable resilience she rebounded following an electoral defeat and after her assassination the baton of command was passed on to an amiable aviator who took the job for Mummy. It was clear that the erstwhile all inclusive Circle was becoming an exclusive Family Circle, with a trusted retainer brought in as a stand in when required. Today the Family Circle comprises Mother, Son, and Daughter, even trusted retainers having jumped ship, with little hope of salvation after electoral debacle after debacle. From being an iconic buttress of democracy, the Circle has become the butt of jokes on Twitter and Facebook. The Circle has come full circle and redefined itself as the **zero**. Yet, to borrow Wordsworth, Men are we, and must grieve when even the Shade Of that which once was great is passed away. There is a mantra in the Rig Ved to invoke peace. It says: Let there be peace on the land. Let there be peace in the sky. Let there be peace on earth. Let there be peace in water. Let there be peace in medicines. Let there be peace in plants. Let there be peace in the entire universe and beyond. Let there be peace in the ultimate reality. Let there be peace everywhere. Finally, let there.

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Be peace in me. Om Peace Peace. Peace implies order. Departure from order is a disturbance. Since nothing is fully in order, we cannot get rid of disturbances altogether. In that case, the degree of disturbance plays an important role. The more the disturbance, the less peaceful we are. We have a dual nature: static and dynamic, both acting at the same time. At a given instant, the body may be static, but the mind is dynamic. In the language of science, we can say that the mind is itinerant, while the body is localised. The Bhagwad Gita says, and we also know, it is difficult to make the mind localised. If we can control the mind, then we can regulate peace in ourselves. If we are peaceful, then we can influence the state of peacefulness around us. If we are powerful or influential, the range of our control is widespread. The Bhagwad Gita again has a prescription as to how we can be peaceful. Knowledge and self control can lead us to a peaceful mind. When we have an abundance of peace in ourselves, it automatically diffuses to the surroundings. Diffusion is a natural process. It flows from abundance to scarcity. However, it is not a free flow. It can encounter disturbing barriers. If disturbances are minimised, then diffusion is smooth. Self control is the biggest challenge for anybody. The biggest impediments in the process of self control are desire, greed and anger. The Gita prescribes two kinds of human nature divine and demoniac. The degree of self control is more in divine people. A divine person is insensitive to the dualities of nature. His reactions are cautious and prudent to the changes. However, demoniac people can be deceitful and egoistic. These people are not at peace, therefore, no positivity comes from them. However, there are instances of transformation, and even complete transformation. It can happen in a positive environment. It is not strange, therefore, to see a bright speck and streak of light in a dark cloud. There is a scientific reason, too. Clouds have water molecules. These molecules interact among themselves and, as a result, there is molecular excitation. This process is not unilateral. The de excitation that follows emits light. From this we can draw a parallel in life. Intense arguments, although appear to be irritating sometimes, ultimately pave the way for new knowledge and **innovations**. War destroys peace. It sometimes makes us feel helpless. It appears as if some sort of destiny controls everything. Perhaps destiny is written by some kind of ultimate reality. Therefore, the aforesaid invocation says, Let there be peace in the ultimate reality, too. There is a need for urgent action towards climate change as it poses detrimental global development challenges. The governments across the globe are making climate change commitments like achieving Nationally Determined Contributions NDCs as part of the Paris Agreement. They are also taking measures to push green growth by adopting targeted policies and incentives. At the same.

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Time, the private sector has the opportunity to invest and give a push to innovation and build a lucrative market for climate smart industries. With government and private initiatives, there is a dramatic drop in the price of clean technologies that are driving businesses to make climate smart investments. Emerging markets have an opportunity worth 29.4 trillion in climate investment between now and 2030 across six urban sectors green buildings, public transport infrastructure, electric vehicles, improved management of water resources, renewable energy, and better waste handling, states an IFC analysis. A majority of the emerging markets are solar rich, infra poor countries. The countries face a massive tussle between rampant development using traditional fossil, internal combustion fuels and achieving Nationally Determined Contributions NDC. Every year, there is a need for 4 trillion to counter the most significant greenhouse gas emissions from these emerging markets. Here the Paris Accord allows them to offset the same by investing in new green technologies and opening up new possibilities. Here are some of the steps to augment investment in emerging markets: Clear Transition Policy Shifting from coal based to solar based energies requires both funds and a robust framework. For instance, Germany allocated around 55billion to shut down 40GW of coal power by 2038. Similarly, South Africa will transition away from 38 GW of coal power using the 8.5 billion from the US and Europe. India has around 205 GW of coal power to be phased out by about 2050. To achieve the same, India needs an additional 2 billion per year between 2025 and 2050. The democratisation of Green Investments Green investments need to be democratised and moved beyond governments and private companies. People need to be personally involved in understanding the importance of switching to green energy and actively taking action towards climate change. For creating such awareness, there is a dire need for expenditure on communication and education on these subjects. People need to be made aware of the alternatives and how their adoption will benefit them and the coming generations. Green Ecosystem Akin to the startup revolution, there needs to be a huge impetus in creating an ecosystem where simplified, protected, and cumulative finance is developed along with mentorship, research opportunities, hedging and ancillary services. There is a need to create a stock market scenario involving fair and clear trading of credits and integrated finance in the climate change **infrastructure** industries. Additionally, building a value chain approach to scale promising technologies. Research & Development The part of tapping investment opportunities is launching research on green hydrogen and carbon capture. To ensure a smooth transition, there has to be R&D on the transition of technologies and on mass utilisation of green energy in daily lives. It will also bring out new formats and innovations in capital driven and job generating mechanisms. However, the need of the hour is the studies in renewable energy, low carbon cities, energy efficiency, sustainable forest management, and climate smart agriculture. Innovative Integrated Finance Options The sector.

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Academic exclusivity in the field of science has been the bane of common people who love this noble discipline but find contributing to it substantially difficult. Those not formally trained have their opinions often sidelined. The history of science teaches us that nature is a wonderful professor, and one of her greatest students was Gregor Johann Mendel, a man of religion and abbot who became one of the greatest scientists known in world history, but for whom scientific recognition came late in fact, late in his career he wrote: My scientific work brought me such satisfaction, and I am convinced the entire world will recognise the results of these studies. Commonsensical, we know the good of identity politics lies in its balance, when it helps the fight for representation and rights, not when it vitiates into hatred or violence. Plus, identity is a matrix. Wearing one aspect on the sleeve is a strategic choice rather than the whole truth. Beyond the need to see both those elected or electing through multiple prisms, this means recognising that human society is built on different group affinities. The wonder of democracy is how it keeps all these negotiating with each other. between farm and table, our food lives in refrigerators. Frostbite: How Refrigeration Changed Our Food, Our Planet, and Ourselves by Nicola Walleyes an investigation of this cold chain. It spans warehouses, trucks, shipping containers, display containers and domestic fridges. Mechanical cooling was only commercialised in late 1800s, and domesticated in 1920s. The artificial cry sphere, the vast synthetic winter we vex built to preserve our food, has obvious benefits, and dangerous costs. Mechanical cooling is one of the leading culprits of global warming. What draws such large numbers to RD, primarily a composer and not a singer like the other two superstars? Most of these 9mn listeners were even born when RD died. To them, and countless others outside Spottily, RD, or Pinkham, or Boss, is way beyond a musical maestro. He a friend whose melodies have become their lives soundtrack through times good and bad. WE Castle wrote in his article Mendel Law of Heredity published by American Academy of Arts & Sciences that what will doubtless rank as one of the great discoveries in biology, and in the study of heredity perhaps the greatest, was made by Gregor Mendel, an Austrian then Brno was part of the Austro Hungarian **Empire** monk, in the garden of his cloister. It was by experimenting with pea plant breeding that Mendel developed three principles of inheritance that described the transmission of genetic traits before anyone knew genes existed. Mendel laws include the Law of Dominance and Uniformity, the Law of Segregation, and the Law of Independent Assortment. Recently, the authors of this article visited his workplace, the Augustinian Abbey of St. Thomas in Star Brno Old Brno in the Czech Republic, where he was given the name Gregor, and where, in a garden, he did the aforementioned experiment of pea plant breeding to give his laws of genetics. After savoring beverages in the cafe near his garden, the authors decided to write this article to make people more aware of the life of this humble genius and also why it is important for scientists to learn from those who have no formal scientific training but a highly receptive and innovative intellect. Sam Wong writes for New Scientist Mendel was far ahead of his time, and his work was largely ignored for the next 35 years. I



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Mendel had to wait for much needed recognition even though his work was of exceptional quality, just because of his non conformity with then dominant scientific thought and jargon. No biography of Mendel was published until 1924, when Dr. Hugo Altus published a volume in German. This was translated by Eden and Cedar Paul and appears as the Life of Mendel. According to Dr. Hugo Altus, Gregor Mendel was born of peasant stock, and his ardent love of study may well have been first directed towards science by the teaching of the elements of natural history at the village school. When the authors of this article reached the traditional capital of the Moravia region of the Czech Republic, Brno, situated at the confluence of the Strata and Svitava rivers, they went straight to the Augustinian Abbey of St. Thomas, the workplace of Mendel. The Augustinian Convent, dedicated to the Annunciation of the Lord and to the Apostle St. Thomas who was sent to preach gospel in India by Jesus Christ and who attained martyrdom in India, was founded in Brno in 1356. Pope Benedict promoted the convent in 1752 to the rank of abbey, which has since been subordinated directly to the General Prior of the Order. Hence, the Abbey in Brno forms an integral part of the St. Augustine Order and is governed by its constitutions and statues. After visiting the garden of Mendel, where the genius learned complicated lessons of science from nature itself, authors went to the Mendel Museum of Masaryk University, where in July 2016 an exhibition that combines modern technologies with its historical premises titled Gregor Johann Mendel: The Story of a Humble Genius was opened. Visitors to this museum can learn more about genetic diseases, scientists who have contributed to the field of genetics, and the life of Abbot Gregor Mendel, to whom this museum is dedicated. From Mendel experiment with peas genetic scissors, the journey has been long and arduous in the field of genetics. Claes Gustafsson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, mentioned about: There is enormous power in this genetic tool, which affects us all. It has not only revolutionised basic science but also resulted in innovative crops and will lead to ground breaking new medical treatments. In 2020, the Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Emmanuelle Carpenter from the Max Planck Unit for the Science of Pathogens, **Berlin**, Germany, and Jennifer A. Duodena from the University of California, Berkeley, USA, for the development of a method for genome editing discovering genetic scissors. The father of genetics laid the foundation of a field that now includes medical genetics, a field of medicine that deals with diagnosing, treating, and preventing genetic diseases. Gene therapy holds promise as a treatment for a wide range of diseases, such as cancer, cystic fibrosis, heart disease, diabetes, hemophilia, and AIDS. Humble genius Mendel worked hard, and as we mentioned before in this article late in his career, he wrote, My scientific work brought me such satisfaction, and I am convinced the entire world will recognise the results of these studies. Indeed, now the scientific community recognises the work done by Mendel and calls him the father of genetics. The life of Mendel teaches us that formal scientific education is not a prerequisite for excellence in this discipline; what is required is inquisitiveness and determination to work hard. The way we deal with our inner world drives everything around us. It affe

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Have surfaced in the news for misusing allocated fund while such organizations should be rightly called out, the complete cessation of funds on food and nutrition should not be done. There are an ample number of organizations that are operating day and night to provide food resources to people in need. Lack of investment in their projects from the side of corporates discourages them to take on food related initiatives, which further pushes the country into a chronic hunger crisis. Issues like hunger and starvation affect the functionality of our entire society. Therefore, they must be dealt with, with mutual cooperation and collective accountability. Food and nutrition as a whole cannot be ignored as it is the basic survival resource and requirement for a person before anything else. 18 cores and counting is the figure of people who are undernourished in India. Now the question that arises is how can this sad state of affairs be changed in this country What is the road ahead One has to understand that hunger cannot end in a day, month or even year. It takes a considerable amount of time, energy and funds that are to be invested in order to tackle undernourishment, hunger and related illnesses and diseases. Thus, the need of the hour is sustainable, concentrated and continuous efforts to tackle the hunger epidemic. If multi national companies and corporates that are operating in India are mandated to spend a certain fixed percentage of their CSR budget on food centric projects, a big change can be brought in the direction of battling chronic hunger. If the government, corporate world and non profit organizations work at the same pace towards the annihilation of hunger in the country, there would not be a single individual going to sleep on an empty stomach. The Union Budget of 2021 2022 was historical with the allocation of 50,000 Crores into the National Research Foundation NRF over the next 5 years. The objective of allocation of this significant amount towards Research and Development R&D in the country came at an important time where all departments in the country realise that we needed to invest in Science to pave the way forward into self reliance in multiple sectors ranging from Agriculture, Sustainable energy, Medical technology Medtech and more. The Science and Technology Clusters located in cities like Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jodhpur, and Pune will work in **areas** of national importance, leveraging the existing strengths in geographical proximity, driving future economic growth, wealth creation, and enabling rapid and direct knowledge exchange under the office of the Principal Scientific Advisor PSA to the Government of India Gol. The research fund allocation under the Department of Health Research will be used in the field of healthcare under the national institution for One Health, 4 regional National Institutes for Virology, 9 Bio Safety Level III laboratories, as well as the 5 regional branches of the National Centre for Disease Control NCDC and 20 metropolitan health surveillance units. The Biotechnology Industry Research.

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Writes poetry and articles. Currently establishing a real estate start-up. Writes on contemporary topics emphasizing national and international political and economic issues, development problems and solutions, gender, philosophy, spirituality, human behaviour and astrology. I hope the solving of the grandfather paradox in the last 7 parts was not very complicated. An individual, after worshipping Shiva for many years, got a boon that proved to be a curse. So he wanted to be relieved from this curse boon. A Sage suggested to him that if he sees one person in three forms, in one place and at the same time, then he would be relieved of this curse. This guy became even more desperate and perplexed. Because this condition was impossible to be fulfilled. Three forms same person, same place and same time. Devaki, the biological mother Oshawa, the foster mother and Radha, Krishna's beloved, were debating on whom Krishna loves the most. All three staked the claim equally. Krishna had spent most of the time with Oshawa as an infant, as an adolescent with Radha and as a young man with Devaki. So it was decided that the three would call Krishna at the same time, albeit loudly, as Krishna was not with them then. Whoever Krishna loves most will get to see Krishna in the form she identifies with him in that particular place? They yelled Krishna's name. To their surprise Krishna appeared before the three of them in separate forms. As an infant for Oshawa, as an adolescent for Radha and as a young man before Devaki. The man who was cursed by Shiva, being tipped by the sage, witnesses this and was relieved of the curse. There are many instances in Indian mythology where persons like Narada, Agyastya and Viswamitra have manifested in multiple places at the same time. Some recent spiritual accounts have also cited such examples that represent Yogic Siddhis. But the story of Radha, Devaki and Yehuda is a remarkable one. It is a spiritual challenge of Time Travel of a very high order. Why? I call it a scientific challenge because it is possible for everyone, it can be repeated, whys and hows can be explained for anyone who has dropped the EGO. Ego is not what it is being interpreted nowadays as with a lot of sentiments, feelings, emotions, pride and showmanship. Ego is to see oneself vis-à-vis others as **discussed** in Part 7. Rather, the ability to differentiate or distinguish is the Ego. It is not bad or there is nothing wrong with the Ego. The ancient texts of India propounded dropping the Ego not because it is bad, but because this ability, and more so to cling to it, stops the soul and the body from experiencing many new and unexplored aspects of creation. It is something like a student has completed school but is unable to graduate from college because he is clinging to her ego too often, too long and unable to drop it. Once this ego is dropped or one learns to drop the ego at will, she witnesses nothing except herself. Absolutely nothing else exists. She becomes the existence, and the existence is her. Nothing to distinguish from and nothing to compare with. Once one is in this state or beingness, she can manifest herself anytime, anywhere and in any form. She can manifest herself as an infant, as a child, a young man or an old lady. She just needs to pull out her individual form from the whole creation (that is she) as many times in as many forms she likes. This, some of the Indian sages call the state of ADWAITA (non-dual). What is extremely intri

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Somebody can be in both the duality form and the non-dual state at the same time? We are more concerned with TIME, other aspects withstanding. We so far have got an idea of how Time behaves in a duality state. But does time exist in a non-dual state? If yes. How? Many of the ancient Indian texts say that in the state of Adwaita, Time doesn't exist. To me it is in this state that the Real Time starts to manifest. Until the non-dual state, it is the mirror image of Time that operates and is observed or sensed. It is upon achieving the non-dual state or Adwaita that TIME manifests, and the real ballgame begins. It is here that the sublime soul also starts to manifest. From here, the material content of the soul gradually melts, and Time is understood and experienced. Until then it is the mirror image of Time that eludes us and it is this mirror image of time that is the greatest traitor. It definitely ditches us. Upon so, physical birth and death is conquered. One not only becomes timeless (like The Gita being a Timeless doctrine) but also deathless. Birth and death become just an event like sipping a cup of hot coffee in a cold winter evening and nothing else. Not surprisingly, when a child is born, she feels cold and has to be heated up and exactly similar, when one dies, the body becomes cold. It's a hot relationship that gives life a birth. We will examine this in more detail using our multi-world model in subsequent posts. 'Centrism isn't nostalgia, it is survival' Rethinking stray dogs From crisis to opportunity Smartphones have become a deeply personal space for most of us, one we'd be unwilling to share with even closest friends and family. So, would we want to allow got in this space? That's what On Dec 1, TOI published an article co-authored by the envoys of Germany, France, and Britain ('World wants the Ukraine war to end, but Russia doesn't seem serious about peace') that presented a grossly distorted By Sumit Paul International Day of Persons with Disabilities (Dec 3) is an international observance promoted by the United Nations with an aim to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilise support for the Social media makes money by alghacking many human brains. Contrast that model with responsible media's **Anger** can be a useful emotion. It can play a key role in building a strong individual psyche, as also have you ever noticed how some posts on social media try really hard to make you angry? That's not an accident. Some apps and websites actually make more money when people get angry, because angry Imagine if someone told you that every new backpack must come with a government-owned notebook inside it. You might think, but what if I don't want it? Something like that happened with phones in India Got should put Sanchar Saathi in app stores, keep improving it & let users decide whether they want it on their phones Govt's clarification that Sanchar Saathi app is not mandatory for new phones may From being a poor man's food, the fruit has gained celebrity status in the culinary world It was a green gooey glob in the salad bowl. And it tasted like manna from heaven, with a subtle savour North India entered its familiar winter haze a severe health hazard only to be told that the plume of ash from the volcano that erupted in Ethiopia would worsen the situation. It is Business leaders have all been told to be obsessed with what consumers want. 'Consumer centricity' is often cited as the pillar for building a good busine



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Have surfaced in the news for misusing allocated fund while such organizations should be rightly called out, the complete cessation of funds on food and nutrition should not be done. There are an ample number of organizations that are operating day and night to provide food resources to people in need. Lack of investment in their projects from the side of corporates discourages them to take on food related initiatives, which further pushes the country into a chronic hunger crisis. Issues like hunger and starvation affect the functionality of our entire society. Therefore, they must be dealt with, with mutual cooperation and collective accountability. Food and nutrition as a whole cannot be ignored as it is the basic survival resource and requirement for a person before anything else. 18 cores and counting is the figure of people who are undernourished in India. Now the question that arises is how can this sad state of affairs be changed in this country What is the road ahead One has to understand that hunger cannot end in a day, month or even year. It takes a considerable amount of time, energy and funds that are to be invested in order to tackle undernourishment, hunger and related illnesses and diseases. Thus, the need of the hour is sustainable, concentrated and continuous efforts to tackle the hunger epidemic. If multi national companies and corporates that are operating in India are mandated to spend a certain fixed percentage of their CSR budget on food centric projects, a big change can be brought in the direction of battling chronic hunger. If the government, corporate world and non profit organizations work at the same pace towards the annihilation of hunger in the country, there would not be a single individual going to sleep on an empty stomach. The Union Budget of 2021 2022 was historical with the allocation of 50,000 Crores into the National Research Foundation NRF over the next 5 years. The objective of allocation of this significant amount towards Research and Development R&D in the country came at an important time where all departments in the country realise that we needed to invest in Science to pave the way forward into self reliance in multiple sectors ranging from Agriculture, Sustainable energy, Medical technology Medtech and more. The Science and Technology Clusters located in cities like Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jodhpur, and Pune will work in **areas** of national importance, leveraging the existing strengths in geographical proximity, driving future economic growth, wealth creation, and enabling rapid and direct knowledge exchange under the office of the Principal Scientific Advisor PSA to the Government of India Gol. The research fund allocation under the Department of Health Research will be used in the field of healthcare under the national institution for One Health, 4 regional National Institutes for Virology, 9 Bio Safety Level III laboratories, as well as the 5 regional branches of the National Centre for Disease Control NCDC and 20 metropolitan health surveillance units. The Biotechnology Industry Research.

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Today Topic Start from your error if you see our Video than Continue Type your mind auto scroll video point by point here. So now start evaluation of type dest scripts in English. Nature of mistakes. Half Mistakes the following errors are treated as half mistakes Spacing Errors where no space is provided between two words, e.g. I hope or undesired space is provided between the words or letters of a word e.g. hope I have, I hxxave. For every spelling error committed by way of repetition, or addition or transposition or omission or substitution of a letter letters, e.g. the word spelling typed as seeplings etc. Wrong Capitalisation Wrong use of capital letter for small letter and vice versa. NATURE OF MISTAKES Full Mistakes The following errors are treated as full mistakes for every omission of word. See I provide you this sentence Typing Test Accuracy is main point of GDCE Typing but you type Typing Test is main point of GDCE Typing figure. For every substitution or replacment of a wrong word figure I provide Typing Test Accuracy is main point of GDCE Typing but you typed Typing Test Accuracy this main point of GDCE Typing For every addition of a word figure not found in the passage just this I provide you Typing Test Accuracy is main point of GDCE Typing but you typed GDCE Typing Test Accuracy is main point of GDCE Typing. Biotechnology DBT deserves a special mention due to the impact that it has brought about in the field of industry academia partnerships, targeted funding, technology transfer, IP management, etc. which has resulted supporting more than 1016 start ups, 60 bio incubators, 202 intellectual properties and 146 products over the last 9 years. This is also one of the unique government supported initiatives that has taken multiple ideas through all the stages of concept to commercial location and continues to attract more start ups and investors not only from the country but from around the world. Historically, long term trends in case of patent filing for the medical device sector in India show an overall increase in patent filings during 2005 to 2014 with an exception during 2008 to 2010. When the patent filing trends for the last 10 years were anal ysed, it was observed that the number of patent filings in the medical device domain has roughly doubled. We have witnessed maximum **patent** filings in the field of medical devices in the last 10 years, with an average 8% increase in the last decade. The estimation indicates the gradual and consistent IP awareness and indigenous innovation and the tactical strategies of the foreign MNCs to capitalise on the growing medical device market in India. The inevitable progress towards innovation in this sector is also supported by the success of indigenous companies, with the Make In India spirit. The latest data from the World Intellectual Property Organization data showed a 6 % increase in the number of patents filed from India powered by the.

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Also requires finance that mitigates or underwrites risks and combines international holdings, domestic sources, and tax holidays. Easy finance options will further enable wide scale adoption of climate technologies. It is also a reasonable opportunity from an investment point of view. India as a Green Leader in Emerging Markets India can assume the leadership space in emerging markets and become a green leader. All it needs is decisive leadership and actionable plans. It has the added advantage of opportunities like human resources, space, technology, political leadership and investments. Conclusion There are ample opportunities for climate investments in emerging markets given their share of greenhouse gas emissions. Many countries are making efforts to progress in their goals by amending policies and improving investments. However, more can be done like targeted public finance, elimination of counterproductive policies, providing right incentives like carbon pricing and market responsive support mechanisms. It will help in setting comprehensive long term targets that are achievable as well. The Global Hunger Index GHI 2021 Report proved to be a rude shock for India. The country position dropped to 101st from the preceding 94th for the year 2020. What is more surprising is that our country is lagging behind others like Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan that are otherwise eons behind India in developmental parameters. Despite the fact that the Government of India is executing well planned hunger annihilation schemes and projects like the Mid Day Meal Scheme MDMS, the Antakya Ann Yolanda, and the Annapurna Scheme amongst others, the GHI 2021 report came as an upsetting eye opener for the gatekeepers of nutrition. While it is time to introspect on the implementation of this plethora of schemes on the ground, the solution to improve the status of nutrition in this country is right before us, namely the Companies Act 2013. The Union Budget allocates an annual fund to the Government of India, private fundraisers and various NGOs to fight hunger. Amongst this, one of the least utilized resources includes the funds given out by Corporate Social Responsibility CSR departments of corporates and multinational companies operating in India. CSR under Section 135 of the same Act states that each organization with a net worth of Rest. 500 cores, or a turnover of Rest. 1,000 cores have to invest at least 2% of their profits in various social welfare activities which includes food and nutrition, amongst others. In spite of **the** explicit mention in law, recent statistics reveal that corporates are adopting a pick and choose approach while solely focusing on investing their CSR budgets in the sectors of education, health, rural development and environmental sustainability. Even though these areas deserve their fair share of attention and awareness, none of these come under the chronic category on international parameters. It is surprising to see that investment in food and nutrition centric projects have declined dramatically over the years even though the hunger crisis keeps increasing at a very high pace in this country. This has occurred especially after a few NGO.

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Pharmaceutical sector in 2020, which is a testament to the resilient human spirit of innovation despite the pandemic posing a number of challenges. The Indian healthcare industry which includes medical devices, medical imaging, in vitro diagnostics, digital health and pharmaceutical sectors is estimated to become US 96.01 billion in 2025 as per indicators from Frost & Sullivan analysis. Supporting the scientific acumen of the country, specifically in the medical devices sector, the Gobi has provided the Production Linked Incentive PLI Scheme of 3,420 cores between FY21 to FY28 for boosting domestic manufacturing of medical devices. To add to this, the layout and financial assistance associated with four medical device parks have been established to support the local development and manufacturing of medical devices at Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. As per Frost & Sullivan report, the medical devices market was valued at US 394.4 billion in 2020, and is growing at CAGR of 6.3% 2021 2025, which is higher than the growth rate of the overall healthcare industry. As per findings from NITI Analog Investment Opportunities in India Healthcare Sector report of 2021 it was seen that India imports a large part of its medical devices to meet its current requirement. In 2019 20, India medical devices imports stood at US 1766 million against exports of US 986 million. The Frost & Sullivan report says India has around 800 medical device manufacturers with only around 80 companies having a turnover of over USD 5 million. India also exports quality medical devices to multiple countries like the USA, China, Germany, Singapore, and France to list a few. The list of countries where India exports medical devices and consumables is constantly increasing due to significant push in research and development as well as working towards meeting the global quality standards. As per Frost and Sullivan Report, Indian Match companies have developed patent pending designs for ligating clips with an innovative design that provides a secure grip in surgeries, sutures that help prevent post partum hemorrhage and domestically manufactured anti microbial gloves which enhance patient and surgeon safety by preventing the spread of infections through a non leaching antimicrobial technology, patented designs for arthroscopy products for knee and shoulder procedures, etc., to list down some of the recent innovative solutions that have been brought to the market and is made available globally. Further research based products that meet **international** quality standards will increase the acceptance of Indian manufactured products to meet the global demands As we proceed into 2022, the future growth of medical device companies will be dependent on the percentage of investment that will be done in R&D and rapid commercial location of the products nationally and internationally. In the current environment in India, the support of the government and investors makes it conducive to meet the USD 50 billion growth mark by 2025. landscape for SMEs and MSMEs. Our efforts need to focus on quality manufacturing, with the use of technology to enhance operations, and the.



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Here, the umbrella is an accessory of love not lordships. Open chhatas dot the VM 57 acre velvet lawns and woods, come rain, shine or neither. Their protection is sought from prying eyes. Victorian may be the chosen prefix of prudery, but Kolkata romancing couples feel more secure here than other public spaces. Last Friday, at the Kolkata Literary Meet, held as always on these totemic grounds, Jayanta Sengupta, the monument custodian, spoke of how the VM had become an actuary for love. His predecessor had advised him to leave undisturbed any open chat he might find on his rounds. Earlier curators were less forgiving. One even walked around with a long stick, dislodging the ubiquitous umbrellas and the embracers underneath. That instrument of embarrassment has happily been end into involuntary retirement. Of course, Dr Sengupta gets letters of tight assed indignation against such couples destroying traditional family values. Shown these, the commandant of the gun toting CISF, which guards the VM, countered, We are not the moral police. A lesson for the Mumbai corporate handling the Dada Five Gardens, which too harbor hordes of cuddling cup pals. He replaced the parks old, lover friendly wooden benches with concrete single seaters set primly apart. But the victims were geriatric residents of the surrounding Parsi Colony, who gathered every evening for close comfort on those convivial benches. The new arrangement deprived them of camaraderie as well as kaumi gossip since their companions were now beyond hard of hearing distance. As for the killjoy corporate intended targets, the cup pals loved the single seaters. They now canoodled khullam khulla on each other laps. The idea of time is not easy to grasp, its nature is a great mystery. All actions and events that happen are ordained to follow a linear order of time; they have a beginning, peak and an end. Ancient Indic scriptures have used the word Kaal for time. According to Vaisheshik, one of the six theist schools of Indic philosophy, founded by Maharshi Kanad, who proposed the atomistic approach to understanding the universe, kaal is an abstract entity. It is one of the nine kaaran dravyas, causative elements of creation. They are: mann, mind; atman, consciousness; kaal, time; and disha, space; and the panchbhutas, five elements akash, ether; vayu, air; agni, fire; jal, water; and prithvi, earth. Prashastapada, the famous commentator on Vaisheshik Darshan from 500 600 BCE, **spoke** about kaal to be eka, one, in number a continuum. Acharya Charaka stated: Kaalah punah parinamah, kaal is the process of parinaam, transformation. Theoretical physicist Albert Einstein relativistic theory relates matter and energy by the following equation of light. So energy and matter are really the same thing. It is just the transformation of one into another. Einstein one time teacher and colleague, Hermann Minkowski, introduced the relativity concept of proper time, he actual elapsed time between two events as measured by a clock that passes through both events. Two events are nothing but transformation, close on heels. Everything happens.

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Compensation has made a tepid start in the direction of class action suits. No wonder, because consumer courts are hopelessly backlogged and make this reform a non starter. The system does serve citizens that the depressing big picture. Assam and Meghalaya have signed a pact that resolves their interstate boundary dispute for six out of the 12 areas of differences. Recall that Assam has such boundary disputes with most of its neighbouring states that were carved out of undivided Assam. And these disputes have often boiled over into serious clashes. This was exemplified by deadly skirmishes between Assam and Mizoram police forces in July last year that left six Assamese policemen dead. Keeping these disputes festering has neither been in national nor regional interest. But solving them has been tricky given that diverse ethnic populations of the region steadfastly hold on to their traditional cultural boundaries as opposed to constitutionally defined boundaries. The former date back to colonial times, whereas the states of Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh were carved out of Assam only in the 1960s and 70s. In fact, people residing along the Assam Meghalaya border have long held two voter IDs corresponding to the two states. Last year Assam and Meghalaya formed three committees each to look into their border dispute and asked locals to choose one of either state. With that process completed, the Survey of India will now demarcate the boundary as per the agreement. While this could become a template for resolving other border disputes in the Northeast, it true that the Assam Meghalaya case was a little different state governments made claims but locals lived side by side. But in the Assam Mizoram and Assam Nagaland disputes, there are allegations of encroachment into reserved forest areas of Assam, making resolution difficult. At the heart of the problem is the huge pressure on land combined with cultural sub nationalism. Nonetheless, all states in the region must make concerted efforts to resolve interstate border disputes. This will not only help develop Northeast and actualise India Act East policy, but also prevent an adversarial China from fishing in troubled waters. Earlier this week, the central government tabled the Criminal Procedure Identification Bill, 2022 in Parliament. Replacing a similar colonial era law, the Bill enables the police to collect fingerprints, photographs, iris scans and a range of biological and identity samples from individuals. It authorises **the** National Crime Records Bureau to create a central repository of this evidence and share it with law enforcement agencies. On the face of it, the 2022 Bill appears to be a broader, more modern version of its colonial predecessor. But is such a law too intrusive And is such intrusion consistent with the Constitution These hardy perennials of public gardens cannot be uprooted. Good. Romance should become woe mince. Take these tales from two cities. Mumbai Victoria Terminus is now Chhatrapati Shiva Maharaja Terminus. Kolkata as unmissable Victoria Memorial retains its name, but it too has a chhatrapati connection though.

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Stage to be as easy as possible in this ultra connected age. They want to avoid the efforts of filling in their shipping and billing details or remembering resetting the password multiple times for every website. Meanwhile, a checkout page for digital first businesses is where window shoppers become paying customers. So, offering shoppers numerous payment options can help businesses to boost their conversion rates while encouraging customers loyalty. Unfortunately, many online players limit their payment options, which reduces the number of customers willing to make purchases from their preferred mode which consequently affects the number of transactions that can be carried out. This leads to high impact checkout abandonment. Inability to provide personalized checkout experience Today, most consumers are online, making choices and purchasing everything from food, clothes, and services through digital platforms. To win today online commerce battlefield, online businesses must analyze every part of their customer journey to ensure a flawless and personalized user experience UX, including the checkout. Unfortunately, many businesses lack the critical component of providing the easier one click checkout. Untimely delivery In this age of instant gratification, customers expect everything to come to them instantly. The concept primarily resonates with millennials and Gen Z audiences. They are getting less patient when it comes to waiting for their online orders to be delivered or receiving replies to their post sales and return requests. The platforms offering flat or standard shipping options with no assured delivery dates can lose customers to other websites. Redirecting customers to a different checkout page Businesses need to have complete control over the entire checkout process to make it easier for customers to make an online payment. After working so hard to get people to your website, it makes no sense to redirect them to another website to pay. In this case, customers feel like they are giving their money to a business other than the one they are buying from, or their payment details might get compromised. This may lead to a shrink in the customer base. Way forward to increasing conversions With online shopping growing day by day, the competition is only becoming fiercer. Digital first brands that can optimize their websites for conversion will be able to stand tall. They need to redefine their approach to sales and marketing that focuses on developing a consistent customer experience. It can only be possible by optimizing strategies and **implementing** behind the scenes tactics. Adopting digital tools like AI and ML can empower brands in several ways. They can help understand the customers through their feedback and reviews on social media and other forums and gain insights. Businesses can also analyze the data to predict demand and improve the supply chain to meet the consumers needs. This will reduce costs and enable enterprises to improve customer service by delivering the shipments on time. Having a faster checkout option Customers go through checking out, and making the payment is the last stage while shopping on any website. This means the smooth.



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Checkout will be the last thing on their minds! Therefore, brands need to integrate a faster checkout with the same look and feel of their website to help the customers feel connected. Timely shipment delivery updates Businesses can leverage AI to gather information about the estimated delivery date of the shipments. By giving the customers a clear understanding of when they can expect their purchases at the checkout stage, digital first businesses can win their trust, improve their conversions and emerge as a reliable brand. OTP based solutions and address Intelligence Almost every 5th buyer drops off because of being pushed to fill in address details again and again on the website they shop from. Getting access to a single click OTP based vault can stop them from dropping off while purchasing. Once the OTP is confirmed, AI based tools can auto fill the buyers details from the brand database, removing the cumbersome filling inputs manually. Conclusion The checkout page is the final conversion phase for any online shopping platform. With new age SAAS based logistics and fulfillment platforms simplifying shipping solutions for the emerging brands with swift checkout processes, sellers can now take their conversions to newer heights. With customer data now at their fingertips, digital first brands can now manage to unlock new customer relations and valuable insights to scale up their operations with efficient business management. The last decade has witnessed a fundamental shift in the way we interact and utilize social media platforms. Indian audiences are not different in adapting well to social platforms, more so in the past year. Today, people spend most of their time on social media platforms, watching videos, commenting, creating, and sharing content. Powered by the democratization of the internet through smartphones and affordable data plans, anyone, based on their passions, can create content online or is creating content. A new cohort of digitally savvy entrepreneurs is now leveraging their interest and skills to create communities and usher in a new era of storytelling and commerce. These are the creators, and they are leading the shifts towards the passion economy. Passion for entrepreneurship As India becomes a large market for social commerce, the passion economy is producing many entrepreneurs in India. A growing number of platforms such as Integral, Facebook, Sub stack, Clubhouse, etc. are empowering people to build a scalable business around a unique passion targeted at niche communities. **This** is going to have a significant implication on the future of work trends and what is today known as jobs. As per multiple reports, 53 of the Indian workforce is self employed, and this figure is only going to grow. Because a challenging job market and the need for income safety have created a strong desire to explore entrepreneurship as they look to supplement household income. Hence, earning through your passion and resulting financial independence aspect present a lucrative opportunity. In India, where a mere 23 of women are engaged in the formal workforce, the creator economy represents a tremendous.

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As we approach anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, we have been witnessing the usage of the word Martyr at various places. It may be noted that the word martyr is not used for the soldiers killed in the line of duty. This has been communicated by the Mood and most of the renowned personalities of Indian defense forces, yet it is being used unabashedly. In a February notification, the Indian army issued a directive to all its commands to avoid using the term martyr when referring to soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. This decision aims to standardize the terminology and ensure uniformity in honoring our fallen soldiers. Instead of martyr, it recommended various alternative phrases that appropriately convey the honor and respect due to these soldiers. These alternatives include: By adopting these terms, the Indian army aims to honor the fallen soldiers with language that accurately reflects their bravery and dedication to the nation. Ministry of defense also advised, time and again, against the usage of the word martyr. As per them, the terms Martyr in English and hashed in Hindi carry religious connotations since they are often used to refer to individuals who have sacrificed their lives for their faith. Due to this association, the Indian armed forces avoid using hashed when referring to soldiers who have fallen in the line of duty. This approach ensures that the terminology remains secular and inclusive, honoring the soldiers sacrifices without invoking religious overtones. I hope we can now stop using martyrs or shaheed and start using the correct terminology to give our fallen soldiers their respectful salutations. Veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan recently disclosed that he did watch the World Cup final due to his superstition that India tends to lose whenever he watches the game. Sachin Tendulkar used to wear pad on his left leg first every time he stepped on the field for a match. Similarly, Australian cricketer Steve Waugh carried a red handkerchief given by his grandfather. Most of us hold some superstitions in the form of lucky charms or rituals to influence certain outcomes. I considered 42 as my lucky number in my, partly inspired by Douglas Adam book, The Hitchhiker Guide to the Galaxy. I tried to find it everywhere from exam roll numbers to the car number plates on the road. I anticipated good things to happen whenever I **saw** 42. I also had a blue checked shirt that I believed was lucky. Even though it was old and had mild coffee stains, I wore it to interviews because I thought it brought me good luck. Superstition refers to the belief in supernatural causality that one event leads to the cause of another without any scientific evidence linking the two events. Everyone is superstitious, yet they find other superstitious beliefs to be ridiculous. Across cultures, we carry superstitions such as considering the number 13 as unlucky, believing in the evil eye, knocking on the wood or pausing after a black cat crosses our path. Even people with the most scientific temperament have been known to have superstitions. Niels Bohr, the Danish physicist renowned for his foundational work on atomic structure and quantum theory, had a horseshoe nailed to his wall. When asked if he believed in its superstitious power, he reportedly replied, No, but I am told it works even if you don believe in it. Hanging a horseshoe at home is thought to attract positive energy, ward off negativity, and bring good luck and happiness

**Spl-Delhi\_Police\_Typing-Dated-2026-01-04-Test NO.-24359**

But there's a slight problem. Consumers say one thing By Narayani Ganesh Ran away to Kasauli in Himachal a few days ago, fleeing Delhi's poisonous air. But winter is bitter-cold in the hills though sunshine during the day was like balm to the soul Imagine someone telling you that when you grow up, you may never need to work. No homework, no jobs, no salaries and everything you want would be free. Sounds like a video game cheat Personality, prosperity, destiny number plate says it all Numbers once lived quiet lives on calculators and report cards. Now, they ride proudly on bonnets and bumpers, announcing identity with more conviction than any business Elon's post-work fantasy puts him in the company of Marx. Like him, he won't see it come true If the world's richest man is right, your infant child won't ever need to work. Even better, Telangana forest officials help defend a nest, reminding everyone that birds labour no less than us The owl of Minerva spreads its wings only with the coming of dusk, said Hegel two centuries ago. What In Telangana, something amazing happened people came together to protect an owl family and it shows that birds work just as hard as we do. Owls are usually quiet, secretive birds that come out Winter session is set to be fiery a new VP as Rajya Sabha chair, decision on impeachment of two HC judges pending, at least 10 bills and electoral rolls to debate. But will Parliament Philipp Ackermann, Thierry Mathou Lindy Cameron It has stepped up attacks at a time when peace talks are on, showing that it has systematically chosen war, write the envoys of Germany, France and UK, while promising their countries will stand by Ullhas Pagey We live in an age when Artificial Intelligence (AI) predicts our desires before we feel them and quietly reshapes the very meaning of human intelligence. The digital economy has woven an invisible web Bildungsroman of a man pedalling for likes It takes roughly six months for the amateur cyclist uncle to resemble an AI version of himself, from the day he sheds inhibition to indulge in what he Times of India - India Voices Blogs (December 4, 2025) The delicate dance of dopamine and serotonin Unlocking the secrets to lasting well-being In recent years, the term dopamine has become a buzzword, often used to **describe** the fleeting rush of pleasure and satisfaction we get from scrolling through social media, indulging in our favorite foods, or seeking instant gratification. However, this casual usage belies a deeper complexity, and understanding the distinction between dopamine and serotonin is crucial for our well-being. Dopamine is often referred to as the pleasure molecule. It's a neurotransmitter that fuels our desires, motivations, and passions. When we experience something pleasurable, dopamine is released in our brain, reinforcing the behavior and motivating us to repeat it. This can be beneficial, driving us to pursue our goals and ambitions. However, excessive dopamine-seeking behaviors can easily slip into addictive patterns. The problem with dopamine is that it's short-term and visceral. It's often associated with instant gratification, which can lead to a never-ending cycle of craving and consumption. We might find ourselves mindlessly scrolling through our phones, seeking the next dopamine hit, or devouring an entire bag of chips in one sitting. This type of behavior can have negative consequences on our physical and mental health. The serotonin pathway to happiness and balance



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dopamine levels might surge, driving us to seek instant gratification. However, this can lead to a crash, leaving us feeling depleted and unhappy. On the other hand, when we engage in activities that promote serotonin production, such as exercise, meditation, or spending time in nature, we can experience a sense of calm and well-being. This can help regulate our dopamine levels, reducing our reliance on instant gratification and promoting a more balanced lifestyle. Rethinking well-being From chasing to feeling Understanding the distinction between dopamine and serotonin can have a profound impact on our approach to well-being. Rather than focusing solely on eliminating dopamine or suppressing our desires, we can focus on building a life that naturally raises serotonin. This might involve By shifting our focus from chasing dopamine hits to building a life that promotes serotonin production, we can experience a deeper sense of happiness and fulfillment. It's not about depriving ourselves of pleasure or motivation but about cultivating a sense of balance and well-being. Our bodies are constantly sending us feedback, influencing our mood, energy levels, and overall sense of well-being. When we engage in activities that promote physical and emotional well-being, our neurochemistry shifts. Exercise, for example, can increase serotonin levels, while also reducing stress and anxiety. By tuning into our bodies and listening to their needs, we can take a more holistic approach to our well-being. This might involve The distinction between dopamine and serotonin offers a powerful insight into the complexities of human motivation and well-being. By understanding the role of these neurotransmitters, we can take a more informed approach to our lives, focusing on activities and behaviors that promote long-term happiness and fulfillment. Rather than chasing the next dopamine hit, we can focus on building a life that naturally raises serotonin. This might involve nurturing meaningful relationships, engaging in activities that promote social bonding, and prioritizing our physical and emotional well-being. As we navigate the complexities of modern life, it's essential to remember that our well-being is within our control. By making conscious choices and prioritizing our mental and physical health, we can create a life that is rich in purpose, meaning, and joy. So, let's take a step back and reevaluate our priorities. Let's focus on building a life that promotes serotonin production, rather than constantly chasing dopamine hits. Our well-being depends on it. 'Centrism isn't nostalgia, it is survival' Rethinking stray dogs **From** crisis to opportunity Vietnam and Laos elevate bilateral relations Significance of Lam's visit S D Pradhan has served as chairman of India's Joint Intelligence Committee. He has also been the country's deputy national security adviser. He was chairman of the Task Force on Intelligence Mechanism (2008-2010), which was constituted to review the functioning of the intelligence agencies. He has taught at the departments of defence studies and history at the Punjabi University, Patiala. He was also a visiting professor at the University of Illinois, US, in the department of arms control and disarmament studies. The ministry of defence had utilized his services for the preparation of official accounts of the 1971 war and the counterinsurgency operations in the northeast. In the JIC National Security Council secretariat, he was closely invol



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Humans have an inherent tendency to search for patterns, especially ones which are associated with positive or negative personal experiences. Recognizing patterns has been crucial for our survival as a species. In ancient times, our ancestors would observe the sky and identify star patterns. This led not only to the naming of constellations but also to predicting seasons based on the movements of the sun and planets around these constellations. This understanding of seasons was instrumental for our agricultural practices. We remember many outstanding people lives, services, and sacrifices every year. Among them is the prophet of the Bahia I Faith, known as the Babb, which means the gate. During the six years of his divine mission, the Babb had convinced thousands throughout West Asia that according to the sacred scriptures of all past religions, he had come to prepare the way for the advent of Bahia u Allah, the promised one, who would manifest in and inaugurate an era of righteousness and peace, the era of the planetisation of humankind. Even a cursory review of the happenings and events of the past years would convince a sincere seeker that tremendous power is released when a human being sacrifices something for the benefit of humanity motivated by the virtues of the Divine. A practical example we observe in nature is a seed and the mighty tree. Not until a seed completely disintegrates under the soil can it produce a tree. It is then that an object as insignificant as a seed, by sacrificing itself completely, will be transformed into a mighty tree with branches, fruits and flowers. The nearly eight-million strong Bahia I community is acutely aware of the most perilous hour in human history. How should we address the grave civilisational crises? What is our purpose here on earth? Why did the Babb and the thousands who followed him without fear of persecution and death uphold the truth of his message? The history of humankind presents us with many soul-stirring episodes of supreme sacrifice. In like manner, the Babb responded to the organised forces of his enemies in Iran. Whether in the life of the individual or that of society, profound transformation calls for intense suffering. Whatever our planet future, Bahia is believe that human beings, the most intelligent of all living creatures, are part of the larger scheme of things as conceived by the creator. There are **five** critical elements in the writings of the Babb and Bahia u Allah: I the oneness of humankind whereby all the peoples would have to shed their lesser identities and regard themselves as citizens of the world ii the rise of the feminine, namely the spread of women power who would successfully banish wars and conflicts the spiritualisation of technology that would enable individuals, institutions and communities to harness its full potential for the betterment of life on earth iv a new pattern of education that would allow for universal accessibility of knowledge generation of new knowledge and its application for solving the manifold challenges now afflicting the globe v the emergence of global governance system whereby individuals serving on a wide range of institutions responsible for managing the affairs of the society, the nation, severally or collectively, would be true servants of humankind. To this end, Bahia is around the globe, in a wide range of settings, are striving, inviting their fellow human beings to build a spiritually and materially prospering world civ

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Scope to further fuel their entrepreneurial spirit. Our aim at Amway is to create a robust ecosystem that provides an avenue for entrepreneurial aspirants to own and operate their own business based on interests and passions they follow by providing product solutions to their communities online and turning passions into prosperity. We believe as these passionpreneurs continue to rise, the businesses partnering with them by lowering the barriers to entrepreneurship will grow in value. The advent of creators has given way to a whole new economy, one that is still at a nascent stage in India. It will be exciting to witness the next 500 million internet users carving out their niche using social media platforms. Welcome to the passion economy! Gig Economy moves up gear in the digital era. If one follows the evolution of work and workforce, the gig economy has been one of the breakthrough trends in the past decade. As online marketplaces and platforms came to be, they paved the way for the gig economy, providing exciting opportunities to be your own business and set your own time. They might not have represented passions, but they lowered the barrier for many people, especially women, to enter the workforce with the benefit of flexibility. Further, many employed in the regular workforce, work as freelancers to supplement their income. Aided by the platforms and uncertainties in the job market, the trend is here to stay. It is evident from the recent reports that the gig economy has the potential to touch up to 90 million jobs in the next eight to 10 years in the non agriculture sector alone. As the pandemic struck, even gig workers were impacted. Over time, instead of trying to get back to business as usual, they have been looking for a new way forward. In the past year, especially, there has been a silent convergence of opportunity, social media, and technology, paving the way for new entrepreneurs who are making a living doing what they love. Utilizing their passions, people from across regions are earning a living from the comfort of their homes, using just their phones and the internet. From cooking their best nutritious recipes to giving make up tutorials, many are building communities around health, fitness, adventure, cooking and beauty to turn their passions into livelihoods. In the past year, we have seen a significant surge in people exploring **the** business opportunity with Amway. It is impeccable to see how all our gig entrepreneurs are building online communities based on their passion for fitness, healthy living, cooking etc. For generations Amway Direct Sellers have been owning the strength of offline and it is only a natural extension to see them passionately drive this online. Our Amway Direct Sellers are building online communities based on their passions, which was earlier cemented offline through face to face interactions. Today, Amway has been seeing a rise in the passionate gigsters joining the business and driving their potential and leading this evolution of entrepreneurship.

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A block chain based evolution of the World Wide Web, Web3 is poised for exponential growth in India in years to come. Going by the projections in a recent FICCI Ernst & Young report, Web3 and block chain can add a whopping \$1.1 trillion to the country GDP by 2032. Buoyed by the rapid adoption of new age technologies and a growing startup ecosystem, India is set to emerge as a key player in the global Web3 landscape. We re all set to make it big The demand for IT professionals in the country has been rising steadily over the years. We have witnessed a rapid surge in demand for digital skills in emerging tech domains like artificial intelligence, information security and block chain as a result of the massive shift of businesses towards digitisation and automation. The potential is enormous with India home to more than 450 Web3 startups, which have raised \$1.3 billion in funding in two years, as reported by apex industry body Nasscom in October. Nasscom has observed that India Web3 growth is riding on its enormous pool fogless and millennial people, who constitute 77 per cent of the population. The World Economic Forum has also estimated that investment in up skilling can boost the Indian economy by \$570 billion by 2030. Talent crunch poses big challenge This huge opportunity, however, also presents a formidable challenge. The tech industry is clearly struggling to keep pace with the growing demand for Web3 and block chain services on account of a dearth of an employable workforce with the required skills to cater to the growing needs of businesses. Though India digital talent is growing five times faster than its core tech talent, the demand supply gap for digital talent is expected to increase by over 3.5 times by 2026. Raising this concern in a recent report, Nasscom has pegged the tech talent demand supply gap at 21 per cent and rightly stressed upon the need for academia industry collaborations to introduce up skilling and certification programmers in Web3 and block chain. Let join hands to plug skill gaps Since IT has become indispensable to all industries, building an industry ready talent pool in tech services can make all the difference in arresting this trend and propelling the tech sector into a fast growth trajectory. In fact, I feel that going a step ahead, the public and private **sectors** should join hands to bridge these skill gaps by nurturing a highly competent resource pool so as to facilitate a vibrant and flourishing business ecosystem in the country. Block chain and associated technologies can give a strong impetus to India long term economic growth by attracting sizeable FDI and transforming the way businesses operate if we have trained professionals endowed with the skill sets that enterprises need to accelerate their growth through the adoption of block chain driven systems. Go for up skilling, raise the bar A report by Team Lease, a people supply chain company, has pointed out that at least half of the current workforce in India will need to reskill themselves in emerging technologies, and that is a huge number. After all, the availability of talent is the key differentiator for the booming tech industry, and up skilling programmers in Web3 and block chain can act as a stimulus to facilitate a tech ecosystem for businesses to thrive. Since block chain is the epitome of tech in the future, we must make the most of its immense employment generation potential by providing industry ready manpower and developing solution

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All of us by increasing quality of life and improving productivity at work and have a tremendous impact on family life. Mental health is the hidden treasure that could transform the fortunes of families, organizations, communities and countries. This means not just a bigger GDP, but a bigger GHI or Gross Happiness Index too. To achieve this, we just need to take conscious, simple steps and stigmatize the entire approach to mental health. Using positive psychology is one of the very basic routes to achieving a balanced mind. Positive Psychology is a scientific approach to study human thoughts, feelings, and behavior, with a focus on strengths instead of weaknesses, building the good in life instead of repairing the bad, and taking the lives of average people up to great instead of focusing solely on moving those who are struggling up to normal. We have been using positive psychology while working with workforces to enhance their experience at work which is reflected in their family life as well. It is also important that as a society we are able to talk about feelings. Talking about your feelings can help you stay in good mental health and deal with times when you feel troubled. Some of the simple things that we can do as a community to enable positive mental health are simple activities like keeping active. Movement ensures hormonal balance with modulation of serotonin, cortisol and various other hormones. This enables an individual to be mindful and aware, help rest well and have a balanced mood. The right nutrition is an impactful trigger, which can alter one behavior and thereby impact the mind. Asking for help either from the family or from professionals when an individual feels vulnerable is an attitude we should inculcate as a society. And of course, taking a break sometimes helps the mind to unwind and open up some space to encourage positive thoughts. Therefore, it would be right to say that simple steps that we take as individuals towards positive mental health can have an huge impact on our society. Web3 and NFT games have now become a growing topic of conversation among netizens. Play to earn has built a whole new paradigm for generating real world value from gaming items and digital commodities through the use of non fungible tokens NFT, which are based on block chain technologies. Therefore, people who are inclined towards **gaming** have now entered NFT space with the help of NFT gaming vibe. Since play to earn titles are now generating latest buzz with the help of NFTs to attract Web3 enthusiasts, startups and investors. Web3 have led to the next level evolution of internet by making use of the block chain technology. Therefore, the web3 encircles categories such as crypto currencies, non fungible tokens NFT, decentralized finance Deify and decentralized autonomous organization DAO. Because the legal environment surrounding crypto currencies is still unclear, having clarification on the legality and classification of virtual digital assets is critical. Despite the regulation risks.



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No longer have to go out in search of better avenues. Considering its immense potential as a significant contributor to the GDP, there is a need to acknowledge the role of Web3 in nation building and turn it into a veritable movement by aligning it with the avowed objectives of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Start up India and Digital India. Recently, our Honorable Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Jib commenced her budget speech by calling it the first budget of Amrit Kaal. What was particularly interesting is how the Hon blew FM noted that the seven key priorities including infrastructure investment, reaching the last mile and inclusive development are set to complement one another and act as the apt rishi to guide us towards the Amrit Kaal. The Budget 2023 accurately captures the hope filled sentiment of the common Indian who is content with the status quo, but also, firmly believes that our country has much more potential. Despite several global headwinds throughout the recent few years including the Covid 19 pandemic, Russia Ukraine war, and India own concerns with maintaining economic stability in the South Asia region, India has continued to prove itself as an economic bright spot for growth and investments. However, that is not the peak of what India can achieve. It is no doubt that India is still within its PPF Production Possibility Frontier, and there is immense scope to reach a state of higher maximum productivity and efficiency. India revenue per employee RPE one of the wider metrics to gauge productivity has been falling from 2019 to 2021, and the sector wise RPE shows that the manufacturing sector faced a larger brunt of this as it faced a 28 percent decline in average RPE. India labor productivity growth has also shown similar trends, with faltering witnessed even in years preceding Covid 19. As India seeks ambitious growth targets, for economic industrial complex to continually contribute to it, enhancing productivity seems to be the need of the hour. It the Asthma eighth rishi for the Amrit Kaal. Therefore, it critical to analyses the current state and trends of the productivity of our economic complex, and accordingly develop implementable interventions. Available literature on economic development such as the Three Sector or Fisher Clark Kuznets Hypothesis suggests that production in a country shifts from agriculture to manufacturing sector first, and then to services sector. This could be an underlying reason **for** why India has seen lower levels of overall productivity perhaps due to the lower exposure to a highly productive industrial set up. Of course, other factors play a major role as well, especially when we consider the presence of a large number of fragmented small and micro manufacturing companies. This was largely a consequence of certain pre liberalization era Industrial Policy 1956 policies whose effects can be seen to this day. For example India toy industry wood or plastics was reserved for small scale sector; as were some textile processes like hosiery, knitting & weaving. This undoubtedly limited efficiency levels of the Indian economy as preexisting larger players, who had the capital, were able to adopt practices that improved efficiency across its verticals in order to deliver competitive products. However, owing to most new entrants being smaller players who lacked capital we saw not only a lack of ability in these companies to compete with bigger firms through improving efficiency but also posed a limited

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All of us by increasing quality of life and improving productivity at work and have a tremendous impact on family life. Mental health is the hidden treasure that could transform the fortunes of families, organizations, communities and countries. This means not just a bigger GDP, but a bigger GHI or Gross Happiness Index too. To achieve this, we just need to take conscious, simple steps and stigmatize the entire approach to mental health. Using positive psychology is one of the very basic routes to achieving a balanced mind. Positive Psychology is a scientific approach to study human thoughts, feelings, and behavior, with a focus on strengths instead of weaknesses, building the good in life instead of repairing the bad, and taking the lives of average people up to great instead of focusing solely on moving those who are struggling up to normal. We have been using positive psychology while working with workforces to enhance their experience at work which is reflected in their family life as well. It is also important that as a society we are able to talk about feelings. Talking about your feelings can help you stay in good mental health and deal with times when you feel troubled. Some of the simple things that we can do as a community to enable positive mental health are simple activities like keeping active. Movement ensures hormonal balance with modulation of serotonin, cortisol and various other hormones. This enables an individual to be mindful and aware, help rest well and have a balanced mood. The right nutrition is an impactful trigger, which can alter one behavior and thereby impact the mind. Asking for help either from the family or from professionals when an individual feels vulnerable is an attitude we should inculcate as a society. And of course, taking a break sometimes helps the mind to unwind and open up some space to encourage positive thoughts. Therefore, it would be right to say that simple steps that we take as individuals towards positive mental health can have an huge impact on our society. Web3 and NFT games have now become a growing topic of conversation among netizens. Play to earn has built a whole new paradigm for generating real world value from gaming items and digital commodities through the use of non fungible tokens NFT, which are based on block chain technologies. Therefore, people who are inclined towards **gaming** have now entered NFT space with the help of NFT gaming vibe. Since play to earn titles are now generating latest buzz with the help of NFTs to attract Web3 enthusiasts, startups and investors. Web3 have led to the next level evolution of internet by making use of the block chain technology. Therefore, the web3 encircles categories such as crypto currencies, non fungible tokens NFT, decentralized finance Deify and decentralized autonomous organization DAO. Because the legal environment surrounding crypto currencies is still unclear, having clarification on the legality and classification of virtual digital assets is critical. Despite the regulation risks.

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All of us by increasing quality of life and improving productivity at work and have a tremendous impact on family life. Mental health is the hidden treasure that could transform the fortunes of families, organizations, communities and countries. This means not just a bigger GDP, but a bigger GHI or Gross Happiness Index too. To achieve this, we just need to take conscious, simple steps and stigmatize the entire approach to mental health. Using positive psychology is one of the very basic routes to achieving a balanced mind. Positive Psychology is a scientific approach to study human thoughts, feelings, and behavior, with a focus on strengths instead of weaknesses, building the good in life instead of repairing the bad, and taking the lives of average people up to great instead of focusing solely on moving those who are struggling up to normal. We have been using positive psychology while working with workforces to enhance their experience at work which is reflected in their family life as well. It is also important that as a society we are able to talk about feelings. Talking about your feelings can help you stay in good mental health and deal with times when you feel troubled. Some of the simple things that we can do as a community to enable positive mental health are simple activities like keeping active. Movement ensures hormonal balance with modulation of serotonin, cortisol and various other hormones. This enables an individual to be mindful and aware, help rest well and have a balanced mood. The right nutrition is an impactful trigger, which can alter one behavior and thereby impact the mind. Asking for help either from the family or from professionals when an individual feels vulnerable is an attitude we should inculcate as a society. And of course, taking a break sometimes helps the mind to unwind and open up some space to encourage positive thoughts. Therefore, it would be right to say that simple steps that we take as individuals towards positive mental health can have an huge impact on our society. Web3 and NFT games have now become a growing topic of conversation among netizens. Play to earn has built a whole new paradigm for generating real world value from gaming items and digital commodities through the use of non fungible tokens NFT, which are based on block chain technologies. Therefore, people who are inclined towards **gaming** have now entered NFT space with the help of NFT gaming vibe. Since play to earn titles are now generating latest buzz with the help of NFTs to attract Web3 enthusiasts, startups and investors. Web3 have led to the next level evolution of internet by making use of the block chain technology. Therefore, the web3 encircles categories such as crypto currencies, non fungible tokens NFT, decentralized finance Deify and decentralized autonomous organization DAO. Because the legal environment surrounding crypto currencies is still unclear, having clarification on the legality and classification of virtual digital assets is critical. Despite the regulation risks.

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The investments continue to happen in India resulting to robust growth of the Web3 ecosystem. Taxation Uncertainty As we all have witnessed remarkable growth of Web3 space, the upcoming crypto bill will result in adding a layer of legitimacy to digital currencies in India. According to the government latest income tax guidelines handed down in the recent budget. the profits on crypto transactions will either fell under business income or capital gains depending on the nature of transaction and tenure. Therefore, it is a huge relief to see the Indian government adopting a more progressive approach to innovation. And by bringing in taxation the government will legitimize the industry to a large extent. Rug pulls in Crypto space Frauds and scams happen in every industry, so does in the crypto space. The pump and dump schemes commonly known as rug pulls takes place when developers illegally takeoff investor money and abandons the project after allocating a huge amount to a fake crypto project. Thus, such projects are generally created by people with malicious intent. Hence it is important for investors to do a detailed background check before investing in any project and be very much aware of cyber criminals who intend to drain out the invested money. Experienced team is better than young teams Young talents do have a lot of potentials, but when it comes to such an uncertain industry such as web3 one should always opt for experienced people. Therefore, when companies hire young people working on their first ventures face lack of needed experience causing additional burden to the managing community that further result in project fails. As a result, many Web2 companies are looking to transition to Web3 but fail to understand that Web3 is a completely different ecosystem and not only is the tech different, but the core values of community are different and hence product thinking has to be driven from a very Web3 native perspective. Rewards: Web 3.0 and NFT gaming in general provide a slew of advantages, especially as the industry grows in popularity and creativity. The following are some of the primary incentives or perks they offer to excite content creators, users, collectors and fan communities. Great engaged community On many levels, the Web 3.0 ecosystem is distinct, but the most important is the community level interaction that is drawn from the space underlying values. The NFT community is a **place** where people engage their time by sharing and working on ideas, as well as supporting and investing in one another projects. A good example of an interconnected NFT community is the Bored Ape Yacht Club, which is a club for people who have the same type of NFTs. Ecosystem grows exponentially when it works Yuga Labs owner of Bored Ape Hatch Club just raised USD 450mn. The company was founded only a year ago, in 2021, and given the huge success of the NFT space, it remarkable how quickly some of these ecosystems can grow. Since many of such projects.



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If employees are likely to leave for a better job, businesses are less likely to invest in their lifelong training. However, if we continue to contribute to this shift, we will receive the benefits. Digitalization and globalization have been liberating and uplifting for individuals with the right knowledge and abilities. In this technologically oriented global age, the next generation of young citizens will collaborate to progress an increasingly complex society rather than merely seeking work. Creativity, empathy, perseverance, and entrepreneurship, as well as the ability to move forward, will be required. The need to develop the capacity and motivation for lifelong learning is the most obvious consequence of a world that demands learners to constantly adapt and evolve. To prepare for this new era of work, students who are soon going to be a part of the recruitment process need to be cognizant of the following focus areas. Flexibility adaptability and flexibility are the most valuable traits in a world where job roles are constantly evolving, and new capabilities need to be added to cope in this dynamic environment. If you can adapt to change and take on every challenge as an opportunity to learn and grow, you are on the right path. Focus on work, results will follow take your job as a steppingstone in your overall work life and focus more on the organisation and stability during your initial years. Do not run for fat pay packages in your initial career years. Also, in terms of job location, you must be flexible in the choice of city where you are comfortable living and working. If the role is worthwhile, stepping out of your comfort zone and moving to a new location offers a learning opportunity and helps in career growth cutting edge technology and software knowledge: as a student preparing to embark on a new career, you must keep yourself updated with the latest technologies and tools which are relevant for your desired role. Expert level knowledge may not be necessary, but working knowledge is a must open to emerging roles and do not stick to just the standard roles there are numerous roles to be explored and fewer professionals catering to the industry needs. If you are ready to be the first one to take on a new role, you will have the first mover advantage and you can get a chance to lay down processes **and** workflows. 5. Look for differentiators in your education that will help you when you seek job opportunities a crucial aspect that often gets ignored is specialization. Rather than pursuing generic courses, a specialised degree offers the opportunity to jumpstart your career with specific knowledge required for a promising career. An accredited degree that is recognised by the industry gives you an edge in terms of employability. Experts predict that the future of work will be dominated by digital work environments. With this rapidly changing era and work culture, you can either jump off or stay in sync with it by.

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The conflict in Ukraine has metamorphosed into a multi dimensional global crisis. The military battles, the breach of international law, the tragic displacement of millions, the raft of sanctions all of this has been compounded by the inability of conventional diplomatic actors and mechanisms to play any meaningful role. Multilateral diplomacy at the United Nations has come up short. The four votes at the Security Council added up to zero significant outcomes. In a significant move for the Northeast, the Centre has decided to reduce the area under the draconian Armed Forces Special Powers Act in the states of Assam, Manipur and Nagaland. The law, which gives armed forces extraordinary powers to search arrest and shoot on suspicion, has long been condemned by civil society organisations for undermining democratic rights. True, violent insurgency in the Northeast was the reason kept getting extensions. But it also created a sense of otherness that prevented full integration of the Northeast with the rest of India. Add to this, unfortunate incidents such as the killing of 14 people by security forces in a botched anti militancy operation in Nagaland Mon district last year, which intensified the demand for repeal of throughout the Northeast. It is welcome therefore that the Centre has decided to remove the Disturbed Area tag, which operationalises completely from 23 districts and partially from one other in Assam. Meanwhile, in Manipur will no longer apply to 15 police station areas of six districts. In Nagaland too 15 police stations across seven districts will be exempted. All these changes come into effect from today and highlight Gol efforts in recent years to end the scourge of militancy in the region. That said, application of in Assam was far less heavy handed compared to Manipur and Nagaland. Hence, removing the act from most of Assam was low hanging fruit. Whereas the relatively small areas being exempted in Manipur and Nagaland mean most of these two states continue to remain in the shadow of the draconian law. Nonetheless, the curtailment of AFSPA is a step in the right direction. The move is aided by the fact that around 7,000 militants in the Northeast have surrendered in recent years. Plus, agreements like the 2020 Bodo Accord and the 2021 Karbi Angling pact have politically addressed the root causes of regional insurgencies. Also, BJP today is in government alone or in coalition across all Northeast **states**. Hence, Gol is uniquely placed to usher in normalisation in the Northeast and facilitate economic development, which is the best antidote to insurgencies anyway. The Centre should continue on this track and work to repeal AFSPA across all of Northeast. This prone to abuse law that has its roots in the colonial era has no place in modern India. One of the key factors in global business and commercial relationships is reputational gain or loss, magnified by network effects and feedback loops. India reputational pluses are its current and future growth, its educated talent, which is large in absolute numbers.

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Partnership traces back to their joint struggle against colonial rule, led by iconic figures such as Ho Chi Minh, Kaysone Phomvihane, and Souphanouvong. The Viet Lao alliance, established to fight colonial forces, laid the foundation for an enduring friendship that has steadily expanded over decades. The joint statement, Lam's policy speech, and newly signed agreements showcase Lam's diplomatic vision centred on national security, economic growth, and long-term strategic planning. His foreign policy emphasises stability, investment attraction, and sustainable cooperation, built on the pragmatic principle of maintaining good neighbourly relations that includes extended neighbourhood as well. Lam has effectively elevated Vietnam's bamboo diplomacy into a broader doctrine of statecraft, integrating security, economic policy, and international engagement with strategic confidence. Lam and his Laotian counterpart Thongloun Sisoulith underscored that defence and security remain the key pillars of bilateral relations, contributing to a stable and sustainable shared border. They agreed to strengthen defence-security collaboration, coordinate closely in responding to increasingly complex security challenges and link national defence and security with socio-economic development. They also agreed 'to strongly promote and create breakthroughs in economic, cultural, and scientific-technical cooperation enhance connectivity in transport, electricity, energy, telecommunications, and tourism continue improving the quality of education, training, and human resource development, especially a high-quality labour force and strengthen people-to-people interactions and local-level exchanges.' Twelve major agreements were signed reflecting Hanoi's special solidarity with Laos. These include Recognising the importance of cognitive security, both sides agreed to intensify information exchange on theoretical and practical issues arising from national reforms and international integration. They committed to enhancing coordination against violent overthrow strategies, and distorted or hostile narratives. Hanoi and Vientiane agreed to deepen their bilateral ties by strengthening economic, infrastructure, financial, banking and tourism connectivity and by implementing effective measures to raise two-way trade to \$5 billion in the coming time, with a longer-term target of \$10 billion. Trade and investment ties have maintained robust growth already, with two-way trade in the first ten months of 2025 hitting nearly \$2. 5 billion, surging by 50. 4% from 2024, elevating Vietnam to Laos' third-largest trading partner. Vietnam is investing in the economic development of Laos. Hanoi currently has 274 projects in Laos with a total registered capital of over \$5.8 billion. Newly operational transport-infrastructure projects connecting the two countries mark important progress in strategic development and spatial linkage, helping drive shared development. An important agreement was on the border **area**. Lam suggested that the potential of geographical, economic, political, and cultural synergies between the two nations should be leveraged, and the shared border should be transformed into a space of opportunity for development and integration. The inauguration of the Lao Viet International Port in the Vung Ang Economic Zone is especially noteworthy, advancing the long-standing goal of bringing Laos to the sea a strategic asset for Laos's sustainable development. This can serve as

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Both sides are committed to maximising existing mechanisms, deepening party-to-party and state-to-state ties, and supporting major political events, including upcoming Party Congresses, thereby reaffirming the strong political foundation of Vietnam-Laos ties. Lam's visit is widely regarded as a significant milestone. Realising the complex and fast-changing global landscape, the two leaders not only decided to elevate their ties but to coordinate their strategies on international and regional issues and support at multilateral forums and within ASEAN, and protection of each other's legitimate interests in line with international law, including on matters related to the South China Sea (SCS). The agreement between Lam and Sisoulith to implement the high-level agreements reached at the third summit of the top leaders of the three Parties of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia reflects a broader strategy of strengthening trilateral cooperation. The latter two are immediate neighbours of Vietnam; hence this group's strategic relevance cannot be underestimated. In fact, this appears to be a Lam's masterstroke and a powerful geopolitical statement, given the complex regional geopolitical dynamics. 'Centrism isn't nostalgia, it is survival' Rethinking stray dogs from crisis to opportunity Times of India - India Voices Blogs (December 5, 2025) Putin is visiting India after a gap of four years for the 23rd India-Russia annual summit. There has never been such a long gap in the summit process since it began in 2000. From a Currency value has an outsized effect on national consciousness. Partly legitimately in a globalised world, currency fluctuations don't just affect the arcane world of bank street, but also the humdrum of real street via By Vir Singh Life on the planet is rooted in the soil. The soil is not just the uppermost mantle of our planet's land, it is the largest terrestrial ecosystem and a remarkable habitat inhabited Electoral politics is a zero-sum game, and not such a sweet deal after all When people talk politics to me and ask whether I'm pro-govt or anti-govt, pro- opposition or anti-opposition, I ask them how China has come up with a very strange idea they added a tax on condoms and think this will make people have more babies. But that doesn't really make sense. If someone finds a small China's tax on condoms won't make Chinese have more kids. Communist patriarchy can't even see women's POV Seriously? A tax on condoms? Yup, that's what Chinese authorities are gifting folks this New **Year**. The laughable IndiGo, India's biggest airline has been having a really bad week. For three days straight, thousands of passengers were stuck at airports for hours, sometimes more than 10 hours, with no idea when their flights IndiGo had two years to prepare for new pilot roistering rules. Why didn't it do so, is the question Thursday was the third day of IndiGo flight disruptions that left lakhs of flyers stranded, often Neighbourhood dogs protect an abandoned new-born. Something in us is deeply drawn to such stories It's a few weeks to Christmas but something very Christmassy has happened. A new-born was abandoned near a toilet in A few weeks before Christmas, something both sad and heart-warming happened in a town in Bengal.



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Even if sadly small as a proportion of its population, its entrepreneurial energy, its potential as a manufacturing hub given its young workforce, and a political and policy culture that grown more receptive to needs of business. But the sluggishness of its legal system and its tendency to often change commercial and tax rules are reputational minuses, because they affect the critical matter of contractual consistency. Add to this the degree of social disharmony, both real and as perceived by investors. A harmonious society is always bound to be more attractive in a highly competitive global business environment. In India, Karnataka is increasingly posing a question on this issue. The state is a magnet for all job seekers because of the economic vibrancy catalysed by the technology sector. Being an open and tolerant society has helped greatly. But now the state that was a beacon of hope for all of India seems to be narrowing options for a section of its own residents. On every level that is wrong and harms India. And since reputations matter, and optics are indeed consequential, political calls that translate into undermining livelihood opportunities of Muslims are damaging for the business environment if not now, then over the medium term. Some argue that Gujarat emergence as a business hub has been affected despite the 2002 riots. The point is that there have been no major riots in Gujarat since then, and that contributed to its investment attractiveness. Neither countries nor individual firms are any longer immune to pressure that comes from a deteriorating reputation. The scope of such pushback is not fixed, it evolves over time as collective standards change. Even China, with its gigantic 15 trillion economy, could prevent exits out of Hong Kong after its crackdown on democracy activists. Karnataka politicians need to keep these lessons in mind. Creating opportunities for everyone is not only intrinsically good, it also sets a virtuous cycle in motion. The word assessment figures 65 times in the National Education Policy, 2020, while the word examination figures only 11 times with respect to school education. That in itself is saying a great deal. It is crucial that our school ecosystem comprehends the subtle difference between the two. Buying some instant coffee for me online, Bunny came across an economic anomaly. If she bought one packet of the product it would cost x rupees. If she bought 2 **packets**, the cost would be not 2x rupees but 2x plus rupees. Which meant that if one bought two packets separately they would be cheaper than if they were bought together as a combo, or combination, deal. Such a proposition goes against both mathematical and marketing logic. Because of what called economies of scale, bulk purchases of any product cost less, item for item, than single purchases. If a single tube of toothpaste retails for Rest 100, if you were to buy 100 tubes of the same toothpaste you had expect to get each tube at the wholesale rate of Rest.

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A climax that turned out to be worse than an anti-climax, even from modernist Hollywood movie standards. Yes, we are talking about the debate between POTUS President of the United States and the ex. The resultant song and dance about the performance or lack of the most powerful person on the earth also shows the clear priorities of a section of his own party, namely, his performing prowess on the stage and not his record in governing the country. Well, here the oldest democracy in modern times has many lessons to learn from the largest democracy in the world. Ever mindful of the likely consequences, our political leaders abhorred such theatrical debates, inside or outside the studios. The rule of the game being never to let even a semblance of reference point come near you, which potentially is liable to be high jacked to make the comparisons about the relative performances. This effectively takes care of ill thought off live debates focusing instead on the monologues. We, the public, in any case tend to take very compassionate views about what is said during the campaigns simply because making sense of what is said remains outside the scope of our purview. The fact that leaders are making physical appearances and speaking something has always been more than enough to whet our political appetite. Certainly, factors like coherence and articulation do not enter in to lexicon of campaigning terminology. One has to be careful though that his her their voice is not raspy as unfortunately POTUS reportedly was and words are not mumbled loud and clear even if offensive, is kosher. The fact that we are way more tolerant is borne by the fact that we don't give two hoots whether our leaders are shuffling or not, it not as if we did have such leaders but some of them were rather adored by the public. Perhaps because they were not under 24 glare of the social media. The impact of teleprompter is something one can agree with brethren from across the Atlantic. Many of our otherwise lively leaders were seen to be reduced to boring and listless when reading from the prepared speech in contrast with their extempore selves. But thankfully such prepared speeches are reserved for formal events only. The question of having other occasions, such as interactions with the political donors or the media, situations where the advanced **countries** are prone to use teleprompters, do not apply to us naturally. Not for nothing we pride ourselves in being the Vita Guru, after all did we visualize the distant messy future and nip the problem in the bud? It time to launch US-India initiative on Campaigning and Ageless Politics. structure after seeing a pattern in the complex molecular structure within cells. However, there is a distinction between patterns existing in nature and those existing only in our minds. When we throw an object upwards, it falls down due to gravitational force a causal pattern. Conversely, believing that sitting in seat number 13 on an airplane brings bad luck is a mental belief. Such beliefs often arise when our minds falsely impose patterns where none exist. We start to link two unrelated events causally, and if repeated instances of these links result in meaningful outcomes for us, these perceived connections become ingrained in our thinking. Believing in superstitions may not be inherently negative. For many, superstitions can reduce anxiety and create a positive mindset. For example, when I embark on a journey, my mother gives me curd and sugar,

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Participants given a lucky charm performed better on various tasks, suggesting that superstitions can boost confidence and enhance performance through a placebo effect. Another study examined superstitions role in coping with stress during uncertainty, such as military conflicts. The research indicated that superstitions can serve as coping mechanisms, helping individuals manage anxiety and stress by providing a sense of control in uncontrollable situations. However, some people become overly obsessed with superstitions, making it unhealthy. For instance, they may revolve everything around a lucky number, constantly seeking it in phone numbers, addresses and even on people shirts as a sign of good luck. Others might cancel important journeys if someone sneezes before they leave, leading to an unhealthy obsession with superstition. In some parts of the country, people are still exploited by fake god men using superstitious beliefs. Believing in bad luck or curses can heighten anxiety and fear. For instance, someone believing that breaking a mirror brings bad luck might experience undue stress and anxiety after such an incident, creating a cycle of worry and fear about future negative events. Superstitious beliefs can exacerbate obsessive-compulsive disorder leading individuals to perform rituals or avoid specific actions to prevent perceived negative outcomes, diminishing personal control over one life. There is a clear cut rule for what constitutes a healthy level of superstition. It varies widely from person to person. Yet, there is no substitute to purposeful action. Sachin Tendulkar, for instance, did achieve legendary status simply by wearing his left pad first. While it important to recognize that superstitions can provide comfort and reduce feelings of vulnerability, we must also be vigilant not to abandon our commitment to scientific reasoning. Also, the exploitation of people using superstitions is indefensible. Ultimately, it is best to believe we have some level of control, give our best effort and hope for the best outcomes. Psychologist on the faculty of Harvard Medical School, where she explores why tough emotions are essential for living a life of true meaning and, yes, even happiness. She talks about embracing emotional agility which is the ability to be with your emotions with curiosity, compassion, and especially the courage to take values connected steps. We all come across many situations in life that make us experience such emotions. People behave differently in different situations all the time. Humans are complex beings after all. One important thing we need to consider **is** the person Window of Tolerance, a concept originally developed by Dan Siegel, MD to describe the optimal zone a person can exist in order to best function and thrive in everyday life. Being in the optimum zone makes us function have the openness and capacity to take any stressful situation more rationally. A person may not feel in control over their actions due to overwhelm, or anxiety. This is the Hyper arousal state also known as the fight, flight or freeze response. Or he may shut down, be disconnected or withdraw also known as the Hypo arousal state. A combination of exercises including using breath work can be used to calm the nervous system in such cases. Mindfulness practices can help broaden one window of tolerance which can eventually help improve one capacity to experience not necessarily accept intense emotions. Being in the window of

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Makes sense. So obviously the people marketing the coffee Bunny was buying had goofed, either in their mathematics or their sales strategy, or both. Or had they What if their pricing policy was a coded message, a consumer friendly Caveat Emptor Buyer Beware alerting potential customers to the hidden hazards of combo packages Whether we are buying daily needs in the local supermarket, or fast food in a burger or pizza outlet, we are often offered a bewildering array of combo deals. If we buy 2 liters of cooking oil, we all get the third liter free, along with a sample sachet of anti dandruff shampoo, or some such totally random add on. Or if we buy one extra large pizza, we all get a jumbo cola for half price, plus a free pack of antacids for the bout of indigestion that all those extra carbs and calories will bring about. We are always being tempted to spend more to make ourselves feel that we are actually spending less by saving money on individual items. So we end up buying, or eating, more than we really need. Combo deals also obtain in our electoral democracy. They are made of mix and match or mix and mismatch hotchpotches called coalitions which give us more, or less, than what we bargained for, more or less. There is an ancient proverb which tells us: No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow. There is no country on earth, no race, community, or culture that does not celebrate the colors and warmth of this beautiful season, welcoming the spring with open arms. Indeed, we may say that spring brings to us, year after year, the message of renewal of the spirit. After a cold, grey, dull leafless winter, nature finds a new life. Fresh sap moves up the trees, sprouts into tiny new leaves and buds. After the winter hibernation is over, nature wears a new garb, sparkling with life. The balmy breeze ushers in a soothing feeling. The wintry gloom gives way to sprouting green grass, blossoming flowers and chirping birds. Spring kindles in every heart, the desire to celebrate the revival of nature in its beautiful manifestation, and rejoice in its wonderful transformation. Spring symbolises new hope, new aspiration and the spirit of faith that asserts: God is in His Heaven, and all is right with the world! **Little** wonder then, that the saying goes, he day God created hope was probably the same day he created spring. Spring teaches us an important lesson. Renew the spirit of life make a fresh start. Throw away the accumulated dead matter, the emotional garbage of the past, the negative energy that has built up over the years. Offload the dead weeds, the negativity; make a new beginning, now and here. Why do we cling to the past I think it is because we do not realise what the Bard said so memorably: All the world is a stage, and all the.

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Men and women merely players this world is a Lila, God divine play, and each of us is assigned to play a role. The role is played under the benevolent supervision of the Divine Producer Director. A play has several characters, some good and some evil. Just as actors play their part on the stage, so too we live our lives the characters may be obnoxious, fighting among themselves, or staging an emotional portrayal of hate, love and grief. Once the curtain falls, they return to the green room, wipe the makeup off their faces, change into their everyday clothes and resume their ordinary lives. The villain and the hero who vowed to destroy each other, embrace and congratulate each other, wish all actors good night and depart for their homes, once the play is over. Similarly, we too have come here to play our role in several relationships. Once we leave this physical body and enter the life beyond, we return to our homeland, to our True Self. Then we realise that the hurt, sorrow, grief, hate and envy accumulated over a lifetime are nothing but needless, irrelevant waste. The negativity of the past must be burnt to ashes so that we might awaken to a new life every day. Noam Simian, recitation of the Name Divine rejuvenates the soul and lifts it out of despair and bondage. Man is then reborn and rejuvenated with renewed faith in God. Addressing the summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for prioritising regional security and cooperation, saying developments in Europe had raised questions about the stability of the global order. While it is true that BIMSTEC should be elevated as a regional body, especially in light of issues with the Saarc framework, stability of the global order requires India to think carefully about its future foreign policy posture. The Ukraine crisis has seen India abstain during all UN votes, raising doubts about its ability to play a key leadership role. For, no one can justify the completely unprovoked aggression that Russia has wrought on Ukraine. And as a champion of territorial sovereignty, India should have condemned the Russian invasion. In choosing not to, India has sought to preserve its strategic interests with Russia. Which is fair enough if you are a middle power and comfortable with that categorisation. However, if on the other hand India aspires to global power status, it **must** adhere to principles. Remaining tight lipped while a large nuclear nation invades and destroys a smaller non nuclear one does qualify as leadership. Hence, India can shy away from taking a position on big ticket global issues. Even if India actions are guided by a desire to stay away from big power rivalry, it can compromise on principles. Otherwise, sooner or later it is bound to find itself in a bind. Already questions are being raised about how the other members of the Quad which India joined to ensure a free and open Indo Pacific will react in case China.

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To reduce output volatility in order to harness export opportunities and to raise agricultural income. It may be noted that China remained an insignificant partner in India food grains trade till 2019 Figure. China share in India exports of food grains cereals increased to over five percent in the beginning of 2022. It surpassed seven percent of total cereals exports in June 2022 with an export value of \$104.75 million. India total cereal exports to all destinations amounted to \$1,449 million in the same month, which accounts for 3.43 percent of total merchandise exports US \$42,292 million. It may be noted that annual cereals exports from India was \$10,104 million in the financial year 2020 21. Since 2021, China clearly appears as one of the rising export markets. China imports cereals from several other countries. In 2021, imports from USA was the highest followed by Ukraine. India for the first time appeared in the top ten source of cereals imports. Majority of cereals exports from India are headed towards Asian countries e.g. Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Nepal, Viet Nam, Iraq, UAE, China, among others. Cereals exports to developed markets such as the US, EU remain lower. Several restrictive measures were behind the lack of food exports from India to China in the past. International trade in agricultural produce has been subject to various barriers. China was found to provide domestic support for agricultural produces i.e. in the form of market price support to producers of wheat, India rice and Japonica rice in excess of WTO commitments. Further, China administered tariff rate quotas TRQs for wheat, rice, and corn. The TRQ administration operates on an annual basis. However, applicants must apply for TRQ allocations from 15 to 30 October of the year preceding that for which TRQ certificate will be issued by National Development and Reform Commission NDRC of China. Export of rice to China needs to adhere to certain phytosanitary requirements e.g. the product should be free from grain pests. In order to facilitate rice exports, Government of India 2015 issued standard operating procedure for export of rice to China. An amended version is approved for adoption in 2021. Exporters need to obtain PSC for each consignment prior to export to China through online PQIS system. The latest encounter killings in Uttar Pradesh on 13 April 2023 have raised a storm once again. The motives and modus operandi of **the** state law enforcement agencies is being questioned by the political opposition. Political rhetoric aside, any extra-judicial killing or fake encounters by any law enforcing agency have to be seen as undemocratic and unlawful. However, this does not imply that all encounters are unlawful or murders in cold blood. Discretion, restraint, warnings, and use of minimal force are the bedrocks on which any police force works before an encounter takes place. There is no case for any assumption that UP police have forsaken all these basics and trigger-happy policemen are running around killing people at will. Two days later, Mr Atiq Ahmed and his brother were killed by three gunmen while they were being taken to the hospital for a routine medical examination. Brandishing expensive and local firearms, the intruders approached the two accused brothers as part of the media teams that had gathered at the hospital. The UP police were once again under a cloud and rightly so. The incident raises three fundamental questions. First, was there any complici

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Doing a task assigned to them? Third, what could be the motives for the killings? None of the sympathizing political leaders have had the gumption to be more circumspect and factual in speaking on these incidents. Asad and his aide were prime suspects for the murder of Mr Umesh Pal, an advocate. The killing took place in February 2023 and both suspects were on the run for months. Umesh was eliminated as he was a prime witness in the killing of BSP MLA Mr Raju Pal and his two security guards in 2005. He had defeated the don brother in the elections to the state assembly. Atiq Ahmed could not stomach the defeat as it was an affront to the power he wielded. A few weeks after his election, the newly elected MLA was kidnapped and murdered brutally. Mr Atiq Ahmed family, including his wife, sons and brother have over 160 criminal cases registered against them currently. As per media reports, the family boasts of over Rs 11,500 crores of real estate assets that have been accumulated over last four decades through extortion and other similar means. That is not all. Scores of criminal cases have been dropped against the don and his family for lack of witnesses over the years. As many as ten judges refused to hear cases against him. Both, the witnesses and the judges, were scared of the wrath of the mafia controlled and run by Mr Atiq Ahmed. The question that arises here is who created this monster in UP? Initially he entered politics as an independent candidate and used his muscle power to secure votes. He was then courted by Apna Dal and SP with the latter giving him unprecedented political patronage that lasted till 2017 and included a ticket to the Lok Sabha in 2004. During all these years, his mafia raj and criminal activities expanded with impunity and his writ ran large in the state. The opposition and leaders like Akhilesh Yadav of SP and Mr Owaisi of AIMIM have already assumed that Mr Asad Mohammad, son of gangster turned politician Atiq Ahmed, and his aide were killed in a fake encounter, the official police statement notwithstanding. As expected, the Samajwadi party and AIMIM have also linked it with religion and questioned the state authorities if the encounters were limited to Muslims only. A good question but it also comes with an underlying admission that majority, if not all, of such criminals are Muslims. If that be the case, then it becomes imperative that the community introspects and finds solutions to address the problem socially within the community. The state and central governments must augment such initiatives if and when they take shape. The state of Uttar Pradesh has been largely peaceful and devoid of criminal activities for last few years under the BJP led government. This calm is a result of the no non-sense approach of the state authorities and the near guaranteed retaliation against mafia, gangsters and others who believed that they were above the law of the land. Did such an approach result in excesses at times? Perhaps it did. But the moot point to understand here is that such criminals had thrived on committing excesses against common citizens with impunity for too long. Giving them a taste of their own medicine was not a bad ploy. More importantly it seemed to have worked for the state. Today, many politicians are shedding crocodile tears for Atiq Ahmed, his son, and his brother. They are questioning the state motives and alluding to its complicity in the killings. Their stance is born more out of political com



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Their minority vote banks. It may be pertinent to note that these politicians did not speak up for the common man who suffered at the hands of criminals like Atiq Ahmed for nearly forty years. Even the governments of the day just looked the other way and let the don have his way. Are there any concerns for the common man on the street because of these two incidents? Frankly, for the majority there will be none and this will include people from all faiths. For those unlucky ones who were directly part of the gangsters fear empire, it would be time to breathe easy. Those who were part of the team in running such an empire, would lie low till things cool down and then take a call on what to do next. Some will continue to harp on the communal angle for selfish reasons and in doing so, they will be compelled to overlook the don criminal record and the sufferings caused to thousands of families over the years. The two incidents do, however, raise some questions. The current state government has its task cut out. It has to conduct fair probes in both the incidents. If there is any complicity or inefficiency of the police or any other state authority in the killings, then the government has to come down with a heavy hand on those involved. The protection of criminals when taken outside the jail, needs to be reviewed to make it more potent. While the police encounter incident will be a limited internal probe, the killing of Mr Atiq Ahmed and his brother at the hospital entry will be different. The authorities will have to unearth the motives and those behind the killings by widening the probe. Old enmities or fear of being exposed appear to be the obvious motives. Sincere and honest investigations, in a reasonable time frame, will go a long way in boosting the confidence of the people in the state government and its agencies, rantings of the opposition notwithstanding. Finally, the common man would be hoping that similar larger-than-life gangsters do not surface again in the future. India has been grappling with rising fuel costs, which have become a major concern for the country economy. In this context, the transition to green fuel and Compressed Biogas CBG offers a sustainable solution to India fuel needs. The government recent initiatives to **promote** the usage of green fuel and CBG are a step in the right direction. Green fuel is a renewable source of energy that can be produced from waste. It is a cleaner alternative to fossil fuels and helps reduce carbon emissions. The production of green fuel involves the use of biodegradable waste such as agricultural waste, municipal solid waste, and sewage. The waste is processed and converted into biofuel through a series of biochemical reactions. The resulting biofuel can be used as a substitute for diesel or petrol. CBG, on the other hand, is produced by compressing biogas to high pressure. Biogas is produced by the breakdown of organic waste such as cow dung, agricultural waste, and sewage. The compressed biogas can be used as a substitute for natural gas. The benefits of using green fuel and CBG are manifold. They help reduce India dependence on fossil fuels and promote a cleaner environment. The use of waste as a raw material promotes waste management and reduces the amount of waste that ends up in landfills. The production of green fuel and CBG also creates new job opportunities and boosts the local economy. The government has taken several initiatives to promote the usage of green fuel and CBG.

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Launches another round of territorial aggression against India. Again, championing territorial integrity in one own case while turning a blind eye to the principle when it concerns others may fulfill self interest but won't earn international respect. India must choose its path. Chirac Aswan, the son of Ram Villas Paswan, has recently been evicted from the bungalow at 12 Jan Path of Lutein Delhi. The bungalow at 12 Jan Path, situated at the distance of a stone throw from the bungalow of Congress President Sonia Gandhi, was allotted to Ram Villas Aswan way back in 1990 when he was a minister in the cabinet of V.P. Singh. The eviction of Chirac from the bungalow after more than thirty years marks the end of the legacy of Ram Villas Aswan. Ram Villas Aswan, who belonged to the dosed community of Dalit considered untouchable in Bihar, began his political career as a member of the Bihar Assembly in 1969, from the Samyukta Socialist Party of Ram Manohar Lohia. In 1974, he went on to form Chhatra Sangharsa Samiti an umbrella organisation of various student organisations along with Lalu Prasad Sushil Kumar Modi. Under the aegis of Chhatra Sangharsa Samiti, an anti corruption movement was waged in Bihar, something similar to the movement by the Navy Nirman Samiti in the state of Gujarat. Later on, students approached Lok Kayak Jay Parkas Narayan to lead the movement, to which he readily agreed. Soon the movement turned into a pan India protest against corruption. The central govt. Retaliated by the imposition of an internal emergency in June 1975. All the leaders workers associated with the movement including Ram Villas Aswan, Lalu Prasad Sushil Modi were arrested. All the toil trouble undertaken by Ram Villas Aswan bore fruit when he won with a record margin of 4,24,000 votes from Hajipur Bihar constituency in the Lok Sabha election of 1977 as a candidate of the newly formed Janata Party. He further strengthened his political position, when V.P. Singh implemented the Mandal Commission joined the cabinet of V.P. Singh, as Union Cabinet Minister for Labour Welfare in 1989. Though he was hailed as the potential of being the first Dalit Prime Minister of India by Singh, the influence of Ram Villas Aswan remained confined in Bihar largely due to the rise of Kanshi Ram Mayawati as prominent Dalit leaders with pan India presence. During his four decade long **political** career, Ram Villas Aswan made several summersaults to stay relevant in politics to continue as Union Cabinet Minister. His summer saults earned him the sobriquet of Mausam Vaigyanik, weather scientist. In 1999, Ram Villas Aswan supported the NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee and served as Minister of Communications 1999-2001 and of Coal and Mines 2001-02 before pulling out of the coalition, apparently to protest against the role of Narendra Modi in Gujarat riots of 2002. Aswan returned to the NDA led by Narendra Modi after 12 years continued as cabinet minister till his death. Similarly in 2004.

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A new-born baby was left alone near a public toilet. That sounds awful, right? But then something — amazing happened you know you're super famous when people recognize you by just one name like Messi. He'll soon be visiting four cities in India, and the stadium tickets for his matches are already sold out. That's the Modern sport offers great lessons in branding, how to cash in on a name long after the talent's gone It's said you aren't a brand until the world knows you by one name. Like Messi, So, you still don't believe in miracles? On Nov 15, I was devastated a fortnight later, I was uplifted. Incredulously. The long-defunct fire temple of my Kolkata childhood had literally risen from the ashes. Last Smartphones have become a deeply personal space for most of us, one we'd be unwilling to share with even closest friends and family. So, would we want to allow got in this space? That's what On Dec 1, TOI published an article co-authored by the envoys of Germany, France, and Britain ('World wants the Ukraine war to end, but Russia doesn't seem serious about peace') that presented a grossly distorted By Sumit Paul International Day of Persons with Disabilities (Dec 3) is an international observance promoted by the United Nations with an aim to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilise support for the Social media makes money by algohacking many human brains. Contrast that model with responsible media's Anger can be a useful emotion. It can play a key role in building a strong individual psyche, as also have you ever noticed how some posts on social media try really hard to make you angry? That's not an accident. Some apps and websites actually make more money when people get angry, because angry Imagine if someone told you that every new backpack must come with a government-owned notebook inside it. You might think, but what if I don't want it? Something like that happened with phones in India Govt should put Sanchar Saathi in app stores, keep improving it & let users decide whether they want it on their phones Govt's clarification that Sanchar Saathi app is not mandatory for new phones may Putin is visiting India after a gap of four years for the 23rd India-Russia annual summit. There has never been such a long gap in the summit process **since** it began in 2000. From a Currency value has an outsized effect on national consciousness. Partly legitimately in a globalised world, currency fluctuations don't just affect the arcane world of bank street, but also the humdrum of real street via By Vir Singh Life on the planet is rooted in the soil. The soil is not just the uppermost mantle of our planet's land, it is the largest terrestrial ecosystem and a remarkable habitat inhabited Electoral politics is a zero-sum game, and not such a sweet deal after all When people talk politics to me and ask whether I'm pro-got or anti-got, pro- opposition or anti-opposition, I ask them how China has come up with a very strange idea they added a tax on condoms and think this will make people have more babies. But that doesn't really make sense. If someone finds a small China's tax on condoms won't make Chinese have more kids. Communist patriarchy can't even see women's POV Seriously? A tax on condoms? Yup, that's what Chinese authorities are gifting folks this new year. The laughable IndiGo, India's biggest airline has been having a really bad week. For three days straight, thousands of passengers were stuck at airports for hours, sometimes m



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With no idea when their flights IndiGo had two years to prepare for new pilot rostering rules. Why didn't it do so, is the question Thursday was the third day of IndiGo flight disruptions that left lakhs of flyers stranded, often Neighbourhood dogs protect an abandoned new-born. Something in us is deeply drawn to such stories It's a few weeks to Christmas but something very Christmassy has happened. A new-born was abandoned near a toilet in A few weeks before Christmas, something both sad and heart-warming happened in a town in Bengal. A new-born baby was left alone near a public toilet. That sounds awful, right? But then something amazing happened You know you're super famous when people recognize you by just one name like Messi. He'll soon be visiting four cities in India, and the stadium tickets for his matches are already sold out. That's the Modern sport offers great lessons in branding, how to cash in on a name long after the talent's gone It's said you aren't a brand until the world knows you by one name. Like Messi, So, you still don't believe in miracles? On Nov 15, I was devastated a fortnight later, I was uplifted. Incredulously. The long-defunct fire temple of my Kolkata childhood had literally risen from the ashes. Last Smartphones have become a deeply personal space for most of us, one we'd be unwilling to share with even closest friends and family. So, would we want to allow got in this space? That's what On Dec 1, TOI published an article co-authored by the envoys of Germany, France, and Britain ('World wants the Ukraine war to end, but Russia doesn't seem serious about peace') that presented a grossly distorted By Sumit Paul International Day of Persons with Disabilities (Dec 3) is an international observance promoted by the United Nations with an aim to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilise support for the Social media makes money by algohacking many human brains. Contrast that model with responsible media's Anger can be a useful emotion. It can play a key role in building a strong individual psyche, as also Have you ever noticed how some posts on social media try really hard to make you angry? That's not an accident. Some apps and websites actually make more money when people get angry, because angry Imagine if someone told you that every **new** backpack must come with a government-owned notebook inside it. You might think, But what if I don't want it? Something like that happened with phones in India Govt should put Sanchar Saathi in app stores, keep improving it & let users decide whether they want it on their phones Govt's clarification that Sanchar Saathi app is not mandatory for new phones may Times of India - India Voices Blogs (December 6, 2025) The impact of culture on dating in India When your heart meets your heritage Dr Krishna Athal is a renowned life and executive coach. He is currently the Executive Director of the International Coaching Institute (ICI). He writes and talks about leadership, coaching, strategy, entrepreneurship, management, and decision-making. He is a recipient of numerous national and international leadership and innovation awards. In many coaching sessions where relationships come up, I silently ask one question before my client finishes their story Is this their choice, or their culture speaking through them? In India, dating is never just about two people. It is about history, family, gender, religion, caste and class quietly shaping every message, meeting and brea



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After having spent nearly all of his career as an opponent of the congress party, Aswan joined the congress led united progressive alliance upa and was appointed the minister of two portfolios chemicals and fertilizers and then steel serving until his electoral defeat in 2009. Apart from his distinction as a politician who smells which way the wind is blowing before anyone else does, ram villas Aswan was often called a dynast for bringing his brothers pashupati kumar paras and ram chandra Aswan into politics, subsequently his son chirac prince raj, the son of ram chandra Aswan. In 2000, ram villas Aswan formed the look jan shakti party ljp to emerge as king maker in Bihar. Though dalit constitute nearly 15 of Bihar population of 83 million, the ljp could never emerge as a force of reckoning, except once when it had won 29 seats in the house of 243 members of Bihar assembly in 2005. However no party could form the govt. The governor had no option but to dissolve the assembly, paving way for nda to come back to power in the subsequent assembly election. The ljp has been completely decimated in the recent assembly of 2020. All the five mps from the ljp including pashupati kumar paras prince raj have formed a separate group, expelling chirac Aswan from the party. Why did the messiah of the marginalized community, who made his way to the top from a very humble beginning by dint of his courage determination finally end up as a damp squib, very intriguing a leading analytics and advisory firm, simply defines employee engagement as the involvement and enthusiasm of employees in their work and workplace. Every day, employees make decisions and execute actions that directly impact the organisation. Therefore, the way companies treat their employees becomes an essential component of employee engagement. Especially after the pandemic, employee engagement has emerged as a fundamental component of any successful business. Several research pieces have proved time and again that engaged employees deliver better business results than a non engaged workforce. Employee engagement in 2022 given the last two challenging years, forbes has rightly identified 2022 as the year of culture. Employers might use the start of a new year to reflect on how their company has responded to recent setbacks. It also an excellent opportunity to rethink company culture. This is because, in recent months, organisations **have** struggled to acquire and retain top employees. The pandemic also changed a lot for the corporate world. Increased digital transformation, ai and ml applications, analytics, automation, etc., have revolutionised nearly every industry. As employees embraced the new work system and culture, employee engagement gained momentum too. Organizations have realised that work related burnout cannot be dealt with a quick fix such as a bonus day off or a wellness app. It demands a thorough, introspective examination of the culture and practices that must be altered to keep employees engaged in the long run. Employers will have to re evaluate how.

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Actions based on the insight generated. **Creative and Communication:** Another important aspect of growth marketing is the creativity or communication that you put out in the market for your audience to see. The creative can oftentimes make or break the entire campaign objective. Strong, impactful creative enjoy a high recall value and end up becoming the sole driving force for the brand success. However, poorly made or non impactful creative can lead to a negative reputation and negative recall. **Active Chabot to optimize funnels:** A Chabot is a form of Artificial Intelligence software that can replicate a human conversation by using pre programmed statements and expressions. A Chabot can help us directly get in touch with users that drop out after Add to Cart or Checkout and convert them to a final purchase. Catboats are incredibly useful for automating various processes, answering common customer questions, and even making sales. Sometimes, your competitors can be a great source of motivation. Investigate your main competitor. While you may uncover something you been missing out on, it conceivable that your rivals are following in your footsteps. You may need to adjust to such trends if they don resonate with your market. Do your own branding by tracking and measuring With social media taking over our personal and professional lives, it clear that it one of the most successful growth marketing techniques for growing and nurturing your consumer base and increasing revenue. Social media posts and cyberspace publications, on the other hand, might give important information to build your brand. It possible that things are being said that are accurate. Hence, it is essential to look into what you can do if there is any inaccurate or misleading information about your brand out there. The last and most important growth marketing strategy is to track and measure your marketing efforts, campaigns, and interactions. Remember, growth marketing relies heavily on data. All of the data you gather from analyzing, recording, and measuring can aid you in identifying areas where you need to improve. **Association with the right partner** Nothing beats your efforts more than collaboration when it comes to growth marketing methods. As a result, collaborating with ET Medial abs to achieve goals is a great alternative since managing this responsibility on your own would be time consuming and would also come with added expenses. Combine your expertise, efforts, resources, and talents with those **of** ETML in a way that will benefit both companies. **Summing Up Marketing for growth** is a marathon. It includes lots of trials and errors along the way, and what you think will work sometimes may not. Your main goal should be to try, test and learn along the way. However, strategies have been tested and proven to be effective for growth marketing and can be employed universally. The process of growth is gradual. The results are always worth the wait, even though it may take a bit of time. The right growth marketing strategies address every aspect of a business.

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They define visibility in the workplace as we move into a new era of hybrid and remote work. This will further require establishing trust and using data to understand employee engagement and performance better. One of the guiding principles of employee engagement is recognition. A strong focus on people centric programs should be the approach to nurturing a dynamic environment within an organisation. Let not miss the role of technology, which will also be a critical element of the workplace culture. Currently, there are digitally powered platforms that provide effective employee engagement solutions like timely recognition of milestones, peer to peer appreciation, quarterly and annual performance awards, gift card programs, early wage advantage etc. Thus, in 2022, we can expect hr leaders to lead the organisations from the front, making employee engagement and wellness the top business priority. Organizations will be trying to support employees through meaningful employee engagement efforts, given the shift in employee priorities and attitudes on work. Here are some trends that will define the employee engagement movement in the coming months. Emphasis on remote or flexible work the emphasis on flexible work arrangements will be one of the leading employee engagement trends in 2022. According to a gartner study of company leaders, 80 plan to allow employees to undertake remote work at least part of the time, and 47 expect to enable employees to work from home full time. In a survey conducted by pwc, out of 669 ceo, 78 agreed that remote collaboration would be the new normal. A shift in employees priority there was a time when employee engagement was primarily defined purely by performance appraisals or yearend bonuses. At present, the priorities of employees have evolved, and so is the concept of employees wellbeing. A combination of practices that is based on collaboration, career growth and fairness can lead organisations to successfully meet varied expectations. People first culture now is the time for organisations to adopt a people first culture that values employees and celebrates performance across the board. Enhance the human aspect of human resources. Various companies now understand how work culture is constantly changing and needs concentrated efforts to foster people culture in an organisation. Use of ai and machine learning another technological innovation that will be impacting employee engagement is the rapid application of artificial intelligence to workforce management. Using the latest technology to build a scalable, customisable, cost **effective** platform that appreciates and engages the employees will be a win for both parties. It becomes easy to automate the reward system with such platforms, including important milestones, performance points, and immediate redemption of benefits. Thus, with the right set of priorities of flexibility, work life balance, mental, physical health, an organisation can create a very effective employee engagement program. A more personalised approach to the diversified workforce will be a better alternative than a uniform blanket approach. The year 2022 will increase the number of organisations connecting better with their employees and using employee engagement as a catalyst for.

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Covid appears to be transitioning to an endemic. There is always the threat of a new variant but the hope is that this is the endgame. A virus, ten thousandth of a millimetre in diameter, has tested our character, our governance. What have we learned how did we fare Here are seven lessons. Covid first lesson is to wield the hammer of state power cautiously, treading softly on peoples lives. India lockdown was the world harshest, perhaps too severe. At a stroke, millions lost their jobs. For a daily wage earner, this meant poverty. Giving migrants time to go home would have spared much pain South Africa gave a week notice, Bangladesh four days. India states have largely relaxed Covid related restrictions on mobility. Now, Maharashtra, Delhi and Telangana have also de facto removed the mandate to mask up in public spaces by removing fines. For sure, all governments recommend that people follow Covid appropriate behaviour. However, by watering down requirements of vaccination and masking in public spaces, there a clear signal that the threat of transmission has all but gone. It an unwise move. It also ignores the available research by epidemiologists on the likely trajectory of the pandemic. WHO this week laid out three scenarios of the pandemic evolution in 2022. The most likely scenario is the virus will continue to evolve but the severity of disease will diminish. However, in the worst case scenario a more virulent variant can emerge, which can undermine the efficacy of vaccination. This is something governments need to keep in mind. Consider the current situation in Germany, among the more cautious EU countries in easing restrictions. It records daily about 3,062 cases per million people, as compared to barely one case in India. This has happened despite Germany fully vaccinating 75 of the population and providing boosters for 58 of every 100 people. The comparable figures in India are 60 of the population is fully vaccinated and less than two for every 100 have been boosted. States have done well to remove mobility restrictions and encourage quick normalisation of social activity. This needs to be accompanied by masking mandates to minimise the risk of transmission and supplemented by a thrust on expanding vaccination coverage. India did well to provide 1.84 billion cumulative doses. But the pace has slackened. States have a staggering 156 million doses lying unutilised. The ICMR chief is **right**, everyone needs a booster. Centre and states must get on with it. Allahabad high court order granting bail to three Kashmiri students accused of pro Pakistan sloganeering after the India Pak T 20 match last October is a much delayed correction of police overreach and lower court injustice. As HC said, India unity is not made of bamboo reeds which will bend to the passing winds of empty slogans. This case is another in a long line of abuses of the anachronistic sedition law. The provision invented by the British Raj that suggests that words or actions can put the.



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In April 2023, India overtook China to become the most populous country in the world. Moreover, India population is the youngest among the large-area countries of the world. Will the large and young population pay demographic dividend to India as it did to China? Between, in less than twenty years, China real GDP per capita quadrupled. A record unmatched elsewhere in the world. The dividend gains in China continued during though at a slower pace. India demographic dividend will continue at least till. It will peak around 2041, when 59% of its population will be of working-age At present, India working-age population is nine hundred million. A large population has several benefits. But also disadvantages. Benefits of a large population A large population can drive economic growth. It has a bigger labor force which increases production and consumption. It creates a substantial domestic market for goods and services, attracting businesses and encouraging investment. It has diverse and abundant human resources which can foster innovation and creativity, leading to technological advancements and new business opportunities. A larger population offers a broader range of skills and talents, which can enhance the capabilities of industries and organizations. It justifies and supports the development of extensive infrastructure projects, such as transportation networks, utilities, and public services. It leads to urbanization, which can drive improvements in infrastructure and living standards. A larger population provides a more substantial pool of recruits for military and defense and thus enhances national security. Also, countries with larger population, such as China, the US, Russia, and India have more significant political and economic influence on the global stage. Advantages of young population The advantages listed above are all the greater if the population is young. The young have more years left to work and tend to have higher purchasing powers as they settle down in life and in their careers. The young are more innovative, more energetic, and more of risk takers and therefore are more likely to set up new companies to benefit from new and emerging technologies. India young population is dynamic: it grew up in a market economy with access to the Internet and a hunger to compete on the global stage. Two-thirds of the Indian population has access to smart phones, and cheap data plans. US-based Indian economist Shruti Rajagopalan writes, This generation of young Indians will be the largest consumer and labor source in **the** knowledge and network goods economy. Disadvantages of a large population The population that a country resources such as arable land, water, and raw materials can sustain is termed optimum population. Overpopulation depletes natural resources, degrades environment, causes overcrowding, unemployment, income inequality and poverty, unmet demands for healthcare and education, deforestation, adverse climate-change, and food insecurity. These create political and social tensions and law and order problems. All of these are aggravated if the country has high population density (number of people in one square kilometer of area). The problems created by overpopulation and high population density are already visible in India. Overpopulation and high population density pose immense challenges to India. But India population is young. If it is unskilled and productively employed, it can deliver demographic dividend over the next f

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Poonam Muttreja, the executive director of the Population Foundation of India, rightly says India can do better by investing in women equity and economic development. India journey towards population stabilization has shown remarkable progress over the decades. However, as the world most populous nation, it crucial for us to recognize that the challenge of population management goes beyond mere numbers. It is fundamentally about people, particularly the undetached women, minorities, young people and marginalized communities whose reproductive rights, access to resources and health and wellbeing outcomes continue to be inadequate. If we analyses the NFHS data further, fertility rates by religion and by state vary. For instance, fertility among Hindus of Uttar Pradesh (2.29) is higher than that of Hindus of Kerala (1.53) and the same holds true for Muslims (TFR of 2.66 in Kerala and Tamil Nadu have achieved TFR well below the replacement level by investing in better healthcare and education for women. The data demonstrate that TFR is correlated to education and income: as the level of education and income increases, TFR decreases. Bangalore, Pune, Delhi, Indore, Thane, Vadodara, Chennai, and several other cities are already facing acute water scarcity. Delhi NCR, Chennai Metropolitan area, and several other cities are at the verge of exhausting their groundwater resources. Six hundred million people in India, which is 42% of its population, are already water deprived. To say that water famine, intense water scarcity, looms will not be a hyperbole. You radiate that happiness to all around you and life is generally on a roll. The moment all that listed above happens to someone else and you have failed the exam, your cholesterol is high, and you did not get the raise or promotion you expected at work you start burning with jealousy, you are angry, and you radiate all these negative feelings, making yourself and those around you miserable. Why is it so difficult to feel happy for your colleague or friend who managed to achieve those things? When you take delight in the happiness of others, the Buddhists call it *metta*. It means sympathetic joy. Physician turned mindfulness and dharma teacher Christiana Wolf writes of the Buddha exposition of the four brahmaviharas, the highest qualities of the heart. They are, *metta*, loving kindness *karuna*, compassion *upeksha*, equanimity and *metta*, sympathetic joy. Of these, *metta* is perhaps the most challenging as it requires you to feel happy **at** the achievements of others. Jealousy among colleagues and even strangers is somewhat comprehensible but to resent the success of one own sibling or parent, or even child, is something that is really gross. Instead of feeling joy and love, you feel violated, that how come this is not happening to you, and why is it happening to them? Why not me, why them? While India has made significant strides in population stabilization, the journey is far from over. As the Budget comes up and we celebrate World Population Day, prioritizing the needs of minorities, marginalized communities, and women is essential to achieving an equitable and sustainable population policy. Investments in women education, health, and economic opportunities, coupled with efforts to change social norms, are critical to ensuring that all women can decide if, when, and how many children they have. As JRD Tata aptly put it, No real social change can occur in any society unless women are educated, self-re

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**Government in danger endures. This despite the Supreme Court narrowing the scope of the sedition law. SC must also quicken the process of discarding this statute. While the order accords some relief to the students, it came after five harrowing months in jail. Courts must be quicker to grant bail, especially in sedition cases. And in this instance, the delay was preceded by the Agra bar association outrageous diktat against offering legal assistance to these young men as well as the assault they faced on court premises. Unless higher courts perform their responsibility of superintendence and control over subordinate courts with alacrity, the labyrinthine legal process itself becomes the punishment. Allahabad HC also said students travelling for education to different parts of the country must be treated well by host states, which must also respect their constitutional rights. That our governments need reminders on such basics shows why higher courts are often the only guardians of civil liberties. One plainly visible fact about our times is that liberalism, and the liberal democratic order, are embattled and defensive. In popular use, liberal is most often wielded as an accusation from the Right, to tar all those left of itself. Russian autocrat Vladimir Putin has called it an obsolete doctrine, and many other world leaders seem to agree. But even as liberalism is buffeted from the Right and Left today, it is more necessary than ever to keep diverse societies together, argues BJP recent triumph in Uttar Pradesh, Goa and Uttarakhand and maiden victory in Manipur is vexing a section of political historians and scientists. Till now, this Left liberal persuasion mainly focused on assailing the ideological proponents of what they refer to as a hardline Hindu chauvinism. The targets predictably have been saffron plenipotentiaries like Mohan Bhagwat, Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and Yogi Adityanath. Their post result analysis usually focused on picking faults in the secular opposition messaging and urging it to quickly unite to provide a credible, alternative ideological message to Hindutva. But this time, within hours of BJP hitting a chaukka, the Left has begun to subtly assail the BJP voter too. While in the West, the Divine has been depicted as an old, bearded man for centuries, in India for thousands of years, God has been depicted as a woman. Though not all depictions are gentle some are intense and even violent. One such ubiquitous image is **that** of Durga slaying the buffalo demon, Mahishasur, with her trident. Whether it is going for darshan to a Devi temple, taking part in a Durga puja, or listening to the recitation of the Devi Mahatmayam this image is bound to be invoked during Navratri festival. Indeed, it is at the very heart of this festival of the nine nights of the Goddess. What could be the deeper meaning of such an image There is a story connected with this in the Markandeya Purana and the Devi Bhagavatam. Mahishasur, an asura in the form of a mahisha, buffalo, obtains a boon.**

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**That no man can kill him. He thereby believes he is immortal. He forgets the woman, or rather dismisses her as a weakling. As a born shapeshifter, he can also assume the form of an elephant or a lion. By the power of his rare boon and abilities, he creates havoc in heaven, abode of devas and natural forces. Devastated in the battle and finding themselves helpless, they gather, ponder and combine their energies, and from that is born Durga, a radiant goddess with eight arms, holding divine weapons, riding a tiger, and dressed as a beautiful bride. Spellbound by her beauty, Mahishasur wants to possess her. A fierce battle ensues between the two, and Durga effortlessly slays Mahishasur, his massive army and enormous strength notwithstanding. That why Durga is also called Mahishasur Mardini, slayer of Mahishasur. The loophole in his boon, in his understanding, turned out to be fatal. Durga represents nature motherly, beautiful, and fierce at the same time while Mahishasur represents a culture where people dismiss nature out of arrogance and try to possess her for enjoyment out of greed. The buffalo aspect represents insensitivity, which makes us dismissive of Mother Nature, and the demon aspect represents lust and greed, which makes us want to possess and control her. The consequence is written on the wall destruction of that culture. The most transparent manifestation of nature is the woman. Among many things, this story and image are a stark reminder of the power and significance of the woman, and the consequences of not understanding this. She cannot be dismissed, underestimated, or possessed, let alone disrespected or abused. When that is done, it is the beginning of the end of that individual, family, and ultimately, society. A woman is an independent force that has the power to create, sustain, and destroy. As a mother, she gives birth to and raises a child, so she is the source of life. By her rearing, she plants values in the young mind and shapes his personality, if not his destiny, creating his world. It is no wonder then that she is equated with Shakti, the divine power, which is the source of this entire world. Every Navratri festival reminds us to honour the woman as goddess. Navratri start from today Last week I had two different interactions, which led to a common phenomenon. People of two different ages reacted very **similarly** when life asked them to change and grow Incidence one Laddu Pinto was going through a phase of depression. He had lost his job due to COVID. Well, that was not the reason for his misery. When his company closed production some eighteen months back, along with Laddu, three of his good friends were relieved of their job. Today, those three are back in employment, and Laddu is still struggling for a livelihood Whenever Laddu thinks of his friend well being, he becomes upset and curses his luck. He approached me to get guidance for his career development. After understanding.**



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His circumstances in detail and evaluating his strengths and opportunities in the marketplace, I suggested he begin with a start up venture. The idea was like a shock for Laddu. He seemed to have lost all his resilience. He insisted that he get back into a work role similar to his last job. The very thought of entrepreneurship was scary for him. In his words, as it is, I am short of comfort and confidence if I begin something of my own, I do not know what will happen in future

Incidence two Studying in class 12th, this schoolboy fared poorly in his Term One of the board examinations. Although he has been a high achiever, he could not get good marks for some reason. His parents brought him to me for getting counselling. When I spoke to this boy, I found a lot of resistance in his attitude. During the counselling session, he only suggested the benefits of the online pattern of testing. Even though the more significant part of his school life, he had never studied online, he was absolutely uncomfortable with the offline examinations. Due to the coronavirus, schools went digital. This chap got so much used to the online mode of studies that the very thought of going to an examination hall was frightening and sickening for him. Friends, the two real life stories above have something in common the belief that I cannot change. Laddu friends restored their work life not because the previous organisation hired them back. On the contrary, the three of them got engaged in different work domains. One of them started with a human resource consultancy. At the same time, the other two joined education institutes one took the job of a Training and Placement Officer. In contrast, the other became a first time professor These three people were happy because they demonstrated readiness to change and adapt to every evolving circumstance. The reality was similar in the case of the schoolboy. He was one of those few students who got stuck with the online system of examinations. I contacted a few school principals and discussed their experiences. I was made to understand that students, in general, had lost connection and excitement with offline studies. However, most of those did get back into the offline pattern without making much fuss about it. One of the school principals said, Look, these **students** are highly flexible. Most of them did not find it difficult to get back to normal schooling. In both these cases, I asked my clients the following questions Did you ever change your school You may have changed sections or groups during school days While playing sports, you may have been a part of a different set of teammates every time How quickly did you adjust to the College ecosystem when you first became a University student You may have made new friends in life, did you You may have shifted your house and travelled to new places You may.

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Have changed your city of residence Invariably, most of the above questions got answered in affirmation. In the process, I convinced these people that they had experienced many significant changes in their lives. Change is nothing new to them. They might not be habitual in experiencing change. Nevertheless, they have a ready aptitude to approve uncertainties and newness in life. Think twice if you are going through any situation that demands you to think different. Think out of the box or go much beyond your standard life conventions. You may be resisting the change just for the heck of it. The fact remains that you have an inbuilt ability to absorb changing scenarios comfortably. Extract courage from your past experience get ready to attract new fortunes into your life The advent of the pandemic has called for a new model of learning strategies focusing on constant innovations. There have been compelling conversations on the transformation of pedagogy to enable new forms of learning methodologies that are required to manage global complexities. However, the question of how to teach these skills in the best way is often overlooked. It is therefore critical that the educators should focus on skill based learning approaches that require critical thinking, the ability to communicate effectively, innovate and solve problems through collaboration, pedagogy has seldom adapted to address these challenges. Rethinking pedagogy to build trust in the system is crucial to address the new competencies that today learners need to adapt to in the fast competing world. What has worked in the education industry so far is a trial and error process that was tested and upon showing successful results, has been implemented across. The practice of learning should be a process that affects the social, political, and psychological development of students. Traditional tutor learner relationships that include meaningful dialogue are at the heart of education. Education today often involves the use of technology and different learning styles. Tutors today have the advantage of using traditional teaching methods while introducing new educational technologies to create a diverse and differentiated classroom ready for students with mixed skills. Looking beyond tech Most of the education giants in the Indian market today follow a similar business model. While some have successfully cracked the code to success, a few other educational startups fail because business leaders are not familiar with the basics, market needs, and competitors offerings. Another reason **why** many education startups no longer survive in the market is the lack of transparency and collaboration with educators. Viewing the idea of EdTech as an integral part of the existing environment, rather than a replacement, is another way to prevent educational startups from failing. Whether the tech solution cuts teachers administrative costs in the educational institute or an extra curricular learning application, if they can be easily integrated into a tutor or learner daily planning, adoption to it will be very low. Institutions that previously had to turn away students due to a lack of qualified teachers or labor force.

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That clash can be beautiful, confusing, and at times deeply painful. I have watched people feel broken inside, not because of a lack of love, but because they are torn between the person they want and the culture they carry. Most Indian children grow up with one core lesson what people will say matters. Even when we think we have outgrown this, it lives quietly in our nervous system. When we start dating in India, we rarely only ask, Do I like this person? We are also asking, Will my parents accept them? What about religion and caste? What will our relatives think? Psychologically, this creates a tug-of-war between individual choice and collective approval. In more individualistic cultures, dating is centred on personal happiness. In Indian dating culture, love is almost always viewed through the lens of duty, respect and reputation. The impact of culture on dating in India shows up as guilt for even wanting something different. Many people in relationships in India are not only managing their feelings they are also managing their partners' feelings. They are managing imagined conversations in living rooms, group chats, temples and weddings. Their heart is in one place. Their fear of judgment is in another. No wonder so many love stories here feel like secret projects. Arranged marriage, dating and the illusion of choice we often frame arranged marriage and dating in India as if they are enemies. In reality, many urban Indians today live inside a hybrid world. You date, explore, have situationships, and then one day your parents send you a bio data. Suddenly, your romantic life and your family's expectations merge into one confusing project. Psychologically, this raises a question many of us avoid Am I truly choosing my partner, or am I outsourcing the decision to my parents or community to avoid blame if it goes wrong? When the impact of culture on dating in India is very strong, people develop what I call delegated choice. You want love, but you also want protection from regret. So you tell yourself, if they decide, I can never be fully at fault. I am not against arranged marriages. I have seen many beautiful, emotionally intelligent arranged marriages in India. What concerns me is when people never learn the inner skill of choosing. Without that skill, even the best relationship can slowly feel like a well-decorated cage. You may **be** safe, respected, even comfortable, yet still quietly wonder, did I ever truly say yes, or did I just not say no? Gender, shame and different rules for men and women the impact of culture on dating in India differs significantly for men and women. A man who has dated multiple partners before marriage is often called experienced. A woman who has done the same is often called too modern or not serious. The same behaviour, two very different moral labels. This double standard creates a silent emotional tax for Indian women. Many of my female clients carry shame around their dating history. They are not ashamed of the relationships themselves. They are ashamed of the stories society might tell about them. This anxiety affects how they show up with current partners. They may overcompensate by being extra good, over giving, or tolerating disrespect just to prove they are worthy of commitment. For men, Indian dating culture carries a different wound. Many men are told all their lives to be strong, practical and detached. They are encouraged to treat dating like a game, only to suddenly be asked to become deeply

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**This psychological U-turn is not easy. Some try to fast-forward from casual to commit without learning vulnerability along the way. The result is emotional confusion and, very often, heartbreak for both partners. Underneath these gendered expectations sits one quiet belief your worth is tied to how well you perform the cultural script. Not how honestly you love. Family as the third person in every relationship when we talk about dating in India, we must admit something uncomfortable. Many couples are not in two-person relationships. They are in four-person relationships you, your partner, and both sets of parents sitting invisibly at the table. The impact of culture on dating in India is strongly felt in how quickly and how deeply families get involved. A romantic fight is not just a fight. It is a potential family drama. A breakup is not just a breakup. It can become a community event. The pressure to preserve family harmony can push people to stay in emotionally unhealthy or even abusive relationships. In relationships in India, our love lives often carry the weight of our parents' unhealed fears and dreams. A parent who once felt powerless in their own marriage may try to control their child's choices in the name of protection. A parent who sacrificed everything for the family may expect the same from their children. The question is not whether family should matter. The real question is how much power we quietly give away. Healing, boundaries and writing your own script so what do we do with all this? As a life coach, I am not interested in blaming Indian culture. Culture is not the villain. Culture is a story we inherited. The real work is to decide which parts of that story still fit the person we are becoming. The impact of culture on dating in India need not be negative. Culture can offer deep loyalty, stable support systems, respect for elders and a strong sense of responsibility. These are strengths for any relationship. The problem begins when we sacrifice our mental health and emotional truth at the altar of social approval. The first step is honest self-reflection. Ask yourself if my family, community and social media were silent for a moment, what kind of love would I choose? Not the partner's job title. Not their religion. Their way of being with me. Their emotional availability. Their kindness. Their willingness to **grow**. This simple inner question often scares people more than any arranged marriage meeting. The second step is to learn boundaries without rebellion. You do not have to become culturally violent to become emotionally honest. You can say to your parents, I respect your views, but this is my life. I will listen to you, and I will still choose what I can live with. It sounds simple. In many Indian homes, it is revolutionary. It is also deeply adult. If your past dating experiences in India are filled with shame, secrecy or guilt, your nervous system has been trained to associate love with fear. Therapy, coaching and reflective practices can slowly untangle this. When you heal, you stop unconsciously repeating the same cultural patterns. You move from automatic obedience or automatic rebellion to conscious choice. The impact of culture on dating in India will not disappear with one article or one generation. But each of us has the power to soften it. Every time you choose a relationship based on honesty rather than fear, you quietly rewrite a part of the Indian dating culture.**



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With the highest finch adoption rate in the world, India has undoubtedly emerged as the hub of digital revolution in the global financial landscape. The Indian finch market, already the third largest in the world, is estimated to reach US\$1.3 trillion by 2025, growing at a CAGR of 31. This phenomenal growth has been driven by fast growing digital adoption on the back of increasing smartphone penetration and low cost data, favourable structural reforms, world leading digital infrastructure coupled with an enabling regulatory environment. While the advent of Unified Payments Interface UPI kicked off India finch revolution, demonetization acted as a catalyst in the digital growth story. The momentum was further propelled by the COVID 19 pandemic that not only turbocharged the digital payments space, but also pressure tested the strength of new age finch models in the face of adversity. The technology led revolution has enabled India to drive the next wave of disruption in financial services. However, a concerted effort by all the stakeholders in the ecosystem, including incumbent banks, fitness, NBFCs, government and the regulators, would play a critical role in driving inclusive growth in the economy. Led by advanced technology, low cost distribution models and innovative industry first products, fitness have made strong inroads into the underserved and unbanked segments of the population. While fitness are driving financial inclusion, the path to sustainable growth and profitability is increasingly becoming critical for their success. On the other hand, the banking sector in India is currently undergoing a plethora of changes because of the finch revolution and changing cultural trends being witnessed across the country. While banks have an established client base and sizable balance sheets, coupled with high levels of trust due to decades old customer relationships, they are gradually reinventing themselves so as to cater to the shifting customer expectations in the new digital environment. There is a clear need for collaboration between banks and fitness to create a win model wherein the unique and complementary strengths of both the players come together to create ecosystems that deliver a seamless banking experience to customers across all strata of the society. For banks, collaboration with fitness would mean that they would not have to do the legwork on building their tech stacks from ground up, and would gain access to new age underwriting models as well as APIs to facilitate integration with new age financial technologies. **Leveraging** mature engineering algorithms, fitness can help banks with customer behavioral insights at a granular level to identify customer needs and credit appetite in real time. Also, the digital lending models and risk engines built by fitness can be leveraged to cut down the loan application to disbursement journeys to a fraction of the time taken traditionally. Fitness, on the other hand, stand to benefit from access to capital, the stamp of trust and a solid customer base that the banks have built over decades. From finch perspective, banks bring in a lot of internal know how around regulatory management that steers them in the right direction and helps them embrace compliance by design. An increasing number of banks in India are collaborating with finch companies in various shapes and forms across verticals such as Pops solutions, co-branded cards, lending and insurance offerings. This spate of alliances ha

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Can now use the power of the Internet and educational technology to provide relevant and quality education to the masses, empowering them like never before. The prominence of the EdTech industry in today world has grown rapidly as the world technological advancements are perpetually increasing. Trust in the system Trust does happen overnight and there is certainly no set recipe for building trust in an educational institution. Developing closer relationships among families, students, principals, and teachers is a really long process and is also very subjective. Encouraging professionalism and effective teaching to establish strong trust between the family and the school is one of the ways to do it. The educational system needs to nurture trust slowly and steadily. A trusting relationship with tutors and institutions creates an environment where students feel comfortable expressing their needs and concerns, academic or otherwise, with the confidence that they will be heard. While education can be considered as a money making business, it also a risky business as it involves tutors learners having faith in the system before they enroll themselves. Parents and teachers often appreciate the opportunities that students get through an educational institution. Hence, it the responsibility of the institution to make sure that the teachers collaborate and design a curriculum that best suitable for the students. It is important to consider the progression and outcome between short term cognitive outcomes and longer term educational goals. Such thinking provides a rationale for an overall view of progression in learning. Effective pedagogies always provide long term views of learning, help in revisiting critical ideas as appropriate and reinforce the others. Pedagogical teaching would relate the introduction of new material to that where understanding is already relatively secure, and connect the acquisition of knowledge and understanding to appropriate skills. Such an elaborate approach is more likely to provide tutors and learners with coherence, and it will enhance a long term progression in learning. I remember having an emotional breakdown on a Monday morning and collapsing on my couch. Struggling to cope up with pressure and expectations that others have from me. I start to reminisce all the challenging situations that I have had up until now and breakdown. The thing here is that I was flustered of my daily routine it was making me very sad and depress. So, thankfully someone very dear to me pin pointed that I need a break **to** break free from all the negative thoughts that are drowning me in the pool of unworthiness. I decided to take a break for two days and clear up my mind. No, not a vacay but a simple, quite place where I could myself again, the zest for living my life. I know, not many of us have the leisure of skipping our jobs or taking leaves. Especially, kudos to all the homemakers I have huge respect and appreciation for the job you do of managing the house. What I am trying to say is that making time for yourself is.

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**Go to market. The partnership model has enabled the deployment of tailor made solutions to serve the tier 3 and beyond markets, further propelling financial inclusion across the country. Moreover, newer banks in India are betting on an asset light model as they explore finch partnerships to expand their distribution across the country without the need for investing in a large branch network. Also, technology services and algorithm driven underwriting are the preferred areas of collaboration. The use of Application Programming Interfaces APIs has further enabled the integration and co creation of innovative solutions between banks and finch companies. Another example of such a collaboration is embedded banking that enables seamless integration of banking products in finch user apps. It enables merchants consumers to access bank accounts and do transactions through the finch user app. Since fitness focus a lot on user experience, they ensure that the entire banking experience through the app is very simple and intuitive, thus enhancing accessibility and driving engagement. Further, I see the collaboration extending beyond the standard set of banking products & solutions. Fitness typically have a strong product & technology team. We are always pushing towards both incremental improvements and new products. Whereas, I understand banks and larger financial institutions have their specific challenges when it comes to developing new products and adopting new technology, leading to long development & launch cycles. Here, fitness can also collaborate with banks wherein they provide their tech stack and integrate it with the bank core systems, thereby expediting the development cycles. The key point is that finch is not just a customer acquisition & referral channel, like in the case of the age old Banking Correspondents model. Fitness can fundamentally help in better product distribution & access, improved efficiency & engagement driven via better technology & superior user experience. To unlock the full potential of finch bank collaboration, it is critical to crack an effective partnership model that strikes the right balance between sustainability, innovation and regulation. This will set the blueprint by defining clear guardrails to facilitate data sharing, risk management and governance as well as enable the creation of simplified go to market models. Most importantly, building a strong partnership DNA would require continued support from the regulators. India regulatory policy framework aided by the powerful India Stack infrastructure has been highly effective in safeguarding risks and enabling healthy collaboration between different players **in** the ecosystem, and its increased support would be a clear tailwind in supporting stronger partnerships. To conclude, fitness with banks will be the way forward in redefining India financial services sector. Collaboration between both the players is only going to get stronger, bringing to the table the best of traditional banking coupled with the innovation and agility of fitness. In the next few years, we will see a host of new partnerships between fitness and banks as the dominant model for the development and delivery of financial products and services in India. I firmly believe that bringing together the combined forces of all the players in the financial ecosystem would be the nature of the game in propelling India pursuit of a US\$ 5Tn economy. The country by 2025. The government has also provide**

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Very crucial and vital part of you being able to deliver your roles and responsibilities in the manner you are expected to. If, you are feeling exhausted mentally, physically or emotionally it is our own responsibility to acknowledge it and find a solution for it. Otherwise, just like me you will also rant and take out your frustration on near and dear ones. Things often don't work out as we want them to and that is reality. Accept and move on. Some things are really out of our control I cannot control how the weather is going to be tomorrow. Similarly, I cannot control the opinion other people have about me. But I can definitely make sure to keep my actions in check, look at the bright side of the picture and move on. Moving on is not something only associated with romantic connections. It is very much a part of our daily interactions with people or things. All of us, have some issues which have happened long in the past but we still hover on it and make ourselves go through a negative mindset. A vegetable vendor called me Aunty when I was only 24 years old. And, three years down the line I still remember it and sulk. Who is at a loss here I, me and myself even after all these years if you are also, thinking about something that happened way back in the past it is you who you are punishing by still remembering bitter thoughts words someone has used for you. Taking a break can really help you reboot your own system. We often go to extreme lengths to make sure our electronic gadgets are working effortlessly but what about ourselves. Don't you deserve a break from all that is holding you back giving cluster headache at midnight A two day break brought some much necessary mindset shift in me. And, I believe so is going to be true for many of my readers who find a connection and association with what I went through. Until next time, keep loving yourself. You are doing your best. Asia is at the forefront of ecommerce globally, and we can expect this growth to continue in 2022. In early 2021, Asia accounted for nearly 60% of the world online retail sales, with Chinese consumers alone making more than a third of the global purchases online. From **startups** to major retailers, online platforms have become the primary medium for business due in no small part to the ongoing pandemic. As merchants look at growing their business, expanding cross border and reaching a global consumer base will be key. Rising disposable incomes and growing internet penetration across Asia are fueling the region's rapid ecommerce growth and burgeoning digital economy, besides the introduction of new trade agreements like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership which will come into effect this year. The question remains which trends impacting Asia's ecommerce landscape are here to stay for the long haul I believe there.



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Government has launched the Kinas Urea Suresh exam Utahan Mahaabhiyan KUSUM scheme. Under this scheme, farmers are provided with financial assistance to set up solar panels and CBG plants. In conclusion, the transition to green fuel and CBG is a step towards a sustainable and cleaner future. The government initiatives to promote the usage of green fuel and CBG are a positive sign. It is imperative that we embrace this change and contribute to a cleaner and greener environment. Taking the next flight out on Monday morning to meet your clients? Chances are that every third person you may meet is from the consultancy sector. This could change. Business relationships through personal connections once considered practically a fixture no longer hold true. As the companies return to normal, there is pressure to make up for the lost time and concentrate on creating value for money whether with processes or people. With 2023 global growth expected to slow to 1.7 from 3 nearly six months ago as per World Bank, the fragile economic conditions are making the recovery harder for companies. They are constantly looking for ways to become leaner and meaner to optimise costs and maximize efficiency. Hence, people are juggling a new load, namely layoffs. Though dominated by tech sector, the trend of mass layoffs for the time has also touched the consulting industry. Whether its redesigning of ways how non client servicing teams operate; overstaffing; funding challenges; automation of processes with newer technologies like the AI and Catgut, it appears that 2023 will be a year of sustenance when consultancy firms, like others, will also look for ways to minimise bench strength. Amidst all the hiring freeze, they may also experience layoffs. But, what differentiates the consulting with the rest is that they tend to be more agile and adaptable to market changes. Most of them specialize in a mix of sectors and have less inventory vis other sectors. They often help their clients navigate through difficult times by providing strategic advice and solutions. Referring to the Great Depression of the 1930s, the consulting firms came into the limelight when various companies sought their expertise to regain normalcy. Similarly, after the end of the cold war, businesses looking for overseas opportunities went to consulting firms for advise in the new markets. By design, consulting means making own work obsolete over time. They continuously look at finding new **solutions** for clients which, makes it imperative for them to focus on developing new skills. Hence, it may be a good idea to learn from other industry experience as well. For instance, in 2013 AT&T figured out that nearly 40 of its people skills may no longer be relevant in a decade. The company invested time and money in skilling these people and hence did not lose out on the institutional knowledge and people trust. Amid the layoff season, it may be worthwhile to examine the India situation. Going by a recent survey, Indians are worried about their jobs and rising inflation. Fears driven primarily by a global slowdown and resurgence of Covid 19, Indians are pinning their hope on India Shining. As per recent IMF prediction, India remains a bright spot; to contribute nearly 15 of global growth in 2023. While layoffs in tech sector are dominating the headlines, the service sector growth is a sigh of relief reaching a 12 year high in Feb 2023 as according to S&P Global India Services PMI. Something that can be se

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Very crucial and vital part of you being able to deliver your roles and responsibilities in the manner you are expected to. If, you are feeling exhausted mentally, physically or emotionally it is our own responsibility to acknowledge it and find a solution for it. Otherwise, just like me you will also rant and take out your frustration on near and dear ones. Things often don't work out as we want them to and that is reality. Accept and move on. Some things are really out of our control I cannot control how the weather is going to be tomorrow. Similarly, I cannot control the opinion other people have about me. But I can definitely make sure to keep my actions in check, look at the bright side of the picture and move on. Moving on is not something only associated with romantic connections. It is very much a part of our daily interactions with people or things. All of us, have some issues which have happened long in the past but we still hover on it and make ourselves go through a negative mindset. A vegetable vendor called me Aunty when I was only 24 years old. And, three years down the line I still remember it and sulk. Who is at a loss here I, me and myself even after all these years if you are also, thinking about something that happened way back in the past it is you who you are punishing by still remembering bitter thoughts words someone has used for you. Taking a break can really help you reboot your own system. We often go to extreme lengths to make sure our electronic gadgets are working effortlessly but what about ourselves. Don't you deserve a break from all that is holding you back giving cluster headache at midnight A two day break brought some much necessary mindset shift in me. And, I believe so is going to be true for many of my readers who find a connection and association with what I went through. Until next time, keep loving yourself. You are doing your best. Asia is at the forefront of ecommerce globally, and we can expect this growth to continue in 2022. In early 2021, Asia accounted for nearly 60% of the world online retail sales, with Chinese consumers alone making more than a third of the global purchases online. From **startups** to major retailers, online platforms have become the primary medium for business due in no small part to the ongoing pandemic. As merchants look at growing their business, expanding cross border and reaching a global consumer base will be key. Rising disposable incomes and growing internet penetration across Asia are fueling the region's rapid ecommerce growth and burgeoning digital economy, besides the introduction of new trade agreements like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership which will come into effect this year. The question remains which trends impacting Asia's ecommerce landscape are here to stay for the long haul I believe there.

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While live commerce was first launched in China in 2016, it started gaining popularity across the region in 2020 due to pandemic induced limitations on physical shopping. In fact, live streaming for online shopping in Singapore alone had reportedly increased by percent from March to December. Engaging customers on social platforms can also be a great way to expand market reach and address a wider consumer base. This is also possible as cross border payments are now so much more seamless with payment partners having a global presence and enabling merchants to accept payments in a number of currencies. Growing relevance of a robust security infrastructure to prevent fraud the continued growth of digital payment methods has also inevitably led to increased concerns about fraud and cybercrime. In fact, 8 out of 10 businesses in Asia Pacific expect security breaches this year, with cybercrime predicted to inflict damages totaling US\$10.5 trillion globally by 2025. Therefore, while businesses work to design more seamless payment experiences, they need to also focus on managing the associated risks. Fraudsters are evolving and becoming more and more sophisticated in their approach. They are not only stealing data, but also altering it, creating distrust between businesses and consumers. In order to counter this, we have seen the evolution and use of new technologies such as relocation, acoustic analysis, and even data analytics based identification. Businesses will need to invest in and evolve their risk management protocols on an ongoing basis. This means quicker deployment of risk management solutions, staying on top of threat research, and using technologies like AI and machine learning to stay a step ahead of these fraudsters. Conclusion 2021 cemented a new culture of digital payments, online shopping, and seamless on demand experiences. Traditional retailers can no longer rely on legacy market share but need to focus on creating a winning Omni channel strategy. This will require not just deployment of technology to make the shift, but also a cultural change. As the industry continues to evolve, I am excited for the developments and progress that we will see evolve and transform the way we pay and get paid. The education system in India often finds itself amid a debating storm over its inferior quality of learning, outdated curriculum, undue emphasis on rote learning and lack of adequate infrastructure. Even as our formal education setup finds its road back to the physical **campuses**, e learning is finding a way into our classrooms across the board. As much else in our lives from grocery to entertainment, from investing to travel, go online, an increasing number of educational institutes are warming up to the idea of embracing new technology tools to build a future ready education system. From flipped classrooms to continuous feedback, from virtual labs to discussion forums, online examinations to live sessions by industry expert schools and colleges across the country are finding great value in the digital format of education and want to continue with some of its aspects. Technological tools are.

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Are five key trends that we need to look out for as we move into 2022. Asia readiness for a digital first approach Online shopping has witnessed incredible growth with another 70 million digital consumers added in Southeast Asia alone since the onset of the pandemic. After vacillating between lockdowns and navigating the complexities of shopping in the pandemic era, retailers both big and small are now better prepared to leverage digitalization for success and not just survival. In Asia alone, digital transformation is expected to exceed US\$1.3 trillion by 2027. Retailers adopted digital tools in order to expand their customer base, improve customer engagement, develop services and products to meet the changing needs of customers, and to leverage the use of cloud to unlock the power of data. Retailers development in 2022 will be marked by digitalization roadmaps and increasing digital maturity. Greater demand for personalized and frictionless experiences While the popularity of online shopping continues to grow exponentially, merely having an online presence is not enough for retailers to tap into the ecommerce boom. Frictionless commerce is now imperative. Every one second delay from when a consumer logs in till checkout causes conversion to drop by 7. Making sure that the site loads quickly, navigation is intuitive, and the checkout experience is seamless are just a few ways of servicing the digital consumers needs and preferences. As a result of the pandemic, there has also been a decrease in customer loyalty and an increased willingness to try new brands. This makes understanding the target audience more imperative. Analytics is playing a key role in offering personalized incentives to consumers, and tailoring product recommendations to retain them. Inventory planning can no longer be a hit or miss. Retailers cannot afford to play the guessing game in today competitive landscape. By leveraging the power of data, they can anticipate needs and offer customized experiences. 3. Diversity of payment types offering choice is key According to IDC, digital payments are expected to account for 91 of total ecommerce spending by 2025 and along with this increase we will see growth in the diversity of digital payment methods offered. We can also expect to see major developments in cross border mobile payments and more interoperability between e payment systems across the region. Recently, Singapore and Korea new digital economy agreement heralds deeper bilateral cooperation in and development of cross border e **payments**. On demand services and live stream offerings. As consumers grow accustomed to online shopping, enjoying the convenience and ability to shop from anywhere and at any time, they are also demanding immediate and personalized service. We see retailers investing in improving the service experience and offering innovative services like 24 hour AI catboats, and the use of messaging apps like What Sapp. We are also seeing the rise of social selling channels such as live streaming where brands showcase their products in real time, engaging viewers with live entertainment, such as contests or quizzes, to encourage participation and purchase.



**Delhi\_Police\_Typing-Dated-2026-01-08-Test NO.-24419**

Adaptation of online learning inside traditional classrooms we can finally have an education system that can allow equal and excellent to not only co exists but thrives. Daily new covid 19 cases in India have gone down to a 23 month low. Understandably, most covid related restrictions have been relaxed except for face masks and physical distancing. Till date only Maharashtra has relaxed the mask mandate. Should the country follow suit the fact is that public health interventions are not written in stone. They are based upon the then available scientific evidence, epidemiological situation, and local context. Once implemented, every such intervention needs to be regularly reviewed and revised based upon the evolving situation. In two years of the pandemic, most covid 19 strategies have been regularly revised in India. For instance, contact tracing, one of the key pillars of the pandemic response in the beginning, has largely been stopped. Covid testing is now recommended only for symptomatic cases. In the course of the pandemic, evidence emerged that surfaces have minimal role in virus spread, so nowadays there is very limited emphasis on hand washing and sanitisation unlike in the beginning of the pandemic. Even though the recommended physical distance of six feet at a public place has not been officially revised; with all social and economic including indoor activities being allowed at 100 capacity or at the pre pandemic period, the policy has become largely redundant and impractical. In this backdrop, it is a bit bizarre that people are expected to maintain physical distance in outdoor spaces. Implementation of public health interventions is also determined by careful examination of benefits and risks. As an example, vaccines have some minimal risks, but their benefits are far greater. Let apply the same principle to masks. In the early part of the pandemic during the periods of high sars cov2 transmission and waves, when everyone was susceptible and a majority of population was unvaccinated, the benefits of masks outweighed the inconvenience, discomfort and the small but potentially harmful effects such as accumulation of co2 inside the mask. However, when transmission is low, the benefit of mask wearing is drastically reduced. In low transmission periods, the mask policy should also factor in the local context. In hot and humid environments such as India, long duration mask wearing can cause sweat and saliva to dampen the mask which may become a breeding ground **for** bacterial infections or cause skin allergies and rashes. Studies have also reported that in young children face masks may result in reduced ability to communicate and low attention span, which may hamper learning process in schools. At present, in India the benefit of universal masking seems negligible. It is time a nuanced, calibrated, and graded approach to masks is adopted. First, school age children are the lowest risk amongst any age group of severe covid 19 outcomes. Therefore, every Indian state should immediately and completely remove the mask mandate for all children, in every setting indoor or outdoor. Mask wearing.

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Finding a role for themselves not only in the world of online education but are also partnering with conventional institutions to create new life forms of education challenges in education have existed forever we need a shift from knowing to learning because Google knows everything. Metrics need shifting from inputs to outcomes because just pouring more money is not working. Differentiation and personalization are not about making thing easier for children but about making learning accessible by tapping into their motivations and abilities. Assessment needs to shift from annual exams to regular feedback. Teachers knowing content is not the same thing as their ability to effect learning. Lifelong learning needs a continuum between prepares, repair and upgrade. Timetables are an industrial era model of one size fits all that blunt choices and learner agency Education technology can help education. The recent few initiatives by the government like making universities multi disciplinary, use of academic bank of credit for storing of credentials, promotion of various platforms, overhauling of the examination system to bring in a more inclusive continuous assessment system that test students on their ability to apply the learning, teachers training on use of digital teaching tools, launch of India Skills Online for skill training all encourage improving classroom learning with digital tools to improve digital literacy and create skills embedded education. The world is moving to blur the hues between traditional education and online learning online tools like assessments tutorials, live online projects, peer group discussions, online assessments, online mentorship and internships are being used to complement classrooms. Institutes are using technology platforms to introduce new disciplines like digital marketing, cloud computing, cyber security science, digital forensics to create future ready professionals. Use of gasification in various avatars like quizzes, leader board, badges, and online games is making learning more engaging and immersive. Online learning tools that promote peer to peer learning through sharing of learning material, working on collaborative projects, exchanging ideas and participating in group activities are making learning interesting and engaging. Through the use of data science and AI powered intelligent tutoring systems, schools and colleges will be able to craft personalized learning journeys for different learners according to their abilities, preferences and performances. Use of AR and VR inside classrooms will significantly improve the immersive learning experiences as providing hands on learning can become difficult and expensive to manage for large groups of students. **Use** of technology to automate routine tasks would free up the teachers to coach, mentor and motivate the student tasks that are uniquely suited to human beings. Einstein once made an interesting comment, if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid. Physical classroom systems, because of the limitations of time and space, often made this error. Online education with its promise of breaking the difficult trinity between cost, quality, and scale, did not live up to its potential. This is set to change with the deep and broad.

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The real question is not Is Indian culture bad for dating? The real question is, Am I willing to meet my culture with awareness, instead of blind obedience or blind rejection? Somewhere between total rebellion and total surrender lies a third path. A path where you can be deeply Indian and deeply yourself at the same time. That is the relationship I wish for you. One where love is not a war between your heart and your heritage, but a brave, conscious conversation between the two. 'Centrism isn't nostalgia, it is survival' Rethinking stray dogs From crisis to opportunity This week, something strange happened in India's aviation world. The government had made new rules to ensure that pilots got enough rest so they could fly safely. These rules are called FDTL Flight Duty India's Prime Minister Modi and Russia's President Putin had an important meeting. It came at a time when the world's politics are changing fast. First, the meeting showed that both countries want to make their Putin is visiting India after a gap of four years for the 23rd India-Russia annual summit. There has never been such a long gap in the summit process since it began in 2000. From an Currency value has an outsized effect on national consciousness. Partly legitimately in a globalised world, currency fluctuations don't just affect the arcane world of bank street, but also the humdrum of real street via By Vir Singh Life on the planet is rooted in the soil. The soil is not just the uppermost mantle of our planet's land, it is the largest terrestrial ecosystem and a remarkable habitat inhabited Electoral politics is a zero-sum game, and not such a sweet deal after all When people talk politics to me and ask whether I'm pro-govt or anti-govt, pro- opposition or anti-opposition, I ask them how China has come up with a very strange idea they added a tax on condoms and think this will make people have more babies. But that doesn't really make sense. If someone finds a small China's tax on condoms won't make Chinese have more kids. Communist patriarchy can't even see women's POV Seriously? A tax on condoms? Yup, that's what Chinese authorities are gifting folks this new year. The laughable IndiGo, India's biggest airline, has been having a really bad week. For three days straight, thousands of passengers were stuck at airports **for** hours, sometimes more than 10 hours, with no idea when their flights IndiGo had two years to prepare for new pilot rostering rules. Why didn't it do so, is the question Thursday was the third day of IndiGo flight disruptions that left lakhs of flyers stranded, often Neighbourhood dogs protect an abandoned newborn. Something in us is deeply drawn to such stories It's a few weeks to Christmas but something very Christmassy has happened. A newborn was abandoned near a toilet in A few weeks before Christmas, something both sad and heartwarming happened in a town in Bengal. A newborn

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Baby was left alone near a public toilet. That sounds awful, right? But then something amazing happened You know you're super famous when people recognize you by just one name like Messi. He'll soon be visiting four cities in India, and the stadium tickets for his matches are already sold out. That's the Modern sport offers great lessons in branding, how to cash in on a name long after the talent's gone It's said you aren't a brand until the world knows you by one name. Like Messi, So, you still don't believe in miracles? On Nov 15, I was devastated a fortnight later, I was uplifted. Incredulously. The long-defunct fire temple of my Kolkata childhood had literally risen from the ashes. Last Smartphones have become a deeply personal space for most of us, one we'd be unwilling to share with even closest friends and family. So, would we want to allow govt in this space? That's what On Dec 1, TOI published an article co-authored by the envoys of Germany, France, and Britain ('World wants the Ukraine war to end, but Russia doesn't seem serious about peace') that presented a grossly distorted By Sumit Paul International Day of Persons with Disabilities (Dec 3) is an international observance promoted by the United Nations with an aim to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilise support for the Social media makes money by algohacking many human brains. Contrast that model with responsible media's Anger can be a useful emotion. It can play a key role in building a strong individual psyche, as also Have you ever noticed how some posts on social media try really hard to make you angry? That's not an accident. Some apps and websites actually make more money when people get angry, because angry Times of India - India Voices Blogs (December 7, 2025) When I was five, I entered a fancy dress competition at school. I was a talkative kid, but not a particularly imaginative one. So, I dressed up as a bride. I want to blame popular This week, something strange happened in India's aviation world. The government had made new rules to ensure that pilots got enough rest so they could fly safely. These rules are called FDTL Flight Duty India's Prime Minister Modi and Russia's President Putin had an important meeting. It came at a time when the world's politics are **changing** fast. First, the meeting showed that both countries want to make their Putin is visiting India after a gap of four years for the 23rd India-Russia annual summit. There has never been such a long gap in the summit process since it began in 2000. From an Currency value has an outsized effect on national consciousness. Partly legitimately in a globalised world, currency fluctuations don't just affect the arcane world of bank street, but also the humdrum of real street via By Vir Singh Life on the planet is rooted in the soil. The soil is not just the uppermost



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Don't actually have nine lives. They are crowding to ace this one The CAT was out of the bag at 8.30am. However, by 7am the place was already crawling with traffic, and gruff noises Tragedies like that in Goa nightclub remind us that many businesses & all govts are callous when it comes to safety norms The terrible fire at a nightclub in Goa's Arpora that killed 25 people That's the message from Netflix-Warner deal. And they better throw audiences a party, instead of under the bus Batman, Superman and Harry Potter. Game of Thrones and Lord of the Rings. When I was five, I entered a fancy dress competition at school. I was a talkative kid, but not a particularly imaginative one. So, I dressed up as a bride. I want to blame this week, something strange happened in India's aviation world. The government had made new rules to ensure that pilots got enough rest so they could fly safely. These rules are called FDTL Flight Duty India's Prime Minister Modi and Russia's President Putin had an important meeting. It came at a time when the world's politics are changing fast. First, the meeting showed that both countries want to make their Putin visit to India after a gap of four years for the 23rd India-Russia annual summit. There has never been such a long gap in the summit process since it began in 2000. Currency value has an outsized effect on national consciousness. Partly legitimately in a globalised world, currency fluctuations don't just affect the arcane world of bank street, but also the humdrum of real street via By Vir Singh Life on the planet is rooted in the soil. The soil is not just the uppermost mantle of our planet's land, it is the largest terrestrial ecosystem and a remarkable habitat inhabited Electoral politics is a zero-sum game, and not such a sweet deal after all When people talk politics to me and ask whether I'm pro-govt or anti-govt, pro- opposition or anti-opposition, I ask them how China has come up with a very strange idea they added a tax on condoms and think this will make people have more babies. But that doesn't really make sense. If someone finds a small tax on condoms won't make Chinese have more kids. Communist patriarchy can't even see women's POV Seriously? A tax on condoms? Yup, that's what **Chinese** authorities are giving folks this new year. The laughable IndiGo, India's biggest airline, has been having a really bad week. For three days straight, thousands of passengers were stuck at airports for hours, sometimes more than 10 hours, with no idea when their flights IndiGo had two years to prepare for new pilot rostering rules. Why didn't it do so, is the question. Thursday was the third day of IndiGo flight disruptions that left lakhs of flyers stranded, often Neighbourhood dogs protecting an abandoned newborn. Something in us is deeply drawn to such stories. It's a few weeks to Christmas but something very Christmassy has happened. A newborn was abandoned near a toilet a few weeks before Christmas, something both sad and heartwarming happened in a town in Bengal. A newborn baby was left alone near a public toilet. That sounds awful, right? But then something amazing happened. You know you're super famous when people recognize you by just one name like Messi. He'll soon be visiting four cities in India, and the stadium tickets for his matches are already sold out. Indian aviation seems to be on a ventilator, after suffering a multi-organ failure. The collapse of IndiGo's schedule

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integrity over the past few days has led to thousands of flights being cancelled and delayed, and left For me, who was an active political worker of Congress under K Kamaraj for over a decade during my student days, the current debate on Special Intensive Revision is uninformed. EC's SIR now, was in By Jug Suraiya On the voyage that we call life, we are all in a sense sailing on the ship of Theseus, a hero of Greek mythology. Theseus, the legendary king of the city state They don't actually have nine lives. They are crowding to ace this one The CAT was out of the bag at 8. 30am. However, by 7am the place was already crawling with traffic, and gruff noises Tragedies like that in Goa nightclub remind us that many businesses & all govts are callous when it comes to safety norms The terrible fire at a nightclub in Goa's Arpora that killed 25 people That's the message from Netflix-Warner deal. And they better throw audiences a party, instead of under the bus Batman, Superman and Harry Potter. Game of Thrones and Lord of the Rings. The Matrix and The When I was five, I entered a fancy dress competition at school. I was a talkative kid, but not a particularly imaginative one. So, I dressed up as a bride. I want to blame this week, something strange happened in India's aviation world. The government had made new rules to ensure that pilots got enough rest so they could fly safely. These rules are called FDTL Flight Duty India's Prime Minister Modi and Russia's President Putin had an important meeting. It came at a time when the world's politics are changing fast. First, the meeting showed that both countries want to make their Putin visit to India after a gap of four years for the 23rd India-Russia annual summit. There has never been such a long gap in the summit process since it began in 2000. Currency value has an outsized effect on national consciousness. Partly legitimately in a globalised world, currency fluctuations don't just affect the arcane world of bank street, but also the humdrum of real street via By Vir Singh Life on the planet is rooted in the soil. The soil is not just the uppermost mantle of our planet's land, it is the largest terrestrial ecosystem and a remarkable habitat inhabited **Electoral** politics is a zero-sum game, and not such a sweet deal after all When people talk politics to me and ask whether I'm pro-govt or anti-govt, pro- opposition or anti-opposition, I ask them how China has come up with a very strange idea they added a tax on condoms and think this will make people have more babies. But that doesn't really make sense. If someone finds a small tax on condoms won't make Chinese have more kids. Communist patriarchy can't even see women's POV Seriously? A tax on condoms? Yup, that's what Chinese authorities are giving folks this new year. The laughable IndiGo, India's biggest airline, has been having a really bad week. For three days straight, thousands of passengers were stuck at airports for hours, sometimes more than 10 hours, with no idea when their flights IndiGo had two years to prepare for new pilot rostering rules. Why didn't it do so, is the question. Thursday was the third day of IndiGo flight disruptions that left lakhs of flyers stranded, often Neighbourhood dogs protecting an abandoned newborn. Something in us is deeply drawn to such stories. It's a few weeks to Christmas but something very Christmassy has happened.

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For children should be voluntary and exclusively determined by parents or the child. In the last many months, even though health ministry guidelines suggested masks for children in 6 to 11 years of age as optional, yet schools in most states have been enforcing mandatory masking for children in this age group. School authorities need not have any say in a child decision to wear a mask. Second, for the adult population, every Indian state can and should make masks voluntary in outdoor settings. Most states can make masks voluntary for indoor settings as well. For a small number of states, where cases are comparatively high, a decision on whether masks should be voluntary can be taken based upon local district level data. Third, there is need for continued public awareness about the benefits of masks in general, especially for high risk population groups such as those immune compromised, unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, with pre existing health conditions as well as for the 60 plus. Public awareness messaging should continue to promote voluntary adherence and nudge people to adopt behavior aligned with the risk of sars cov2 transmission. Fourth, though risk is currently low, the possibility of fresh waves in the future cannot be ruled out. Therefore, health policymakers need to come up with objective criteria on how and when the mask mandate might need to return. In any case, the approach must be localised, and people need to be sensitised. The public health benefits of face masks at present are minimal. The idea that mask mandates should be continued as a reminder of the pandemic is patronising. However, making masks voluntary should not be interpreted to mean that everyone stops wearing masks but let people make a choice as per self assessment of the risk. We also need to remember in any future surge in covid 19 cases, the masks might have to be worn again, mandatorily. Till then, it is time to breathe easier. Dry lahariya is a physician and epidemiologist. The views expressed are personal. Coffee in hand, i sit in the balcony trying to analyses the cognitive dissonance that led to the moment when will smith, in the pursuit of his wife happiness, clambered onto the stage and slapped chris rock for joking about jada appearance. Spotting my neighbor in the adjacent balcony, i wave at her just as a pigeon defecates on her ponytail. **Instead** of getting annoyed, she smiles and calls out, seems today is my lucky day. That is when i have an epiphany. India can alter your perspectives on a subliminal level. It not will smith fault that he thought a slap was an acceptable response, it is India. Like amity bay once said, aap chronology samajhiye. A few years ago during his visit, smith stated, ravelling to India has awakened a new understanding of myself, my art and the truths of the world. At that point, we did ponder over what he had really discovered, but now it seems rather clear.

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**Our national anthem has been chosen as best in world by unesco. Jai namo. Anyway, i think jada could go up, take the mike and voice her own grievances. Along with slapping someone for a joke, i also can understand this man protecting his wife business. That was a comedian on stage, not a sabre toothed predator. Human beings have developed complex language skills. We can raise our voices to defend ourselves rather than raising our hands. Suddenly noticing that my little one has barely touched her paratha, i warn her, what do you think you are doing finish everything on your plate or you will get one hard one from me. Complex language skills indeed mother smirks. Ignoring her snide comments, i continue, mom, i was thinking of putting this joke up on instagram, will smith knew stand up comedians also like slapstick. He did have a stick, so he did the best he could. What do you think after hearing this one, i have lost the will to live. Will, you get it she says, chuckling away, while i am left wondering if a penchant for making bad puns is an inheritable trait. A new reality is taking shape, said sergey lavrov, russia foreign minister in tunxi, china shortly before he arrived in delhi this week. The unipolar world is irretrievably receding into the past and a multi polar world is being born. This is an objective process that cannot be stopped, said the veteran diplomat. Nobody on earth will be considered a second rate player, lavrov went on. All nations are equal and sovereign, he said except, presumably, ukraine which has been the target of a fierce attack since february 24. Lavrov words were carefully chosen, designed to capitalise on long standing misgivings with the west, and the us in particular, that have been building for years. Some of these concerns are at their sharpest across asia and not entirely surprisingly: ill fated and long standing interventions in iraq and syria seemed to summarise both the self serving nature of the west, as well as its impotence, exemplified by the chaotic withdrawal of us forces from afghanistan in august 2021. To many, the prospect of global multi polarity seems a welcome relief from the traumas of the two decades since 9 11. States like china, india, brazil and others do not want to be just in a position when uncle sam orders them something and they say: yes, sir, said lavrov. These countries would never accept the global village of the american sheriff, he said. Perhaps not surprisingly, comments like this have fallen on fertile ground not least in india, where much conversation in recent weeks has centred on staying neutral. The indian government has repeatedly refused to engage in calls to condemn russian aggression. There are many reasons for this, including the strong ties between india military and russia. The personal friendship between prime minister modi and president putin is seen by some as a factor.**

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Too but certainly, the statements articulated by the russian foreign minister are ones that have been increasingly heard not only in India, but in china, pakistan, the gulf and elsewhere: why ake sides at the insistence of the us and the west what benefit is there to censuring moscow, a vital source of energy for many states in asia, as well as a military partner for some if the 21st century marks the rise of a new world order, centred on asia and marked by multipolarity, is this not the moment to stay out of problems in lands that are far away it certainly sounds persuasive, perhaps even compelling. The problem is that this war will drag us all down including India. So even if the scenes of maternity hospitals being shelled, or schools blown up is not enough to lead to condemnation, then self interest should focus the mind. In India case, the sweetener of plentiful and cheap oil can easily provide a false sense of security, and even a sense that the crisis is an opportunity for India: apart from the fact that India is buying oil at around 20 discount to market value. But oil, trade and neutrality also need to be placed in a wider context. Around 70 of India corn imports come from ukraine and provide not only a crucial direct food source, but an indirect source too as feed for chickens and livestock. Apart from the obvious difficulties of harvesting during a war, the capture, bombardment or blockade of ukrainian ports on the black sea means that exports have dried up and look likely to stay that way for the foreseeable future. That will impact India, of course, as well as increasing agricultural prices, which already have been driven up to new heights in recent months by chronic global fertiliser shortages something that some analysts believe is not coincidental. This means yields of crops will fall, creating shortages as well as further price shocks that can be both large and unpredictable. We should all be conscious and alarmed by what the months ahead may bring. In 2008, when prices spiked sharply, there were food riots in 40 countries. Three years later, a sudden rise in the costs of cereals was a key factor in what was known locally as the hunger revolution, but is now more usually known as the arab spring that **swept** north africa and much of the middle east, including proving a catalyst for the rise of isis. We can see some early signs of trouble. Three weeks ago, egypt banned export of staple foods, in anticipation of major problems. Recent rioting in sri lanka reminds one not only that the storm is already closer than many think, but also that its components include the scars of the pandemic that have reduced foreign investment, devastated major parts of the economy and pushed people into or deeper into poverty. What matters now is careful planning ahead in order to mitigate and cope.

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The rapid changes in both technology and business practices. Layoffs are painful. They have been steadily increasing since with a near companies announcing layoffs in. Partly driven by Copycat Behavior, today layoffs have become a default response to an uncertain future driven by rapid advances in technology, changing markets, and intense competition. It maybe noteworthy to examine that post a layoff, do companies really achieve their desired level of cost optimisation and efficiency. There are ample studies that indicate layoffs are a short term solution to reducing costs and do not take into account the time and effort invested in people training. While productivity may increase with those on board doing additional board, it may be again short lived as they may eventually wear out thus affecting quality. This holds true for the consulting sector as well. Consulting firms need to better analyses market needs and align workforce. Alternatives to traditional layoffs need to be explored to make layoffs a more humane experience. It just reinforces the company value and keeps the door open for boomerang employees. India assumed the G20 presidency on the December 1, 2022, from Indonesia. India will be convening the G20 Leaders Summit for the first time in 2023. As a nation, India is deeply committed to democracy and multilateralism. India G20 Presidency would be a defining moment in her history as it pursues to play an essential protagonist by finding practical global resolutions for the happiness of all, and in undertaking so, apparent the true spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam or the World is One Family. Three crucial components which are the bedrock of this Presidency are. Projection of political portrait. Since G20 is a leadership summit, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the leader during the year. As he has been elected PM twice, therefore it proves that he has wide acceptance in our democracy, which is vibrant in nature. The development story that India has built up of a young country headed for progress and growth will go a long way in inspiring other nations. A country with an incredible digital revolution and the infrastructure has experienced a complete refurbishment. So, the world must know the growth story of India. India has chalked out the priorities. How does it want to lead the international economy? How does it want to move the world in the future? Covid has wedged many lives, and **so** has inflation, and many have slipped below the poverty line. Therefore the pace of economic growth has to be augmented. Actions to check climate change must be initiated, and environmental challenges must be contested. India challenge is to develop the economy without carbonising, so India has to adopt the green energy growth method. Digital payments have to be adopted in the best possible way. Women led development initiatives have to be given priority and pushed further. These are the real drivers of the Indian economy. The execution of role of G20 Presidency. The world is caught up in conflicts, putting many people lives in danger. In such an environment, India will have to use its G20 Presidency to reach positive solutions to various challenges, such as revitalising global growth, more decisive climate actions and robust global health infrastructure. The Presidency role is a source of change and global evolution for India. With information technology as its fundamental strength, India must emphasis making digital infrastructure incl

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Comprise priority areas of interest such as inclusive and resilient growth, SDGs progress, green development and Lifestyle for Environment Mission Life, technological transformation and public digital infrastructure, reforming multilateral institutions, women led development, and international peace and harmony. In addition, India will emphasis the importance of adequate international finance and technological support, as critical enablers, for achieving SDGs, climate goals and sustainable energy transitions. India is also intensifying the Global South and developing countries voices and concerns in front of the member countries of the G20 group. India will host more than 200 meetings across the country in 22 different sectors. Ever since India took over the Presidency of the G20, both Pakistan and China have been feeling uncomfortable. The G20 meetings are generally held in other member nations each year, and the location is decided by the country holding the Presidency. India agreed to hold G20 meetings in all 28 states and 8 UTs to showcase Bharat. Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Latah are integral parts of India without any iota of doubt. G20 meetings had already taken place in Arunachal Pradesh, which China had opposed and skipped the meetings. In May, India will hold a G20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar and a Youth 20 Forum meeting is also planned to take place in Lehn by the end of April. Pakistan has disapproved of India pronouncement to host these conferences in Srinagar and Lehn and has attempted to put pressure on India via its other associates. The spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry of India snubbed Pakistan, declaring that holding these meetings in Jammu, Kashmir, and Latah is a normal response as they are integral parts of India. India has out rightly rejected Pakistan objection. India is the most pulsating democracy in the world. In spite of the global meltdown, India is targeting the highest growth globally. With a series of G20 meetings spread over the country, it times to project the real strength of India to this world. The decision to host the G20 meetings in a specific location ultimately rests with the member countries. Only Pakistan and China have raised unsustainable objections, but the beauty is that nobody has paid attention to their grudges. More than fifty representatives of different countries took part in this meeting in Arunachal Pradesh, and here and now, India Jammu, Kashmir and Lehn are prepared for the proposed **G20** meetings. Significant preparations and infrastructure development have been made to put up the leaders and delegates from the member countries, including constructing or renovating facilities such as meeting venues, hotels, transportation networks, and security arrangements. It is better that Pakistan accepts the reality and joins the world delegation to see the tangible difference between Pakistan and India. Instituted in 1999 in the wake of the 1997 global financial crisis as a new grouping of countries with systemic economic influence, the G20 first met at the Finance Ministers and Governors of Central Banks level to discuss policies to achieve international financial stability. After that, it was under the shadow of the 2008 global financial and banking crisis that the first G20 Summit was held. This group currently has an extensive set of issues on its agenda ranging from financial stability, debt burden, Sustainable Development Goals, and health crisis to

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International orders. This G20 Presidency is an important opportunity for India to focus on issues of critical global importance, put forth its narratives on development, and, as the fastest growing major economy, bring its strengths to bear on the G20 agenda. The G20 Indian Presidency will be one of the most important landmark moments of Indian democracy. It is broadly recognised that at times when there is a crisis of multilateralism, India has the moral obligation to bring reliability to an intensely divided multipolar world and craft broader global responses to these challenges. India is holding meetings in different cities to showcase the rich cultural heritage of India, one of the world oldest civilizations, which is an all-embracing confluence of religions, traditions and customs. Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh are India integral and inalienable parts. The world must know what India is. While registering their unfounded protests, Pakistan and China have exposed themselves to the world. They should stop interfering in the internal matters of India. India has been at the forefront of the global fight against vaccine-preventable diseases. However, the country has also struggled with vaccine hesitancy in the past, which has hindered progress in achieving high vaccination coverage rates. The recent UNICEF flagship report that highlights India gains in vaccine confidence for children are a ray of hope in an otherwise challenging landscape. According to the report, India is one of the three countries out of 55 surveyed, where confidence in children vaccines has increased. This is a significant achievement for a country that has struggled with vaccine hesitancy in the past. The report shows that India has made significant progress in building trust and confidence in vaccines, which is essential for achieving high vaccination coverage rates and protecting the health of children. The increase in vaccine confidence can be attributed to several factors, including the government efforts to improve vaccine delivery systems and communication strategies. The tireless work of healthcare workers and community leaders who have played a critical role in addressing vaccine hesitancy and promoting vaccine acceptance has also been instrumental in this regard. This increase in vaccine confidence is not just a statistic. It has real-world implications for the health and well-being of children in India. High vaccination coverage rates can prevent the spread of infectious diseases, save lives, and improve overall health outcomes. This is particularly important in a country like **India**, where many children are still vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases. However, while the gains in vaccine confidence are encouraging, we cannot become complacent. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted routine immunization services in many parts of the country, leading to a decrease in vaccination coverage rates. As we continue to battle this pandemic, we must not forget the importance of maintaining routine immunization services and ensuring that all children receive the vaccines they need to stay healthy. Furthermore, there is still much work to be done to ensure that all children in India have access to life-saving vaccines. This includes addressing the barriers to vaccine access faced by marginalized communities and improving the availability and affordability of vaccines. We must also continue to work with communities to address any lingering concerns and



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In seeking the sought, the seeker denies that the sought is already there and acknowledges that what is already there is what is sought. The raj yogi follows an elaborate regimen to steer clear of bodily and mental distractions before he can expect to attain his goal of union with the absolute, the Brahmn. The stage is set through the practice of the five yamas and niyamas. Specific asana help achieve a posture that is neither coy nor unbearable. Breathing techniques help slow and harmonies breathing so the rushing air does constitute a distraction. The senses are closed, and concentration is locked on an object to restrain the ever-tossing and turning mind. Only when these are met can the yogi experience the pure, undifferentiated Brahmn. But what about the multitudes who falter along the difficult road? What about those who fail to distil the undifferentiated Brahmn from the differential maya? We naturally tend to resist and oppose thoughts, feelings, and occurrences that we detest. This resistance often leads to frustration, making things worse. Opposing and resisting intrusive thoughts and feelings only makes them stronger. What is the way out? It goes by a simple mantra: Control what you do, accept what you feel. Anxious thoughts have just one goal: perpetuating anxiety and making you even more anxious. Negative thoughts aim to install disquietude and pessimism. Acceptance defangs them, leaving them no choice but to starve and succumb. The accepting mind lets thoughts and feelings come as they do and lets them be. Acceptance is the most powerful arrow in the faltering yogi quiver. How do we practice acceptance? By recognising and clinging to the thread of consciousness that binds everything, to the omnipresent bigness that straddles all that is and is. The yogi must never be tricked into believing, in true sense, that their distractions are alien to Brahmn. That maya, being limited, is antithetical to Brahmn. Or that Brahmn is reached by distilling off the differential maya. For what becomes of Brahmn if there anything apart from Brahmn? What is Brahmn but consciousness, the ultimate reality, and what becomes of the ultimate reality if there anything other than itself? What limits the limited is nothing but Brahmn, as is what lies beyond the limited, and the limited itself. Brahmn is as much what is distilled off as the distillate itself, as much what the yogi rejects as what **he** seeks. Brahmn is not this, not that but his, as well as that. Brahmn is both the differential and the undifferentiated. What the yogi seeks is no different from what is already there, including that which he avoids. By clinging to the thread of all-pervading consciousness, the yogi identifies and accepts his distractions as nothing but forms of the same Brahmn that he seeks. In them, the yogi sees nothing but Brahmn, out and out, and stops resisting them. And thus, the yogi, unperturbed by his distractions, disembowels them and carves a smooth and single-minded path to his goal. Some people think it strange that the government wants to make this big new law right before an election. They wonder if it really necessary or if it might be used to cause problems for innocent people. The law would make it easier to arrest people and harder for them to get out of jail. That why it important for everyone to think carefully about whether this law is a good idea or not. he umbrella term has been applied to activists, academics, politicians. In the 2018 CM-chief secre

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From academics to protesters, the urban naxal tag has sent people into grueling prison terms on vague accusations. The term became a ditty in the Elgar Parishad case when Pune police arrested activists, all of whom had earned the urban Naxal moniker. In 2021, adivasi rights campaigner Stan Swamy died in custody, also regarded part of the urban Naxal group. Near wiped out What puzzling about the bill raison d eater is that naxalism pan-India is on its last legs per GOI. Govt has repeatedly stated that over the last five years, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra, MP and Maharashtra had been freed from Maoist influence. That only pockets in Chhattisgarh remained as outliers. In Parliament answers in As a new Labour govt takes charge of UK, Sunak first post-defeat speech in Parliament is likely to have struck many as remarkable, in its ordinary civility. Despite what has happened in much of the world, and however heated the political fray, Parliament is a common project and democracy is coexistence. Sunak acknowledged his opponent Keir Starmer victory, and the verdict of the people, to whom all parties are committed. He highlighted the role of legislators, whose constituents keep them grounded, and to whom they have the first obligation. In many ways, this was a departure from the norms we have seen shredded in India. An election victory in a complex parliamentary system as ours, is an aggregate of many impulses rather than a single message. Every govt must know that its majority is partial and does not include all constituents, and engage with other views. Opposition, meanwhile, has to keep watch on the executive, and make sure it is heard by the strength of its argument. We have sharply differentiated political platforms, so a clash of ideas is inevitable. But it should not be a literal clash, or a matter of domination and subjugation. Sunak speech gave us all a few tips on how wins and losses should be handled in a democracy. Deliberative democracy is an exercise in public reason. We, the people, are owed these debates, to see how various points of view are reconciled into legislation. Parliamentary civility is not about good manners, but about enlarging the space to make and hear arguments, without personalised attacks. You radiate that happiness to all around you and life is generally on a roll. The moment all that listed above **happens** to someone else and you have failed the exam, your cholesterol is high, and you did not get the raise or promotion you expected at work you start burning with jealousy, you are angry, and you radiate all these negative feelings, making yourself and those around you miserable. Why is it so difficult to feel happy for your colleague or friend who managed to achieve those things? When you take delight in the happiness of others, the Buddhists call it media. It means sympathetic joy. Physician turned mindfulness and dharma teacher Christiana Wolf writes of the Buddha exposition of the four brahmaviharas, the highest qualities of the heart. They are, metal, loving kindness karuna, compassion upeksha, equanimity and media, sympathetic joy. Of these, media is perhaps the most challenging as it requires you to feel happy at the achievements of others. Jealousy among colleagues and even strangers is somewhat comprehensible but to resent the success of one own sibling or parent, or even child, is something that is really gross. Instead of feeling joy and love, you feel violated, that how come this is not

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With challenging scenarios which may become existential in their scale in the coming months. That would seem more important than worrying about sheriffs or geopolitical interests. For those in ukraine, each day is about survival. I fear that for many parts of the world, it will soon be a similar story. So much for the new reality. Understanding of a child mind is an important step towards building a staircase for potential opportunities. While integrating facts through academia, it is observed that storytelling becomes a vital part of a child learning. When it comes to folklores, imagination, instilling positive qualities and stories that make one idolise a particular personality, are encouraged as the focal point. For example, they are often taught skills and qualities through the dominant traits or defining features of animals. The fox represents wit, the lion leadership, the hare perseverance, the dog friendship, and the caterpillar patience to evolve into a better self. As the kids deal with new learning, there are multiple questions which surface in the minds of a parent such as do the kids inculcate these qualities as some of these are learned, some are acquired, and some are inborn. Do they know what their dominant personality trait is are they given a chance to recognise these traits psychometric tests are one of the methods which can be used to reveal various skillsets that are part of a child personality. These assessment tools are usually in form of tests designed with the aim to measure an individual personality traits, aptitude, intelligence, abilities, thinking styles and behavior. Based on what aspects needs to be tested, it can be customised to figure out the sub conscious mind of a child. History suggests the origin of psychometric tests dating back to 2200 bc, but the breakthrough happened in 1905, france, when alfred binet and simon theodore developed a psychometric test to identify real abilities and practical judgments in children. They named it binet simon intelligence scale that tested higher psychological processes in kids. Psychometric tests reveal one cognitive skills and personality characteristics which helps to understand a person strengths and weaknesses, know their stand about aspects of life and help one plan, make choices and act accordingly. These aspects catalyse the process of knowing oneself and ensure an enhanced understanding of a child mind. Irrespective of all the biases, these tests provide quantifiers for the psychometric **abilities** that help both the child as well as the parents to understand the strength and weaknesses of the subject. A test devised on principles helps in self revelation that boosts up the morale of children. Kids learn to grow accustomed to their roles as students in newer environments. They are impressionable, influenced and inspired easily. Moreover, they change their decisions in the split of a second, are idealistic impersonate people they like and make choices based on their interest in the moment. Growth necessitates change and students go through this change every day. Their life is filled with new experiences.

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Which encourages development with 360 degree perspective, interests, and adds individualistic opinions to their intellect. They are in a constant cycle of moulding themselves. Psychometric tests can help reveal these new elements in their life, as they change, hence it is advised to frequently take such tests. The perks of living in the 21st century are that it has brought in technologies that make it accessible to anyone and everyone. Psychometric tests are being widely used by companies to test potential candidates that has resulted in a totalitarian approach towards understanding the new employee or client. These tests help students learn more about themselves and the skills they possess in the initial phases to make choices and thus pave their future. Based on the psychometric results, parents, and students can approach a career counsellor or an e career counselling platform to get the best of all the available options for the future role. It is a known fact that fingerprints are unique, and so is every child. When one looks in the mirror, one must know what kind of a person is reflected back is it the lion, the fox, the hare, the dog or the caterpillar in today ever evolving world, constant skilling, upskilling or reskilling has become necessary, and as a student evolves, so does their intellect. These tests are the way to better the state of not only the kids but also the guardians. It provides a bridge to fill the gap to understand a child true potential. Psychometric tests are the fastest way to create new pathways for the coming generations that will help in building a better future for the global platforms. At the core, the business of banking is simple borrow money at lower interest rates and in turn lend the same at higher interest rates. The difference in these rates is what banks make as money. While this is a simplistic way of looking at the banking business, other important aspects such as underwriting, collecting and risk management make it quite complex. As an industry, banking, globally, has gone through two large revolutions in the last century. The first was the regulation of banking in the us in the 1930s as a result of the great depression which has continued to evolve over time with the last major trigger being the 2008 global financial crisis. India, too, has gone through phases of **nationalization**, liberalization and privatization with a fairly robust regulatory regime in place today. The second the more important and continual revolution has been the technologization of banks. On this front, the indian banking industry has made rapid strides in the last three decades and has arguably attained pole position globally today with the explosion of the api economy. The indian tech story of banking the economic liberalization of the 90s saw indian banks explore the use of technology in banking operations. This was largely restricted to banks with core banking solutions which revolved around processing banking transactions i.e., deposits and loans.



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Judicial bodies and professional associations have been emphatic that AI must not be permitted to displace substantive legal reasoning or final decision-making; instead, models can provide candidate authorities or draft summaries that a legally responsible person must verify. In several jurisdictions this year, courts or judicial offices issued guidance or policy statements that limit AI to research and administrative assistance, categorically bar its use for autonomous decision-making, and require human verification of any substantive legal output. What has become clearer in late 2025 and was insufficiently emphasised previously is the governance plumbing that makes safe use realistic: procurement transparency, certification against technical standards, mandatory independent audits, ongoing red-teaming and adversarial testing, and explicit pilot evaluation metrics. Responsible pilots now commonly define measurable success criteria (accuracy thresholds for citation retrieval, false-positive rates for issue detection, time-savings validated by controlled trials), fixed review periods after which independent audits assess fairness and privacy impact, and exit triggers if error or bias metrics exceed thresholds. Policymakers in Europe and international bodies are pushing for sectoral standards and certification schemes so that courts can avoid ad-hoc, vendor-specific black boxes and instead rely on auditable, interoperable solutions. Practical deployment also raises doctrinal and professional-accountability questions that require explicit answers before broader rollouts. If a prosecutor, lawyer or judge relies on an AI-produced brief or an AI-flagged precedent that later proves incorrect, how will professional responsibility and malpractice frameworks assign blame? Several commentaries and judicial training bodies in 2025 press for rules that make disclosure of AI use routine in filings and that require lawyers and judges to certify verification steps. Equally important is the need to update judicial record-keeping so that every AI interaction is recorded in the case file which preserves the right to contest and the ability to reconstruct the chain of reasoning in appellate review. These changes are not simply administrative; they alter duty-of-care expectations for legal professionals and demand continuing legal education on interpreting and interrogating model outputs. Data governance and cross-border issues are additional, practical constraints. Many jurisdictions now insist on strict limits for transmitting court data outside national borders, which implies courts will favour on-premise or sovereign-cloud model hosting for sensitive workloads. Where external services are used, contracts must mandate clear data-use restrictions, deletion policies, and the right to audit. Regulators and data protection authorities this autumn updated guidance emphasising risk assessments and documentation as prerequisites to deployment pushing **courts** to treat data protection impact assessments and continuous monitoring as non-negotiable. These requirements close important privacy and due-process gaps that earlier pilots sometimes overlooked. A final set of elements relate to access to justice, equity, and the political economy of judicial AI. Responsibly designed AI assistants can relieve overloaded courts, triage low-value or routine matters, and provide clearer guidance to unrepresented litigants, meaningfully expanding access where legal aid is scarce

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pilot-exit criteria tied to measurable fairness and accuracy metrics are now being adopted in guidance and white papers around the world. Courts that want to harness algorithmic clerks should therefore proceed by designing human-in-the-loop systems, embedding technical and procedural auditability, securing data governance and hosting, and updating legal ethics and record-keeping frameworks so that technology enhances justice without diluting human responsibility. 'Centrism isn't nostalgia, it is survival' Rethinking stray dogs From crisis to opportunity Christmas The season that makes us human Dr. Supriya Shukla is a distinguished academic, gold medalist in English, and doctorate holder with an illustrious career spanning nearly four decades. She served as Principal and Head of the Department of English at the VSSD College, Kanpur, for 34 years, and also contributed her expertise to other postgraduate institutions, including a brief but enriching teaching stint at IIT Kanpur. Silent Night, Holy Night All is calm, all is bright Round yon Virgin Mother and child Holy infant so tender and mild Sleep in heavenly peace The lilting melody and penetrating lyrics of this immensely popular Christmas carol convey a sense of universal grace that transcends different cultures and faiths, emphasising brotherhood and mutual understanding. The carol highlights the humble circumstances of Christ's birth in a stable, heralding the arrival of Jesus as the harbinger of peace to save humanity. C S Lewis captured the mystical element when he wrote, The son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God. The love associated with this season is a love that shines without expecting anything in return. This idea resonates in families coming together, communities caring for the less fortunate, and individuals finding ways to uplift others, even in small, quiet gestures. As the month of December arrives, the world begins to transform. Streets glow with twinkling lights, homes are adorned with ornate Christmas trees, and melodies of joy fill the air. Yet beyond the decorations, festivities, and the comforting chill of winter, Christmas carries a deeper message for Christmas is not just a celebration it is a profound reminder of virtues that enrich human life and elevate our collective spirit. The serene simplicity of His arrival conveyed a timeless lesson greatness often rises from the most unassuming circumstances. Humility is one of the core teachings of Christmas. In a world increasingly driven by material pursuits, Christ's humble countenance encourages us to pause, reflect, **and** appreciate the quiet strength found in modesty. It reminds us that compassion, kindness, and sincerity hold far more value than outward grandeur. The annual return of every festival is a reminder to refresh life's lessons for a peaceful existence. Every culture and faith upholds the idea that virtues and purity reside in simplicity, not in ostentation. Christmas resonates with the message of unconditional, selfless, inclusive love. Margaret Thatcher once observed Christmas is a day of meaning and traditions, a special day spent in the warm circle of family and friends. This togetherness strengthens bonds and reminds us that no one is meant to walk through life alone. In a world where people increasingly feel isolated despite being digitally connected, Christmas gently nudges us to value real human connections, the conversations over shared meals, the laughter echoing through h

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Which encourages development with 360 degree perspective, interests, and adds individualistic opinions to their intellect. They are in a constant cycle of moulding themselves. Psychometric tests can help reveal these new elements in their life, as they change, hence it is advised to frequently take such tests. The perks of living in the 21st century are that it has brought in technologies that make it accessible to anyone and everyone. Psychometric tests are being widely used by companies to test potential candidates that has resulted in a totalitarian approach towards understanding the new employee or client. These tests help students learn more about themselves and the skills they possess in the initial phases to make choices and thus pave their future. Based on the psychometric results, parents, and students can approach a career counsellor or an e career counselling platform to get the best of all the available options for the future role. It is a known fact that fingerprints are unique, and so is every child. When one looks in the mirror, one must know what kind of a person is reflected back is it the lion, the fox, the hare, the dog or the caterpillar in today ever evolving world, constant skilling, upskilling or reskilling has become necessary, and as a student evolves, so does their intellect. These tests are the way to better the state of not only the kids but also the guardians. It provides a bridge to fill the gap to understand a child true potential. Psychometric tests are the fastest way to create new pathways for the coming generations that will help in building a better future for the global platforms. At the core, the business of banking is simple borrow money at lower interest rates and in turn lend the same at higher interest rates. The difference in these rates is what banks make as money. While this is a simplistic way of looking at the banking business, other important aspects such as underwriting, collecting and risk management make it quite complex. As an industry, banking, globally, has gone through two large revolutions in the last century. The first was the regulation of banking in the us in the 1930s as a result of the great depression which has continued to evolve over time with the last major trigger being the 2008 global financial crisis. India, too, has gone through phases of **nationalization**, liberalization and privatization with a fairly robust regulatory regime in place today. The second the more important and continual revolution has been the technologization of banks. On this front, the indian banking industry has made rapid strides in the last three decades and has arguably attained pole position globally today with the explosion of the api economy. The indian tech story of banking the economic liberalization of the 90s saw indian banks explore the use of technology in banking operations. This was largely restricted to banks with core banking solutions which revolved around processing banking transactions i.e., deposits and loans.

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Generation service assurance platform that is customer centric and focused on delivering the customer experience to them every minute. The experience factor is produced by connecting user application analysis to signalling analysis for each call transaction, which has never been done previously in the mobile sector. The new approach to service assurance is driven by the need to provide a cost effective solution with a minimal infrastructure footprint while still giving a holistic 360 degree view of customer experience across all access networks. This will then give the data sets needed to develop actionable insights, such as a correlation between an issue that occurred today and one that occurred a week ago. Mnos will be able to detect if there is a link between the two, and if so, will we be able to forecast whether the problem will recur, and, more significantly, will we be able to prevent the problem from occurring. As a result, having complete network coverage from both a customer and a network standpoint, as well as corrective actions and recommendations, will be critical in avoiding network failures or downgrades. Overall, the service assurance solutions are providing the top mno across the world the future of 360 degree assistance. These services include all the features required to monitor network kpis and application performance as well as measure end user service experience, and provide actionable insights needed for network performance management. Few important benefits include: with the changes brought about by global warming, there is consensus on cutting down emissions from vehicular transportation. Electric vehicles evs are being hailed as the solution, and the world is accepting this new mode of transport with gusto. As per estimates, the global ev market has been growing at a cagr of 43. Evs constituted nearly 2.6 of all vehicles in 2019. However, the numbers are going to surge significantly in the times ahead. On the other hand, if we look at India, the country is lagging far behind the major markets such as china, europe, and the us that accounted for and 21 of the global ev sales in 2019, respectively. Out of the total, 7.2 million units sold in that year, only 170,000 were sold in India, and most of those were either e rickshaws or e bikes. In such a scenario, it is easy to think that evs are not taking off in India. However, that assumption **is** far from the reality. There is tremendous interest in evs with not just vehicle makers but also the government strongly backing this segment. The benefits of electric transportation go beyond climate change prevention. For India, electrification of vehicles can significantly reduce oil bills and boost energy security by making the country self dependent for its energy needs. To understand the current scenario, and the future of evs in India, there is a need to look beyond the unit numbers today and focus on the trends. For instance, even if the number of evs on India roads is almost insignificant, there.



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With most of these processes performed manually before, technology backed core systems increased the speed of processing transactions multifold. The information technology revolution of the 2000s and the impetus provided by the it act of 2000 saw the largest banks in the country embrace core banking solutions thereby serving customers at scale and processing large volumes of transactions. In short, the productivity, profitability and efficiency of banks significantly increased. Digital payment solutions the next decade and a half, until 2016, saw massive disruption and major innovation in the consumer payment space. Cards led the first set of cashless payment instruments with debit and credit cards becoming mainstream which compelled banks to develop and upgrade their existing core banking solutions. It also saw the introduction of ATMs. The major turning point during period was the rise of digital wallet fintech firms. While this period was short with the advent of the unified payments interface UPI which has almost wiped out the digital wallet ecosystem in India it saw the introduction of application programming interfaces APIs in banking technology stacks. Digital wallet fintechs had to integrate with core banking systems to store money and process payments which banks were hesitant to. In order to accrue the benefits arising from the penetration of digital wallets, banks developed frameworks to only share payment related services through APIs. The result was a robust integration mechanism between two parties banks and fintechs where banks, now, did have to worry about exposing their entire core technology systems to fintechs, and on the other hand, fintechs got access to specific services, and parts of core banking systems to power their payment products. The UPI, which has revolutionised digital payments in India, is also built on similar API frameworks. The explosion of the API economy the corollary to this phenomenon was a stark realisation amongst banks to leverage the power of APIs to offer other available products in their suite to fintechs. Banks today offer core products such as savings accounts FDs, credit cards and other allied products like demit accounts and insurances in the form of APIs to fintech partners. The benefits of this are clear banks get additional user acquisition channels at much lower costs, and the ability to scale significantly increases. Fintechs, on the other hand, purely focus on delivering exceptional user experiences that banks have traditionally fallen back in. This symbiotic relationship is at **the** core of the multitude of fintech bank partnerships in the Indian ecosystem we see today whether it is in the form of nonbanks, challenger credit cards, buy now pay later BNPL products, pocket insurances, new age investment products, P2P lending etc. Indian banks have done a remarkable job in being nimble to build and expose their APIs to realise the advantages of scale, and enhanced delivery and service. However, some banks are yet to join the bandwagon of the API economy and develop their API suites. It is however clear that banks that provide API suites for all products can.

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Generation service assurance platform that is customer centric and focused on delivering the customer experience to them every minute. The experience factor is produced by connecting user application analysis to signalling analysis for each call transaction, which has never been done previously in the mobile sector. The new approach to service assurance is driven by the need to provide a cost effective solution with a minimal infrastructure footprint while still giving a holistic 360 degree view of customer experience across all access networks. This will then give the data sets needed to develop actionable insights, such as a correlation between an issue that occurred today and one that occurred a week ago. Mnos will be able to detect if there is a link between the two, and if so, will we be able to forecast whether the problem will recur, and, more significantly, will we be able to prevent the problem from occurring. As a result, having complete network coverage from both a customer and a network standpoint, as well as corrective actions and recommendations, will be critical in avoiding network failures or downgrades. Overall, the service assurance solutions are providing the top mno across the world the future of 360 degree assistance. These services include all the features required to monitor network kpis and application performance as well as measure end user service experience, and provide actionable insights needed for network performance management. Few important benefits include: with the changes brought about by global warming, there is consensus on cutting down emissions from vehicular transportation. Electric vehicles evs are being hailed as the solution, and the world is accepting this new mode of transport with gusto. As per estimates, the global ev market has been growing at a cagr of 43. Evs constituted nearly 2.6 of all vehicles in 2019. However, the numbers are going to surge significantly in the times ahead. On the other hand, if we look at India, the country is lagging far behind the major markets such as china, europe, and the us that accounted for and 21 of the global ev sales in 2019, respectively. Out of the total, 7.2 million units sold in that year, only 170,000 were sold in India, and most of those were either e rickshaws or e bikes. In such a scenario, it is easy to think that evs are not taking off in India. However, that assumption **is** far from the reality. There is tremendous interest in evs with not just vehicle makers but also the government strongly backing this segment. The benefits of electric transportation go beyond climate change prevention. For India, electrification of vehicles can significantly reduce oil bills and boost energy security by making the country self dependent for its energy needs. To understand the current scenario, and the future of evs in India, there is a need to look beyond the unit numbers today and focus on the trends. For instance, even if the number of evs on India roads is almost insignificant, there.

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Is a rapid surge being witnessed unlike the west where the thanks adoption is powered by cars, India first wave of evs is coming in the form of shared transportation vehicles such as e rickshaws, buses, 3 wheelers and last mile connectivity solutions such as 2 wheelers. As witnessed in the budget this year, the government is quite focused on boosting the manufacturing and allied facilities across the country. Various state governments are also showing strong support for evs. For instance, the telangana government has announced exemption from road tax and registration fees for the first electric 2 wheelers in the state. Setting up of exclusive there zones, and the permission to buy them without factory fitted batteries is other highly impactful moves. The emphasis is on eliminating the two core challenges that have obstructed India growth as nation. These are as follows. High cost of electric vehicles the ownership and managing battery costs make evs much more expensive than conventional vehicles. The cost of battery can make up as much as half of the overall price. By allowing purchase of vehicles without batteries, the government has taken a step towards making them compete with the internal combustion engine ice vehicles. Further waivers and incentives such as the one announced by telangana government can make people switch to evs faster. One of the biggest reasons why evs have been slow to sell in India is the range anxiety. The evs have a specific number of kms beyond which the battery gets discharged and it requires charging. Charging being a time taking process leads to the vehicle being usable only until the battery runs out pump anywhere in the country, the needs to get back to its charging point. As per an estimate, India is likely to have over 2 million evs on roads by 2026, and to cater to them, there is a need of over charging stations. The government push to battery swapping has created a path that is now set to enable these two as well as many other energy related challenges of evs. There is also a production linked incentive scheme to encourage domestic manufacturing of their batteries. Further, battery disposals and skill development of automobile sector workforce to prepare them for their manufacturing are other areas that are being focused upon. With greater investment support and a conducive ecosystem for global investors to fund can **undoubtedly** become a global leader in this area. Honestly, Data is not fueling the Retail Industry directly. The Analytics that is doing it. But to get the right analytics, you need data first. So, indirectly, and technically, data plays a vital role as it is the foundation step in the overall process of Analytics. In Retail, the old saying that the customer is God still applies and today, the customer is today is to target them with a customized and personalized approach that offers them what they are looking for and only Data analytics can do the trick in this case.

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Make no mistake what Imran Khan is really trying to do today is convince his puppeteers to give him another chance. As he frantically tries to cling on to power, the contrast is glaring to what he had said during his Azadi March in August 2014. If people like you had said Go Imran Go with such passion I would have resigned and gone to reelection immediately if I am man of honor. But of course, we know from Shakespeare Julius Caesar what men of honor do and also how they usually end up. Elected in 2018 with what people considered the most rigged elections in Pakistani history, his political career boosted by the late General Hamid Gull and other prominently ranked ISI and army men, Imran Khan had not only been carefully selected and trained for the job, but also seemed quite happy to do it the way he was told. Unlike other prime ministers, he never complained when the army chief was accompanying him and practically acting as the actual PM. Instead, he simply followed the directives given by the army. It was a political Yorker or goodly or a reverse swing pick your cricket metaphor but Imran Khan national assembly dissolution and calling for polls haven of course ended the match. For one, Pakistan Supreme Court is hearing the matter. And its decision can dramatically change the dynamics breezily killing a no confidence motion is dubious parliamentary practice, even in Pakistan. Two, after we chuckle at the claim by Pakistan army PR arm that the forces have no role in this soap opera, the generals will have their own calculations. Three, Imran, who seems to not have lost his ability to mobilize street protests, may not docilely follow whatever the court and the army decide he has already become the first Pakistani PM to at least temporarily outmaneuver an army backed de facto coup. Had the no confidence motion been debated and voted on, and had, as was widely expected, Imran lost that vote, he would have been the first Pakistani PM to lose office through parliamentary means, and not via direct military or judicial intervention. But Pakistan can always surprise. So, all kinds of scenarios are possible, not excluding violence. Whichever way Pakistan political crisis plays out and whoever is the country next PM, two things won change. First, despite General Bajwa recent comments on **importance** of talks with India, terror will continue to be a Pakistani policy against this country. Second, the country economic crisis will continue to deepen. Consumer price inflation is over 12, Pakistani rupee has lost 50 of its value in five years, the country debt keeps piling higher, and minus IMF and occasional help from Saudis and Qataris, the country will go bankrupt. China infrastructure spend in Pakistan has predictably led to little economic improvement and, again predictably, added to its debt. This economic crisis is no surprise but Pakistan generals still think that the country so called strategic geographic position.



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Is a card that can be played to get help from a great power, China having replaced the US in this calculation. But that strategy may be running out of steam. China commitment is unlikely to match America when the latter was obsessively focused on the so called war on terror. Beijing global strategic view has many components of which using Pakistan to harass India is only one. For example, with the Quad becoming a more cohesive grouping, and given China big focus on Indo Pacific and its geopolitical rivalry with the US, Islamabad utility as an India baiter may be less valued than Rawalpindi brass reckons. India wrapping up of the free trade agreement with Australia soon after a deal with UAE sends global signals that its trade policy is moving into higher gear. By showcasing Indian readiness to lower import duties on a range of goods and Australia willingness to ease mobility for professionals, this deal could give greater impetus to other FTA negotiations. It is a win win for both sides. Indian industry gets cheaper access to raw materials like coal, Aluminum and metallic ores while Indian professionals secure liberal visa concessions. Australian wines, wool, sheep meat, onions, almonds and other horticultural products will benefit from tariff reductions. Notably, India will reportedly highlight the mobility concessions for Indian professionals by Australia in its ongoing UK FTA negotiations. This had also hindered an EU FTA deal, which the commerce ministry is targeting for a mid 2023 inking, and will be an issue in any India US deal. There is no alternative to realistic give and take on market access. The Australia FTA removes tariff disadvantages India suffered in merchandise exports of labour intensive goods vis China and Asian countries because of RCEP. Leaning towards import substitution will blunt India export competitiveness over time. It denies India cheaper components that reduce product manufacturing costs. Dairy products, rice, wheat, sugar, apples and iron ore have been excluded by Oz, evidently due to Indian political and industry sensitivities. Hopefully, these won be deal busters for FTAs with other key countries trade blocs. Russia invasion of Ukraine with its impact on energy and farm supply chains and altering of geopolitics calls for India to firm up trade agreements faster. The India Australia FTA may belong to the realm of trade, but it hard to miss the strategic considerations. As bilateral trade **and** thereby mutual trust grow, it will be easier for both sides to get on the same page in countering China dominance in the Indo Pacific region. FTAs offer India another shot at boarding the manufacturing bandwagon. Don lose this momentum. Corporations often talk about the need for digital transformation. Go is going through one of its own. Its path breaking digital initiatives hold tremendous potential to spur entrepreneurship, increase India global competitiveness and meet the nation goal of growth for all. The government digital strategy has three thrust areas a digital backbone for the country; platforms and portals to improve .

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The government services; and finally, open stacks that can be used for developing ecosystems. It has eschewed Western models and has built distinctive, scalable solutions for Indian problems. These together could add \$1 trillion of economic value according to a Go report published in 2019. As Goldilocks and Rapunzel will tell you, life is all about hair. Either so golden you are named after it or strong enough to ferry grown men. Hair may be a bunch of dead cells, only a protein filament pushing out of skin follicles, but its absence can trigger hysterics and Hollywood scandals. While we will never know if Will Smith was offended on his wife behalf who suffers from alopecia or having a bad hair day himself, his slapping of Chris Rock at the Oscars is causing global hair fall. To let it down or tear it out, one needs hair. Oh, the horror of watching shampoo ads while our own strands are so few that each has a pet name. And the cold contempt on hairdresser faces as they prod and pick at our puny mane Hair is known to elope with pillows and hairbrushes, and organise orgies on bathroom floors. Its natural state is matted, lending you the I put my finger into an electric socket look. Of course, we have PTSD from the hair we are born with but its disappearance turns us into Nancy Drew. Hunting for elixirs, oils, wigs, magic transplants. In mirrors, shop windows or other people sunglasses, we can see it recede from foreheads, thin at the crown or go AWOL in spots no cross combing can hide. Scarcely do they go running from the head when they begin to reappear on chin or dimple. Here they are black, long and thick, requiring an axe. Yeh resume mullein hog the screen in plaits, buns, bangs, curls or a blow dry. There is Monica gigantic frizz in that Friends episode, Persist Khambatta shaved head in Star Trek and Wolf Eateress Maria limp stringy hair in You Won Be Alone. Petre cut Arabella hair in The Rape of the Lock so Alexander Pope could write a poem. Once they sprout on the scalp, they take on a life of their own, and as Khalil Gibran said about kids, They are with you, yet they belong not to you. Which explains why we occasionally address our hairdo in a **high** pitched, Don do this to me Measure any hair found on husband shirt with your own; if longer or shorter, he is having an affair. The good news is she losing hair. Apparently, we shed 50 to 100 hairs a day. But that hair in the dish we sent back Not ours. A couple of years ago, a cultured looking gentleman asked me the country and religion I belonged to. I told him that I was a global citizen who had no religion. He thought that I was being a haughtily supercilious person. My candid reply may be mistaken for.

Word Count: 496, Character Length: 2705 characters

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Of defence equipment and energy to India, Russia is also collaborating with India on connectivity projects. India and Russia are involved in the development of the International North-South Transport Corridor. This project would allow India to reach out to Central Asia and Eurasia. The banking stability indicator in provided a comprehensive assessment of the health of the domestic banking system a consolidated trend that affirms banking stability. The BSI shows that the overall stability of the banking system improved on the back of stronger capital levels, higher earnings, and a decline in the stock of, including restructured assets. RBI is strengthening the governance of asset reconstruction companies ARCs and NARCL is functional now. The debt resolution process hastened with implementing IBC- 2016 with sturdy reforms. Profitability indicators and remained strong in March 2024 despite a marginal decline relative to the September 2023 position. These are reflective of the resilience of the banking system. There are some indicators of the frail efficiency ratios. They are showing early signs of a rise in staff costs leading to a surge in the cost-to-income ratio. The liquidity coverage ratio fell marginally, although the banking system has substantial liquidity buffers relative to the regulatory minimum. The financial system stress indicator is another comprehensive barometer of aggregate stress levels. It indicated a gradual easing of stress during Oct-March. The decline in stress indicators has been broad-based, except for the NBFC and money market segments. The softening of government debt market stress was the primary contributor to the FSSI improvement. The fall in long-term yields. Intense volatility and higher net foreign debt inflows were some of the causative factors. Meanwhile, declining volatility and range-bound movement in the exchange rate reduced stress levels for the foreign exchange market. Money market stress indicators began to climb as tight liquidity in the banking system led to higher interest rates on money market instruments the banking system stress indicator remained subdued, supported by improving soundness. The real sector stress indicator moderated further with the backdrop of improving sound macroeconomic fundamentals. Stress indicators for the NBFC sector rose as their capital ratios dipped and spreads on their borrowing costs increased. The combined strength of banks and NBFC forms the foundation to ensure stability of the financial system. With the rapid adoption of digital infrastructure and rising internet penetration, cyber risk is emerging as a key financial system vulnerability. The number of **publicly** attributed cyber-attacks has increased in India. Thus, Cyber risk is identified as a key source of systemic vulnerability in the RBI s systemic risk survey and was placed under the high risk category in eight out of ten previous half-yearly surveys. In short, the financial sector is on sound footing but needs to be vigilant over the challenges that could scale up with the potential rise in businesses and interconnected risks. As humans evolved over time, food was often in short supply, prompting us to move from place to place in search of sustenance. There must have been periods when food was unavailable, forcing us to stay hungry. Here are a few observations one can make: In the morning, we likely drank water first before searching for food. Upon returning, we would cook and eat our meal, a process th

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**Our body stores glucose, the readily available form of energy, up to about 2,000 calories: 1,500 in muscles and another 500 in the liver as glycogen. During the night, while our body relaxes or sleeps, our metabolic rate slows to about calories per hour, known as the basal rate. Consequently, we deplete our stored energy in about 12 hours. When the liver runs out of glycogen, the body shifts its metabolic pathway from burning glucose to burning fat. Fat is primarily stored as subcutaneous fat cells under the skin. However, the body also stores fat in three other places the liver as visceral fat in the abdomen and around vital organs, and within muscle cells as intramyocellular lipids. These fats are unhealthy and can cause chronic diseases like fatty liver and diabetes. When the body switches to fat-burning mode, it prefers to burn these unwanted fats first. Therefore, delaying your morning meal beyond 12 hours can effectively burn these toxic fats. Many cultures intentionally restrict their eating window to a narrow time slot. For example, in Jainism, the ritual called Chauvihar requires one to eat only 48 minutes after sunrise and finish eating 48 minutes before sunset, reducing the eating window to an average of 10.4 hours. Recent scientific research has demonstrated that time-restricted feeding has numerous health advantages. It dissolves unwanted fat from the liver, visceral organs, and muscle cells, rejuvenating these organs and reducing insulin resistance. In 2016, the Nobel Prize was awarded to Yoshinori Hoshida for his research on how fasting for over hours causes the body to recycle dead and damaged cells. This process is called autophagy. When the body recognizes a shortage of food, especially protein, it begins to recycle wasted protein stored in an organelle called lysosome into amino acids. These acids are then released into the blood for use by all cells. Additionally, the body also recycles dead or dysfunctional cells which includes senescent cells and misfolded proteins. Over the past two decades, we have discovered that a whole colony of microbes lives in our gut. The gut lining, made up of epithelial cells that form tight junctions, protects the body from passing food in the lumen. This lining is safeguarded by two layers of mucus, with microbes residing in the second mucosal layer. When we consume refined, ultra-processed, or animal foods that lack fiber, these mucosal layers become compromised, leading to a leaky gut. This condition is the source of many gut health issues and autoimmune problems. During fasting, the mucin-producing goblet cells, embedded in the epithelial cell lining, produce mucin. This helps rebuild the mucosal layers and heal a leaky gut. is also being linked to the Chabahar Port project which would enhance India connectivity with the landlocked Central Asian countries. These engagements imply that India is proactively courting Russia, the Central Asian countries as also Iran outside of the. Engaging with these countries on bilateral basis or through the connectivity projects like the and the Chabahar Port is a means for India to counter China. Also closer interaction with India allows these countries to diversify their engagements instead of depending mainly on China. India stand on Russia is also beneficial for the western countries. From a broad perspective the and the Nato are placed in the opposing spectrums from the perspectives of ideology and their respective world views. However, from specifi**



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One of the most profound lessons of Christmas is the importance of giving. The wise men who travelled afar to offer gifts like gold, Frankincense and Myrrh to the newborn Jesus set a precedent that lives on to this day. But Christmas teaches that giving goes far beyond material offerings. Giving one's time to someone who feels lonely, sharing a meal with someone who has less, offering comfort to a grieving friend, these acts reflect the true essence of the season. When we give with sincerity, we enrich not only the lives of others but also our own. Every year the arrival of Christmas stands as a testament that even in darkness, light persists. No matter how difficult the journey, hope can rekindle our strength and renew our faith in life's possibilities. Hope that has helped humanity endure challenges through centuries. Peace on Earth is more than a festive phrase; it is an earnest wish for harmony among individuals, families, and nations. In today's world where conflicts, stress, and divisions often dominate headlines the Christmas call for peace feels especially significant. The season urges us to cultivate tranquillity within ourselves and extend that calm outward. True peace begins in the heart and radiates into the world through our actions, choices, and words. Christmas encourages reconciliation, healing of old wounds, and the courage to let go of past grievances. The teachings of Jesus emphasise compassion for the imperfect, reminding us that everyone is deserving of grace. It inspires us to free ourselves from the bitterness that burdens the heart by forgiving others for in doing so we also liberate ourselves, making space for equanimity and composure to re-enter our lives. Amid the jubilation and rejoicing of celebrations, it invites us to appreciate the blessings both big and small that enrich our lives. Gratitude transforms ordinary moments into cherished ones. It shifts our focus from what is lacking to what is abundant. When we express thankfulness, we nurture contentment and foster exultation. Just as the year draws to a close, Christmas prepares us for a fresh beginning. It invites us to introspect, shed negativity, and enter the new year with clarity and optimism. It reminds us that each day carries the potential for transformation. In essence, Christmas is far more than a holiday marked by celebration. It is a season rich with teachings that inspire us to become better versions of **ourselves**, more loving, more compassionate, more forgiving, more hopeful, and more grateful. Whether one celebrates it religiously, culturally, or simply appreciates its universal spirit, the message of Christmas has something to offer everyone. As we immerse ourselves in the glow of the season, may we carry its teachings in our hearts not just on Christmas Day, but throughout the year. For the true magic of Christmas lies not in the festivities, but in the timeless values it kindles within us. Beneath the carols, candles and festivities lies a timeless universal message that light can overcome darkness, compassion can soften the hardest hearts, and humanity is at its best when it loves benevolently. Charles Dickens captured this enduring spirit perfectly when he wrote I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. Christmas, then, is not just a date it is a way of being! With the New Year close on heels, nothing can be more apt than the carol. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May the New Year bring go

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of India - India Voices Blogs (December 11, 2025) Consumption inertia has weighed heavily on consumer-facing companies for nearly two years, as the revenge spending euphoria that followed the pandemic fizzled out after the 2023 festive season. For years, the government undertook aggressive capex, but businesses die, brands don't. Every abandoned trademark is a key to customers' hearts and wallets. Musk paid \$44bn for Twitter and made it 'X', thinking it's a cool name. But the rest of us who have Trump's peace deals appear to be suffering from a 'Humpty Dumpty' syndrome. They are coming apart and no one seems to have any clue how to put them back together. This, even as Trump It's your password to social media power 'Rage bait' is the OED's Word of the Year. If you were born after Y2K, you need no explanation, but for social media illiterates it's spelt out as By G S Tripathi The 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Science was announced recently. The prize theme describes two periods of economic progress: a stagnating period of the economy in the pre-industrial revolution period and Delhi & Gurgaon playing a bad air match Gurgaon started off as a suburb of Delhi in early 1980s. People who couldn't afford property prices in Delhi plonked themselves in more affordable Gurgaon. However, today, lots of people give money advice online. They're called influencers (financial influencers). But many of them cause big problems, and that's why India's money watchdog, SEBI, is starting to crack down on them. Starting today, Australia has made a big new rule that kids under 16 aren't allowed to use social media. That means apps like Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat and others must check users' ages and block anyone who is a menace. Laissez-faire isn't an option. Regulation should get tough on them. This year, revised tax slabs increased our collective disposable income by Rs 1L cr. Last year, 93% of retail traders in Aussie ban on under-16s' social media is worth following by other countries. We have a suggestion. Global eyes are on Australia as its decision to ban social media for all children under 16 kicks in. There's a lot of criticism being directed DGCA's way, for giving IndiGo extra room to comply with its new Flight Duty Time Limitation requirement. It was faced, of course, with Hobson's choice, given the horrible The Indian economy presents a **paradox**. Post-Covid, it has been the world's fastest-growing large economy. India's GDP growth has surpassed even Indian govt's own projections as well as those of World Bank and IMF. Yet, By Ranjeni A Singh Actor-politician Jaya Bachchan was recently quoted as saying that she does not want her granddaughter to get married and called marriage an outdated institution. This prompted a section of netizens to Weeklong disruption across IndiGo's network has exposed a structural truth India has ignored for far too long passengers have no power. The airline industry knows this well. This crisis was the predictable outcome of some risks arriving as sudden shocks black swans. Others, like a grey rhino, move slowly and advance in full view, long before they hit. China's initiative on green minerals, unveiled by Premier Li Qiang during By Sonal Srivastava In the past few days, photos of chaos at Indian airports following IndiGo flight cancellations have flooded social media. Some users have shared images of airports online with the text, Yeh airport Indian aviation seems to be on a ventilator, after suffering a multi

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A discourteous reply, but it sounded perfectly logical and most sublime statement when Socrates proclaimed centuries ago that he was a global citizen And Diogenes, the most eccentric of all gymnosophists, gymno meaning naked, bare, ophist meaning philosopher, thinker, declared that religion, region, colour and all that jazz were mere accidents of birth. This is the kind of nous, Greek word for knowledge and wisdom, the beleaguered mankind is in need of. Before descanting upon the philosophy of Greek sophists, it must be noted that the kernel of Greek philosophy was pragmatism and practicality of everyday existence. Unlike most of the lotus eating philosophers of the East, propounding recondite theories of god, heaven and religion, Greek philosophers were everyday existentialists, to quote Reginald E Allen from Greek Philosophy: Thales to Aristotle. Whether it was Zeno Stoicism or Diogenes Cynicism, human life in all its gory and glory finds a meaning in Greek everyday philosophy. Diogenes famous earch for an honest man was his way of exposing the hypocrisy and sham of polite societal conventions. By holding a literal light up to people faces in broad daylight, he forced them to recognise their participation in practices that prevented them from living truthfully. He inspired others to follow his example. The same intrepid philosopher famously requested Alexander the Great to get out of his sunlight. Thomas A Blackson stated in his perceptive tome, Ancient Greek Philosophy: From the Presocratics to the Hellenistic Philosophers, that the humanistic nature of Greek philosophy and the exemplary manifestations of Greek thinkers provided solutions to life existential issues. Just think over Aristotle two magnificently life transforming quotes: Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom and It the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it. Now in these differing, destructive and devastating times, Aristotle gem of a thought assumes far greater significance. If we imbibe the spirit of this quote, much bloodshed and bad blood can be avoided. You could also ruminate over Plato sayings, Only the dead have seen the end of war and We can easily forgive a child who afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light, or Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle. All these aphorisms from the cornucopia of Hellenic wisdom can serve as a balm for the frayed **nerves** of a battered and benighted human civilisation. In fact, Greek philosophy is an antidote to the ongoing civilisational crisis. The tangibility as well as accessibility of Greek philosophy endear it to those who can think and act upon what they vet thought. To encapsulate, simplicity is the hallmark of Hellenic wisdom. The Supreme Court on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, had sought responses from the Union government and the Election Commission of India ECI on the continued practice of freebies being promised by political parties before elections, with an observation that the promise of freebies was a serious issue the Apex.

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Court reportedly had earlier asked the Election Commission to frame guidelines in the matter. However, the Election Commission had held only one meeting with political parties asking them for their views, it is reported. The observation of the Apex Court was in response to a petition seeking directions, to freeze the election symbol, or deregister a party, that promises irrational freebies in the run up to the polls, recently held for the five State Assemblies. Political leaders offering freebies to lure voters is quite common during the election time in the country. The Aam Admi Party AAP had earlier won a thumping majority in Delhi Assembly elections in 2015, promising free water and electricity. In the run up to the recently held Assembly Elections in the five Assemblies, the AAP had promised to provide free electricity up to 300 units to the people of Punjab, if voted to power in the recently held assembly elections, and it is seen that, has been handsomely rewarded by the voters of Punjab, decimating the incumbent Congress Akali Dal, along with BJP. The political climate in the country it seems, has been infested with the scourge of freebies being announced by political parties before the elections. It is unfortunate that, even after 75 years of India Independence, the political parties see freebies as the best lucrative tool to seek public support in elections. Those promising freebies, obviously do not pay from their own pockets, but from the taxpayers pockets. In a democracy, political parties announce their policies and programmes in their manifestos, which are guiding documents for governance, if they come to power. The opposition parties and civil society use these to assess the performance of the ruling party. However, promising freebies from the state exchequer, raises moral, ethical, serious administrative and legal issues, because the revenue is collected from taxpayers by the government, and set procedures exist for using this money for the welfare of the people. **Genesis of Freebies Culture** The culture of announcing freebies ahead of elections, was started by late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, J Jayalithaa. She started the freebie culture, and promised free sarees, pressure cookers, television, washing machines and more. The Amma Canteen was also a huge success. Political parties across the nation quickly adopted this. In the north, it all started from Delhi, Aam Aadmi Party founder Arvind Kejriwal promising free electricity, water, bus travel and **more** to win the elections in 2015. A lesson to learn from Venezuela In this respect, the experience of Venezuela provides an enlightening example. The South American oil rich country was quite prosperous till 1980 because of an oil price boom. Successive governments then began to offer everything free, from food to public transport. The country, which imported 70 percent of its food, faced an economic crisis soon after the oil prices started crumbling. Corruption became rampant. The governments continued to waive off farm loans, further damaging the economy. It took decades for it to recover, but the country could never.



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The role of energy in India resilient economic growth story remains important. In view of India clean energy ambitions, there is an immense opportunity in low carbon and zero carbon businesses. While the government is undertaking several steps to improve the transmission and distribution infrastructure, among other factors to upscale energy availability in the country, private players will continue to invest in low carbon growth areas such as renewable energy, power transmission and distribution. Challenges to improving power transmission Building power transmission lines has been a challenge, across the world, including India, on account of various factors such as remote or sensitive terrain, Rights of Way, manpower, weather conditions, etc. Construction timelines were also a huge challenge with most initial projects facing serious delays. The problem becomes especially pronounced for projects passing through eco sensitive areas with limited specific detailed information and demarcation of such areas and non availability of explicit construction guidelines for such projects coupled with the spectre of Public Interest Litigation. Many projects have faced significant delays on the back of inadequate information data available during the pre-bid stage. Comprehensive advance planning for evacuation of upcoming RE capacity will help address this issue to an extent as this will help stakeholders in identifying and resolving such issues ahead of time. However, in due course, the government and its agencies undertook many positive initiatives to help the transmission service providers TSP overcome some of these difficulties. Many of these were policy changes, guidelines, and amendments to the Standard Bidding Guidelines to support the sector and enable more private sector participation. Most recent bids have seen as many as 8 10 active bidders even as the project completion timelines have been drastically reduced to an average of 18 21 months from the earlier 30 36 months. Moreover, the government has already notified an evacuation plan for integration of 500 GW by 2030 while this is a step in the right direction, implementation of GATISHAKTI portal may also help in coordination between federal and state government agencies and expedite approval processes. Furthermore, government and planning agencies immediate attention is needed to meet the ambitious targets for integration of 500GW RE capacity by 2030. For instance, developing in country manufacturing capabilities for major equipment required in the substations such as GIS, STATCOM, 765kV transformers, for which the lead time is concerning high. Then there is a need to streamline ROW **acquisition** processes with uniformity across the country. Finally, the Stage II approval process for forest clearances continues to be time consuming. Opportunities enabling strong transmission systems Several opportunities are available to private sector entrepreneurs in becoming developers of power transmission lines, under the TBCB tariff based competitive bidding route. With an ambitious target of integrating 500GW of RE in the system by 2030, the transmission sector requires investments of upwards of INR 5 lakh cores. Considering this immense opportunity and with the easing of qualification criteria thresholds for projects awarded through competitive bidding, the number of players in the sector has witnessed a surge. Engineering, Procurement and Construction EPC Contractors, on the back of their constructi

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Power developer contractors to build transmission systems safely and with lower gestation periods. Given the challenging environment with gestation period of 18 21 months, technology deployments such as helicopter stringing, helicopter cranes, artificial intelligence, drone cameras have provided key support during the construction and O&M of transmission lines. In recent times, these technologies have helped in commissioning transmission projects in the hilly terrains of J&K, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, north eastern parts of India. Monitoring of transmission lines with the help of drones has become effective with minimal human involvement; it has also helped in locating the faults quickly and resolving them. Similarly, AI based SCADA systems are helping in efficient operations of substations with minimal human intervention. In order to change the way India produces and consumes energy, we need to usher in a new age of growth through greener initiatives and meaningful action. India ambitions of providing clean and sustainable energy to all in the development of a low carbon nation is an ambitious, yet a mindful target which calls for dedicated efforts for long term results. Undeniably, how energy is generated, transmitted, distributed, and consumed, will have significant ramifications on the environment as well as the global economy. Finally, something to celebrate. As per the latest `World Population Prospects report of United Nations Population Fund UNFPA 28.2 years median age makes the average Indian 10 years younger than the average Chinese whose median age is 39 years. For long we Indian have been looking at China with envy, many a times implicitly e.g., China has been able to reach phenomenal level of development because it rules with iron fist or virtues of non hinderance by things democratic but at other times quite explicitly. Remember when Mumbai Kars were told that in three years, even Shanghai would take note of its development. Well, it is 5 years and Shanghai must be taking note but not for the reasons expected for. Already alarmed by India imminent demographic dividend, China has touted its equal and higher quality educational opportunities, without naming the names. Well, while that may very well be the case, as has been its wont, China can be expected to take this latest salvo of average Indians being a decade younger than their citizens quite seriously; this despite the fact that they in any case always look younger now this may be termed variously from racism to ageism. Always **conscious** of its projection to the outside world, it might very well decree that there would be mass air brushing of any visuals going out, ensuring that everyone looks younger all the time. And what better way than to deploy Ernie, its home grown generative AI tool as an emergency response, which can create pictures based on keywords youthful look in this case. Presto! Not only everyone starts looking younger but look alike as well. So, naturally younger Indians are going to have tough competition from digitally enhanced ones. But on one aspect, China has nothing to fear from us. Yes, we are talking of the elected or selected, in case of China representatives. The average age of our 17th Look Sabah is 54 years, comparable to 52.2 years of 20th Party Congress of the Chinese Communist Party. If at all, here is some reason for ago China to rejoice. And looking at the past trends, they need not worry because since 1999, the average age of Look Sabah MPs h

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The entry of foreign law firms into India has been long awaited in many quarters, including by law students in India, hoping to see this development expand the legal market in India. Recent regulations issued by the Bar Council of India are the 1st step in that direction. However, a number of factors need to be kept in mind while considering the impact of this development on the broader legal sector, and more specifically, its impact on law students and future lawyers in India. Firstly, the regulations specify that international firms that enter India can only practice foreign law and cannot practice Indian law. Therefore, lawyers qualified solely in Indian law cannot join these firms in India and would need to continue to work with local Indian law firms. In any event, since Indian law work continues to remain with local Indian law firms, this is unlikely to impact Indian qualified lawyers in the short term. Secondly, the regulations restrict the involvement of international firms in litigation and contentious matters. This would significantly affect their scope of practice in India and again result in lawyers and clients continuing with local counsels law firms for any litigation advice. Given the significance and breadth of litigation as a practice field in India, this protects a very wide field for Indian law firms counsels. Any law student who wishes to focus on litigation may keep this in mind while considering their scope of employment with foreign firms. However, these are the Bar Council Regulations as of date. As things progress, it is possible that the regulations will be revisited, or the markets and practices develop so that the role of international law firms is increased. For example, if more contracts involving Indian parties use English or US laws as the governing law of the document, the need for qualified legal advice on the laws of these jurisdictions will also increase and so also the involvement of international law firms. Similarly, if the regulations at some stage permit international firms to practice Indian laws, or have a tie up with local Indian practitioners, the scope for Indian qualified lawyers to practice as part of international law firms will increase dramatically. Given the above, Indian lawyers and law students should consider the possibility of qualifying in the laws of other jurisdictions, such as the United Kingdom and the US. This is likely to improve **their** ability to join international law firms practicing in India. Similarly, Indian universities and colleges that offer courses in law should also consider the possibility of broadening their syllabus to cover international laws, as well as collaborating with foreign universities, and governing bodies in other jurisdictions such as the Law Society of England and Wales to be able to offer qualifications in international laws to students studying in India. The Indian legal sector has matured considerably over the last few decades. Indian lawyers and law firms are already involved in and have considerable expertise in international transactions and global disputes. India is also a very different legal market from the rest of the world highly cost conscious to the point of often sacrificing quality for cost. It is still too early to say what impact the entry of international law firms will have on some of these issues. However, if the experience of other services sectors, such as investment banking or management consulting, is replicated in the legal

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Recover fully recent developments in freebies case in the Supreme Court The Supreme Court on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 agreed to consider listing for an urgent hearing of a plea, seeking direction to register FIRs against political parties for allegedly inducing voters by offering freebies. A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana, took note of the submission by lawyer Barun Kumar Sinha, on behalf of the Hindu Sena Vice President Surjit Singh Yadav that, the issue needed hearing, in view of the fact that, assembly polls in five states were getting over, and agreed to list the plea. Yadav had pleaded that, such an offer or promise by a political party, its leader, candidates contesting the elections, may be declared as, indulging in corrupt practices and bribery in terms of provisions of Section 123 1 b of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and the candidates of such political parties may be declared disqualified from contesting the election in that state, and if elected, such election may be declared void. The petition requested that the Election Commission be directed to evolve a mechanism for candidates to declare during filing of their nomination, that their parties have not made any offer and promise of freebies at the cost of public money. Earlier, the top court had issued notices to the Centre and the Election Commission on another PIL filed by SC lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay observing that, offering freebies was a serious issue, as sometimes, freebie budget has been noticed, going beyond the regular budget. Upadhyay had sought a direction to the EC to seize the symbol or deregister a political party that promises irrational freebies before polls. In the light of the observation of the Apex Court, a question is needed to be asked, is it not a corrupt practice and loot of the treasury to garner votes, promising something for free, when it requires money to procure Freebies vitiate the poll process and undermine democratic polity. The ECI therefore needs to frame rules, that prohibit the populist announcements of freebies before the elections. If the freebie allurements are not stopped, it is likely that, people living in poor economic conditions may be lured into a political trap, and that can ruin the economy of the country like in the case of Venezuela, it is opined. Metaverse is a convergence of two ideas that have been around **for** many years VR Virtual Reality and Digital Second Life. As a technology, Metaverse is already exhibiting a monumental impact on sectors like gaming, EdTech, fitness, amongst others. Needless to say, it is a rapidly growing investment ground for global tech giants like Facebook or Meta, Microsoft, and Apple. Right now it is a bit of chicken and egg because people are excited that the tech giants are excited, and tech giants are excited that the market is keen. But is the euphoria real Keeping all the hoopla about Metaverse aside, it is certain that Web 3.0, is set to have a massive.



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Impact on almost all the sectors including Human Resources. Though employees are becoming accustomed to work from home, the fact is that a majority of them still miss the real life interactions they used to have with their colleagues. The water cooler conversations are sorely missed. A recent report published by Gartner forecasts that 1 in 4 people is expected to spend at least one hour a day in the Metaverse for work, shopping, education, social and entertainment by 2026. Though Metaverse might not replicate the real life environment, it is sure to create a new world of communication and interaction that employees would cherish. Just imagine an employee team meeting held in the Metaverse where all of the attendees are seen in different avatars it will drive much more engagement since the entire experience will be much more immersive. HR teams looking to capitalize on the Metaverse wave should first provide an engaged employee experience with the technology. Though there might be a learning curve to get acquainted with Metaverse, the learnings will help build a more humane organization. Water cooler gossip will finally make a comeback to hybrid workplaces with Metaverse. Metaverse will undoubtedly lead to a more collaborative environment where employees can engage, bond, and collaborate over a cup of virtual coffee. But it is advisable to start small, experiment and scale. Another area where HR can leverage Metaverse is employee onboarding. All of us would admit that employee onboarding over Zoom or GMeet calls is not an exciting experience. Also, there is no going back as of now to the old style of employee onboarding process. Metaverse can be an intuitive solution where employee onboarding and engagement will be more connected and fun. Recruiting or hiring has always been one of the areas of concern for HR teams. Finding candidates that are technically and culturally fit is another issue Metaverse might help solve this lingering problem for HR teams to a large extent. Imagine an interview simulation without a computer mobile screen where recruiter avatars can directly interact with those of their candidates. The ability to feel each other's presence will mutually benefit both. Recruiters will be able to conduct hiccup free tests on the spot while the candidates will showcase their skills in a more seamless manner. Training sessions have undergone a major transformation in the wake of the pandemic. What used to be on ground **face** to face engagements have turned into a, more or less, one way communication where candidates are often passive recipients. It will be extremely useful to have a lifelike digital space where employers and trainers will be able to not just speak but show their new hires everything they need to know while hopping on board an organization. But is it all hunky dory? Coming to terms with this sci fi like technology is still taking people some time. Picking the real deal from run of the mill 3D platforms may sound brain wracking to many. Therefore, awareness on Metaverse is.

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Crucial at this point as it just around the corner. Educating people on what does entail Web 3.0 is equally important. While there is no doubting the potential of the technology, right now we are at a nascent stage of its lifecycle. As we move towards broader adoption, we will continue to see more opportunities and challenges. The technology has significant potential for creating a more engaging and collaborative hybrid workplace. Honestly, Data is not fueling the Retail Industry directly. It is the Analytics that is doing it. But to get the right analytics, you need data first. So, indirectly, and technically, data plays a vital role as it is the foundation step in the overall process of Analytics. In Retail, the old saying that the customer is God still applies. And today, the customer is well informed and has access to all the details which catalyze his buying decisions. One of the ways to win customers today is to target them with a customized and personalized approach that offers them what they are looking for and only Data analytics can do the trick in this case. Analytics allows retailers to turn their data into meaningful insights that they can leverage to define new go to market strategies with a better approach to winning customers. Below listed are a few ways that describe how Data and Analytics fuel the Retail Industry:

**Knowing Customers and their Behavior:** Today, Data not only allows in understanding the customers' behavior but also helps in adapting to the changing behavior of buyers. Data, when managed properly, generate the 360 Degree customer view that helps us find the buyers who are actively involved in buying behavior and then puts the products and services firmly in their line of sight, so they can easily slip into the next stage of their buying cycle. Data improves the understanding of the customer behavior and helps retailers to target them accordingly.

**Forecasting Demand and Supply:** To run any retail business successfully, Demand forecasting becomes essential as it gives you a possible picture of future demand, that allows you to start planning everything else from production, inventory, and supply avenues to meet the expected needs of the market. The forecast is usually made on different levels of granularity and can go from quarterly to hourly to support different planning processes, execution strategies, and business decisions. Having said that, no one **can** deny that higher granular forecasts are always extremely valuable and that becomes possible only with Data Analytics implications. To effectively execute the store capacity planning for a retail outlet or doing the store replenishment, the retailers need to leverage the demand forecast in all their planning related initiatives to eventually get more sales with better product availability, reduced spoilage mostly in the case of perishable goods with better stock allocation, increased inventory turnover with reduced need for safety stock and this list can go on because there is a lot more discipline that you can bring to the retail operations.

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With having right forecasting of Demand and supply that is powered by data. Assessing Customer Engagement: Data Analytics helps you uncover the true information about your customers that you can be optimized to give a better customer experience and can be even monetized easily if used correctly. More than 80 of Customers today are ready to pay more for a better customer experience. And hence, it is crucial to measure customer engagement based on the experience you provide. The metrics like how much time your customers spend waiting in queues, the time they spend in the stores, their engagement with the loyalty programs, the feedback you receive, and the average net promoter scores provide the information that can be used in improvising the overall engagement of your shoppers. Taking customer experience from Ooh to Aha I am sure you heard this next statement before Data is only as powerful as what you do with it. That says, if you use the data to its potential, it will help you to learn from the mistakes and make changes that will help you provide delightful aha moments and positive long lasting experiences to your customers. One of the ways to provide a better experience is by providing personalization and that is possible when you capitalize on the data about the preferences of your customers. Predicting Customer Churn and Retention: The best way to stay profitable and grow significantly is to take care of your customers and ensure that they stick around. And the first step to take so is having track of your customers churn and retention. You can use Analytical customer churn models that are backed by data and uses behaviors such as customer purchase intervals, upgrades, cancellations, follow ups, and overall engagement throughout the tenure to predict when a customer may stop using your products and offerings. Using analytical models, you can identify a unique score that is attributed to each customer and will help you gauge the chances of them continuing the use of your products or not, so you can make the pivots accordingly. Prize Optimization: In retail, Prize optimization is a critical aspect as it directly results in Revenue optimization. Retailers use Data amp; Analytics to determine how customers are responding to different prices for their products and services through different channels. To build an effective model that shows the impact on Sales when prices of **the** products are changed, you need the combination of historical as well as current pricing along with consumer buying data. The more relevant data, the more accurate the model, and the better equipped the retailers will be to determine the optimal price points for the products. Improvisation and Evaluation of Marketing Mix: Today, in the digital era, where most shopping is taking a digital route, it becomes significantly essential to re evaluate the marketing mix and see if your Brand and its products are fitting in the gamut of the futuristic e shopping world or not. Luckily, that can be evaluated.

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Today and further improvised by integrating the marketing mix models with analytical models and techniques to provide multichannel impact analysis that can be used to drive and evaluate the success of the applied marketing mix. Such Analytics also embarks the indicators that can be used to improvise and transform the old marketing mix into something that is more relevant for success today and in the future. Conclusion: Today, to be successful in retail, you got to rely on advanced retail analytics, metrics, and strong KPIs to support and take critical customer centric business decisions. And to do so, retailers need data backed processes that can harness the power of retail data in their analytics journey to deliver a good shopping experience to their customers that can improve their satisfaction, loyalty, repeat purchases, and eventually makes the customer more engaged and delighted. Not just that, it also helps in growing the overall revenue of the business. Anand, a poultry farmer from Chowkanahalli in Karnataka, is better off today than he was a couple of years ago. Things have been changing for the better since he chose to be a part of the integrated farming system, thereby striking a balance between ecological and economic demands. One of the biggest advantages of working under an integrated farming contract is the relief from emotional and financial stress impacting most farmers across India who continue to make do with traditional poultry farming practices. Farmers like Anand often have little choice but to work with chicks that are tough to raise and have a high mortality rate. This, in turn, has a volatile impact on produce quantities, capital investment, profits, and the quality of life farmers can afford for their families despite putting in the effort. These struggles have been the way of life for most Indian farmers owing to the uncertainties related to poultry farming and market demand dynamics. However, the scenario is slowly changing. Over the last decade, the meat and poultry industry has undergone a massive makeover, with organized players positively impacting the farming community. For instance, as a farmer working with Nandu, Anand has access to an intelligent ecosystem that minimizes demand and pricing fluctuation risks, while exposing him to better yield and sustainable farming with good quality chicks, nutritious feed, and state of the art logistics, among other benefits. Unlike in the past, when farming families were wary of giving up ancestral wisdom for modern technology, today social media and smartphones are making it easier for farmers to understand and adapt to a changing market reality. The emergence of brands that understand the importance of an end to end controlled value chain is also a definite advantage. Moreover, incentives by the government for farmers who adopt modern technologies and achieve higher productivity are helping them get past traditional barriers, such as limited capital, lack of adequate knowledge of long term impact, and profitability challenges. Today, Indian farmers are making inroads into a discerning consumer market by adopting newer practices without incurrin.



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On the voyage that we call life, we are all in a sense sailing on the ship of Theseus, a hero of Greek mythology. Theseus, the legendary king of the city state They don't actually have nine lives. They are crowding to ace this one The CAT was out of the bag at 8.30am. However, by 7am the place was already crawling with traffic, and gruff noises China's \$1tn trade surplus 5 reminders for India Ajay Srivastava is a former Indian Trade Services officer who writes on technology and trade issues As India builds its manufacturing and exports, one country it must study for hard lessons in scale, speed, and systems is China which in less than three decades has built enough factories, ports, and processes to become the world's leading manufacturer and exporter prediction that parents wouldn't opt for direct gene-editing of embryos for higher IQ. He called it the designer baby By Partha Sinha Every civilisation maintains a blacklist of impolite words that must never feature in annual reports, family WhatsApp groups or polite audio on flights. We treat them like emotional contraband. Yet Consumption inertia has weighed heavily on consumer-facing companies for nearly two years, as the revenge spending euphoria that followed the pandemic fizzled out after the 2023 festive season. For years, the government undertook aggressive capex, but businesses die, brands don't. Every abandoned trademark is a key to customers' hearts and wallets. Musk paid \$44bn for Twitter and made it 'X', thinking it's a cool name. But the rest of us who have Trump's peace deals appear to be suffering from a 'Humpty Dumpty' syndrome. They are coming apart and no one seems to have any clue how to put them back together. This, even as Trump It's your password to social media power 'Rage bait' is the OED's Word of the Year. If you were born after Y2K, you need no explanation, but for social media illiterates it's spelt out as By G S Tripathi The 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Science was announced recently. The prize theme describes two periods of economic progress: a stagnating period of the economy in the pre-industrial revolution period and Delhi & Gurgaon playing a bad air match Gurgaon started off as a suburb of Delhi in early 1980s. People who couldn't afford property prices in Delhi plonked themselves in more affordable Gurgaon. However, today, lots of **people** give money advice online. They're called influencers (financial influencers). But many of them cause big problems, and that's why India's money watchdog, SEBI, is starting to crack down on them. Starting today, Australia has made a big new rule that kids under 16 aren't allowed to use social media. That means apps like Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat and others must check users' ages and block anyone who is a menace. Laissez-faire isn't an option. Regulation should get tough on them. This year, revised tax slabs increased our collective disposable income by Rs 1L cr. Last year, 93% of retail traders in Aussie ban on under-16s' social media is worth following by other countries. We have a suggestion. Global eyes are on Australia as its decision to ban social media for all children under 16 kicks in. There's a lot of criticism being directed DGCA's way, for giving IndiGo extra room to comply with its new Flight Duty Time Limitation requirement. It was faced, of course, with Hobson's choice, given the horrible The Indian economy presents a paradox. Post-Covid, it has been the world's fastest-growing large economy. In

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of World Bank and IMF. Yet, By Ranjeni A Singh Actor-politician Jaya Bachchan was recently quoted as saying that she does not want her granddaughter to get married and called marriage an outdated institution. This prompted a section of netizens to Weeklong disruption across IndiGo's network has exposed a structural truth India has ignored for far too long passengers have no power. The airline industry knows this well. This crisis was the predictable outcome of some risks arriving as sudden shocks black swans. Others, like a grey rhino, move slowly and advance in full view, long before they hit. China's initiative on green minerals, unveiled by Premier Li Qiang during By Sonal Srivastava In the past few days, photos of chaos at Indian airports following IndiGo flight cancellations have flooded social media. Some users have shared images of airports online with the text, Yeh airport Indian aviation seems to be on a ventilator, after suffering a multi-organ failure. The collapse of IndiGo's schedule integrity over the past few days has led to thousands of flights being cancelled and delayed, and on the night that Birch by Romeo Lane burned, the DJ was shouting over a crowd that did not yet know it was trapped in hell. Fireworks went off in a thatched, flammable structure. Cognitive psychologist and professor at Harvard, Steven Pinker, in a recent tweet, referred to his 2003 prediction that parents wouldn't opt for direct gene-editing of embryos for higher IQ. He called it the designer baby By Partha Sinha Every civilisation maintains a blacklist of impolite words that must never feature in annual reports, family WhatsApp groups or polite audio on flights. We treat them like emotional contraband. Yet Consumption inertia has weighed heavily on consumer-facing companies for nearly two years, as the revenge spending euphoria that followed the pandemic fizzled out after the 2023 festive season. For years, the government undertook aggressive capex, but businesses die, brands don't. Every abandoned trademark is a key to customers' hearts and wallets. Musk paid \$44bn for Twitter and made it 'X', thinking it's a cool name. But the rest of us who have Trump's peace deals appear to be suffering from a 'Humpty Dumpty' syndrome. They are coming apart and no one seems to have any clue how to put them back together. This, even as Trump It's your password to social media power 'Rage bait' is the **OED's** Word of the Year. If you were born after Y2K, you need no explanation, but for social media illiterates it's spelt out as By G S Tripathi The 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Science was announced recently. The prize theme describes two periods of economic progress: a stagnating period of the economy in the pre-industrial revolution period and Delhi & Gurgaon playing a bad air match Gurgaon started off as a suburb of Delhi in early 1980s. People who couldn't afford property prices in Delhi plonked themselves in more affordable Gurgaon. However, today, lots of people give money advice online. They're called influencers (financial influencers). But many of them cause big problems, and that's why India's money watchdog, SEBI, is starting to crack down on them. Starting today, Australia has made a big new rule that kids under 16 aren't allowed to use social media. That means apps like Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat and others must check users' ages and block anyone who is a menace. Laissez-faire isn't an option. Regulation should get tough on them. This year,

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If China consumes luxury as evidence of momentum, India consumes luxury as a negotiation with memory. Brands that succeed here will be the ones with the deepest listening & meaning. Jaya wears Prada, but only after she thinks her pleasure is about his ability to 'keep going'. And absent true connection with the man, she can only answer the question 'What do you like' by saying 'I don't know'. It has a delightfully geeky podcast episode, Zerodha founder Nikhil Kamath chatted with Elon Musk, who tossed out some heavyweight existential bombs. What's the meaning of life? Where did the universe come from? Why does anything matter? At the night that Birch by Romeo Lane burned, the DJ was shouting over a crowd that did not yet know it was trapped in hell. Fireworks went off in a thatched, flammable structure. Cognitive psychologist and professor at Harvard, Steven Pinker, in a recent tweet, referred to his 2003 prediction that parents wouldn't opt for direct gene-editing of embryos for higher IQ. He called it the designer baby. By Partha Sinha Every civilisation maintains a blacklist of impolite words that must never feature in annual reports, family WhatsApp groups or polite audio on flights. We treat them like emotional contraband. Yet consumption inertia has weighed heavily on consumer-facing companies for nearly two years, as the revenge spending euphoria that followed the pandemic fizzled out after the 2023 festive season. For years, the government undertook aggressive capex, but businesses die, brands don't. Every abandoned trademark is a key to customers' hearts and wallets. Musk paid \$44bn for Twitter and made it 'X', thinking it's a cool name. But the rest of us who have Trump's peace deals appear to be suffering from a 'Humpty Dumpty' syndrome. They are coming apart and no one seems to have any clue how to put them back together. This, even as Trump's 'It's your password to social media power' 'Rage bait' is the OED's Word of the Year. If you were born after Y2K, you need no explanation, but for social media illiterates it's spelt out as 'By G S Tripathi the 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Science was announced recently. The prize theme describes two periods of economic progress: a stagnating period of the economy in the pre-industrial revolution period and Delhi & Gurgaon playing a bad air match. Gurgaon started off as a suburb of Delhi in early 1980s. People who couldn't afford property prices in Delhi plonked themselves in more affordable Gurgaon. However, today, lots of people give money advice online. They're called finfluencers (financial influencers). But many of them cause big problems, and that's why India's money watchdog, SEBI, is starting to crack down on them. Starting today, Australia has made a big new rule that kids fewer than 16 aren't allowed to use social media. That means apps like Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat and others must check users' ages and block anyone who is a menace. Laissez-faire isn't an option. Regulation should get tough on them. This year, revised tax slabs increased our collective disposable income by Rs 1L cr. Last year, 93% of retail traders in Aussie ban on under-16s' social media is worth following by other countries. We have a suggestion. Global eyes are on Australia as its decision to ban social media for all children under 16 kicks in. There's a lot of criticism being directed at DGCA's way, for giving IndiGo extra room to comply with its new Flight Duty Time Limitation requirement. It was faced, of



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Post-Covid, it has been the world's fastest-growing large economy. India's GDP growth has surpassed even Indian govt's own projections as well as those of World Bank and IMF. Yet, By Ranjeni a Singh Actor-politician Jaya Bachchan was recently quoted as saying that she does not want her granddaughter to get married and called marriage an outdated institution. This prompted a section of netizens to Weeklong disruption across IndiGo's network has exposed a structural truth India has ignored for far too long passengers have no power. The airline industry knows this well. This crisis was the predictable outcome of a of ciphers and symbols Times of India's Edit Page team comprises senior journalists with wide-ranging interests who debate and opine on the news and issues of the day. Code is the language of mystery & secrets. It may have had none of the sophistication of cryptography, but it was no less ingenious a code. An NCR-based rough & tough gang of lowly mafia used simple stickers to run a black-market permit system. Commercial vehicles, trucks & lorries with an innocuous sticker on the windscreen would be royally waved through police pickets, a free-pass helping flout any number of laws over a decade. To the impenetrability of code, a wink and a pass, one must bow. Codes cracked have won wars, sunken ships, sent an imprisoned queen who used ciphers as secret emissaries to plan her captor queen's assassination to a grisly end in the 16th century. At the centre of the contest between codemaker and code breaker always is a brainy race to out-think and outfox. Symbols as code, meanwhile as deployed by the trucker mafia don't hide. They live in plain sight and hold meaning for only those in the know. Everyday objects that whisper secrets to the chosen lot, while the rest walk by, clueless. Such code lives in shared understanding; simple art the sole purpose to only hide the fact that that Happy Diwali sticker is a message. The NCR gang used the most innocent stickers, changing them monthly to remain a step ahead. But there's always a pattern. So, a nod to those who teased an alternative meaning from a bumper sticker that said 'hum-tum' (me & you). 'Centrism isn't nostalgia, it is survival' Rethinking stray dogs From crisis to opportunity Times of India - India Voices Blogs (December 14, 2025) What new US world strategy **means** for India Singh is a strategic affairs expert and author of 'Power shift India China Relations in a Multipolar World' Unsettling signals India figures in the NSS but the limited-purpose framing should concern us The 19th century German statesman Otto von Bismarck once remarked that, God has a special providence for fools, drunkards, and the United States of America. It captured the essence of the hand that fate dealt America. Surrounded by vast oceans and a massive continent with abundant resources under its sway, America could enjoy peace and prosperity with little geopolitical effort. Projecting power into every nook and cranny of the world was always a choice, not a necessity. The new National Security Strategy (NSS) echoes that original impulse by suggesting a pivot back to the Western Hemisphere. We will assert and enforce a 'Trump Corollary' to the Monroe Doctrine. There is an unmistakable backdrop to the new strategy. One, there is a context of vicious contestations, perhaps even a civil war within the western body politic on America's future role in the world. Establishment pressure to double down on the failed s



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Her voice was laced with a mix of sternness, worry and love, that of a parent ever-concerned for the daughter, Don go alone for your walks beyond the building gate. The place does seem safe. Irrespective of what age you are, safety of a woman has always been a concern in our country. There a liquor shop nearby, in fact there is one every kilometer or so! The other day when I went for my evening walk, an empty beer bottle came hurtling towards my feet, like a comet and almost hit me. The prevalence of the culture of Car-O-Bar in the place where I live is common. The men park their cars near the liquor shop, buy their alcohol bottles, place order kebabs from the eateries around and enjoy the bar in the car; some ogle at women passing by or are too drunk to even do so. Hence, the call from my worried mother to me, her 40-something daughter. Neelam, my domestic help is fraught with anxiety on the day of the festival of Holi, she avoids coming to work as drunk men can complete the festivities without misbehaving with women or are unable control their urge to commit sexual violations. The resplendent festival of colors, gujias, and joy has sadly been tainted by some people. So, I ask myself, where are we safe? Neither on the road and unfortunately for many it unsafe even within their own homes, trying to save themselves from being molested by close relatives or even by coaches at sports training centres. Recently, I spoke to an external member of the Posh Internal Committee, Advocate Rekha Shukla, who runs an NGO called Kaveri, to help and empower women in need of legal help. On being asked about the problems faced by women she meets, she quips, Even today after a decade of the Posh Act, women do not feel safe. If a woman is single then her problem is even more. I remember one case where a widow showed us the Whatsapp chat where her boss keeps asking her late at nights Tum akele kaise rehti ho How do you stay alone?, don you feel any urge? I am there if you need it! That woman never came forward to complain because she is a single parent and has to support her kids. She needs the job badly. Her boss knows her **situation** and is taking advantage of it. So, even today the attitude of most men is the same, they don see women as normal employees but as an object of entertainment. So many cases are there where women get messages from their bosses colleagues such as I like you, I can help you in your sales numbers, if you agree with me, You look so good in this color, hare your pic, etcetera. The reason as to why women don want to report is same as earlier, that is, they are afraid their families will ask them to quit if they come to know or they don speak up fearing their image will be tarnished or they will be blamed for all the harassment that they face. It sad to come across such cases and to see the condition of women even after women-centric laws like the Domestic Violence Act or the Posh Act Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act of India have been passed. It difficult to change the attitude or thinking process of most men, but we can spread awareness so that women know that there are laws to protect them and make them feel safe. I have often worn the veneer of strength and resilience, just to hide the trepidation of being violated, while only the heart knew the fear and anxiety caused by men trying to transgress the line of decency. A worse form of insult has been when one is blamed for their transgressions, when one is held respons

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I spoke to some women who come here from villages of Haryana in search of work, they reveal the dangers of conceiving a female child and thus arises a severe gender imbalance. Haryana has one of the lowest female-to-male ratios in India, largely due to decades of sex-selective abortions and a cultural preference for male children. One sin leads to another. A troubling social practice has emerged, further revealing the intersection of gender imbalance, economic disparity, and human rights abuses, known as bride buying. This phenomenon involves the purchase of women from poorer regions to serve as brides for local men. The plight of these brides highlights deep-rooted societal issues and the urgent need for comprehensive solutions. I met Manju, who is from rural Bengal, through my maid. She ran away from her husband and in-laws, who bought her from her poverty-stricken family, to procreate, serve them like a slave-to look after the family, and derogatorily was called molki. Is the look after part in a marriage a mutual thing? She was a victim of bride-trafficking and ill-treated to no end. Now, she works as a cook in Gurgaon, single-handedly looking after her daughter; she is happy to have saved herself and her daughter from a life replete with a panoply of painful and disdainful abuses, both mental and physical. As per Ban Ki-Moon, There is one universal truth, applicable to all countries, cultures and communities: violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable. Sadly, crimes against women in India rose by 4 % in 2022 from the previous year according to the 2023 data from the National Crime Records Bureau NCRB. To make matters worse the villainy of assaulting women has gradually seeped into the minds of minors- I could hardly bear to read about the news of three minor boys, all of 12-13 years of age, gang-raping and killing an 8-year-old girl in the arced town of Nandyal. The sun is going to disappear a couple of hours later plunging all life into darkness; I pray for a world where we can embrace this darkness without anxiety or where we can wear what we want to, I pray for a world where we d be respected and be safe; because, as Audre Lorde said, I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own. In seeking **the** sought, the seeker denies that the sought is already there and acknowledges that what is already there is what is sought. The raj yogi follows an elaborate regimen to steer clear of bodily and mental distractions before he can expect to attain his goal of union with the absolute, the Brahmn. The stage is set through the practice of the five yamas and niyamas. Specific asana help achieve a posture that is neither coy nor unbearable. Breathing techniques help slow and harmonies breathing so the rushing air does constitute a distraction. The senses are closed, and concentration is locked on an object to restrain the ever-tossing and turning mind. Only when these are met can the yogi experience the pure, undifferentiated Brahmn. But what about the multitudes who falter along the difficult road? What about those who fail to distil the undifferentiated Brahmn from the differential maya? We naturally tend to resist and oppose thoughts, feelings, and occurrences that we detest. This resistance often leads to frustration, making things worse. Opposing and resisting intrusive thoughts and feelings only makes them stronger. What is the way out? It goes by a simple ma

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In a show of remarkable solidarity, Western powers have slapped savage sanctions on Russia. These sanctions on Russia today and on countries like Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Venezuela and Cuba in recent years sting because the US dollar reigns supreme over global economy and finance. More than half the global trade is invoiced in dollars and nearly two thirds of global foreign exchange reserves and global debt are held in dollars. Exchange rates between pairs of currencies are set via their parity with the dollar. The sentiment on Wall Street and the decisions of the US Federal Reserve affect markets and economies around the world. Although SWIFT, the messaging system at the heart of cross border movement of money, is based in Europe, it is American banks that have overriding control over it. The amalgamation of HDFC and HDFC Bank, once legal formalities are done, will create a private sector banking behemoth. It will result in a balance sheet size of almost Rs 18 lakh crore, with an emphasis on mortgages and retail loans. At one level, the creation of a large bank through the amalgamation embodies the growing importance of private banks in a financial sector dominated by public sector banks. In September 2021, private banks contributed about 38 of the industry total credit, up by over 10 percentage points in five years. This, however, is just a part of the story. India banking industry has seen two phases over the last two decades. Between 2000 01 and 2009 10, there was growth at breakneck speed. Bank credit as a proportion of GDP ratio increased from 24 to 50. In the next decade, as imprudent loans of boom years hit home, the credit to GDP stagnated at around 50. The lost decade was marked by a slow process of first accounting for bad loans and then their clean up. Among the tools introduced to aid the process was the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code IBC in 2016, the most far reaching measure thus far. The report card, however, is mixed. Three broad trends are visible. Public sector banks that were the worst hit by the NPA problem have lost market share over the last decade. Second, risk aversion because of NPAs caused by exposure to industry intensified during the pandemic. For instance, RBI most recent Financial Stability Report showed that when indexed to December 2019, loans to agriculture and **retail** segments led the recovery. Industry and services sector trailed. Third, the level of gross NPAs to total advances has trended downwards to stand at 6.9 at the end of September 2021. However, even before the Omicron wave and Ukraine conflict, RBI stress test showed that NPAs may rise to 8.1 by September 2022 under a baseline scenario. India bank dominated financial sector remains vulnerable. To illustrate, despite IBC and numerous private asset reconstruction companies, a state backed bad bank had to be created last year. It still to stabilise in terms of leadership. Looking ahead, India needs financial intermediation that.

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Can handle not just scale but also variety. It not merely about capital, there also a need to upgrade skills in the upper echelons of banking. And privatisation of public sector banks can no longer be postponed. That top central bureaucrats are worried over state level populist schemes and freebies as reported by TOI should be another reminder to political parties that the fiscal party for vote getting is not costless. Politicians have found freebies to be an easy way to reach out to low income voters and some powerful interest groups. This is a cross party, across ideology tendency and although governing parties at the Centre are not free of this sin, the rush to populism is most evident in states. UP victorious BJP, for example, promised free electricity for farmers, free scooters for female college goers and two free LPG cylinders. In Punjab, AAP vowed 300 units free power to every household and Rs 1,000 monthly allowance for every woman. UP has 2.3 crore farm holdings and Punjab has 55 lakh households suggesting thousands of crores in revenue outgo just on power promises. While the bureaucrats reportedly flagged Punjab, Delhi, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Bengal, BJP governed states are no paragons of good spending. Also, while total outstanding debt as a percentage of GSDP has increased significantly from 2005 to 2022 for Punjab, AP and Telangana the last from 2014, it has dipped for Delhi and Bengal. But off budget borrowings bypass borrowing limits. CAG recently directed states like Telangana and Kerala to include them in their annual budget statements. The price that states, their residents and coming generations incur from populism financed by borrowings and entailing long term interest payments is clear: Even during Covid public health emergency, states just spent 6.6 of primary expenditure on healthcare against National Health Policy 8 target. Funds for capital and critical social expenditure are what get sacrificed when states buy laptops instead of improving schools. True, the Centre can help by adding revenue from cess in the divisible pool, but beyond that responsibility lies with state governments and all political parties. Two events last week mark a turning point in the history of the Northeast states. Boundary disputes in six of the 12 contested areas were mutually resolved between the chief ministers of Assam and Meghalaya and the areas under the draconian Armed Forces Special Powers Act AFSPA have **been** significantly reduced. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has coined the term Ashta Lakshmi to define the eight states. And to the credit of the NDA government at the Centre, many infrastructure projects that were hanging fire have been fast tracked. Tackling a tricky interstate border While the mutually resolved border issue will require ratification by Parliament, the fact remains that this is the first time that a matter that has caused heartburns and bloodshed at the borders was escalated to the level of CMs. Regional committees were also formed to visit the areas under dispute, speak to the people there and.



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Elicit their choice as to which side of the border they wish to be in. What Bollywood thinks today, Hollywood thinks tomorrow. How many times have we had fights at Indian movie award shows, maybe scripted maybe real, but really who cares as long as it is entertaining. The Will Smith slap has restored the Oscars once again to its place as the watercooler conversation piece all over the world, a position it had lost over the years. And not for no good reason. Who wants to watch a group of self absorbed, successful people virtue signaling when we get that on LinkedIn throughout the year, and who wants to talk about movies that are collectively about as entertaining as math tests from Class 6. But there is big money involved in the Oscars, and so there is a good reason that Hollywood is cottoning onto what Ekta Kapoor and her production team had figured out years ago, namely that a thappad casts a heavy goonj, to paraphrase Subhash Ghai Dr Dang in Karma. I kid. I am not casting doubt as to whether Will actually slapped Chris Rock or not. Initially, I thought it was fake, because for one, Will was laughing at the joke himself, not just a little laugh but a lot, and from that to transition to Hulk smash mode in a second, would be rejected in Hollywood as unrealistic character progression. Also, when a man who played Muhammad Ali throws an actual slap, one would have thought Chris would stumble backward, Chris is no The Rock, and yet he did not, absorbing the physical and emotional shock of a slap on a world stage with an almost unreal nonchalance. But now I realise the slap was not scripted, that it followed naturally, not so much because of Chris joke but because Will had laughed at it. Faced with the prospect of that uncomfortable ride home that would have followed, and he could not even have tried to gaslight her as husbands are prone to do, given the number of cameras that were on them, an act as egregiously over the top was his only way of ensuring that the laugh would be forgotten at home, in front of the slap, in the way Covid 19 was displaced from the headlines by the war in Ukraine. So, no, the slap was real. Now to wait **for** the most promising newcomer award and a Helen medley tribute number in the Oscars next year. Creation, its origin, is a perpetual riddle. Science and rational analysis present the theory of natural evolution. Spiritual masters beseech us to ignore the mind and inquire within. Ramana Maharshi answer is that if you want to go to the fundamentals, the only way out is to seek the questioner. Maharshi explains this through three postulates of creation, each of which is tailored to suit the temperament of an individual. At the ultimate level is the Advaitic principle: at Tvam Asi the Biblical statement.

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In the Book of Exodus, mentions this as I am That I Am, more directly as the name Jehovah indicates I Am. This postulate is termed Ajativada. The ultimate truth is that there is neither creation, birth nor death. The ever present state is perpetual, the state of being. Interestingly, quantum physics arrives at the conclusion of only one underlying reality akin to Vedanta, a state which transcends space and time. The difference is that while science arrives at this by seeking externally, Vedanta promotes the inner quest. The second postulate called Drishti Srishti appeals to those who are unable to accept the Ajativada philosophy. Here, it is explained that the world appears alongside our perception of it. It is absent in deep sleep. Yet, we can recall that we slept well. The ever present consciousness in us enables us to recollect this. Thus, the world as we see is not real. It is the creation of the mind. A dream that appears to be real. A good analogy is the illusion of sunrise and sunset. Does the sun really rise and set Polish scientist Nicolaus Copernicus revolutionised astronomy with his discovery that it is the earth that moves around the sun, much to the anguish of the religious fraternity. The illusion of rising and setting of the sun can be termed as the play of Divine Hypnosis. The third postulate termed rishti Drishti seeks to address the needs of a larger section of people, who are unable to comprehend the earlier two postulates. It is proposed that rishti, the world, exists and we perceive it through our senses. Accordingly, the world is seen to be a result of evolution spanning creation, preservation and destruction. This cycle is repeated. Here one accepts the individual as an entity in evolution culminating in God as the supremo. Hinduism has the Trinity Brahma, Shiv and Vishnu; Christianity Father, Son and the Holy Spirit; and Islam submitting to the will of Allah. One can advance spiritually to the first level by seeking and dwelling in the substratum of one Presence, the state of I Am. Interestingly, the Bhagwad Gita begins with the statement that there is no birth, no death, no present, or future. Reality was, is and will be. It is changeless. As Arjun is unable to disengage his involvement with the gross body, Krishn descends and speaks to him, adopting the **third** perspective of rishti Drishti. To enable us to mature and progress spiritually, sages and scriptures recommend the process of Shravana, Manana and Nidhidhyasana learning, reflecting and establishing oneself in the Truth that hat Art Thou. Deciphering the mystery of creation could help us live our daily life in peace, strengthening our acceptance of the wise dictum high Will be Done. It over! Did you just say that After two years of such intimacy, you say it over Well, I should vet known better. After all, we never took the vow till death do us part, did we In fact, I.

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The political parties prompts a fresh look at the term caste and its dynamics in the Indian social and cultural ethos. Although the politics over caste today has nothing to do with the cultural and the social heritage but reflects the might of ballots to bargain power by politicians. The powerful citizens of world largest democracy on the other hand, resort to their caste identity as they get lured by the so called economic benefits in terms of education and profession in public institutions. Yet perhaps many youngsters today would like to live in an India where their talent is respected rather than their birth; in a fair society where merit works and not community connections. Going back to the origin of caste as a term, it needs to be highlighted that caste is not native to India. It is one of the many colonial hangovers which we have clung to even after seventy five years of independence from the colonial masters. Caste was used by Portuguese in 1498 when they came to India and the British adapted the word into English giving it the Hindu connotation to refer to the social divisions that was prevalent in pre independent India. India never had the caste system in the original meaning of the term which is race or lineage, tribe or breed. Thus caste census is by itself nonexistent in India. However, India had a social stratification system known as the Varna system based on professional pursuits as referred to in the Bhagavad Gita and other ancient scriptures. The Varna system identified only four Varna which included Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaasa and Sutra. However, an ethnographic observation of Indian society today evidently shows that the social stratification is much more complex than the four originally envisaged. Even a cursory glance at Indian society could reveal that Indians identify themselves with their jets instead of varnish. Although varnish may be the broad umbrella under which jets try to fit in. There is perhaps no contention that the jets have evolved from the four varnish. The fact remains that social identification if and when practiced is done not on Varna but as jet. The evolution of jets from varnish is an interesting social and cultural transformation found only in India and provides scope for insightful research on Indian heritage. Some of the many theories of evolution that are presented suggest that varnish focused **on** occupational skills and professional knowledge. As these assets got hereditarily passed down through generations it lead to individual identities and social divisions becoming complex and rigid. Endogamy and other social practices of interaction and segregation subsequently may have evolved through the dynamic interaction of power and wealth. Thus the system of social stratification on varnish determined by professional pursuits became ascribed status and today we find social identification along the lines of jets rather than varnish. The unique characteristic of jet is that there are no standardization of jets across the country. The jet system generally remains confined to groups who share the same linguistic background and physical proximity. People claiming to belong to one jet in a part of India could be very different in terms of their social privileges in another part of India. Thus, there are in India now countless jets, whose nomenclature changes as one moves across this vast country. They follow their own rules of marriage and kinship. However, the undeniable fact remains that most Hindus

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Small, private, Anand Hospital, owned and run by a doctor couple, Dr Archana Sharma, and her husband Dr Suneet Upadhyaya. Before moving to Allot, Dr Archana, age 42, was an associate professor and a unit head at the government medical college, Gandhinagar. So, she was an experienced and skilled gynecologist. On 22 March, Asha Bairwa, age 22, died two hours after normal delivery. Dr Archana said that excessive bleeding after delivery, PPH, could not be stopped. That two units of blood were given, but the patient died. PPH is a known complication in childbirth and one of the leading causes of maternal mortality. Nothing suggests that Asha death was because of medical negligence. Why did police book FIR under section 302 Why did the police file an FIR at all According to Indian Medical Association IMA, the SC has directed that no FIR can be filed on a doctor without negligence being certified. IMA must file a contempt petition in the SC against the persons who filed the FIR without negligence being certified. What is medical negligence A doctor must treat a patient with a reasonable degree of skill, care, and knowledge. A doctor is not guilty of negligence if he has acted in accordance with a practice accepted as proper by a responsible body of doctors who are experts in that speciality. Medical negligence is not proven if even one doctor is found who would adopt the same standard of care. Simple lack of care or an error of judgment are not negligence. In law, Bolam test is applied to determine negligence. Bolam states that a doctor is not negligent if what he has done would be endorsed by a responsible body of medical opinion in the relevant specialty at the material time. The court usually goes by the findings of a board of eminent experts about negligence. But the court may reject the board findings. Court usually records the reasons for rejection. But sometimes may not record the reasons. Thus, the outcome of a court case is unpredictable. Why wrong medical negligence cases are filed Patients go by the outcome. If the outcome is good, the doctor is good, even if she botched up the treatment. If the outcome is bad, the doctor is bad, even if she did everything right, and the patient files a medical negligence case. Medical malpractice cases are a high paying business **for** lawyers. In the US, many lawyers, ambulance chasers, contest a case, the patient paying nothing. Except that the lawyer will get a share which may be as high as 70 80 of the damages awarded. Patients are only too willing because they may get great deal of money without spending anything. Average damages in the US were \$521,560. The highest was in a 2006 suit in Florida, damages of \$216.7 million. The lawyer not only makes a bonanza, but also turns into a celebrity. In the 1980s, lawyer Johnny Reid Edwards became a millionaire winning damages of more to than.



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Million for the patients and thus became a celebrity. And a U S senator, a nominee for vice president in 2004, and a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004 and 2008 the can only hope that medical litigation in India will not go the way of the US. Fate of medical negligence cases Medical negligence case statistics for India is scanty. One study showed that in only about 14 of the cases the doctors were found guilty of medical negligence. More extensive US statistics are available. We may look at these on the assumption that India statistics may be similar. In the US, in 28 cases doctors were found guilty of malpractice The US has 400,000 unnecessary deaths annually in hospitals alone. And about 1.14 million patient safety incidents occurred among the 37 million hospitalizations in the Medicare population over the years 2000 2002. In many of the deaths and patient safety incidents, medical negligence was involved. But suits were not filed in 80 of the cases where negligence was involved. Ill affects of medical negligence litigation Medical negligence litigation increases the cost of health care. In the West, 75 of doctors in low risk specialties and almost 100 of doctors in high risk specialties face a malpractice claim during their careers. Malpractice insurance is therefore necessary. In the US, the annual premium is \$4k to \$12k, but for surgeons can be \$50k or more. For OB GYNS premium may be above \$200,000 because it is a very high risk speciality. In India also premiums are as high as in the US in terms of percentage of annual earning. Late Dr Archana was an OB GYNS, a very high risk speciality. Fear of malpractice litigation may drive the doctors to practice defensive medicine. That is to avoid high risk patients, or order tests, procedures, visits, and referrals for second or third opinion as a defensive measure in case of medical litigation. A balance A doctor must know that he will be penalised if he is negligent. A clear case of negligence will be if a doctor does something for which he is not trained or qualified. But she must also be given the confidence that she will not be penalised for an error of judgment, or for an adverse outcome that is a known prognosis of a disease or a procedure. PHP is a known complication in **delivery**. Dr Archana should not have been booked for murder, or for causing death by negligence, unless it was proved that she was negligent. Above all, do no harm is the Hippocratic Oath that doctors abide by. Medicine is to do some good, not just to do no harm. But the body sometimes responds in an unpredictable way to the treatment. This is especially true for surgical procedures. Therefore, howsoever perfect the doctor, the outcome can still be bad, for no fault of her. Humans are fallible. And doctors are humans. They may err, make mistakes. They should be punished for.

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Often comes into conflict with their adopted religion. Thus the inevitable question remains as to how a Hindu stratification system can be applied to citizens from other religious communities living in India. And to emphasize again the Hindu social stratification system now works along the lines of jets and not caste. Amidst all the linguistic and religious complexities crisscrossing with economic interests one fails to understand how a caste census can help India which promises equal opportunity to all its citizens. If we brush aside the selfish motives of the politicians and want to believe that the cultural heritage of Indians needs to be highlighted then we have to collect data on the different jets and not caste. Caste is a foreign term and does not encapsulate the complex stratification system operating in Indian social structures. The social fabric of India woven along jets may reveal the dynamics of the cultural heritage of India and the rationale behind the creation of countless jets and their modern relevance, if any. That would perhaps lead to authentic data collection on real heritage of India. Caste is not Indian and caste census would not serve the interest of politicians or citizens of independent India. It is time to shun the term and if at all required collect information on our own evolved system of jet coming from the Sanskrit word Jada which incidentally means birth. This identity of an individual like that of one parents will reflect the roots and could serve the purpose of providing social support to an individual and cultural connection between the nation and her citizens. In conclusion, Indians in independent India aspire for a decent life free of social discrimination. Highlighting the past atrocities meted out to some sections of the society serve no purpose, if the same exploitation continues under different pretexts to different groups. The present preoccupation and the future prospects of Indians perhaps should not be determined by their hereditary moorings. Surely not by a foreign discriminatory system of caste, or the obsolete scriptural dictates of professional divisions along varnish. Though science is known to have a troubled relationship with religion, it is not always recognised that it is the law that ends up holding the baby, as we are yet again seeing in the case of Same-Sex marriages that Supreme Court of India is applying its honourable mind to. The current highlight of **the** matter is a comment by honourable CJI Shree D Y Chandrachud, who has suggested as part of conversation and not judgement that there is no absolute concept of biological man and woman. As we are living in the age of social media where becoming Quick-Gun-Murugan is flavor of the age, there is a group of people that I actually sympathise with up in arms because it is clear to them that CJI needs to brush up on his reading of biology, especially genetics that courts also use as absolute science in many other cases. For geneticists, absolute biological man, and woman. This is not a fuzzy idea, as there is a quantifiable and legal way to prove it by looking at the 23rd chromosome of human DNA where a clear difference can be seen between biological man and woman in form of chromosome. If you want to drag in or other duplication-based genomes that are found, please note that they do not prove that absolute man or woman do not exist. We do have a large population with unconfused at least genetically gender definition. So, a simple argu

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of power has transformed with the non-West and its major power centres withdrawing their consent to US leadership. This collapse of western hegemony is shaping the new security discourse. This unusual setting makes Trump & co arbiters on western grand strategy. Taken as a whole, the NSS advances a vision of pre-eminence in the Western Hemisphere and a 'burden shifting' of responsibilities to frontline states within the US alliance system to sustain long-standing strategic commitments in Europe and Asia. Because the NSS does not fundamentally question the current scale of US bloc commitments or articulate a new security architecture there is no reference to multipolarity at all it should not be seen as a radical geopolitical retrenchment but more as a wish list to preserve core US positions across the world on the cheap and without the US risking its own skin in a conflict with formidable great powers. This appears too clever by half and the contradiction might be explained by an unresolved struggle between two antithetical frameworks: a MAGA vision of world order and vested deep state interests in an expansive international role. What the NSS does refute, however, is the ideological roots of international primacy as the default grand strategy for America. The NSS leaves no doubt that NATO's confrontation with Russia has failed and containment of China is no longer a viable enterprise. It is now a core interest of the US to negotiate an end to the Ukraine war, reestablish strategic stability with Russia and prevent the future expansion of NATO. In China, it avoids conflict while allowing for mutually advantageous economic interdependence. The White House decision to allow exports of the advanced H200 series of chips to China is the latest sign of this approach. Another illustration of conflict avoidance is the recent US reassurance to Beijing during an episode of Sino-Japanese tensions. In Europe, the US wants Europe to regain its civilisational self-confidence which is seen as complementary to Trump's quest for a similar domestic renaissance. This ideological rhetoric has profound implications for European geopolitics and the very nature of what the collective West could look like in the years ahead should these declarations evolve into explicit policies. Finally, what are the implications for India? The passing reference to India is intended to send a reassuring signal. Yet, the document's underlying ideological and geopolitical premises should make Delhi wary of clutching at **old** paradigms. India's place in the US universe was imagined during the high noon of unipolarity. That world has long passed and cannot be revived irrespective of the ideological fate of the Trump phase. The NSS should, therefore, be seen not as a relief that India still exists on Washington's radar but rather to discern the limited purposes for which the US perceives India as useful in its 'frenemy' posture towards China in the Western Pacific. India is still a piece of real estate in the US worldview. Significantly, the deliberate silence in the NSS regarding Pakistan's swift incorporation into US-led security architectures in the Middle East this year sharply underscores that the subcontinent is now an area of friction and uncertainty in US-India ties. The US commitment to the Pakistan army and its state, an abiding factor in past policy, has been strengthened at a geopolitical level, with the ultimate irony being that the policy finds endorsement by the US de

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the inevitability of a multipolar world. 'Centrism isn't nostalgia, it is survival' Rethinking stray dogs From crisis to opportunity Messi in Kolkata, and the familiar Indian sports farce Rajesh Kalra is a journalist for almost three decades and has also tried his hands at entrepreneurship in between. Although he has written on several subjects, he has a weakness for IT, telecommunications, sports and developmental issues. He is an avid sportsman, a trained high-altitude mountaineer, a passionate mountain biker and a marathoner. He is on the PM's Olympic Task Force and a member of the All India Council of Sports. His blog, Random Access, will cover issues that take into account these varied interests. Follow @rajeshkalra on Twitter Lionel Messi's visit to football-crazy Kolkata should have been a celebration. Instead, it became yet another reminder of how badly Indian sport is organised and, more importantly, who really matters in our sporting ecosystem. Fans paid an exorbitant 12,000 per ticket, only to return home without even catching a glimpse of their hero. Messi, predictably, was cocooned by politicians, film stars, and assorted VIPs, many of whom were there not to enjoy football, but to be seen and photographed. In the Kolkata fiasco, the organiser has since been arrested. Fair enough. But the real question remains unanswered: did he even have the authority or the courage to push VIPs, politicians, and celebrities aside so that those who actually paid for tickets could enjoy what they came for? Probably not. In our system, the organiser himself would likely have been shoved aside. And there is an equally uncomfortable possibility that the organiser simply didn't care. The money was already made. The foolish, trusting public would suffer, as it always does. For the paying public, the experience was exactly what Indian sports fans have sadly come to accept as normal. Every conceivable obstacle was placed in the way of the genuine sports lover. Not out of malice but because nobody in authority truly gives a damn about what the paying spectator goes through. This is not football-specific. It is sports-agnostic. Cricket, badminton, athletics it makes no difference. The only people with zero facilities are those who actually buy tickets. Meanwhile, freeloaders glide in with cars driven straight to the porch. Reserved seats. Lounges. Cleaner toilets. Privileged access. Most of them have little interest in sport itself. Their presence is performative visibility over passion. And **this**, disturbingly, is considered normal. Worse, we have not learned any lesson from the tragic incident at the Chinnaswamy Stadium earlier this year. We like to believe we are inching towards the developed world. We are not. Not even close. Contrast our sports venues with those in civilised sporting nations, and the truth is unavoidable we are pathetic when it comes to treating the common sports fan with dignity. Let me reiterate this uncomfortable truth: All facilities security, access, comfort exist for VIPs and celebrities alone. The real sport-loving public is treated so shabbily that one wonders why they even bother to turn up and suffer the indignity. Worse, when push comes to shove, even sports stars and celebrities themselves often behave no better. See what I wrote over a decade ago, in January 2012, after seeing it at Delhi's Nehru Stadium a 1,000-crore monument reduced to a disgrace for the common sports lover. Read here Thirteen years later, nothing



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Million for the patients and thus became a celebrity. And a U S senator, a nominee for vice president in 2004, and a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004 and 2008 the can only hope that medical litigation in India will not go the way of the US. Fate of medical negligence cases Medical negligence case statistics for India is scanty. One study showed that in only about 14 of the cases the doctors were found guilty of medical negligence. More extensive US statistics are available. We may look at these on the assumption that India statistics may be similar. In the US, in 28 cases doctors were found guilty of malpractice The US has 400,000 unnecessary deaths annually in hospitals alone. And about 1.14 million patient safety incidents occurred among the 37 million hospitalizations in the Medicare population over the years 2000 2002. In many of the deaths and patient safety incidents, medical negligence was involved. But suits were not filed in 80 of the cases where negligence was involved. Ill affects of medical negligence litigation Medical negligence litigation increases the cost of health care. In the West, 75 of doctors in low risk specialties and almost 100 of doctors in high risk specialties face a malpractice claim during their careers. Malpractice insurance is therefore necessary. In the US, the annual premium is \$4k to \$12k, but for surgeons can be \$50k or more. For OB GYNS premium may be above \$200,000 because it is a very high risk speciality. In India also premiums are as high as in the US in terms of percentage of annual earning. Late Dr Archana was an OB GYNS, a very high risk speciality. Fear of malpractice litigation may drive the doctors to practice defensive medicine. That is to avoid high risk patients, or order tests, procedures, visits, and referrals for second or third opinion as a defensive measure in case of medical litigation. A balance A doctor must know that he will be penalised if he is negligent. A clear case of negligence will be if a doctor does something for which he is not trained or qualified. But she must also be given the confidence that she will not be penalised for an error of judgment, or for an adverse outcome that is a known prognosis of a disease or a procedure. PHP is a known complication in **delivery**. Dr Archana should not have been booked for murder, or for causing death by negligence, unless it was proved that she was negligent. Above all, do no harm is the Hippocratic Oath that doctors abide by. Medicine is to do some good, not just to do no harm. But the body sometimes responds in an unpredictable way to the treatment. This is especially true for surgical procedures. Therefore, howsoever perfect the doctor, the outcome can still be bad, for no fault of her. Humans are fallible. And doctors are humans. They may err, make mistakes. They should be punished for.

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Proven medical negligence but justice demands that they not be punished unjustly, not be punished for a bad outcome that was not her fault but was god will. The insurance segment, over the years majorly depended on the traditional branch led manual model. Physical interactions, visiting an insurance office for end to end insurance process, multiple documentations, signing hard copies formed the very base of insurance. In the last few years, there been a massive transformation in the insurance sector, with digital coming into play and now taking the lead over the tedious manual process. To add to this, Covid 19 pandemic acted as a catalyst, in building awareness about the importance of insurance and highlighted the humongous benefits of contactless, faceless, digital insurance, which made the entire process seamless and quick. In the last two years especially after Covid, there has been a radical shift towards InsurTech, wherein consumers both in the urban cities as well as from the semi urban and even rural pockets of the country benefited enormously from the tech driven insurance models. Consequently, the entire insurance eco system, starting from insurers, distributors, aggregators and consumers were pushed to leverage digital technologies for an improved insurance experience. Technology has been helping insurance reach to the masses fasten the process, with policy issuance in minutes. Over the time, many technology developers came up with new and innovative products to make underwriting, risk assessment, claim settlements seamless for consumers. Below are some ways how automation has been making a difference in core insurance functionalities. AI helped in scaling up of business AI is no more Just a term in insurance. In the last few years, many tech development companies have scaled up their capabilities in providing tech support to the insurance value chain. AI has become more real time, driven by algorithms. It has helped in the use of historical data, underwriting risks, claims, geospatial data, and has been providing insights for creating risk based products within minutes. AI has been instrumental in assessing risk profiles of consumers more accurately, which in turn helped insurance companies issue policies as per the consumer credit score and finance portfolios, in lesser time. AI is disrupting the insurance distribution space and it will change the face of digital insurance in the times to come. Claim settlements are becoming faster and seamless As insurance companies jostle to increase their consumer outreach, **one** of the key determinants for consumers making up their minds is the claim settlement ratio. Settling claims have never been easy, as insurance companies have to process thousands of claim requests on a daily basis, depending on their consumer base. Manual process, not only made claim settlements slow but increased the operational costs of insurance companies. Automation has helped in streamlining claim settlement processes, in many cases it has helped in reducing claim settlement turnaround time by 70. Starting from data capture to settlement initiation, approval of claims, tracking of payment and recovery, and processing of legal issues to managing.

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As the time for the presentation of the Union Budget comes near, the Indian middle class, particularly the salaried people, pin their hopes for a fairer treatment but feel cheated year after year. They can do nothing but pay according to one of the highest tax regimes in the world. Even though their contribution to the direct tax kitty is a significant percentage of the total collection. They are paying far more than what the corporate sector is paying. According to Mr. Jairam Ramesh, the income tax collections from this segment of the Indian populace stood at Rest 3.61 lakh crores whereas the gross corporate tax collections were Rest 2.65 lakh crores from April 1 to July 1, 2024. While the corporate got a reduced taxation rate in 2019, the middle class has been left pining for a similar gesture since 2014. The Indian taxation system is notorious for its insensitivity towards middle-class taxpayers. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has placed India at the 6th place among the 91 countries having the highest tax regime. Broadly speaking, an ordinary salaried person getting up to 25 lakh income a year has to pay more than Rest. Six lakh as income tax whether he chooses to go by the old tax scheme or the new one. This is way above what such a category of people pay in other countries. For instance, in Switzerland, income tax rates vary by district, with the average income tax rate in the bracket of 10-12% and there are no indirect taxes imposed on individuals. In China, a friend tells me, a person with income equivalent to 10-25 lakh has to pay 10% tax. In other countries like the USA, China, Singapore and Germany too, various levels of support to citizens through healthcare, unemployment benefits, etc. are available. In India, the government offers rebates on house tax loans but surprisingly, a teacher will not get a rebate if s he has to spend money on books or computers. The education loan is available for your ward, but if you wish to upgrade your skills and knowledge and wish to spend on relevant study material and apparatuses or pay course fees etc., no exemption is available. Compare this to a businessman who is allowed all sorts of 'business expenses, so that hardly you will find a businessman who, with income manifold of the income earned **by** a salaried person, pays even one-tenth of the tax that the latter has to pay. Add to it the widespread grouse that the tax money collected from the middle class is squandered on freebies to the poor people. The taxpayers do not have any say in the matter probably because they do not constitute a significant vote bank. As an example, I can quote the case of a housemaid. She got a free plot to build a house back in her village in Bihar last year. In addition, she also got a grant to build it the contribution to make the toilet is extra. She gets a free ration throughout the year for all her family members. Her children don have to pay fees in school. Her medical expenses are met through the PM health insurance and so on All the family members do some kind of job; even children pack material for a nearby factory at home. The women in the house make 15 to 20 thousand per month from working as domestic helps in various households. Every month, her family is away visiting a place of interest and we hear often of the birthday parties or religious functions they have to attend. I am not jealous of her but feel that a certain scholarly You Tube vlogger is right when he says that

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**Social security set-up. We boast to be a near-developed country, but there are no unemployment schemes as in developed countries. Leaving aside the peanuts offered to aged people as doles in some states, it is pertinent to ask why the pension schemes were assigned to private players or even scrapped some years ago. There is no consideration for the retirees. Their lifetime savings deposited mostly in Fixed Deposits of various banks fetch a ludicrous rate of interest but are subject to tax cuts. Ideally, if a person has paid income tax throughout his working life, he should at least be shown sensitivity in old age and provided an assured pension. This is the time when the medical expenses increase manifold. The health insurance shot up by a big margin last year but the government is not concerned about it. To sum up, the business class at the mid-level pays little, the lower section of society hardly any, and the corporatists pay what they like since the account books are the handmaidens of competent tax consultants. It is the poor middle class which has no support, no means to hide and intentions too but has to pay through the nose whatever the law of the land requires. The least that the government can and should do is to raise the exemption limit considerably to tide over inflation that hits the middle class hard in addition to providing better social security benefits and improved infrastructure. The model that our ancient economist Chanakya prescribed for tax collection like the honeybee collecting nectar from flowers in a way that does not lead to the withering away of the flower should be followed. One day, you find out that a colleague, whom you have helped numerous times, has taken credit for a project you primarily worked on. You might feel the urge to retaliate by confronting the colleague publicly, reporting the incident to your manager or refusing to help this colleague in the future. Alternatively, you could choose to address the issue privately with the colleague, expressing your disappointment and then forgiving them. At some point, we all have felt taken advantage of despite being nice to someone. Through our experiences, we develop a personal strategy for dealing with people, determining how nice or mean we should be to achieve the best outcomes for ourselves. Retaliation could lead to a cycle of revenge, while **forgiveness** might make you seem weak and invite further exploitation. While everyone has their own way of handling such situations, is there a way to objectively determine the best overall strategy for the long run? Game theory provides an interesting and useful framework for understanding human behavior complex situations and suggests strategies for navigating these interactions effectively. It is the study of strategic decision-making where individuals choices impact each other outcomes. It is applicable in various areas such as relationships, biology, economics, international relations and computer science. During the Cold War, the USA and USSR increased their nuclear arsenals based on mutual mistrust. This resulted in a costly and dangerous arms race. Their decision to continually build up their nuclear arsenals was driven by the logic of the Prisoner Dilemma, where mutual defection seemed safer than unilateral cooperation. The Prisoner Dilemma is a classic problem in game theory that demonstrates why two rational individuals or entities might not cooperate, even if it appears that it is in their best interes**



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Are at the vanguard of SMRs, which promise to lower the chance of unsafe release of radioactivity. The deadlock needs to be broken. Joe Biden call to prosecute Vladimir Putin for war crimes in Ukraine may reflect outrage at the reported discovery of civilian killings and mass graves in Bucha on the outskirts of Kyiv. It may also reflect political motives to shore up his presidency and Democrats, who are reportedly not happily placed for this year midterm polls. But it adds nothing to efforts to stop the war. Leaders must know how to read a situation and prioritise their goals. There is no way Putin, the autocratic leader of a nuclear power with a seat at the UN Security Council, will actually be prosecuted. Nor does he care about such charges. Given their respective positions in the international order, the US and Russia should work at some level to end the war in Ukraine. This is also in Ukrainian interest. For, despite a slew of Western sanctions against it, Russia has exactly crumbled. Plus, Russia may have misread the depth of the Ukrainian resistance and overplayed its hand with its military operation. But Putin can afford to lose face. Therefore, even if it costs Russia economic setbacks, loss of military personnel and materiel, he will likely persist with military operations in Ukraine till these meet some objectives. He knows that Nat has made it abundantly clear that it won get directly involved in Ukraine. So, the US should actually work on finding diplomatic solutions, in consultation with Kyiv and the EU, to offer Moscow a face saver through negotiations. Biden has now frequently name called an autocrat who must be brought to the negotiating table by clever diplomacy. His officials had to walk back his regime change comment. Ukrainians are at the receiving end weapons from the West are helping them but not stopping Russia. That should be Biden primary concern. Sri Lanka is facing a massive political crisis. Mass protests, so far peaceful, are taking place throughout the country demanding the ouster of the government, and particularly the president. The rapid fall from grace of the president and the Rajapaksa family could not have been anticipated. Just over two years ago they were elected on a tide of popular sentiment FTA includes one or more developed countries as members, all member countries must eliminate duties and other **trade** restrictions on substantially all products traded among them. That is, whenever one or more developed countries are members, an exchange of partial trade preferences in this is the most point of our with a massive majority. The same people who are now protesting voted in the government with a two third majority in parliament. And parliament in turn gave to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa the extraordinary powers of the 20th amendment to the constitution that entitles him to appoint ministers and secretaries to ministries, and a plethora of state officials including judges of the higher courts, at his will and pleasure.

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Are at the vanguard of SMRs, which promise to lower the chance of unsafe release of radioactivity. The deadlock needs to be broken. Joe Biden call to prosecute Vladimir Putin for war crimes in Ukraine may reflect outrage at the reported discovery of civilian killings and mass graves in Bucha on the outskirts of Kyiv. It may also reflect political motives to shore up his presidency and Democrats, who are reportedly not happily placed for this year midterm polls. But it adds nothing to efforts to stop the war. Leaders must know how to read a situation and prioritise their goals. There is no way Putin, the autocratic leader of a nuclear power with a seat at the UN Security Council, will actually be prosecuted. Nor does he care about such charges. Given their respective positions in the international order, the US and Russia should work at some level to end the war in Ukraine. This is also in Ukrainian interest. For, despite a slew of Western sanctions against it, Russia has exactly crumbled. Plus, Russia may have misread the depth of the Ukrainian resistance and overplayed its hand with its military operation. But Putin can afford to lose face. Therefore, even if it costs Russia economic setbacks, loss of military personnel and materiel, he will likely persist with military operations in Ukraine till these meet some objectives. He knows that Nat has made it abundantly clear that it won get directly involved in Ukraine. So, the US should actually work on finding diplomatic solutions, in consultation with Kyiv and the EU, to offer Moscow a face saver through negotiations. Biden has now frequently name called an autocrat who must be brought to the negotiating table by clever diplomacy. His officials had to walk back his regime change comment. Ukrainians are at the receiving end weapons from the West are helping them but not stopping Russia. That should be Biden primary concern. Sri Lanka is facing a massive political crisis. Mass protests, so far peaceful, are taking place throughout the country demanding the ouster of the government, and particularly the president. The rapid fall from grace of the president and the Rajapaksa family could not have been anticipated. Just over two years ago they were elected on a tide of popular sentiment FTA includes one or more developed countries as members, all member countries must eliminate duties and other **trade** restrictions on substantially all products traded among them. That is, whenever one or more developed countries are members, an exchange of partial trade preferences in this is the most point of our with a massive majority. The same people who are now protesting voted in the government with a two third majority in parliament. And parliament in turn gave to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa the extraordinary powers of the 20th amendment to the constitution that entitles him to appoint ministers and secretaries to ministries, and a plethora of state officials including judges of the higher courts, at his will and pleasure.

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One of the elements in storytelling is to keep a little secret going till the end. Some call it suspense, others call it the climax. As a story is being told, there comes a twist, an unexpected challenge, and the plot intensifies. The listener typically asks, and then what happened and there comes a turn of events. O Henry was known for the sudden twist at the end of his stories. Adikavi Valmiki wrote his famed story of the Ramayan, which has inspired many generations, with a difference. It may be surprising to learn that in the very first chapter, he tells the entire story of the Ramayan, with all the details. If he has missed out anything, he repeats the entire story in the third chapter again, right to the end when Ravana is slain and Ram returns to Ayodhya and is coronated. Whether you read the Ramayan with devotion or as a piece of literature, the mind could feel an ennui since the story is completely revealed at the very beginning. But the charming thing about reading Valmiki is that interest never flags. Why lies in framing the question. The Ramayan begins with Valmiki asking Narad, who was visiting his ashram, a question that he had been pondering over. Who, in this wide world, is endowed with all qualities who is he who knows the right from wrong, is courageous, abides by dharma, is full of resolve, committed to truth, has integrity in his actions, is full of moral rectitude, a man of knowledge, powerful, humble, who has subdued his senses, is gentle and soft spoken, splendid, has a generous heart but when provoked can make even gods tremble Valmiki wonders if there can be one person who has all these qualities and more. Narad agrees that it is a rather difficult question, but yes, he does know of such a person. And he proceeds to tell Valmiki the entire story of Ramayan. Valmiki hears attentively. The conversation comes to an end and feeling edified and happy, Valmiki proceeds to river Tamasa for a dip when he sees two Krauncha birds in great harmony. Even as he is appreciating them, a hunter kills one, leaving the other helpless in grief. An enraged Valmiki pronounces a curse. And suddenly he finds his curse has found poetic expression. He is struck by the metre and rhyme in his curse **then** Brahma himself comes to tell him, I was the one who created this situation and also gave you the power of expression so that you may tell the story of the Ramayan. And then Brahma tells him the story of Ram all over again. So within the first three chapters, the entire story is told twice. That is because the focus of the Ramayan is not on Ram killing Ravana. It is on the qualities of Ram and his character. The storyline is but a series of challenges that come his way challenges to his integrity, courage, generosity, his commitment.

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Build conceptual clarity, practicing the same experiments done in schools at home virtually, and using e readers are great ways of synchronizing a child learning journey. Technology can provide that learning continuity at home through curriculum aligned digitized textbooks, practice engines, and adaptive assessments. For instance, to master a subject like Maths, practice is key. Once a student has understood a concept and the logic behind a theorem which can be taught through various media, practising its application is vital to score well in exams. Today textbooks have multiple practice questions, but they are not necessarily aligned to each student proficiency levels. Here is where comes in. It learns the habits and the common mistakes of a student, analyses his or her knowledge of prerequisites, and then recommends a unique learning path based on this analysis done. It can also generate, within seconds, more and more questions for the student to keep practising. The as well as from the semi urban and even rural pockets of the country benefited enormously from the tech driven insurance models. Consequently, the entire insurance eco system, starting from insurers more one practises, the sharper are the recommendations by the software. This iteration and reiteration of questions covering a variety of concepts is much more efficient than relying on a standardised set of limited questions that all children use no matter their learning levels. It also gives instant and personalised feedback, which is not always possible in a classroom with a single teacher. For instance, Geneo, our personalised learning app, ensures a student masters a concept before they move ahead through continuous assessments, or suggests pre requisite topics that require brushing up. It allows a student to seamlessly backpropagate to the required juncture in the overall learning curve, and ensure the foundations are mastered to achieve competency at each level. Content recommendations, based on understanding user behaviour, match the ideal learning style of the learner through implicit feedback. Not only Math, but even subjects like Social Studies and English can be learned better with the help of technology annotation tools, e readers, grammar quizzes, and comprehension tests etc. can all be utilised to garner better results. Tech enabled learning has myriad benefits. But it cannot be implemented in a haphazard manner whereby schools and teachers are left behind. We believe that India requires a holistic ecosystem approach in education, one that brings together the **students**, teachers, schools, and after school education providers. The country also needs to improve the access of quality education and EdTech for all and thus tech enabled education should be available in vernaculars, be affordable yet high quality, and work with the government and affordable private schools. Technology is a powerful enabler that cannot be ignored in today day and age. With everything around us becoming mart and highly personalised from ad recommendations to wearable technology, education must not get left behind. This is not to disregard the traditional ways of teaching learning at all, but to augment it to reach.



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The Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement signed by India and Australia on April 2, establish a free trade agreement in both goods and services between the two nations. From the viewpoint of India, this is a landmark development. The World Trade Organisation rules on FTAs in goods require that whenever an FTA includes one or more developed countries as members, all member countries must eliminate duties and other trade restrictions on substantially all products traded among them. That is, whenever one or more developed countries are members, an exchange of partial trade preferences in FTAs is prohibited. Nearly all trade must be covered and trade barriers must be eliminated rather than just lowered. Two recent developments have brought India reliance on fossil fuel into sharp focus. The Russia Ukraine conflict and the consequent surge in crude oil prices roiled the economy. Separately, the most recent IPCC report on climate highlighted the energy sector large contribution to global warming. Both these developments need to be located in the context of India pledge to get to net zero carbon emissions by 2070. Meeting this pledge requires an overhaul of both the logistics and electricity sectors to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Transitioning to renewables in energy is an important part of the solution. Within renewables, solar energy has been lavished with policy support. However, it won be enough to meet the targets. Anil Kakodkar, former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission, had written in these pages that India can meet its net zero commitment without nuclear power. He right. It an area where India was off to an early start, developed relatively high indigenous capabilities in relation to other sectors, but subsequently let the ball drop. Today, nuclear power contributes a mere 3% of the total electricity generated, and has a capacity of 6780 MW. After the early euphoria of the 2008 India US civil nuclear deal, progress has been disappointing. The deal did open the pathway to a stable supply of uranium ore from Kazakhstan and Canada. However, the design of the subsequent bill on civil liability for nuclear damage killed the prospect of participation of Western firms. India main partner today is Russia, which sidestepped the bill through inter government agreements. The Kudankulam nuclear plant, which supplies about 26% of the electricity from this source, operates in partnership with Russia. Going forward, the geopolitical situation makes it challenging to **depend** on just Russians. Nuclear energy is cost effective, avoids emission problems and has an acceptable level of risk. Unlike solar energy, it does create challenges of grid stability. Moreover, recent progress on creating small modular reactors (up to 300 MW) makes the possibility of rapid scale up feasible. SMRs will offer enhanced safety and simpler designs at lower capital costs. These improvements will be harder to achieve with India workhorse pressurised heavy water reactors. Therefore, if nuclear energy potential is to be exploited, India should begin by amending its nuclear liability legislation in a way that encourages investment by companies that.

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Answer some of my questions. Are we inevitably headed towards an unliveable India due to heat waves? Do you believe Stratospheric Aerosol Injection SAI is imminent? Will India be forced to use this technology? What can we do to adapt to increasing heat? Are you optimistic about the future? You might find it ironic that a happily divorced woman is writing about the critical need for equal access to the institution of marriage. Someone is bound to tweet that given my time in a liberal US university and my South Bombay zip code, I have no perspective on what real India feels. Yet, my most cherished identity is that I am a free citizen of a country that I love deeply. So, today, it is my responsibility to share my views on something I believe in strongly. And oh. I don't have a Twitter account. After a brief Covid blip, podcasts about rejuvenating cities as large, dense labor markets are thriving like never before. We spotlight three of them here. Urban Planning in India: This is a limited edition podcast from CEPT University on how the epochal urbanisation that is underway in the country can be smoothed. The university president and architect Bimal Patel forcefully argues in one episode that Indian planners remain too deeply rooted in the failed licence permit raj approach and need a paradigm shift. Adopt more realistic assumptions, liberalise policies, and quit blaming others. Planning is premised on predicting the future, starting with the city population at the time that is decided as the planning horizon, basis which other needs are predicted, such as for housing and infrastructure. But 20 years ago planners knew nothing about how rich Indians would be today, how much they would consume, what they would consume. Rigid plans become strangleholds when the future unfolds in a way the planners had predicted, instead of helping this unfolding. Patel recounts asking a large gathering of urban planning students from across the country whether they believed that the plans they were going to make after graduation would be implemented. Tragically they all said no, the government will not give enough resources and there will be politics. But an aeronautical engineer designs a plane to fly despite gravity. It is precisely the planner's job to build into the plan mechanisms for raising resources, plus to address the equity questions that politicians exploit. Rethinking with Drop **Pole**: This is a weekly podcast on the future of work, cities, and buildings. A March episode featured Alain Berated, who was once a draftsman for Le Corbusier in India and is now one of the most influential global voices on the topic of city planning. He echoes Patel in saying planners should allow people to make many more tradeoffs for themselves. Indonesia has a land use policy whereby in specific areas within the city normal land use regulations do not apply, you can consume as little floor space as you want, you can build a shack in cardboard or bamboo, but the state ensures that in this perimeter of tolerance there is safe water supply, garbage is removed, and basic health and school facilities are provided which are shared by higher income people. UCLA Housing Voice: This podcast unpacks leading academic research for how it can be applied in the real world. An episode last October had Dr Sahil Gandhi of University of Manchester, UK, explaining India's housing paradox of simultaneously high costs and high vacancy rates. RBI data suggests that for households who can borrow fr

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elite players' lounge was an embarrassment. Foreign players complained openly. And yet who bothered? This is the tragedy of Indian sport infrastructure and governance. Not a lack of money. Not a lack of talent. But a complete lack of respect for the paying public. Until the fan is placed at the centre, not the VIP, not the photo-op politician, not the celebrity entourage, Indian sport will continue to look grand on television and feel humiliating on the ground. 'Centrism isn't nostalgia, it is survival' Rethinking stray dogs From crisis to opportunity Times of India - India Voices Blogs (December 15, 2025) Here's something to learn from Kerala local body polls If Indian politics is a theatre, Tamil Nadu is a multiplex. Where cigarette flicks and dark glasses are the perennial symbols of style and substance, sycophancy does a tandava over psephology. And with the players ensconced in the ministerial thrones in Delhi, it is no longer just a southern delight. Arun Ram, Resident Editor, The Times of India, Tamil Nadu, who alternates between the balcony and the front row, says it incites as much as it excites. During the intervals, he chews on a bit of science and such saner things. Quiz: Who is your ward councillor? If you have the correct answer, you are in a minority. We, the urban residents of Tamil Nadu, complain endlessly about decaying civic amenities, but remain clueless about our civic representatives. And that is in stark contrast to our neighbours in Kerala. The just-concluded local body elections in Kerala, the run-up of which I witnessed at close quarters for a week, was a celebration of voter power. Cutting across political affiliations, people grilled sitting councillors for their inefficiency and unfulfilled promises and extracted specific promises from the other contestants. Former DGP R Sreelekha is among the BJP candidates who won in the Thiruvananthapuram corporation council election Most of the voters in corporations, municipalities and panchayats knew the contestants of all the major alliances LDF, UDF and NDA by their first names and faces, their strengths and weaknesses. Incumbents who underperformed had a tough time. In the Ambalathara ward where my mother lives, I saw people taking up civic issues with BJP candidate Simi Jothish soon after she completed her campaign speech. The ward had been with CPI for long, and the councillor had been all talk and no work. When it became a reserved ward for women last time, his wife S Geethakumari became the councillor and continued with her husband's style. Ambalathara voters elected the BJP candidate, for the first time. Besides BJP's rapid growth in Kerala's capital city, public ire at LDF councillors enabled NDA to win 50 of the 101 seats in Thiruvananthapuram, which has been in the vice-like grip of the CPM-led LDF for 45 years. When a BJP member is likely sworn in as the Thiruvananthapuram mayor, it would also mark the power of voters who hate politicians who don't pull their weight and instead throw their weight around. After the 2020 corporation election in Thiruvananthapuram, the city celebrated when Arya Rajendran became the youngest mayor at the age of 21. Five years later, the party asked Arya not to show her face anywhere during the campaign. Intoxicated by power too young, arrogance had become her middle name, treating virtually everyone from officers to people as underlings. In a case of road rage last year, the mayor and her MLA husband Sachin Dev chased and bloc



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independent (Firoze Khan) in Kunthipuzha of Palakkad polled just one vote (ostensibly his own), it speaks volumes about public ire. By electing UDF in six of the eight corporations (most of them earlier held by LDF), Kerala's urban voters have put the Pinarayi Vijayan govt that seeks a re-election next year on notice. Tamil Nadu's local body polls may never be as political as they are in Kerala, but it is high time we the voters of the state held our councillors responsive and responsible before we do the same with our MLAs and MPs. And if politicians think becoming a councillor is the first step to higher positions, they should learn to toil their way up by meeting public needs and demands. Ideologies and political philosophies are good for debates, but when it comes to putting our foot down to clear the garbage on the streets and ensure clean water flows through those pipes, we should question and punish our local representatives that shirk responsibility and fatten their pockets. Knowing one's councillor is a good place to start. 'Centrism isn't nostalgia, it is survival' Rethinking stray dogs From crisis to opportunity Purification of voter lists and the threat of infiltration Keshav Upadhye, a young, dynamic and prominent face, has been working with the Bharatiya Janata Party for over two decades. In 2014, the then state president Devendra Fadnavis had appointed Upadhye as the spokesperson in his team. Owing to his journalistic background and better understanding of the socio-economic issues of the state, Upadhye made a mark as a spokesperson in a short span. He articulates the views of the party and aggressively defends the party on various platforms including the Marathi and Hindi national news channels. Keshav Upadhye worked for the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and after completing his degree in Journalism from Ranade Institute, Pune, he began his career as a journalist with daily Pudhari, Loksatta and Mumbai Tarun Bharat. Knowing the pulse of the news, he writes on varied topics and on various platforms like the newspapers, blogs and other social media platforms. He was involved in two study groups formed by the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini in 2006 to study the naxalite movement and its adverse impact on the development of Chhatisgarh. Prabodhini later published this report. He was also a part of Prabodhini's fact-finding committee formed to study the Solapur riots. The voter list **purification** campaign launched by the Central Election Commission is being discussed nationwide. The issue of purifying voter lists is linked to the problem of illegal immigration in the country. For the past few months, false and misleading information has been systematically spread against the verification of voter lists. The Constitution established the Central Election Commission to conduct elections in a free and impartial environment. It also entrusted the Election Commission with the responsibility of preparing voter lists and making necessary corrections. All elections in the country, from local body elections to the presidential election, are conducted by the Central Election Commission. Article 325 of the Constitution clearly states that no eligible voter should be deprived of the right to vote, while Article 326 lays down the conditions for voter eligibility and who is entitled to vote. The first condition among these is that the voter must be a citizen of India and must not be a citizen of any foreign country. Article 327 of the



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Are vacant! He traces this outsized vacancy rate to insecurity of property rights caused by rent control and weak contract enforcement. Places with more judges per 1,000 residents have lower vacancy rates. The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is a directive principle of state policy enshrined in Article 44 of the Constitution of India. Article 44 states that The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India. The Uniform Civil Code seeks to replace personal laws based on religious and community customs with a common set of laws governing marriage, divorce, inheritance, and other civil matters for all citizens irrespective of their religion. However, the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code has been a matter of debate and controversy in India due to the diverse religious and cultural traditions of the country. The constitutionality of the Uniform Civil Code has been challenged by various religious groups who argue that it violates their fundamental rights to practice their religion and follow their personal laws. However, the Supreme Court of India has consistently upheld the constitutional validity of the UCC and has held that it is the duty of the State to move towards a Uniform Civil Code. In the case of Sarla Mudgal v. Union of India (1995), the Supreme Court held that the State has failed to implement a Uniform Civil Code despite it being a constitutional mandate. The Court also observed that the lack of a Uniform Civil Code is a major hurdle to the achievement of gender equality and is a violation of the fundamental rights of women. Overall, while the constitutional validity of the Uniform Civil Code has been upheld by the Supreme Court of India, the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code remains a contentious issue in Indian society and politics. The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has been a topic of debate in India for several decades. It refers to the idea of having a common set of laws governing personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption for all citizens, irrespective of their religion. While many argue that it is the need of the hour to implement UCC in India, others believe that it is not the right time to do so. In this response, I will present my views on whether or not it is the right time to implement UCC in **India**. Firstly, it is important to understand that the implementation of UCC is a highly sensitive issue in a country as diverse as India, with a plethora of religious and cultural identities. It is imperative to ensure that the implementation of UCC does not infringe upon the rights and beliefs of any community. In this regard, the government must engage in a constructive dialogue with all stakeholders, including religious leaders and community representatives, to address their concerns and arrive at a consensus. Secondly, the implementation of UCC requires a thorough review of the existing personal laws of different religious communities. It is essential to ensure that the UCC is in line with the principles of justice, equality, and non-discrimination, which are enshrined in the Indian Constitution. This review process can be time-consuming, and it may take several years to arrive at a comprehensive and acceptable UCC. Thirdly, the implementation of UCC requires a strong political will and a conducive environment. The political climate in India is highly polarized, with political parties often using religion and identity politics to further th

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Of requires a significant investment in terms of resources, including manpower, finances, and infrastructure. The government must ensure that it has the necessary resources to undertake this massive task without compromising the quality of implementation. Fifthly, the implementation of must be accompanied by a robust public awareness campaign. The common citizen must understand the rationale behind UCC and the benefits it offers in terms of gender justice, social equality, and national integration. This will require a concerted effort on the part of the government, civil society, and the media to educate and sensitize the public on this issue. In conclusion, while the implementation of UCC is a desirable goal, it is not the right time to do so in India. The government must engage in a constructive dialogue with all stakeholders, review the existing personal laws, ensure a conducive political climate, invest in resources, and undertake a robust public awareness campaign. The implementation of must be a well-thought-out, inclusive, and consensus-driven process that upholds the principles of justice, equality, and non-discrimination. Since the launch of ChatGPT in 2022, there has been an increased interest in generative AI. The idea that millions of jobs will be lost due to ChatGPT has naturally scared a majority but on the other hand, many businesses, sensing the promise ahead have even formed teams trying to understand how they can improve efficiency using generative AI. For the uninitiated, generative AI refers to a type of artificial intelligence that enables computers or robots to autonomously create content, such as text, graphics, or music, using algorithms and deep learning techniques without being explicitly what to generate. Now if you are an owner of a business, medium or small, you are probably well aware that when it comes to business operations, a revolution is in the making. Unlike what most have you believe, you do not have to immerse yourself in the technology but mainly focus on how generative AI will impact your industry and how it can improve functions across your business. Here are 5 examples that show how the technology can be deployed across business functions such as customer support, sales & marketing. From creating more content in less time to generating different types of content such as product descriptions, social media captions, or even long articles such as this one, generative AI tools are helping marketers create better and more accurate content. As we **know**, content is at the heart of forming a connection with a brand. By adding intelligence to content creation and also customizing it basis your need, marketers can use generative AI tools to strengthen the audience connection with brands. This makes marketers smarter enabling them to spend more time on strategic and creative tasks. Adopting digital technologies, sales are usually seen as falling behind marketing and finance but not anymore. The nature of sales, creative and organic, is such that selling produces plenty of opportunities for generative AI. From automating administrative tasks to enhancing customer interactions and providing valuable insights, generative AI can revolutionize sales organizations, reducing administrative burdens, improving customer engagement, and empowering sales managers with actionable data. For platform promises to learn the voice of the customers, thereby helping sales personnel deliver hyper personalized messages in second

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To truth and so on It does not matter which trajectory your life takes it does not matter who behaves how. What matters is your response. And that is what immortalises men and women. Blurb in an evolving world, integrated ecosystems with application programming interfaces APIs will fuel innovation and business growth. Application programming interfaces apis are at the core of most successful digital companies, powering everything from online ads and social media likes to cloud businesses. As businesses undergo digital transformations to reach more customers, apis are powering such transformations to deliver newer products to the market. Throughout the last decade, apis have silently played a significant role in revolutionizing legacy or old school processes to make them simpler, more seamless, and more accessible. They have helped businesses streamline, share data, and improve overall efficiencies, leading to increasing customer delight. Rapid growth in the public availability of feature rich apis are significantly fueling an increase in api centric businesses. By some estimates, one million apis will be in use before the end of the decade, up from about 20,000 at the end of 2015. Drivers for growth three primary drivers can be identified for the growth and development of apis an increased focus on creating differentiating customer experiences, a desire for frictionless access to mutually beneficial data of other companies within a larger shared ecosystem, and the need for faster speed to market. Companies are doing all of these even while building new customer engagement platforms in the digital world and soon in the metaverse too enterprises today are employing ever more adaptive websites, custom mobile apps, and other user friendly digital interfaces to enhance their interactions with customers. Apis enable companies to leverage data and services from within as well as from other organizations, thereby boosting transaction volumes and revenue generation. As apis grow in popularity, number, and variety, the need and rationale for an api integration platform increases. Api integration has become the cornerstone of a digital future as organisations have begun to understand their need and significance. This integration allows organisations to connect cloud applications, link tools to create an effective stack, create new apis that save both time and money, and extract data from existing and legacy sources, thereby enhancing productivity and strategic outcomes. In india, apis are growing faster than they are globally, and organisations are using apis to integrate with existing different **systems** to focus on their core business. Indian fintech and financial services organisations are building and leveraging open api networks to accelerate digital transformation, with a focus on secure, scalable, and commercialised services. Api integration and ecosystems today, api integration is opening doors to information, insight, innovation, and analytics, powering mobile applications and helping the internet of things iot connect to the cloud. Unlike in the past, when companies clearly saw advantages in ecosystems but no revenue growth accenture strategy report cornerstone of future growth ecosystems, the thinking now is that solving the problem for customers today means growth, revenue, and.



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A stronger competitive position tomorrow. Ecosystem strategies allow businesses to focus on what they are good at while largely relying on partners to help translate business competencies into new markets and new use cases. The rise of ecosystem strategies reflects the recognition that modern digital workflows and experiences require rich software stacks that exceed the internal capabilities of most companies and must evolve faster than traditional technology partnerships can accommodate. The api ecosystem is complex and needs to be program managed well. At fidelity investments, building strong technology platforms while leveraging digital capabilities has been a part of the company ethos and culture. Apis have been one of the key pillars in the firm technology strategy over the last decade, giving us a strong foundation for innovation towards providing better customer experiences. Two key strategies that we have implemented to seamlessly adopt the complex api ecosystem are 1. Api product and integration services strategy this focuses on a strong api first culture with commitment from leaders and practitioners, and continuous efforts to build skills and digital behavior. We have published an api roadmap, standards and patterns, and a governance mechanism to keep the momentum going. We have also created enablement mechanisms such as api tools, controls, api security systems, and traffic routing, along with clear direction and ownership of api products. All of this is possible through established enterprise wide api management policies. 2. Robust developer ecosystem the next part of our strategy involves creating a robust developer ecosystem by providing standards and tools aimed at accelerating the adoption of apis. Some examples include building an ecosystem for developing solutions using apis, promoting documentation as code so that developers maintain documentation with the same rigor as codes, creating and using mockup a tool that allows developers to easily create mock up apis, and tools for rigorous testing. We have also created an api marketplace a digital exchange with offerings powered by api. Additionally, we focus on non technological aspects such as proactive coordination and communication as well as rewards and recognition to connect and motivate our ecosystem players. As a result of these efforts, we run several enterprise api initiatives out of fidelity investments, india, and have conceived several standards, maturity models, and best practices that have enabled our journey towards an api first culture. In an evolving world where innovation and connectivity are key to differentiation and revenue **growth**, integrated ecosystems are the way forward. An api ecosystem leads to reduced implementation time and costs by leveraging newer emerging technologies that enable more seamless digital experiences, and thereby more innovation. To conclude, here are some of the key api trends that i think will gain increasing importance in the near future. Open api standards open integration and api standards are increasingly being adopted. There will be a significant growth in the community around the development of these standards. Digital transformation the covid 19 pandemic has resulted in an increasing push towards more digital transformation through apis. For organizations wishing.



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We celebrate the creative genius of a Picasso but we scold children for not following the teacher directions to draw something in a certain way. Picasso depictions may not make sense to some who wonder why the nose is protruding and the eyes are not aligned. But that the creative imagination of the artist at work, painting with poetic license, free of conditionings and strictures. Appreciation comes from those who comprehend the idea behind the expression, even if it breaks rules and overthrows accepted notions of structure and beauty. A child is at her creative best the most creative she could ever be in her entire life because her perceptions are honest and pure, unpolluted by preconceived notions and social conditioning. What she sees is what she interprets from her own perspective that is unsullied and fresh. No wonder children are so good at finding solutions to problems, at painting, at inventing new games, and at entertaining. They have absolutely no inhibitions. They are not yet conditioned to get hassled about what others may think of them. They are free thinkers, in short, free spirits. To a child, cloud formations and even carpet stains take on a life of their own, and its imagination opens up a magical world of beautiful shapes and forms. Adults, on the other hand, put themselves into boxes, imprisoning themselves so that what they think, express and do, are all the result of pre-conditioned responses. They are no longer creative because they have lost their freedom. They are shackled by what they are taught at school and home, and by what they want others to make of them. Also, because divergence from the laid-out path is met with disapproval, even punishment. It is as though their creativity has been doused with a pesticide that kills weeds, only here, it kills imagination. Adults go to great lengths to kill creativity. And then they demand creative outputs. Is that possible? J Krishnamurti would say that most of us are in conflict, caught in various kinds of demands, not only physical, but environmental and social. We depend on each other both physically and psychologically; therefore, our whole nature is fragmented. He asks, Can a mind that is fragmented, contradictory in itself, be creative? Or does creation take place when there is this absence of the continuity of fragmentation? We are told by spiritual masters, to try and **retain** our child-like innocence for that is a source of purity and truth, where one creative imagination is at its best, and a state in which one has the potential to realise the all-pervasive supreme consciousness. A child is free of prejudices; a child sees no divisions and embraces all diversity and exults in every aspect of existence. Albert Einstein famously said, Logic will get you from A to Z, but imagination will get you everywhere. Without imagination, there can be no creativity and for imagination to flower and flourish, we need to nurture that child-like innocence. According to Sri Aurobindo, there are two forces in the universe silence and speech. Silence prepares, speech creates. To extrapolate, it is only when the mind is free of pollution and noise, it can foster imagination. So, imagination and creativity can exist only in one who keeps the child within alive. Defence ministry has six weeks to respond to Supreme Court notice, on the Centre refusal to grant Nagaland sanction to prosecute 30 army soldiers, for a botched-up military op in district Mon in Dec 2021. In all, 14 civilians a

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The army inquiry concluded the attack was a case of mistaken identity and error of judgment. Nagaland moved to act on the SIT report, but SC stayed prosecution against accused soldiers since sanction for prosecution had been obtained from Centre, which eventually denied permission. Eight of Nagaland 13 districts, including Mon, continue to be under. Where there Enter and everything that could be routine for investigation and prosecution takes a nosedive. Security forces retain unbridled powers under the law. Investigation does need sanction, but the Centre nod is required before prosecution. Jurisdictions can and do overlap for civil offences and other instances, and several cases especially from Northeast states have reached SC, for the court to untangle provisions of CrPC and Army Act. The two acts can also proceed concurrently. Pressure to deliver For the Mon tragedy, per army, shooters cannot be blamed for faulty intelligence. At the time, military insiders rued the intense pressure to deliver results after a colonel, his wife, son and four soldiers were killed in a well-planned ambush in Manipur weeks before. With Manipur still restive and insurgent clashes seeing an uptick, Nagaland request must be carefully considered. Community perceptions of injustice in the Mon case, where those responsible get the cover of firing in the line of duty, is leverage for rebel outfits. Under shadow, locals are forever caught between security forces and insurgent groups. Justice is fundamental to peace. For Mon, justice seems right now to be not only delayed, but also denied. Nagaland appeal could, for one, nudge the army into a logical next step for closure. Yes, there a fine line between delivering justice and keeping army morale high. But that line must be found. These laws will replace the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively. The new legislations aim to modernize and streamline the justice system, ensuring it is more aligned with contemporary needs and technological advancements. Modern provisions for a modern era The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suresh Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam bring several forward-thinking provisions into the fold. Notably, these include the concept of Zero FIR, allowing complaints to be registered irrespective of jurisdiction, and the online registration of police complaints. The laws also facilitate the electronic issuance of summons and mandate the videography of crime scenes for all heinous crimes. These provisions are designed **to** make the justice system more accessible and transparent, leveraging technology to overcome the limitations of the old colonial-era laws. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has highlighted these changes as pivotal, emphasizing a shift from a punishment-centric system to one that prioritizes justice and citizen welfare. He articulated a vision where the police work with data rather than danda (baton), reflecting a move towards a more evidence-based and less confrontational approach to law enforcement. The big idea is that women should be at the center of these decisions, not judges or doctors. It about respecting women and their rights to control their own bodies and lives. Right now, many women in India can get safe abortions because of these problems. People who want to help women are trying to change this and make things better and fairer. Why do so many women have to knock on courts doors to termi

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It was with a sense of some dismay and concern, shared by many, that I read the article TOI, March 26. The article author, Duumviri Subarea, was a well known member of the IAS, and his comments, as indeed those of set earl other senior retired officers, carry weight. In fact, their criticism is quoted by others as proof to bolster the case against IAS. With Covid taking peculiar turns in some countries and another highly transmissible mutant dubbed XE surfacing, India must refocus attention on vaccination. Go must motivate the laggards in the vaccination drive like the Northeast minus Assam and Jharkhand. The proportions of double dosed in Bihar, Punjab, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu also significantly trail the national average of 82. Rank misinformation, conspiracy theories and religious superstitions coupled with remoteness have hit the Northeast states badly. Here those double dosed are just 58. Jharkhand officials attributed the state low figure of 57 to migration. Nearly 20 core people in the 15 population are yet to get both doses. Vaccine hesitancy and complacency appear to dog the precaution dose programmer too. Merely because Covid infections are presently down does mean protection will endure. Just 1.23 core 60 citizens have taken boosters against 11.5 core in this age group who were double dosed. In remote areas and states without adequate hospital facilities, the risks of contracting serious illness amid uncontrolled Covid spread need to be conveyed properly. With NIV researchers stating that all adults need boosters, NTAGI must take a decision without delay. CMC Vellore finding that a Covishield dose after two Coaxing doses is safe with six fold rise in antibodies makes it the appropriate candidate as booster for Coaxing recipients. SII can easily accelerate Covishield production for this purpose. Earlier this week, SII Covovax was approved for the 12 age group. But information on bulk orders placed for this vaccine is in the public domain. Covovax also showed high antibody and neutralising responses in UK mix and match trials as a booster following two doses of AstraZeneca Covishield. Covovax dual utility for child and booster vaccination must be squandered. Whether it is scientific data or vaccine supplies, lack of adequate communication over eligibility for boosters does disservice to sub 60 citizens waiting for government booster strategy. The feeling of wellbeing that a booster accords to its recipients returning to work and commute amidst crowds must be **ignored**. Government can even make allowances for personal medicine as in the case of flu shots to allow all adults double dosed over six months ago to take a booster, perhaps after securing medical advice. Not just citizens, even for vaccine companies with jabs ready for rollout or in the development pipeline, more clarity on India vaccination programmer will be appreciated. For the first time since the outbreak of Covid 19 in 2020, India has opened its air space for international travel, mounting at least 150 new domestic and international routes in the summer schedule. Apart from the aviation industry that.

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To achieve digital transformation, api management is the most promising route forward. Api first architectures an api first approach is the most productive way to integrate multiple technologies. Businesses wishing to achieve api first architectures will need to embrace api management throughout their lifecycle. Technology teams will have to drive this through a design first approach. Low code and no code api delivery to become the gold standard low code no code features will become increasingly important in 2022, as api adoption continues to accelerate across industries. Artificial intelligence and machine learning apis businesses will need to embrace an api management platform that can safely consume available external ai and ml apis, to leverage their full potential. Metrics driven approach last but not the least, it will be important to track key performance indicators kpis and metrics to measure the actual impact vis business objectives, along with the ability to derive behavioral insights through the maturity of systems. Srinivas gururaja rau is a fidelity it fellow and the head of the fidelity fund and investment operations ffio technology team at fidelity investments, india. Visit the website to learn more about fidelity. About 800 million people reside in rural india. With growing aspirations, they are focusing on improving their overall quality of life. Towards meeting these aspirations and building confidence among the rural communities, one of the most impactful approaches is to link the rural communities with productive solutions, relevant to their context. As a philanthropy working among such communities, we have been witnessing what irreversible change empowerment and motivation can bring about. In our aspirational programmes for small and marginal farmers in the central indian tribal belt that focus on agriculture based livelihoods, integrated with strong community institutions, technology, financial inclusion interventions, and creation of market linkages, we have seen that we can make the families lakhpatis in an irreversible and sustainable manner. Tripling incomes of the communities of jharkhand, odisha, gujarat and maharashtra were possible by training them in scientific ways of agricultural practices bringing them together through focused women led community institutions linking them to markets for better pricing and ensuring they engage with their stakeholders for quality inputs, services and market linkages. In the north eastern states of nagaland, arunachal pradesh, and mizoram, a systematic backyard activity of raising pigs is an opportunity for economic advancements with the setting up of piggery units, health camps, training in animal care, doorstep veterinary services, linking with govt. Schemes, and better cost for produce through improved retailing product aggregation. These critical linkages and ecosystem support has ensured good returns to the families along with the same being taken ahead by them. We need to scale up this approach of building local ecosystems, led by the communities, to address other interconnected, grassroots challenges that affect rural india. And much of it can be addressed with accurate data, data driven tools, and regional expertise. Data driven tools, in particular, can enable social enterprises, philanthropies, businesses to define the existing socio economic parameters.



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Is now returning to black, fliers too are heaving a sigh of relief after an embittering two year hiatus. Aircraft that stayed put at aprons for months have begun to take off. Headmistress is the latest victim of official officious morality. Maharashtra education officer, Ravindra Katolkar, recently ordered it replaced with headmaster regardless of gender since that the only term recognised by the rule book. He cited the analogy of Rashtrapati. True, Pratibha Patil couldn be called Rashtrapatni. And a female governor is not a governess, though the male ones in non BJP Maharashtra and West Bengal have been behaving like the Centre proxy nanny. Still, principles rather than principals were revealed when Katolkar ji added darkly, We all know what mistress means. Every holder of a public position seems to have taken the Hypocritic Oath, but historically, a mistress was the obligatory accessory of power, often holding the reins of the reign. Charles II Barbara Villiers, undermined peace treaties between England and the Dutch Republic apart from slipping friends and family into the Privy Council. Charles II namesake removed any naivete that the practice was history. Indeed, when the Camilla was out of the bag, Jemima Khan father quoted an older source, when a man marries his mistress, it creates a vacancy. James Goldsmith married his third mistress Jemima was their daughter before that. Diss not the asli mistress, not to be confused with the quickie playthings of Kennedy and Clinton. True examples come from less playboy presidents. Kay Summersby ghost written autobiography, Past Forgetting My Love Affair with Dwight D Eisenhower, mentions, et al, tolen kisses aboard a darkened plane to Cairo. They worked, erm, closely during WWII. Our ND Tiwari actually faced a paternity suit, but dalliances are the worst kept secrets of at least three of our most revered PMs. Amitav Ghosh Ibis trilogy includes the Chinese mistresses and offspring of the wealthy Parsis engaged in the old opium trade. So that two lids blown off my upright community. Ouch Education is the pioneer of success. Education has changed the lives of many people in India whether it is any class. And, that how Education should be bestowed upon every child. In the world of mobile phones where everything happens on a click, now getting education in just one click is something which has benefitted a lot of bussing students. The exposure of edtech is **booming** hence, India is also inclining towards education technology. Many of the organizations have taken the challenge of democratizing education of India under the aegis of Edtech. In India more than providing education, consumption is difficult and vital. The education gap of India between tier 1, tier 2 & tier 3 cities is amplifying, which needs to be altered. Tier1 & 2 cities have easy access to education, teachers, and lecturers whereas, in the tier 3 cities, villages or remote areas are still don have the set quality education, well qualified teachers, and the tools. In India, the Education system has.

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Of a village or a cluster of them they can make informed decisions, identify relevant solutions and business models, and maximise social impact, basis this information. Meeting the aspirations of the rural youth according to niti aayog, India rural economy constitutes nearly half of the nation income, therefore, its growth and development are key to the overall growth of the country. Better employment opportunities, facilities for higher education, and a quality standard of living are the major factors, rural India aspires for. There is an immediate need to design and implement grassroots interventions in a way that ensures next generation rural youth engage and scale these in a sustainable manner. The rural economy needs the support growth of micro enterprises in all the livelihood opportunities available within the rural clusters. Quality services and products, through the micro enterprises, could be provided to the community along with ensuring good products from rural areas reach the urban geographies. Upskilling the rural youth and encouraging them to become entrepreneurs in the value chain will bring in more meaningful results and, subsequently, financial inclusion may prove to be the key to unlocking the potential for micro and small enterprises to grow, reducing the vulnerabilities of rural communities to income shocks, and promoting more sustainable and equitable development. Rural entrepreneurship can address many socio economic challenges, through easy and secure access to patient capital, employment growth, improved standard of living, reduction of population migration, increase in per capita income, and equitable distribution of economic power. To fructify this vision, the key stakeholders, i.e. the state, the market, and the civil society, would have to collaborate efficiently. A well defined partnership among the three cohorts can pave the way to improved livelihood opportunities. It can support communities to independently recognize solutions for local challenges. If rural aspirations are treated the same way as urban aspirations, India will be able to connect rural India to the global market thereby widening the contribution to our economy. In India, one quality of life is largely dependent upon the intersection of various parameters that a person is currently placed in. This includes economic, social, and environmental. The effects of poverty, for instance, are compounded by the lack of access to essential services like education and healthcare and an increased risk of displacement due to climate or public health crisis. The covid 19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns have sharply **brought** the focus back on how lack of public service delivery mechanisms and infrastructure can be a matter of survival for the vulnerable population of the country. The challenges notwithstanding, the immediacy and perpetuity of these services always remains. At the core of bridging these gaps lie non governmental and grassroots organizations which bring essential services to marginalized people. This brings us to the other side of addressing social issues informed investments and support which are provided to organizations that are ultimately performing all the groundwork. Here, besides funding individual projects and innovations, it is necessary to enable such organizations to.

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Congress party was in power. In 2004, the Election Commission carried out a similar campaign. After 21 years, the Election Commission is now working on purification of voter lists. Despite the fact that such campaigns were conducted many times before, no one had spoken against them. This time, however, the opposition parties have suddenly found their voice. It is the Election Commission's duty to correct minor errors in the electoral rolls and also to remove the names of citizens who, according to the constitution, are not eligible to be voters. Accordingly, the voter list purification campaign will involve removing the names of duplicate voters, removing the names of deceased individuals, and including the names of individuals who have turned 18 years old. Simultaneously, the campaign will also identify and remove the names of individuals who have entered India from other countries and have registered themselves on the voter list. Some parties have started opposing this campaign because their political interests are being threatened. It has been found that the names of many opposition leaders, including Pawan Khera, appear twice in the voter list. The Election Commission has undertaken this campaign to correct such errors. Congress leaders read out the list of duplicate voters at press conferences. Yet, the Congress leaders oppose the very campaign launched by the Election Commission to correct these mistakes. If the Congress or other opposition parties win an election, they have no objections regarding voter lists or the electronic voting machines (EVMs). But when they suffer a major defeat, as in Bihar or Maharashtra, the opposition suddenly begins to notice mistakes in the voter lists. This behavior of the opposition parties is extremely inappropriate. The Bharatiya Janata Party has worked as an opposition party for many years. We have had to accept consecutive defeats in Lok Sabha and Assembly elections many times. Even then, we did not blame voting machines (EVMs) or voter lists. We corrected our mistakes and went back to the voters. The Congress and other opposition parties have become restless due to continuous defeats. It is because of this restlessness that reckless allegations are being made against the Election Commission by the opposition. It was while Congress was in power that the decision to conduct voting through EVMs was taken. Unable to accept their defeat, the opposition is trying to create misunderstandings among the public by spreading false information about the voter-list **purification** campaign. The Congress and many other opposition parties have made allegations that voting machines are being hacked. But not a single party has been able to scientifically prove that EVMs can be hacked. According to Section 81 of the Representation of the People Act, the defeated candidate has the right to approach the court within 45 days. Those who want to raise objections against the victorious BJP candidates must do so within this 45-day period. According to this provision, the Election Commission has decided to destroy CCTV footage after 45 days. The Congress and other opposition parties want the names of infiltrators to remain on the voter list. For this reason, they are opposing the voter-list purification campaign. Due to infiltration, all aspects of life such as our language, culture, and literature are affected. Therefore, everyone needs to think seriously about this issue. Many people have not yet grasped the problem of



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of India that the Muslim population in the country has increased rapidly. The opposition parties deliberately ignore the fact that illegal immigrants deprive the country's original citizens of jobs and employment opportunities, due to their soft corner for the Muslim vote bank. Because these illegal immigrants provide a consolidated bloc of votes, many opposition parties, including the Congress and Trinamool Congress, feel a sense of affection towards them. However, ordinary citizens would do well to remember that this 'affection' poses a threat to national security. 'Centrism isn't nostalgia, it is survival' Rethinking stray dogs From crisis to opportunity Times of India - India Voices Blogs (December 16, 2025) Amid the chatter about artificial intelligence mania, people have begun to joke about a bubble in bubble talk. Google searches for AI and the b-word have surged and the mood in the markets feels exuberant, PM Modi's three-nation tour to Jordan, Ethiopia and Oman, which began yesterday, comes amid geopolitical churn in West Asia, marked by a fragile ceasefire in Gaza, the fall of the Assad regime in Syria, and By Jaya Row Generations of Indians mastered the inner world. Success and happiness came as byproducts. When we lost this inner enrichment, external bankruptcy followed. Today, we are like Gulliver asleep to our real By Sonal Srivastava Sheldon Cooper is depicted as a theoretical physicist and genius in popular sitcom, 'The Big Bang Theory'. He effortlessly solves equations and spouts scientific theories, much to his friends' chagrin. If China consumes luxury as evidence of momentum, India consumes luxury as a negotiation with memory. Brands that succeed here will be the ones with the deepest listening & meaning Jaya wears Prada, but only after He thinks her pleasure is about his ability to 'keep going'. And absent true connection with the man, she can only answer the question 'What do you like' by saying 'I don't know' It has In a delightfully geeky podcast episode, Zerodha founder Nikhil Kamath chatted with Elon Musk, who tossed out some heavyweight existential bombs What's the meaning of life? Where did the universe come from? Why does anything matter? At The night that Birch by Romeo Lane burned, the DJ was shouting over a crowd that did not yet know it was trapped in hell. Fireworks went off in a thatched, flammable structure. Cognitive psychologist and professor at Harvard, Steven Pinker, in a recent tweet, referred to **his** 2003 prediction that parents wouldn't opt for direct gene-editing of embryos for higher IQ. He called it the designer baby By Partha Sinha Every civilisation maintains a blacklist of impolite words that must never feature in annual reports, family WhatsApp groups or polite audio on flights. We treat them like emotional contraband. Yet Consumption inertia has weighed heavily on consumer-facing companies for nearly two years, as the revenge spending euphoria that followed the pandemic fizzled out after the 2023 festive season. For years, the government undertook aggressive capex, but businesses die, brands don't. Every abandoned trademark is a key to customers' hearts and wallets. Musk paid \$44bn for Twitter and made it 'X', thinking it's a cool name. But the rest of us who have Trump's peace deals appear to be suffering from a 'Humpty Dumpty' syndrome. They are coming apart and no one seems to have any clue how to put them back together. This, even as Trump It's your password to social media power 'Rag



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Is now returning to black, fliers too are heaving a sigh of relief after an embittering two year hiatus. Aircraft that stayed put at aprons for months have begun to take off. Headmistress is the latest victim of official officious morality. Maharashtra education officer, Ravindra Katolkar, recently ordered it replaced with headmaster regardless of gender since that the only term recognised by the rule book. He cited the analogy of Rashtrapati. True, Pratibha Patil couldn be called Rashtrapatni. And a female governor is not a governess, though the male ones in non BJP Maharashtra and West Bengal have been behaving like the Centre proxy nanny. Still, principles rather than principals were revealed when Katolkar ji added darkly, We all know what mistress means. Every holder of a public position seems to have taken the Hypocritic Oath, but historically, a mistress was the obligatory accessory of power, often holding the reins of the reign. Charles II Barbara Villiers, undermined peace treaties between England and the Dutch Republic apart from slipping friends and family into the Privy Council. Charles II namesake removed any naivete that the practice was history. Indeed, when the Camilla was out of the bag, Jemima Khan father quoted an older source, when a man marries his mistress, it creates a vacancy. James Goldsmith married his third mistress Jemima was their daughter before that. Diss not the asli mistress, not to be confused with the quickie playthings of Kennedy and Clinton. True examples come from less playboy presidents. Kay Summersby ghost written autobiography, Past Forgetting My Love Affair with Dwight D Eisenhower, mentions, et al, tolen kisses aboard a darkened plane to Cairo. They worked, erm, closely during WWII. Our ND Tiwari actually faced a paternity suit, but dalliances are the worst kept secrets of at least three of our most revered PMs. Amitav Ghosh Ibis trilogy includes the Chinese mistresses and offspring of the wealthy Parsis engaged in the old opium trade. So that two lids blown off my upright community. Ouch Education is the pioneer of success. Education has changed the lives of many people in India whether it is any class. And, that how Education should be bestowed upon every child. In the world of mobile phones where everything happens on a click, now getting education in just one click is something which has benefitted a lot of bussing students. The exposure of edtech is **booming** hence, India is also inclining towards education technology. Many of the organizations have taken the challenge of democratizing education of India under the aegis of Edtech. In India more than providing education, consumption is difficult and vital. The education gap of India between tier 1, tier 2 & tier 3 cities is amplifying, which needs to be altered. Tier1 & 2 cities have easy access to education, teachers, and lecturers whereas, in the tier 3 cities, villages or remote areas are still don have the set quality education, well qualified teachers, and the tools. In India, the Education system has.

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It was with a sense of some dismay and concern, shared by many, that I read the article TOI, March 26. The article author, Duumviri Subarea, was a well known member of the IAS, and his comments, as indeed those of set earl other senior retired officers, carry weight. In fact, their criticism is quoted by others as proof to bolster the case against IAS. With Covid taking peculiar turns in some countries and another highly transmissible mutant dubbed XE surfacing, India must refocus attention on vaccination. Go must motivate the laggards in the vaccination drive like the Northeast minus Assam and Jharkhand. The proportions of double dosed in Bihar, Punjab, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu also significantly trail the national average of 82. Rank misinformation, conspiracy theories and religious superstitions coupled with remoteness have hit the Northeast states badly. Here those double dosed are just 58. Jharkhand officials attributed the state low figure of 57 to migration. Nearly 20 core people in the 15 population are yet to get both doses. Vaccine hesitancy and complacency appear to dog the precaution dose programmer too. Merely because Covid infections are presently down does mean protection will endure. Just 1.23 core 60 citizens have taken boosters against 11.5 core in this age group who were double dosed. In remote areas and states without adequate hospital facilities, the risks of contracting serious illness amid uncontrolled Covid spread need to be conveyed properly. With NIV researchers stating that all adults need boosters, NTAGI must take a decision without delay. CMC Vellore finding that a Covishield dose after two Coaxing doses is safe with six fold rise in antibodies makes it the appropriate candidate as booster for Coaxing recipients. SII can easily accelerate Covishield production for this purpose. Earlier this week, SII Covovax was approved for the 12 age group. But information on bulk orders placed for this vaccine is in the public domain. Covovax also showed high antibody and neutralising responses in UK mix and match trials as a booster following two doses of AstraZeneca Covishield. Covovax dual utility for child and booster vaccination must be squandered. Whether it is scientific data or vaccine supplies, lack of adequate communication over eligibility for boosters does disservice to sub 60 citizens waiting for government booster strategy. The feeling of wellbeing that a booster accords to its recipients returning to work and commute amidst crowds must be **ignored**. Government can even make allowances for personal medicine as in the case of flu shots to allow all adults double dosed over six months ago to take a booster, perhaps after securing medical advice. Not just citizens, even for vaccine companies with jabs ready for rollout or in the development pipeline, more clarity on India vaccination programmer will be appreciated. For the first time since the outbreak of Covid 19 in 2020, India has opened its air space for international travel, mounting at least 150 new domestic and international routes in the summer schedule. Apart from the aviation industry that.

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Is now returning to black, fliers too are heaving a sigh of relief after an embittering two year hiatus. Aircraft that stayed put at aprons for months have begun to take off. Headmistress is the latest victim of official officious morality. Maharashtra education officer, Ravindra Katolkar, recently ordered it replaced with headmaster regardless of gender since that the only term recognised by the rule book. He cited the analogy of Rashtrapati. True, Pratibha Patil couldn be called Rashtrapatni. And a female governor is not a governess, though the male ones in non BJP Maharashtra and West Bengal have been behaving like the Centre proxy nanny. Still, principles rather than principals were revealed when Katolkar ji added darkly, We all know what mistress means. Every holder of a public position seems to have taken the Hypocritic Oath, but historically, a mistress was the obligatory accessory of power, often holding the reins of the reign. Charles II Barbara Villiers, undermined peace treaties between England and the Dutch Republic apart from slipping friends and family into the Privy Council. Charles II namesake removed any naivete that the practice was history. Indeed, when the Camilla was out of the bag, Jemima Khan father quoted an older source, when a man marries his mistress, it creates a vacancy. James Goldsmith married his third mistress Jemima was their daughter before that. Diss not the asli mistress, not to be confused with the quickie playthings of Kennedy and Clinton. True examples come from less playboy presidents. Kay Summersby ghost written autobiography, Past Forgetting My Love Affair with Dwight D Eisenhower, mentions, et al, tolen kisses aboard a darkened plane to Cairo. They worked, erm, closely during WWII. Our ND Tiwari actually faced a paternity suit, but dalliances are the worst kept secrets of at least three of our most revered PMs. Amitav Ghosh Ibis trilogy includes the Chinese mistresses and offspring of the wealthy Parsis engaged in the old opium trade. So that two lids blown off my upright community. Ouch Education is the pioneer of success. Education has changed the lives of many people in India whether it is any class. And, that how Education should be bestowed upon every child. In the world of mobile phones where everything happens on a click, now getting education in just one click is something which has benefitted a lot of bussing students. The exposure of edtech is **booming** hence, India is also inclining towards education technology. Many of the organizations have taken the challenge of democratizing education of India under the aegis of Edtech. In India more than providing education, consumption is difficult and vital. The education gap of India between tier 1, tier 2 & tier 3 cities is amplifying, which needs to be altered. Tier1 & 2 cities have easy access to education, teachers, and lecturers whereas, in the tier 3 cities, villages or remote areas are still don have the set quality education, well qualified teachers, and the tools. In India, the Education system has.

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Grappled with several issues in the past few decades therefore the need to bring about a reformation in the education system has been a crucial point of deliberation over the past few years. With a vision of social enterprising approach, the leaders in the industry are bringing socio economic change to the Education system. Edtech applications in the current time are widening over the last decade, and digital learning has started spreading across schools and classrooms. But, it took covid to truly understand the importance of digital learning where the industry saw a major hike in edtech, as schools were shut and they also went for online studies. The importance of educating students online, anywhere anytime got the spotlight and is booming since then. In the digital world, where students are thrust to the screen for education, providing each family with adequate internet and smart phones are some necessary measures that need to be fulfilled to create equity and ensure that all Indian children may learn. According to a Praxis IVCA report, the Indian edtech market was pegged at \$117 billion in 2020, expected to grow over two fold to touch \$225 billion by FY25. The industry is bombarding as the magnitude of inequality in Education has been revealed. Startups are striving for the welfare of the mass public since education unites us all together. The better educated you are, the better future you can pave for yourself. There one old saying, one educated person in the family, transforms the lives of the family. The simple statement weighs so much, making us realize the importance of education. When your children education is at stake you can afford to buy a smart phone and provide the bundle of knowledge to children, the first step towards your child success. In the edtech apps, content is crucial and important part, interestingly it the most fun part. The visuals, 3D animations, videos by well educated teachers, mocks, chapter wise questions, books, and many more are compiled in just one app, that the privilege of technology. The edtech apps are not limited to academics, the knowledge is abundant. It includes art, dance, music, music instruments, creative science assignments, coding, computer languages, and much more to explore to give your kids the platform to scout the option according to their respective interests. Customization of learning is being popular in the digital space. The edtech app **made** it possible for students to personalize their education by using AI and technology. Personalized education gets student more intrigued in learning, making it easier for the student to learn according their pace, up to their potential. AI helps the students to schedule, plan their work for the day. Now the challenge is to reach the rural areas or the children belonging to BPL families and to provide them with education they can sustain. So, the industry is more focused on rural areas of India, to reach the remote areas and educate the mass students to build a better future of.



**Delhi\_Police\_Typing-Dated-2026-01-15-Test NO.-24529**

India 75 is at a crossroads. After overcoming a bad phase of economic decline due to the Covid 19 pandemic, India has energetically bounced back to perform as the world fastest growing economy. While pessimists may ascribe doubts about this achievement, there is a mood of positivity in the air. Despite much criticism from the different corners, strong fundamentals have been laid to excel, and yes, there is a mood to say, Yes, we can do it. After the start of the Ukraine Russian conflict, the US created an atmosphere to force countries to align with either US or Russia. Was it redox of the Cold War Non Aligned Movement NAM, which saw developing countries refuse to align with the Conceivably, no country in this world is better positioned to respond than India, one of the original protagonists of NAM. India took the stand and condemned Russia for the attack and never sided with the US to impose sanctions against Russia which were motivated by the West led by the US. Today, India is mature enough to create a balance with nations irrespective of the rationality behind their geopolitics. At the world level, India has shown the way for developing countries to make partners, not friends, to take the development agenda forward. India population and economic growth have left India in a very unique position to play an active and constructive role in geopolitics. Nirupampa Rao writes: Much as in during first Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru time, India self-interested foreign policy has earned it many partners and a very few enemies despite worldwide turmoil. It is learning to punch above its weight and displaying newfound confidence. It will not be stopped from asserting its international interests. On Fareed Zakaria GPS, CNN, 23 Apr 2023. In a Der Spiegel Feature, Laura Hollinger offers a similar view of India rising as a nonaligned power of global import while stressing its economic advancement, including lucrative tech business. Hoffenberg writes: In recent years, India has grown ever closer to the West, even though it won likely ever become a close ally. The country does necessarily share all of the West values and approaches the world pragmatically in the search for partners rather than friends. But India is harboring dreams of annexing islands or pushing the US off its throne. And it shares American and European concerns about Chinese dominance in Asia. As **such**, India rise could ultimately transform the world in a way that is more amenable to the West vision of the future. On Fareed Zakaria 23 Apr 2023. For India, this is a moment to look back as well as look forward. Looking back, one remembers the struggle for independence and the sacrifices made by the people of India. During his first address to the nation from the Red Fort, our first Prime Minister exhorted India to move forward a tryst with destiny. Looking forward to the end of this decade, one can imagine the future of India. Indeed, after achieving success in Service and Information Technology, we can look forward to opportunities in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, transport and roadways, women emancipation, education, health care etc. India had a glorious period about one thousand years ago when India share of the world GDP was around 30. Subsequently, invaders looted this country wealth, and India was the poorest country in the world at the time of independence. India recorded about a 3 growth rate three to four decades after independence. Following liberalisatio

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75th year of its independence from British colonial rule. This achievement also comes when the UK struggles to bolster its tumbling economy and fight the ever soaring inflation, pushing the cost of living to levels never imagined by the UK, Europe and the West. Economists who have been relentlessly criticising the Indian economy are perplexed that they were unsuccessful in foreseeing Britain, and indeed much of, the West's distresses. Just rewording the saying of French President Emmanuel Macron, the days of copiousness are genuinely over for them. And they could about be commencement for us. India, left battered, bruised and bleeding by its British rulers in 1947, has progressively ascended to regain that glory of the past which was lost: economic prosperity and clout. It would not be out of the place to repeat that the British colonisation of India was essentially about the economic manipulation, plundering of India and the transference of wealth from India to Britain. On 15 Aug 1947, when the Tricolor replaced the Union Jack, India's share of the world GDP had fallen from 24.4 in 1700 AD to merely 3. Britain thrived while India was strapped into abject poverty. This Bharat is self-confident and atmanirbhar, ready to meet challenges and overcome adversities. Crossing the twin milestones of emerging as the world fifth largest and fastest growing economy is undoubtedly a stupendous achievement for India and Indians. From this point on, we begin our journey on the road to achieving PM Modi's goal of creating a \$5 trillion economy. It can now be said with confidence that India shall cross this milestone too in the next two or three years. It is happening now. Where can we go wrong? If we do what we have always done, we will get what we already have always got. To achieve something extra, we have to go the extra mile. There is no dearth of diverse forces in India that hunt for communal or class agendas over and above the needs of Bharat. If India does address these hostile forces and take strict actions when they raise their heads or voices, then India may get distracted and indulge in useless things. In that case, the Indian youth will dissipate their energies in wasteful actions rather than using this energy to uplift India. The structural constraints which could obstruct growth in India are a lack of Infrastructure, low levels of entrepreneurship, unemployment, climate change, gender inequality, social conflicts, etc. And if they managed well, they could open new doors of development for India. We Indians share a common culture, geography, history, and only common development encounters would shape the future of India. I must say the rising India phenomenon is unending. It may not roll out smoothly for reasons beyond our control. But each passing generation is handing over the baton to the next generation, promising to remedy the past while preparing for the future. This way, indeed, we can make India more robust. The world will not be the same as it was just recently. The value of India in this turbulent world would increase substantially in the times to come. Businesses today face a wide range of uncertainties, from pandemics to cyber-attacks to natural disasters. Because of their increased reliance on technology, businesses are becoming more vulnerable to cyber-attacks, losing data, and experiencing business disruptions. According to a recent report on State of Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery in India 2023, around 18 of the businesses

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Defect, they both get moderate sentences. The dilemma arises because, while mutual cooperation yields the best overall outcome, mutual defection is the dominant strategy, leading to a worse outcome for both. This becomes complicated when the game is played multiple times making it difficult to predict the behavior of prisoners. In 1980, Robert Axelrod, a political scientist, held a computer tournament to determine the best strategy for repeated Prisoner Dilemma games, inviting game theorists to submit their strategies. The tournament had each strategy face off against every other one for 200 rounds. Axelrod found that Tit for Tat, a simple strategy that starts by cooperating and then mimics the opponent previous move, was the most successful. The best strategies shared qualities of being nice not defecting first, forgiving retaliating but not holding grudges, retaliatory and clear. On the other hand, deceitful strategies such as Always Defect in every round, Grim Trigger switching to permanent defection if the opponent defects even once, etc did perform well. Despite the emergence of complex and nasty strategies in subsequent tournaments, nice strategies consistently performed better. Axelrod findings illustrate that cooperation, clarity and forgiveness often lead to better outcomes in repeated interactions, challenging the notion that complex or deceitful strategies are superior. Although deceitful strategies could exploit nice strategies like Tit for Two Tats in the short run, nice strategies ultimately won the most points in the long run. For example, at the peak of Cold War, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, the US and USSR were engaged in a strategic standoff, each trying to gauge the other willingness to defect or cooperate. The resolution of this crisis through mutual de-escalation, despite the high stakes, underscores how strategic niceness benefited not only the two countries but also the world. In the real world, we encounter people employing various strategies, ranging from overtly kind to unabashedly ruthless. This raises an important question: what is the point of adopting a nice strategy if others in the environment are deceitful? To answer this, we must explore another question: are humans innately good or bad, and are they capable of change? This age-old debate was addressed by philosophers Thomas Hobbes and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. In Leviathan, Hobbes argued that humans are inherently selfish and driven by a desire for power, necessitating strong authority to maintain social order. Conversely, Rousseau, in The Social Contract, believed in the innate goodness of **humans**. The true nature of humanity likely lies somewhere between Hobbes and Rousseau perspectives, reflecting a complex interplay of inherent tendencies and external influences that shape individual actions and societal norms. Human nature is not fixed. Good people may act immorally in difficult times, and bad people may perform good deeds. Humans possess the capacity for both good and bad actions, influenced by their environment, upbringing and societal structures. Axelrod study demonstrates that while environmental factors initially shape the success of strategies, the long-term adoption of relatively nice strategies like Tit for Tat can transform the environment itself. In an initially hostile environment dominated by aggressive strategies, Tit for Tat might face exploitation. However, its ability to retaliate against defection prevents it from being wiped out.



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M K Gandhi called non violence a weapon of the strong. He said non violence and truth are inseparable and presuppose one another. We may never be strong enough to be entirely non violent in thought, word, and deed, but we must keep non violence as our goal. Non violence instills a sense of morality, equality and respect for the rights of all human beings. It fosters appreciation of all cultures and religions, as well as ecological concern and awareness. It is an expression of universal love that promotes unity among people. Four principles of non violence among the six enumerated by Martin Luther King Jr are that non violence seeks to defeat injustice, not people. It holds that suffering can educate and transform. Non violence chooses love instead of hate. It is based on the premise that the universe is on the side of justice. The principle of non violence rejects using physical violence to achieve social or political change. Martin Luther King Jr explains his non violent civil rights philosophy as follows: You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. At the individual level, non violence has a more profound value, and a love for righteousness can often bring us prosperity in the long run. A wisdom story demonstrates this effectively. The story goes that Dharma Das was a man of virtue; he used to spend a lot of money to help others. So, he was constantly surrounded by a lot of people. Soon, he spent all he had. All those who were coming to him suddenly disappeared. He became destitute but never strayed from his righteous ways, even during those hard days. He prayed to God every day to bless him with enough to help the needy who came to him. One night, he had a dream. A divine person came to him and said, Dharma Das, there is one way you can get a lot of wealth. Tomorrow, you will find me coming to the shadow of a big tree in front of the temple. I will sleep in the shade. All you have to do is pick up my staff and hit me on the head. My body will turn into a heap of gold. You can take it all. Dharma Das went to the tree the next day. True **to** the word, a holy man was there. As soon as he reached the shade of the tree, he put aside his staff and the long sack and went to sleep. Nobody else was around. Dharma Das could easily hit the sleeping man and take the gold. But he would do nothing of the sort. Attacking another person is violence, even if permitted by the victim. He sat there looking at the calm face of the sleeping man for several hours. Finally, the holy man woke up. He asked with amazement: Why? You had the chance of a lifetime? Don worry, I will give you another chance. Dharma Das said, No master, even then, I am not going to do anything wrong. The holy man smiled. With the blessing, You will be prosperous, the man gave him the sack he was carrying, and, in a moment, he was gone. The good man amazement was doubled when he saw that the sack was full of gold coins. Cooperative setting. Real world is definitely more complex. There are many more variables involved. Yet the above approach gives a good intuition about the right kind of strategies. The old and simple adage As you sow, so shall you reap may indeed be accurate. In Hindu philosophy, the law of karma points to a similar strategy. While this may have been our collective understanding for ages, game theory provides a more objective justification for those with a scientific bent of mind.



**Delhi\_Police\_Typing-Dated-2026-01-15-Test NO.-24535**

India this can be achieved with affordable education without compromising in the quality front. Edtech industry will bring about the change that India has been longing for. According to India National Education Policy, the country children have poor foundational learning levels with half the students who have spent five years in schools barely possessing basic numeric and literacy skills. There are only 1.5 million schools with about 250 million students enrolled in our country. According to a survey, 37 of students in rural and 17 in urban areas do study at all. As education should reach remote areas, villages, and areas of the low network. In many cases children study till high school and then drop education to join hands with their parents or find a job for money. Even girls are not sent outside many times for education. Edtech has become one solution for all. The child can educate online with the liberty to do any job, study from anywhere, and still be able to get all the knowledge. Its time saving as well as leverage of study anywhere and anytime you want. With the dream of democratizing education in India, it should be made affordable. For all classes of people, education should be one. In India, 20.8 percent of people are below the poverty line, which makes it difficult for the family to provide quality education. Hence, affordable education should be the first priority of the startups coming forward. And it is necessary to make education democratize and in order to fulfill the vision of educated India. The edtech is slowly penetrating in remote areas as well. To make use of technology in education stick, it can be companies alone that forge a thorns path it requires corporates, governments, NGOs and educational institutes to work together to deliver better learning outcomes. The solution should focus on a one off use, we need to leverage technology to instill a mentality of lifelong learning within our citizens to ensure they are rendered irrelevant despite being educated. The industry is striving to mark its way in digital learning. The better India, educated India. Bashar, a village in Charkha Dari district of south Haryana near the Rajasthan border, was notified on 26 June 2021 as the 58th Municipal Committee MC of the State. It was a block of Britani district from 1972 to 2016 and part of Mahendragarh district since the **creation** of the state in 1966. This area receives an average annual rainfall of about 300 mm and has no river or canal. Hence, dry area allowance used to be given to government employees here till 1976. Its inaccessibility is vividly revealed from an instance narrated to me by 80 years old retired DSP. In June 1962, I got a telegram at Gurgaon Police station PS to report at Bashar PS for temporary duty as Assistant sub Inspector. Nobody could tell me the location of Bashar at Gurgaon. Even after reaching the inter state Bus Terminus of Delhi, I could not.

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Get an exact clue about Bashar but I was advised to go to Rohtak. I was asking bus staff about Bashar at Rohtak then luckily a driver of Bashar area first corrected me for its local pronunciation and advised me to take a bus for Charkha Dari, where I reached at 5 PM. At that time, the last and perhaps only private bus has already gone so I stayed at night in Charkha Dari PS. The next day, I took the bus at around 8 AM and reached Bashar at 11 AM. The police station was about one km from the bus stop in a pre independence Police Chauki of Jindia Maharaj. In June, the temperature was 45 0 C and strong hot winds loo had buried the sandy footpath. I was walking with my bedding on my shoulders, then a villager asked, Sahib because I had my shirt under the pent where are going I told him, I am going to the PS, he said, you will be unable to reach like this, so give me your bedding and follow me. As I reached the PS, the staff told me to immediately wash hands and take food which will not available thereafter. Against this ordeal of one and half days, now one can reach Bashar in 3 hours from Gurgaon. Bashar village had no government or private high school and clinic till the late nineties. Its population is just 6333 as per the 2011 census, though its name has been synonymous with PS in its surrounding villages. If anybody after quarrel or dispute thinking of going to PS, he will just say I am going to Bashar. Once, one uneducated farmer of our villager, settled near Siwani asked somebody, where is the Bashar of this village The MLA of the Bashar constituency has been changing frequently and none of them has shown affinity with Bashar except Ran Singh Mann in the eighties. Despite that Bashar has surpassed all the neighboring villages even bigger than it, in terms number of retail shops for fruits, vegetables, and all other consumer and durable items. Now, there are five government and private senior secondary schools, one Government College, and a grain market, though there is no clinic of MBBS doctor so far. The vital push factor for the development of the Bashar area is the electrification in the seventies. It enabled the **installation** of tube wells for irrigation which became more profitable after flat rates were charged since 1977. With irrigation, the area of Bajra & pulses in the Kharif season shifted to cotton & bajra and additional crops of wheat and mustard are sown in Rabi. It has raised the income of farmers and others. Above all at Bashar, the crossing of Hisar Satnali Mahendragarh and the Delhi Dari Loharu roads now NHs since the seventies has become the epicenter of its development. Its surrounding 54 villages were also linked to Bashar by pucca roads. All the shops and other developments are.

**Spl-Delhi\_Police\_Typing-Dated-2026-01-15-Test NO.-24537**

Nobel Prize in Economic Science was announced recently. The prize theme describes two periods of economic progress: a stagnating period of the economy in the pre-industrial revolution period and Delhi & Gurgaon playing a bad air match Gurgaon started off as a suburb of Delhi in early 1980s. People who couldn't afford property prices in Delhi plonked themselves in more affordable Gurgaon. However, today, lots of people give money advice online. They're called finfluencers (financial influencers). But many of them cause big problems, and that's why India's money watchdog, SEBI, is starting to crack down on them. Starting today, Australia has made a big new rule that kids under 16 aren't allowed to use social media. That means apps like Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat and others must check users' ages and block anyone who is a menace. Laissez-faire isn't an option. Regulation should get tough on them. This year, revised tax slabs increased our collective disposable income by Rs 1L cr. Last year, 93% of retail traders in Aussie ban on under-16s' social media is worth following by other countries. We have a suggestion. Global eyes are on Australia as its decision to ban social media for all children under 16 kicks in. Amid the chatter about artificial intelligence mania, people have begun to joke about a bubble in bubble talk. Google searches for AI and the b-word have surged and the mood in the markets feels exuberant, PM Modi's three-nation tour to Jordan, Ethiopia and Oman, which began yesterday, comes amid geopolitical churn in West Asia, marked by a fragile ceasefire in Gaza, the fall of the Assad regime in Syria, and By Jaya Row Generations of Indians mastered the inner world. Success and happiness came as byproducts. When we lost this inner enrichment, external bankruptcy followed. Today, we are like Gulliver asleep to our real By Sonal Srivastava Sheldon Cooper is depicted as a theoretical physicist and genius in popular sitcom, 'The Big Bang Theory'. He effortlessly solves equations and spouts scientific theories, much to his friends' chagrin. If China consumes luxury as evidence of momentum, India consumes luxury as a negotiation with memory. Brands that succeed here will be the ones with the deepest listening & meaningJaya wears Prada, but only after He thinks her pleasure is about his ability to 'keep going'. And absent true connection with the man, she can only answer the question **'What** do you like' by saying 'I don't know' It has In a delightfully geeky podcast episode, Zerodha founder Nikhil Kamath chatted with Elon Musk, who tossed out some heavyweight existential bombs What's the meaning of life? Where did the universe come from? Why does anything matter? At The night that Birch by Romeo Lane burned, the DJ was shouting over a crowd that did not yet know it was trapped in hell. Fireworks went off in a thatched, flammable structure. Cognitive psychologist and professor at Harvard, Steven Pinker, in a recent tweet, referred to his 2003 prediction that parents wouldn't opt for direct gene-editing of embryos for higher IQ. He called it the designer baby By Partha Sinha Every civilisation maintains a blacklist of impolite words that must never feature in annual reports, family WhatsApp groups or polite audio on flights. We treat them like emotional contraband. Yet Consumption inertia has weighed heavily on consumer-facing companies for nearly two years, as the revenge spending euphoria that followed the pandemic fizzled out

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paid \$44bn for Twitter and made it 'X', thinking it's a cool name. But the rest of us who have Trump's peace deals appear to be suffering from a 'Humpty Dumpty' syndrome. They are coming apart and no one seems to have any clue how to put them back together. This, even as Trump It's your password to social media power 'Rage bait' is the OED's Word of the Year. If you were born after Y2K, you need no explanation, but for social media illiterates it's spelt out as By G S Tripathi The 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Science was announced recently. The prize theme describes two periods of economic progress: a stagnating period of the economy in the pre-industrial revolution period and Delhi & Gurgaon playing a bad air match Gurgaon started off as a suburb of Delhi in early 1980s. People who couldn't afford property prices in Delhi plonked themselves in more affordable Gurgaon. However, today, lots of people give money advice online. They're called influencers (financial influencers). But many of them cause big problems, and that's why India's money watchdog, SEBI, is starting to crack down on them. Starting today, Australia has made a big new rule that kids under 16 aren't allowed to use social media. That means apps like Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat and others must check users' ages and block anyone who is a menace. Laissez-faire isn't an option. Regulation should get tough on them. This year, revised tax slabs increased our collective disposable income by Rs 1L cr. Last year, 93% of retail traders in Aussie ban on under-16s' social media is worth following by other countries. We have a suggestion. Global eyes are on Australia as its decision to ban social media for all children under 16 kicks in Times of India - India Voices Blogs (December 17, 2025) There have been very few happy-go-lucky characters in Indian cricket like Shikhar Dhawan. His uncomplicated outlook has stood him in good stead, on and off the field. He has also been extremely candid about his life Every winter, Delhi's air pollution debate follows a familiar script. We look for villains, argue over blame, ignore science and solutions. This year has been no different except that it has bordered on the By Anil K Rajvanshi A new theory in Physics, as enunciated by Gunther Kletetschka, tries to unite quantum physics and gravity **and** has been creating waves in the scientific world. If proved correct, it will Amid the chatter about artificial intelligence mania, people have begun to joke about a bubble in bubble talk. Google searches for AI and the b-word have surged and the mood in the markets feels exuberant, PM Modi's three-nation tour to Jordan, Ethiopia and Oman, which began yesterday, comes amid geopolitical churn in West Asia, marked by a fragile ceasefire in Gaza, the fall of the Assad regime in Syria, and By Jaya Row Generations of Indians mastered the inner world. Success and happiness came as byproducts. When we lost this inner enrichment, external bankruptcy followed. Today, we are like Gulliver asleep to our real By Sonal Srivastava Sheldon Cooper is depicted as a theoretical physicist and genius in popular sitcom, 'The Big Bang Theory'. He effortlessly solves equations and spouts scientific theories, much to his friends' chagrin. If China consumes luxury as evidence of momentum, India consumes luxury as a negotiation with memory. Brands that succeed here will be the ones with the deepest listening & meaningJaya wears Prada, but only after He thinks her pleasure i



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India this can be achieved with affordable education without compromising in the quality front. Edtech industry will bring about the change that India has been longing for. According to India National Education Policy, the country children have poor foundational learning levels with half the students who have spent five years in schools barely possessing basic numeric and literacy skills. There are only 1.5 million schools with about 250 million students enrolled in our country. According to a survey, 37 of students in rural and 17 in urban areas do study at all. As education should reach remote areas, villages, and areas of the low network. In many cases children study till high school and then drop education to join hands with their parents or find a job for money. Even girls are not sent outside many times for education. Edtech has become one solution for all. The child can educate online with the liberty to do any job, study from anywhere, and still be able to get all the knowledge. Its time saving as well as leverage of study anywhere and anytime you want. With the dream of democratizing education in India, it should be made affordable. For all classes of people, education should be one. In India, 20.8 percent of people are below the poverty line, which makes it difficult for the family to provide quality education. Hence, affordable education should be the first priority of the startups coming forward. And it is necessary to make education democratize and in order to fulfill the vision of educated India. The edtech is slowly penetrating in remote areas as well. To make use of technology in education stick, it can be companies alone that forge a thorns path it requires corporates, governments, NGOs and educational institutes to work together to deliver better learning outcomes. The solution should focus on a one off use, we need to leverage technology to instill a mentality of lifelong learning within our citizens to ensure they are rendered irrelevant despite being educated. The industry is striving to mark its way in digital learning. The better India, educated India. Bashar, a village in Charkha Dari district of south Haryana near the Rajasthan border, was notified on 26 June 2021 as the 58th Municipal Committee MC of the State. It was a block of Britani district from 1972 to 2016 and part of Mahendragarh district since the **creation** of the state in 1966. This area receives an average annual rainfall of about 300 mm and has no river or canal. Hence, dry area allowance used to be given to government employees here till 1976. Its inaccessibility is vividly revealed from an instance narrated to me by 80 years old retired DSP. In June 1962, I got a telegram at Gurgaon Police station PS to report at Bashar PS for temporary duty as Assistant sub Inspector. Nobody could tell me the location of Bashar at Gurgaon. Even after reaching the inter state Bus Terminus of Delhi, I could not.

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Get an exact clue about Bashar but I was advised to go to Rohtak. I was asking bus staff about Bashar at Rohtak then luckily a driver of Bashar area first corrected me for its local pronunciation and advised me to take a bus for Charkha Dari, where I reached at 5 PM. At that time, the last and perhaps only private bus has already gone so I stayed at night in Charkha Dari PS. The next day, I took the bus at around 8 AM and reached Bashar at 11 AM. The police station was about one km from the bus stop in a pre independence Police Chauki of Jindia Maharaj. In June, the temperature was 45 0 C and strong hot winds loo had buried the sandy footpath. I was walking with my bedding on my shoulders, then a villager asked, Sahib because I had my shirt under the pent where are going I told him, I am going to the PS, he said, you will be unable to reach like this, so give me your bedding and follow me. As I reached the PS, the staff told me to immediately wash hands and take food which will not available thereafter. Against this ordeal of one and half days, now one can reach Bashar in 3 hours from Gurgaon. Bashar village had no government or private high school and clinic till the late nineties. Its population is just 6333 as per the 2011 census, though its name has been synonymous with PS in its surrounding villages. If anybody after quarrel or dispute thinking of going to PS, he will just say I am going to Bashar. Once, one uneducated farmer of our villager, settled near Siwani asked somebody, where is the Bashar of this village The MLA of the Bashar constituency has been changing frequently and none of them has shown affinity with Bashar except Ran Singh Mann in the eighties. Despite that Bashar has surpassed all the neighboring villages even bigger than it, in terms number of retail shops for fruits, vegetables, and all other consumer and durable items. Now, there are five government and private senior secondary schools, one Government College, and a grain market, though there is no clinic of MBBS doctor so far. The vital push factor for the development of the Bashar area is the electrification in the seventies. It enabled the **installation** of tube wells for irrigation which became more profitable after flat rates were charged since 1977. With irrigation, the area of Bajra & pulses in the Kharif season shifted to cotton & bajra and additional crops of wheat and mustard are sown in Rabi. It has raised the income of farmers and others. Above all at Bashar, the crossing of Hisar Satnali Mahendragarh and the Delhi Dari Loharu roads now NHs since the seventies has become the epicenter of its development. Its surrounding 54 villages were also linked to Bashar by pucca roads. All the shops and other developments are.

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Around this crossing charkha Dari was created as a new district in 2016 and Bashar was upgraded as a sub division in 2018. On 26 June 2021, it was notified as a Municipal Committee MC for which credit goes to the incumbent MLA who is the mother of Deputy CM Haryana. In near future, the Government may also set up an Industrial Training Institute to make the youth of the area employable, an industrial estate to create jobs, and one residential sector to retain the local retirees. Since its declaration as MC, land transactions for commercial and housing are on the rise in Bashar and it may be become an important city near the border of Haryana and Rajasthan in times to come. There was a news item reported quite widely in last couple of days about ending the chatbot piral of misery Have you ever sought help from a company website and had their chatbot repeatedly ask you, How may I help you But it may change with customer service chatbots becoming less robotic. Over the next several years, chatbots are on a path to becoming more intelligent, more conversational and hopefully, more helpful. I fully concur with both, customer support being spiral of misery and the possibility of chatbots becoming more human like in time to come. Let me elaborate. What is spiral of misery Whosoever in India has a misfortune of having to avail so called customer service support a euphemism for inflicting untold trauma on a hapless customer can very well relate with it. An article explains spiral of misery as you start a chatbot session with a company to get help, the chatbot hits a dead end. You next call the company and talk to an agent, but the agent does know the answer, tells you to call another number. You call that, hit another dead end, and you give up. We call this the customer service spiral of misery. In my experience, customer support in the country goes further, akin to getting caught in a vortex where not only you get hardly any worthwhile solution to your problem but you lose any control on your emotions in the process. But we, the customers, must not give up because that buzzword the almighty technology is there to take care of all the ills. Indeed, all the new age enterprises boast of deploying technology to **enhance** customer experience with their services. And that is how intelligent chatbots came in to being. No need any more having to dial customer service or write to customer support team. Just pose your query to omnipresent chatbot in very enticing avatars on a company website. But beware, this is yet a latest trap to test a customer patience limit and to carry out live experiments to gauge system capabilities to drive them crazy in the shortest time span. Irrespective of the nature of one query problem the chatbots have a set menu, which I suspect, are designed with one purpose.

Word Count: 496, Character Length: 2824 characters

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India this can be achieved with affordable education without compromising in the quality front. Edtech industry will bring about the change that India has been longing for. According to India National Education Policy, the country children have poor foundational learning levels with half the students who have spent five years in schools barely possessing basic numeric and literacy skills. There are only 1.5 million schools with about 250 million students enrolled in our country. According to a survey, 37 of students in rural and 17 in urban areas do study at all. As education should reach remote areas, villages, and areas of the low network. In many cases children study till high school and then drop education to join hands with their parents or find a job for money. Even girls are not sent outside many times for education. Edtech has become one solution for all. The child can educate online with the liberty to do any job, study from anywhere, and still be able to get all the knowledge. Its time saving as well as leverage of study anywhere and anytime you want. With the dream of democratizing education in India, it should be made affordable. For all classes of people, education should be one. In India, 20.8 percent of people are below the poverty line, which makes it difficult for the family to provide quality education. Hence, affordable education should be the first priority of the startups coming forward. And it is necessary to make education democratize and in order to fulfill the vision of educated India. The edtech is slowly penetrating in remote areas as well. To make use of technology in education stick, it can be companies alone that forge a thorns path it requires corporates, governments, NGOs and educational institutes to work together to deliver better learning outcomes. The solution should focus on a one off use, we need to leverage technology to instill a mentality of lifelong learning within our citizens to ensure they are rendered irrelevant despite being educated. The industry is striving to mark its way in digital learning. The better India, educated India. Bashar, a village in Charkha Dari district of south Haryana near the Rajasthan border, was notified on 26 June 2021 as the 58th Municipal Committee MC of the State. It was a block of Britani district from 1972 to 2016 and part of Mahendragarh district since the **creation** of the state in 1966. This area receives an average annual rainfall of about 300 mm and has no river or canal. Hence, dry area allowance used to be given to government employees here till 1976. Its inaccessibility is vividly revealed from an instance narrated to me by 80 years old retired DSP. In June 1962, I got a telegram at Gurgaon Police station PS to report at Bashar PS for temporary duty as Assistant sub Inspector. Nobody could tell me the location of Bashar at Gurgaon. Even after reaching the inter state Bus Terminus of Delhi, I could not.



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**That the Adhere database is of better quality. These questions resurfaced today following the tabling in Parliament of CAG performance audit report of the UIDAI. The UIDAI is the government body which issues the 12 digit identification number which is matched with the relevant biometrics. The digital identity platform, which has been branded Adhere, now covers 129.04 crore people. UIDAI has had to cancel more than 4.75 lakh Adheres for being duplicate. Sometimes, different Adheres with the same biometric data have been issued. While some corrections have been undertaken, CAG observed that the database still has faulty Adheres that have already been issued. CAG performance audit report details other flaws too in the database. The takeaway from the performance audit is that the Adhere database may not have the quality needed to be the gold standard for authenticating the electoral rolls. Therefore, the Election Commission needs to be cautious in using the Adhere database to authenticate the existing voter database. With the Pakistan Supreme Court declaring the April 3 dissolution of the national assembly illegal and ordering voting on the no confidence motion against Imran Khan on April 9, the next act in the country political drama will now begin. Drama had been expected at the start of Ramzan in Islamabad. But what has unfolded and continues to unfold has a quality and intensity that has surprised. Violence, intimidation and counter intimidation, even physical clashes within the national assembly all of this was within the realms of possibility when the motion of no confidence was voted on. What was not expected was Prime Minister Imran Khan changing the goal posts by using the time honored card of a foreign conspiracy. Adhere is ubiquitous. Around 1.3 billion residents, including 99.9% of adults, have been assigned this pan India biometric identifier. Consequently, it is the single most important database in India and one which is the de facto yardstick for all other databases. It is an unprecedented phenomenon as the first Adhere was issued only in September 2010. It took a mere four years from its tentative conceptualisation to issuing the first 12 digit number, and then just another six years to cover a billion people. CAG this week presented its performance audit of Adhere regulator, Unique Identification Authority of India UIDAI. The audit covered its mature phase, from 2014-15 to 2018-19. By this time it had already generated about 800 million Adhere numbers. Given this backdrop, CAG audit portrays an unsatisfactory picture of the systems and processes in UIDAI. The main takeaway is the laxity in the organisation, which not only generates data for India's most important identity, but also is entrusted with safely storing it. This level of laxity is worrying because of the risk it entails. UIDAI operates Adhere through a layer of subcontractors. It appoints registrars for enrolment who, in turn, subcontract. So, when an applicant's biometrics are uploaded to the Central Identities Data Repository, it may be executed by the third layer of subcontractors. A similar system.**

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Will increasingly use this technology for track and trace in 2022 versus relying solely on barcode based data. The availability of ultra rugged RFID sleds means mobile computers used by front line workers can be transformed into handheld RFID readers in seconds. Fixed readers are no longer necessary to capture RFID tag data. With more items being tagged at the source, it will be easier for RFID to be leveraged for automated track and trace, inventory management, and reporting throughout the entire supply chain. Recent advancements in RFID sled, fixed reader and tag performance also means cold chains can now take advantage of this technology too, as it is now possible to read liquid, frozen and metal items that were difficult to read in the past. Based on multiple analyst reports, it possible that market adoption could grow significantly in 2022, especially among transportation, logistics, and supply chain providers. The emergence of different software driven automation models Analytics automation, which eliminates the need for manual information dissection by data scientists, is becoming valuable to businesses for real time performance updates. With intelligent, automated predictive and prescriptive analytics platforms embedded into business systems, it becomes easy for all staff to see and understand market demand, inventory, and performance trends. Once artificial intelligence AI and machine learning algorithms are set up, the system will automatically analyze patterns and push actionable alerts to stakeholders for the next steps. As the digitalization of processes matures and physical distribution of workforces continues to grow, workflow automation has become a priority for companies, with intelligent software as a service SaaS solutions likely to become a primary investment area in 2022. SaaS based workflow automation solutions that can identify and assign tasks, track status, and even prompt action when deadlines are approaching will prove most beneficial in augmenting the workforce. Workers just need to have a mobile computer in hand to get up to speed and become fully productive on day one in almost any front line role. With government initiatives like the Make in India program setting the country on its course to become a global manufacturing hub and boost the Indian economy, automation will be key to counter uncertainties like lockdowns and labor shortages and make industries more agile and future ready. In the last decade, education technology has metamorphosed significantly, impacting education consumption in many ways. To some extent, EdTech has expanded accessibility of education through digitally enabled classrooms powered by the internet. With the internet penetration in India expected to reach 45 by the end of 2025, the digitalization of education remains one of the government major priorities. Many e learning portals have sprung up in response to the pandemic, and indeed beyond, creating newer pathways to a rising number of learners in online classes and courses. During the recent COVID pandemic for instance, education providers have had to quickly adapt to technology enabled solutions. We have seen governments, private and public schools, tutors, coaching institutions, students, and educators espousing digital platforms as.

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A result of this disruption, paving way for a Tech explosion. Let examine some of the core technologies that are impacting education services. Cloud based services Cloud computing is a shared pool of dynamically expandable digital resources and other IT services that may be delivered over the internet with minimal administration effort and engagement from service providers. According to the Government of India projects such as the National Digital Library of India, ePathshala will be linked to the cloud to enable greater access to learning materials for and higher education. With cloud based services, the challenges of limited access and infrastructure can be addressed. Artificial Intelligence Another technology that is completely revamping the education industry is Artificial Intelligence. AI has made significant progress in a variety of academic services around the world, including automated admissions, learning, tutoring, examinations, and assessments. Through adaptive learning technologies, students can now pace their own learning sessions. India National Testing Agency has proposed using adaptive assessments to administer entrance examinations for higher education institutions JEE Mains, NEET UG, and NET to improve dependability and measure students potential. Virtual classrooms, AR VR Access to quality education has never been better Because of their cost, accessibility, and flexibility, virtual classrooms have allowed students from various socioeconomic backgrounds and social levels to access high quality education. Similarly, AR VR is bound to create a simulated environment for real time learning. For example, Google has introduced digital reality products such as Expeditions, which allow educators to take their students on virtual field trips worldwide, bringing the real world closer, one expedition at a time Impact of Technology on Learners Not long ago, formal education revolved around books and tuitions. In recent times, learning has become more collaborative and engaging due to the use of current technologies such as Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, and Artificial Intelligence in education. Technological application to mainstream education has resulted in more engaged students, enhanced communication, and increased cognitive development. In conclusion As a large and diverse country, India still has a significant number of learners that can afford the traditional education system, especially when it comes to reskilling or up skilling. With advances in digitization, the new age EdTech ecosystem has the potential to offer education at affordable prices, simultaneously penetrating multi tier cities and towns. Technology integration offered by the new age tech ecosystem can plug some of the gaps in the **present** education system. As India witnesses a steady growth in the number of technology users, EdTech solutions can aid the country to get ahead of the curve by providing high quality educational experiences to learners, cutting across economies, gender, region or age In December, Parliament passed The Election Laws Amendment Bill, which allowed the linking of the electoral roll with the Aadhaar database. The amendments permit officials to use Aadhaar to authenticate names that are already there in the electoral roll. Effectively, the Aadhaar database is the gold standard for authentication even though there is no evidence in the public domain.

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Is in place when a financial intermediary seeks to authenticate the identity of a potential customer by using the Adhere database. CAG report shows looseness in the process all through. Often UIDAI neither has granular data nor is it able to pinpoint the cause for failure. For example, UIDAI is unable to identify the cause for authentication failures. A consequence is that it forces people to pay to update their biometrics. In 2018 19, there were about 30 million biometric updates, of which 73 were voluntary updates. CAG observed they were mostly on account of authentication failures. The audit also showed that even at the first stage of enrolment there were problems of duplicate Adheres. Most worrisome perhaps is the lack of oversight of subcontractors. Many failed to comply with UIDAI requirements on getting their operations audited annually by information systems auditors. This has a bearing on data security. UIDAI must have more robust systems in place. It could start by getting a better grip on its own data and crack the whip on its subcontractors. A billion hopes rest on it. The renewed Gol push to decriminalise minor offences has potential to unclog courts, promote ease of doing business and relieve citizens fighting criminal cases for non serious violations. But the Centre should restrict itself solely to economic offences. Indeed, the question of whether there criminal intent befouls several frequently invoked offences from colonial era sedition and criminal defamation to prohibition and new ones criminalising interfaith marriage. In 2020, many Companies Act provisions were decriminalised with reports that 128 provisions across 28 Acts could follow next. But progress slowed subsequently. If Gol fresh push yields results, state governments could be impelled to act. Many local laws and regulations that trip individuals and businesses are enacted by them. But reversing course is easy. Take Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act, in popular parlance cheque bounce cases, criminalised in 1988. This is reportedly among the consequential laws being considered for easing. Arguments that this section deters issuing of bad cheques must contend with huge judicial pendency around 35 lakh cases in early 2021 or 15 of the pendency in subordinate courts. With doubts on efficacy of jail terms, alternative dispute resolution ADR mechanisms may be a win win for all sides. Bihar prohibition law that jammed courts and prisons was amended with emphasis on monetary penalties, but still errs towards **criminalisation**. The harassment of businesses on technical grounds through a raft of central, state and municipal laws is another common phenomenon. While the value of reformative justice where individuals are allowed to self correct has crept into Gol thinking on economic offences, many criminal, special and local law provisions equally need liberal approaches like compounding of offences, ADR or community service. Recall that most criminal cases in 2020 involved social distancing violations. Freeing up judges to focus on heinous crimes and enforcement of contracts will help courts and give citizens the peace of mind and sense of security they want and.



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The mainstream media recently reported that the Union home minister, Amit Shah, after having reviewed the deteriorating communal situation in Manipur, has directed his ministry to organize a face-to-face meeting of representatives of both the Meitei and Kuki communities. While the intent behind this move is welcome, it can be nothing other than an exercise in utter futility. Truth is, talks would have had a positive impact if undertaken in full earnest when the ethnic clashes first broke out last year. Not only is it now a case of too little too late, but also suggests the MHA is completely out of touch with ground realities, as a civil war rages, that is slowly, but surely, engulfing the North East. Over the past year we have been witness to a car wreck in slow motion that has destroyed decades of socio-political progress and economic development in the State. Incidentally, this was only possible thanks to the efforts and sacrifice on the part of the Army, Assam Rifles and the that waged a relentless campaign against separatist elements. Unfortunately, over the past year, the Central Government has remained curiously ambivalent and disconnected from the state. As Lt Gen Nishikanta Singh (Red) recently tweeted, I am just an ordinary Indian from Manipur living a retired life. The state is now tasteless. Life and property can be destroyed anytime by anyone just like in Libya, Lebanon, Nigeria, Syria etc. It appears Manipur has been left to stew in its own juice. Is anybody listening? The rift between the two communities appears unbridgeable as they face off along the Manipur River in Churachandpur District, and in Tengnoupal and Kangpokpi Districts. The Kuki Zoo communities find themselves totally isolated and besieged by militias owing allegiance to the majority community, openly supported by the State. The local government administration in the hill districts has become virtually non-existent. These communities can no longer travel to Imphal for any reason and in the event of having to travel outside the State are forced to make an arduous 16 hour road journey to Aizawl from Churachandpur. District Hospitals are perennially short of medical supplies and provide basic healthcare with funds collected from within the community. Reports allege that Lakhs of Rupees worth of medical supplies sent by NGO as relief disappeared, allegedly with government connivance. Surprisingly, despite the difficulties and inconvenience caused by this blockade, the Kuki community as a whole, while keen on peace, is reluctant to join any attempt to bring about reconciliation. They are quite happy to be free of the earlier endemic discrimination and constant humiliation they were subjected to by Meitei occupying the higher rungs within the state and district administration and the police. This new-found freedom has led to a change in attitudes within the community. They no longer wish for a return to the pre-violence days status quo, but want the Centre to enact legislation that will give their districts greater administrative and financial autonomy within the state under Schedule 6. The chief minister, Mr. Brien Singh, of the BJP, bears much of the responsibility for this tragic turn of events over the past year and is perceived to be openly supportive of the Meitei militias. Armed cadres belonging to the Arabia Tango and the separatist terror group, the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), openly roam the streets with their weapons, displaying their new fou

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This has come as a huge embarrassment for Mr. Brien Singh and his militias, as also for the Thankful dominated. Despite the Nagas having been involved in the initial tribal protests opposing the grant of ST status to the Meitei community, which was the trigger for the targeting of Kukis and the ongoing violence, the NSCN ensured the Naga community remained neutral. This has cost the hugely, both politically and in terms of credibility. By appearing to ally with the Meitei, it has placed its claim for Greater Nagalim in complete jeopardy. This has led to rise of opposing factions within the Tangkhuls for the first time, challenging the dominance of the. The Outer Manipur MP Elect, Alfred Kan-Ngami Arthur, himself a Thankful, is a beneficiary of this factionalism having won by 85000 votes. Given that the Naga talks with the Centre seem to be going nowhere, the finds itself becoming increasingly irrelevant, which may force it to take actions inimical to our national interest, in an attempt to gain sympathy within the community. The existing state of affairs was not possible if the Army, Assam Rifles and the CAPF were not side-lined by the Centre. This was done by removing from the Meitei dominate valley, thereby ensuring the Army and Assam Rifles have been put in veritable cold storage and left to fend for themselves with no clear mandate. As and when detachments are deployed for missions within the Valley, they are routinely subjected to harassment and abuse by the local police, Meitei Leaping, Arabia Tango and their separatist allies. There are numerous videos that have gone viral on social media showing cadres of the and Arabia Tango proceeding in armed convoys, in what appear to be SUV looted from Automobile showrooms, openly threatening and abusing military personnel deployed at a checkpoint somewhere on the Impale- Jiribam Road. The impact of all this on morale of troops is easy to visualise. If it has already not done so, it is only a matter of time before the Chinese start pouring oil over troubled waters in this strategically important border state. This in turn, will add to the vulnerability that the entire North Eastern States already suffers. Clearly governance in the state is wholly compromised and in the hands of militant leaders, who are a law unto themselves. In these circumstances the Centre can no longer afford to be **complacent** and must act firmly with all powers at its command. There are four actions it needs to take. At the outset, it needs to appoint an experienced Governor who understands the complexities of tackling militancy, preferably a senior retired bureaucrat or military veteran from within the State. Secondly, the Brien Singh government has lost its ability to govern, which implies the necessity for a declaration of President Rule. Thirdly, there is a need to issue a proclamation declaring the complete state as a Disturbed Area thereby allowing for the promulgation of AFSPA for the entire state. The Army and Assam Rifles, should be tasked to neutralise all those involved in waging war against the state. Finally, before the SF commence action grant of amnesty should be announced for all militant groups and their cadres that turn themselves in, along with arms and other war-like stores in their possession, within 72 Hours at designated camps. It is only then that talks would have some hope of success. defect, they both get moderate sentences. The dilemma arises because, while mutual cooperation yields the best o

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with the man, she can only answer the question 'What do you like' by saying 'I don't know' It has a delightfully geeky podcast episode, Zerodha founder Nikhil Kamath chatted with Elon Musk, who tossed out some heavyweight existential bombs What's the meaning of life? Where did the universe come from? Why does anything matter? At The night that Birch by Romeo Lane burned, the DJ was shouting over a crowd that did not yet know it was trapped in hell. Fireworks went off in a thatched, flammable structure. Cognitive psychologist and professor at Harvard, Steven Pinker, in a recent tweet, referred to his 2003 prediction that parents wouldn't opt for direct gene-editing of embryos for higher IQ. He called it the designer baby By Partha Sinha Every civilisation maintains a blacklist of impolite words that must never feature in annual reports, family WhatsApp groups or polite audio on flights. We treat them like emotional contraband. Yet Consumption inertia has weighed heavily on consumer-facing companies for nearly two years, as the revenge spending euphoria that followed the pandemic fizzled out after the 2023 festive season. For years, the government undertook aggressive capex, but businesses die, brands don't. Every abandoned trademark is a key to customers' hearts and wallets. Musk paid \$44bn for Twitter and made it 'X', thinking it's a cool name. But the rest of us who have Trump's peace deals appear to be suffering from a 'Humpty Dumpty' syndrome. They are coming apart and no one seems to have any clue how to put them back together. This, even as Trump It's your password to social media power 'Rage bait' is the OED's Word of the Year. If you were born after Y2K, you need no explanation, but for social media illiterates it's spelt out as By G S Tripathi The 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Science was announced recently. The prize theme describes two periods of economic progress: a stagnating period of the economy in the pre-industrial revolution period and Delhi & Gurgaon playing a bad air match Gurgaon started off as a suburb of Delhi in early 1980s. People who couldn't afford property prices in Delhi plonked themselves in more affordable Gurgaon. However, today, lots of people give money advice online. They're called finfluencers (financial influencers). But many of them cause big problems, and that's why India's money watchdog, SEBI, is starting to crack down on them. There have been very few happy-go-lucky characters in Indian cricket like Shikhar Dhawan. His uncomplicated outlook has stood him in good stead, on and off the field. He has also been extremely candid about his life Every winter, Delhi's air pollution debate follows a familiar script. We look for villains, argue over blame, ignore science and solutions. This year has been no different except that it has bordered on the By Anil K Rajvanshi A new theory in Physics, as enunciated by Gunther Kletetschka, tries to unite quantum physics and gravity and has been creating waves in the scientific world. If proved correct, it will Amid the chatter about artificial intelligence mania, people have begun to joke about a bubble in bubble talk. Google searches for AI and the b-word have surged and the mood in the markets feels exuberant, PM Modi's three-nation tour to Jordan, Ethiopia and Oman, which began yesterday, comes amid geopolitical churn in West Asia, marked by a fragile ceasefire in Gaza, the fall of the Assad regime in Syria, and By Jaya Row Generations of Indians mastered the



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followed. Today, we are like Gulliver asleep to our real By Sonal Srivastava Sheldon Cooper is depicted as a theoretical physicist and genius in popular sitcom, 'The Big Bang Theory'. He effortlessly solves equations and spouts scientific theories, much to his friends' chagrin. If China consumes luxury as evidence of momentum, India consumes luxury as a negotiation with memory. Brands that succeed here will be the ones with the deepest listening & meaningJaya wears Prada, but only after He thinks her pleasure is about his ability to 'keep going'. And absent true connection with the man, she can only answer the question 'What do you like' by saying 'I don't know' It has In a delightfully geeky podcast episode, Zerodha founder Nikhil Kamath chatted with Elon Musk, who tossed out some heavyweight existential bombs What's the meaning of life? Where did the universe come from? Why does anything matter? At The night that Birch by Romeo Lane burned, the DJ was shouting over a crowd that did not yet know it was trapped in hell. Fireworks went off in a thatched, flammable structure. Cognitive psychologist and professor at Harvard, Steven Pinker, in a recent tweet, referred to his 2003 prediction that parents wouldn't opt for direct gene-editing of embryos for higher IQ. He called it the designer baby By Partha Sinha Every civilisation maintains a blacklist of impolite words that must never feature in annual reports, family WhatsApp groups or polite audio on flights. We treat them like emotional contraband. Yet Consumption inertia has weighed heavily on consumer-facing companies for nearly two years, as the revenge spending euphoria that followed the pandemic fizzled out after the 2023 festive season. For years, the government undertook aggressive capex, but businesses die, brands don't. Every abandoned trademark is a key to customers' hearts and wallets. Musk paid \$44bn for Twitter and made it 'X', thinking it's a cool name. But the rest of us who have Trump's peace deals appear to be suffering from a 'Humpty Dumpty' syndrome. They are coming apart and no one seems to have any clue how to put them back together. This, even as Trump It's your password to social media power 'Rage bait' is the OED's Word of the Year. If you were born after Y2K, you need no explanation, but for social media illiterates it's spelt out as By G S Tripathi The 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Science was announced recently. The prize theme describes two periods of economic progress: a stagnating period of the economy in the pre-industrial revolution period and Delhi & Gurgaon playing a bad air match Gurgaon started off as a suburb of Delhi in early 1980s. People who couldn't afford property prices in Delhi plonked themselves in more affordable Gurgaon. However, today, lots of people give money advice online. They're called finfluencers (financial influencers). But many of them cause big problems, and that's why India's money watchdog, SEBI, is starting to crack down on them. Here's Times of India - India Voices Blogs (December 18, 2025) Stakes are high, but Mumbai's civic polls are touch-and-go for both coalitions. Allies' hyperlocal networks and organisational depth may decide the battle Ahead of BMC polls, cousins Uddhav and Raj Thackeray have united on the How to secure rights for gig workers with no single employer, fixed hours of work, or common workplace? Karnataka gets a new law whose foundation was laid over 50 years ago by a young Narayani Ganesh A 15-year-old Carl



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As a panacea to some of the pain points of the previous versions. Nonetheless, the bill is not without room for improvement. In a world of increased Internet penetration and a technology fueled digital economy, there is a need to rethink traditional tools and practices of regulation and devise an agile regulatory framework that promotes innovation and disruption. One such tool that could help in the enforcement of the current bill is a co regulatory model. On a broad spectrum of regulation with a top down approach of government legislation on one end and bottom up solutions of self-regulation on the other, co regulation serves as a fine balancing act in the middle. It envisages active participation from the government, industry experts, specialized groups, civil society organizations and citizens in framing and enforcing standards and best practices. Each of these stakeholder groups are equipped with specific information about the data economy which, if combined, could result in the creation of a data protection framework that is consistently informed by empirical data and practical challenges. Such a multi stakeholder engagement will pave the way for an efficient feedback loop in enforcing intricate laws impacting the ever so dynamic technology landscape. The concept of co regulation has already had its taste of success in regulatory models across various sectors in India, and it would be a shame if the same was not applied to the DPDP Bill. The Information Technology Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code Rules, 2021 envisage a three tier grievance redressed system for news publishers and OTT platforms on digital media based on the cob regulatory model. At the first tier, an aggrieved person can file a complaint with the platform. At the second and the third tier, the complainant can appeal to a self-regulatory body created by an association of intermediaries followed by approaching the Interdepartmental Committee set up by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. Additionally, time and again the Reserve Bank of India has promoted industry self-governance by issuing frameworks for establishing Self-Regulatory Organizations SROs in the digital payments ecosystem such as for Payment System Operators and Non-banking Finance Corporations. The Stock Exchange Board of India also operates on the SRO model while retaining substantial oversight over the SROs. Another example of co regulation in India is in the real estate sector, where the government has set up the Real Estate Regulatory Authority **RERA** to oversee the regulation of the industry, but states like Maharashtra have introduced the concept of SROs for developers and builders to follow self-regulation codes of conduct established by industry associations. Such hybrid self-regulatory models wherein the government outlines a framework for the industry players to set their guidelines and implement their own standards along with creating oversight mechanisms serve as success cases of co regulation. Co regulation is also becoming a defining feature of Internet and media regulations in international jurisdictions. The EU GDPR espouses a collaborative approach where the private industry players can draft codes of conduct, for ease of compliance with the law, which are monitored by data protection authorities. In a similar vein, Canada recent Bill C 11, enacted to reform the privacy laws in the country, provides a framework to industry players for creating their

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Just as the unman fest fire in the wood remains unseen, the Truth, God, though present in everyone remains hidden due to our state of ignorance. The Truth is our absolute nature it is of the nature of bliss. Despite this, most people are unhappy, beset with tensions and anxieties. It is the Guru who reveals this Truth to us through the name. In fact, the names are indicators. They alone are the way to recognise and no one own true, divine and blissful nature. God has two aspects His formless and attribute less nature, and His form, replete with attributes. In the Ramcharitmanas, Go swami Topsides declares that the Ram Noam, Bagman Ram name, is greater than both. Sri Ram refers to the son of King Dasharath as well as to the one who delights all the Self in whom everybody finds happiness. Therefore, the name is the bridge. It indicates and finally reveals both the formless Truth as well as his visible form as Ram. Ram Noam is great because Ram was great. Had he not been great, who would remember his name the form of Ram and his name are inextricably linked and have an interesting relationship. Who is the master who is the follower One would think that the form is the master and the name is the follower. Consider this If you hold a form in your hand without knowing its name, can you identify it Suppose you hold a mango, but you do not know it, can you enjoy it as a mango Yet, the moment someone articulates the word mango, its form flashes in your mind along with its attributes of shape, color, taste and so on. So, the name is the leader and the form is the servant. Without a name, you cannot gain knowledge of the form. In Bale Kanda, Topsides unveils the complete Ramayana in a few verses. These verses, wherein he compares the glories of the name to the form, can be titled Narayan the journey of name and its glory. Topsides presents various examples to validate his claim. The mighty Lord of the universe assumes a human form for the benefit of his devotees. Ram underwent tremendous trials and tribulations to protect sadhus, safeguard those who lived by dharma and give joy to all his devotees. However, just by remembering or chanting his name with love, without **undergoing** any difficulties, the devotee himself becomes an abode of peace, joy, goodness and radiates it to others. Bagman Ram destroyed Demons Hadaka, a symbol of evil and false expectations. And simply taking his name destroys these precise causes of sorrow in our hearts. Further, Ram released only one Aralia from her tapas, stone like condition, whereas his name has uplifted countless crooked and distorted intellects and continues to do so. Ram broke Shiv bow, symbolic of this materialistic world, but his name ends the very fear of uncertainty of this transient world of sorrow. Having gained the invaluable jewel of.

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While working in tandem with the government. The principles that emanate from such consultative processes will serve as a guiding force for effective implementation of the data protection laws in the long haul. It will also lead to enhanced transparency, legal certainty, and compliance with the bill by various actors in the data chain. Most importantly, the co-regulatory model can be tailor made to suit the regulatory landscape of India by learning from its domestic application in different sectors and international experience. The need of the hour is for India to adopt an innovative way forward that would equip the country to effectively deal with the unique regulatory challenges posed by the data economy. Indian policymakers have recognised that IPRs contribute significantly towards goods and services traded along global value chains. However, policy implementation remains weak. In modern-day global value chains GVC, firms and workers in different stages of product manufacturing are dispersed worldwide. Yet, it is the quality of a country GVC contribution that truly bolsters its economy. To illustrate, there has been much jubilation in India over plans to ramp up the production of iPhone components in the country. But what India really needs to aspire towards is replicating the Chinese experience with iPhone manufacturing a progression from rudimentary product assembly to the manufacture of more sophisticated components. According to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, India share of GVC participation is 7.4 percentage points below the average GVC participation rate for emerging economies. While pundits typically hold land and labor bottlenecks responsible, the question of intellectual property rights IPRs protection, often overlooked, can also be important. Here, regrettably, a series of valuable policy recommendations await implementation. Policy Initiatives The Global Value Chain Development Report, published by the WTO and the Asian Development Bank, estimates that IPRs add, on average, twice as much value as tangible capital to products traded and manufactured along GVCs. The report contends that a strong IPR regime can benefit emerging economies by drawing spillovers of knowledge and R&D from advanced economies. Conversely, weak IPR regimes are seen as impeding GVC participation, especially in higher value-added activities. Indian policymakers have clearly recognised these linkages. In 2011, the National Manufacturing Policy flagged the relatively low-level of value addition in the products manufactured in India. The Policy accordingly advocated an IPR regime that would promote collaborative innovation, technology inflows and foreign investment. In 2015, a NITI **Analog** expert committee identified India IPR regime as weak and a deterrent to innovation though adding that this was largely driven by weak enforcement rather than the laws themselves. The report made four major recommendations: sensitisation and training of judges and police officials; fast-track IP courts; a national virtual platform offering a suite of solutions to rights holders; and an increase in the number of patent examiners. The following year, the National IPR Policy advanced a set of similar of recommendations. Some of these have witnessed progress such as the up gradation of IPR offices and accession to international treaties but many have not such as faster and more efficient examination of patent applications, better IPR enforcement through collaborat

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Ecosystem in India has improved in recent years. India now ranks sixth in the world list of top patent filers, ahead of many advanced economies. India has also improved its rank in the World Intellectual Property Organisation WIPO Global Innovation Index GII to 40 from 81 in 2015. Yet, serious shortcomings persist. The GII ranks India a mere 81 in regulatory quality defined, tellingly, as including both policy formulation and implementation. In a survey published by the Observer Research Foundation ORF last year, 46 percent of industry respondents identified weak IPR protection in India as very much a constraint in GVC integration, while 44 percent identified it as a moderate constraint. Although the ORF survey did not elaborate on the exact reforms sought by domestic industry, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce, following extensive consultations, has done so. In a report published in 2021, the Committee listed, among other recommendations, stringent measures to curb trademark counterfeiting and copyright piracy, a new centralised IPR enforcement body to bring together disparate government departments, expedited patent examinations, and trade secrets legislation. In other words, almost the same set of recommendations made by earlier departments and committees an indication of the weak state of policy implementation over the years. Finally and somewhat damningly, the Prime Minister Economic Advisory Council, in a working paper published last year, acknowledged that India lags behind its global peers in matter of innovation, despite the increase in patent filings. The paper also expressed concern over the pace and efficiency of patent and trademark filings in India, suggesting that some tasks could be outsourced to private entities. Looking ahead, India hopes of improving the quality of its GVC participation may not be easily achievable in the short term, owing to budgetary constraints and myriad structural problems. Nevertheless, at least with respect to GVC-IPR linkages, many of the above policy recommendations require fairly simple legislative and administrative reforms. Their non-implementation, therefore, is lamentable. The education system, which serves more than 70 million students, urgently requires the establishment of a sturdy e-learning ecosystem. Digital up skilling and reskilling are presently a global focus area, and the Indian government has implemented several initiatives to build an efficient educational infrastructure. The National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes much-needed changes in the sector, with the objective of ensuring access to quality education for all. This policy has the potential to transform the education sector in **India**, with highlights including innovation promotion, holistic development, equal access to quality education, technology utilization and integration, internationalization of education, and the availability of all resources through school complexes and clusters. As the world undergoes rapid technological advancements, such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Virtual Reality, and the rise of big data, the Etch sector has experienced significant expansion since 2020 and is expected to grow exponentially in the coming years. To establish an efficient Etch infrastructure, the focus should be on addressing some of the missing pieces while developing advanced technologies to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of education. Bridging the Digital Gap The Etch sector needs



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Students lack the required infrastructure as they live in areas with low digital penetration. It is necessary to bridge this vast difference in the availability of digital infrastructure. Some platforms collaborate with multiple organizations related to digital empowerment to facilitate access to education. National Digital Education Architecture, NDEAR and National Educational Technology Forums, NETF give hope. NETF provides a platform for a free exchange of ideas on using technology for the enhancement of learning, planning, assessment, and administration for education institutions, schools and higher education. It aims to facilitate decision-making on induction, deployment and use of technology. One of its functions is to build intellectual and institutional capacities in education technology. NDEAR facilitates achieving the goals of NEP 2020 through digital infrastructure. Announced in 2021, it is an architectural blueprint for the educational system in India. NDEAR defines principles, standards and specifications, guidelines and policies to strengthen the digital infrastructure for education, and takes on an Open Digital Ecosystem Approach. Teacher Training: Motivated and Capable Faculty Teachers require training in high-quality content, soft skills, the use of technology, and maintaining student engagement in online classes. Professional development of teachers and allocating a budget for such training is essential. Teachers need to be well-trained in the use of the latest technologies, and NEP 2020 emphasizes it as well. Educators are open to technology-integrated teaching, recognizing its role in providing quality education and its benefits. Skill-based Learning Technologies such as AI, ML & Data Science are relevant skill-based tools, and Tech-savvy skilled talent is high in demand. A skilled workplace boosts India economy and contributes to the development of the nation. Educational institutions must advance the traditional course structure including skill-based learning and the development of the students. The country youth must acquire new skills to keep up with the pace of the ever-evolving growth of industries and the job market. Future-ready and highly-skilled professionals that match the needs of businesses have chances of better employment opportunities. Several Edtech platforms introduce a variety of digital courses and programs for up skilling the youth. Learner-Centered Approach Designing learning experiences that serve the interests and needs of students also encourages them to pursue their potential is helpful in retaining the enrollment of students. Research shows that nearly 66 per cent of students feel disengaged by the time they reach high school. Traditional methods leave students questioning their intelligence in some cases. Learner-centered education **models** offer a holistic approach and motivation to pursue academic achievements. NEP 2020 promoted student-centric education, offering flexibility and options to choose subjects of their interest and learn at their pace, and directing students to pursue internships for gaining field exposure. Providing research incentives encourages collaboration between academics and industry. Relaxation on GST for online classes Government should consider providing assistance to students by lowering the GST on education-related services and reducing the financial burden on families. The high cost of skill-based programs makes up skilling inaccessible. Reduction of GST for e-lear

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Ram Noam from the guru, the devotee overcomes and out thinks uncertainty just by chanting his name. During his lifetime, Ram rid this world of many rakshasas engaged in harming or destroying others. But, what about the demonic impurities in our minds In Kailua, people are unable to perform demanding sedan. However, the beauty of this yoga is that the minds of millions of devotees are purified simply by chanting Ram name. All impurities are removed all fears and negativities disappear when Bagman enters one heart. When the name comes, Ram comes when Ram comes, one revels in bliss. That is the glory of Ram name. While the Covid 19 pandemic exposed the fragility of our health system, our public health has been in the ICU since the pre pandemic era. We have been dealing with several gaps, in terms of infrastructure, human and financial resources, and quality of care, to name a few. India has grappled with a shortage of health workers for decades. In 2019, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed the Parliament that the country had only one doctor for every 1,457 people, although WHO recommends a ratio of one doctor for every thousand people. India had 1.7 nurses for every thousand people, while the recommended ratio stands at three nurses per thousand people. India had one bed for every 2,239 persons, which is way below WHO recommended three beds per one thousand people. The shortfall has extended across all levels of frontline health workers. According to the Rural Health Statistics 2019, the shortfall for male health workers at sub centers stood at 62 per cent. About 60 per cent of the Primary Health Centers PHCs, fell short of male health assistants. There was an 85.6 per cent shortfall of surgeons at Common Health Centers CHCs, a 75 per cent shortfall of physicians at PHCs and a 50.8 per cent shortfall of lab technicians at PHCs. These shortages were felt acutely when the pandemic hit in 2020. Doctors and nurses were needed to monitor vitals, for testing and intensive care but were in short supply. Outside hospitals, there was a shortage of community health workers and paramedical staff to conduct surveillance activities, mass testing and contact tracing. There was a severe shortage of other resources as well, such as personal protection equipment, oxygen cylinders and ambulances. Though the government did not keep count, according to the Indian Medical Association, at least 1,700 doctors died during the pandemic. The figure does not include other health workers. The repercussions of Covid 19 spilled into all spheres of life, and vulnerable population groups, including women and girls, endured compounded hardships with the disruption in essential health services and an overstretched health system. According to projections by the Foundation for Reproductive Health Services India, the inability to access contraceptives during the lockdown may have resulted in an additional 2.4 million unintended pregnancies in India. For almost two million Indian women, access to abortion services was compromised. According to the.

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**World AIDS Report 2020, Covid 19 limited access to contraceptives for 25 million couples in India. In 2021, UNICEF reported that maternal deaths are estimated to rise in India by 18 per cent and stillbirths by 10 per cent due to the pandemic. The images of patients across class, communities and geographies losing their lives due to the crack in India health infrastructure will continue to haunt India for generations. Covid 19 was a wakeup call to governments across the world, including India, to reimagine their public health systems and the way health services are delivered. Our health system needs to be resilient enough to respond to long term consequences of the pandemic as well as prepare for similar future health emergencies. While one would have expected an overhaul in the health system and a quantum increase in the budgets in the wake of the crisis, we are still far away from allocations for health to reach 2.5 per cent of the GDP, as envisaged in the National Health Policy 2017. The National Health Mission, or the NHM, which has been the government of India flagship health programmer since 2005 to provide integrated health care services to the rural population, has played a crucial role in improving health outcomes in the country. Yet, the National Health Mission budget saw a meager increase of 1 per cent in this year budget. Going forward, strengthening health systems must be the foremost priority for India. Greater investments in public health, starting with an increased health budget, are imperative. The shortfall in health workers needs to be urgently addressed, which also provides an opportunity to generate employment. Technology can be leveraged in myriad ways provision of care training of health workers digitization of health records diagnosis and detection of health problems, among others. Our response to health emergencies can be made more robust through the provision of free or subsidized testing, treatment and vaccination. We also need to be careful that the response to health emergencies such as the Covid 19 pandemic does not come at the cost of other essential health services. It is imperative that we adopt innovative strategies that go beyond a conventional health sector response, and recognize self care and promotion of health literacy as integral components of healthcare. Finally, the cornerstone of a sustainable healthcare system would be to ensure that all services are inclusive of all sections of society and no one is left behind. The rapid uptake of cloud native technologies and the speed at which they are deployed have opened up new attack pathways for bad actors. CISOs are also starting to realise that infrastructure related vulnerabilities, specifically policy violations and cloud resource misconfigurations are typically detected after cloud native applications are deployed. Ideally, these gaps should be addressed very early in the development lifecycle for cloud native applications. But organizations are unable to do so as 82 of CISOs in India acknowledge the presence of redundant security tools and technologies in their businesses with 73.**

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Organizations in India indicating that automated technologies that address security concerns at the time of code development as a priority, it time we analyze why Infrastructure as Code IaC is key to detect issues before they reach runtime. IaC and its role in enhancing cyber security IaC is an IT practice that codifies and manages underlying IT infrastructure. It is a strategic approach for DevOps teams that want to maintain their infrastructure with the trouble of manual provisioning. Managing IT infrastructure is a time consuming process and requires IT teams to physically put the servers in place, configure them and then deploy the application. This often results in discrepancies, hampers agility and is also expensive. IaC resolves this cumbersome process by using software tools to automate specific tasks through a version control system. This means that IT infrastructure can be written and described in code, and this code can be executed to make changes to the infrastructure. IaC offers speed and scalability to efficiently meet customer needs in a timely and seamless manner. But there is another larger problem at hand. The speed at which DevOps teams are rapidly pushing out new products and features is outpacing security. Therefore, it is critical that CISOs adopt security solutions that enable DevOps teams to continue production while applying security practices at the time of writing the code a shift left approach. Achieving security goals with IaC Speed CISOs shoulder the herculean responsibility of securing the enterprise and simultaneously driving growth. IaC helps CISOs achieve both of these goals as automated IaC tools that detect vulnerabilities and a misconfiguration at the time of software development boosts productivity. This provides for quick turnarounds, enabling businesses to meet customer demands. Instead of manual provisioning, which increases the likelihood of misconfigurations due to human error, IaC security speeds up the entire software development lifecycle, all while minimizing security risks. Scalability In the digital age, businesses that cannot scale quickly and efficiently, miss out. This applies to security as well. As businesses grow and rapidly adopt new technologies to scale, security processes need to evolve at the same speed. It the CISO, who is tasked with evaluating and consolidating security tools best suited for an organization. Employing IaC tools will increase scalability as DevOps teams can roll out new applications quickly, with security embedded throughout the process. Consistency CISOs are responsible for documenting whether or not **security** policies are up to date a time consuming feat. IaC eliminates the documentation process because all the infrastructure is defined as code. The process of building security into the infrastructure reduces errors that often occur because of manual misconfigurations. It minimizes the potential for configuration drift and reduces the risk of cyber attacks that might occur because of manual provisioning. Accountability IaC enables CISOs to track any changes that have been made to any source code file. This means, CISO no longer have to guess which person made a change and when they made that change throughout the software development.



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Punjab in historical perspective free power to farmers in Punjab is considered a drain on underground water and state exchequer both. The Draft Farmer Policy has accordingly proposed no free power to those, with over 10 acres land. Up to late 1970s, a part of the cost of electricity was recovered from the farmers, on the per unit basis of consumption. It was later changed to horsepower of the motor, irrespective of the consumption, for the convenience of collection. The power subsidy for the Punjab farmers, from 1997 98 was made totally free, although there was an occasional recovery in small amounts during the period, agriculture was thus a small amount to begin with, but assumed gigantic proportion over time, as its consumption increased. With the number of electric tube wells increasing, the area under rice increased and the water table went down. As more power is needed to abstract the same quantity of water, the cost of supplying power increased. However, as paddy was purchased by farmers continued with the cultivation of paddy. Free power to the farm sector is therefore often quoted, as being mainly responsible for, the increase in the area under rice cultivation & over exploitation of groundwater. According to the state government data, about are provided free power in the state. The number increased from 2.8 lakh in 1980s to it is said, the facility is being availed of, not only by the small and marginal farmers, but even big farmers are known to be taking free power, thereby burdening the state exchequer. It is pointed out, the annual electricity bill for providing free power to agricultural sector alone, has crossed Rs mark. Besides, the state government also pays power subsidy to Dalits and Industry. Reportedly, in 2018, the total power subsidy bill had, and the government was unable to clear a balance of. It is pointed out in this respect that, in power subsidy was introduced, the bill was only that, there was a the power subsidy consequence of provision of power subsidy Punjab has witnessed an over exploitation of ground water to meet the requirement of agriculture in the state. Experts blame the free power supply to tube wells being responsible for overdrawing of ground water. According to them, power subsidies have led to over exploitation of groundwater, increased groundwater extraction, and shifting cropping pattern towards more water intensive agricultural production, like **cultivation** of rice paddy. This, according to experts is likely to have negative implications, as, the over exploitation of groundwater reduces the amount of groundwater available for future agricultural use. The Group of Experts Goes set up by the Punjab Government had opined that the policy has very damaging environmental consequences, as it encourages the farmers to opt for water guzzling paddy crop more and more. This then leads to an excessive use of ground water, resulting in an alarming fall in water table. The Report has also described the policy as highly regressive, since most of the subsidy accrues to.

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Larger farmer It is opined, free power has hurt Punjab agriculture, depleted water resources by encouraging paddy cultivation, added to farmers production cost by forcing the installation of submersible pumps, and curtailed Industrial activity during the paddy season. As a result of provision of free power, the area under paddy grew free power, along with assured procurement of paddy by the FCI at a pre determined MSP, and has led to a shift to rice cultivation, which is a great guzzler of water. The popular measure like free power subsidy has thus led to depletion of groundwater resources in Punjab. Comparing acreage under wheat & rice in Punjab Punjab gross cropped area is estimated at lakh hectares, out of which, 35.20 lakh hectares was sown under wheat and another 31.03 lakh hectares under paddy, adding total area planted to all crops. However, in Punjab, the real acreage share increase has taken place in paddy, from below during the same period has actually decreased. In case of pulses, it decreased, the share decreased groundwater level going down in Punjab and Haryana, considered the rice bowl of India, scientists and analysts have suggested shifting of its cultivation to eastern states, which have better water resources. It has been pointed out in this connection that Paddy being a warm season crop, can be grown in much of the eastern, central and southern India, where water is sufficiently available. While farmers usually irrigate wheat five times, in case of paddy, 30 or even more irrigations are needed. It is noteworthy in this connection that, Punjab groundwater table is said to be declining by 0.5 meters per annum on an average, largely because of the cultivation of paddy, and the state policy of supplying free power for irrigation, which is said to have encouraged farmers to grow long duration water guzzling varieties like Pusa 44. Epilogue Punjab State Farmers Policy Draft has pointed out that, it is not difficult for Punjab to make a shift to more profitable, modern, ecologically and nutritionally sound, market driven and diversified agriculture, given that it has fertile soil, with almost 99% of its cultivated area under facing organizations in India today is security. The firm believes it to be a case of cyber espionage. Digitalisation of economic and social activity has gathered pace during the pandemic. Along with the creation of new opportunities, it also spawns new threats. **Crippling** infrastructure or stealing information from remote locations is Institute equips power infrastructure companies with training to safeguard their assets from cyber attacks. This mode of attack is growing the world over as both state sponsored groups and criminal gangs engage in it. Justice is also harder to enforce as many attacks emerge from outside national boundaries. There is a pressing need for both governments and private organisations to invest more in terms of both resources and attention in establishing safeguards against cyber incidents. Cyber attacks can sometimes be more devastating than other forms as digitalisation is intertwined with expanding networks.

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digital media to promote Catholicism. There have been very few happy-go-lucky characters in Indian cricket like Shikhar Dhawan. His uncomplicated outlook has stood him in good stead, on and off the field. He has also been extremely candid about his life Every winter, Delhi's air pollution debate follows a familiar script. We look for villains, argue over blame, ignore science and solutions. This year has been no different except that it has bordered on the By Anil K Rajvanshi A new theory in Physics, as enunciated by Gunther Kletetschka, tries to unite quantum physics and gravity and has been creating waves in the scientific world. If proved correct, it will Amid the chatter about artificial intelligence mania, people have begun to joke about a bubble in bubble talk. Google searches for AI and the b-word have surged and the mood in the markets feels exuberant, PM Modi's three-nation tour to Jordan, Ethiopia and Oman, which began yesterday, comes amid geopolitical churn in West Asia, marked by a fragile ceasefire in Gaza, the fall of the Assad regime in Syria, and By Jaya Row Generations of Indians mastered the inner world. Success and happiness came as byproducts. When we lost this inner enrichment, external bankruptcy followed. Today, we are like Gulliver asleep to our real By Sonal Srivastava Sheldon Cooper is depicted as a theoretical physicist and genius in popular sitcom, 'The Big Bang Theory'. He effortlessly solves equations and spouts scientific theories, much to his friends' chagrin. If China consumes luxury as evidence of momentum, India consumes luxury as a negotiation with memory. Brands that succeed here will be the ones with the deepest listening & meaningJaya wears Prada, but only after He thinks her pleasure is about his ability to 'keep going'. And absent true connection with the man, she can only answer the question 'What do you like' by saying 'I don't know' It has a delightfully geeky podcast episode, Zerodha founder Nikhil Kamath chatted with Elon Musk, who tossed out some heavyweight existential bombs What's the meaning of life? Where did the universe come from? Why does anything matter? At The night that Birch by Romeo Lane burned, the DJ was shouting over a crowd that did not yet know it was trapped in hell. Fireworks went off in a thatched, flammable structure. Cognitive psychologist and professor at Harvard, Steven Pinker, in a recent tweet, referred **to** his 2003 prediction that parents wouldn't opt for direct gene-editing of embryos for higher IQ. He called it the designer baby By Partha Sinha Every civilisation maintains a blacklist of impolite words that must never feature in annual reports, family WhatsApp groups or polite audio on flights. We treat them like emotional contraband. Yet Consumption inertia has weighed heavily on consumer-facing companies for nearly two years, as the revenge spending euphoria that followed the pandemic fizzled out after the 2023 festive season. For years, the government undertook aggressive capex, but businesses die, brands don't. Every abandoned trademark is a key to customers' hearts and wallets. Musk paid \$44bn for Twitter and made it 'X', thinking it's a cool name. But the rest of us who have Trump's peace deals appear to be suffering from a 'Humpty Dumpty' syndrome. They are coming apart and no one seems to have any clue how to put them back together. This, even as Trump It's your password to social media power 'Rage bait' is the OED's Word of the Year. If you were born a



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civic polls are touch-and-go for both coalitions. Allies' hyperlocal networks and organisational depth may decide the battle Ahead of BMC polls, cousins Uddhav and Raj Thackeray have united on the How to secure rights for gig workers with no single employer, fixed hours of work, or common workplace? Karnataka gets a new law whose foundation was laid over 50 years ago by a young Narayani Ganesh A 15-year-old Carlo Acutis, who died of leukaemia in 2006 popularly known as 'God's influencer' and the 'Patron Saint of the Internet' used digital media to promote Catholicism. There have been very few happy-go-lucky characters in Indian cricket like Shikhar Dhawan. His uncomplicated outlook has stood him in good stead, on and off the field. He has also been extremely candid about his life Every winter, Delhi's air pollution debate follows a familiar script. We look for villains, argue over blame, ignore science and solutions. This year has been no different except that it has bordered on the By Anil K Rajvanshi A new theory in Physics, as enunciated by Gunther Kletetschka, tries to unite quantum physics and gravity and has been creating waves in the scientific world. If proved correct, it will Amid the chatter about artificial intelligence mania, people have begun to joke about a bubble in bubble talk. Google searches for AI and the b-word have surged and the mood in the markets feels exuberant, PM Modi's three-nation tour to Jordan, Ethiopia and Oman, which began yesterday, comes amid geopolitical churn in West Asia, marked by a fragile ceasefire in Gaza, the fall of the Assad regime in Syria, and By Jaya Row Generations of Indians mastered the inner world. Success and happiness came as byproducts. When we lost this inner enrichment, external bankruptcy followed. Today, we are like Gulliver asleep to our real By Sonal Srivastava Sheldon Cooper is depicted as a theoretical physicist and genius in popular sitcom, 'The Big Bang Theory'. He effortlessly solves equations and spouts scientific theories, much to his friends' chagrin. If China consumes luxury as evidence of momentum, India consumes luxury as a negotiation with memory. Brands that succeed here will be the ones with the deepest listening & meaningJaya wears Prada, but only after He thinks her pleasure is about his ability to 'keep going'. And absent true connection with the man, she can only answer the question 'What do you like' **by** saying 'I don't know' It has a delightfully geeky podcast episode, Zerodha founder Nikhil Kamath chatted with Elon Musk, who tossed out some heavyweight existential bombs What's the meaning of life? Where did the universe come from? Why does anything matter? At The night that Birch by Romeo Lane burned, the DJ was shouting over a crowd that did not yet know it was trapped in hell. Fireworks went off in a thatched, flammable structure. Cognitive psychologist and professor at Harvard, Steven Pinker, in a recent tweet, referred to his 2003 prediction that parents wouldn't opt for direct gene-editing of embryos for higher IQ. He called it the designer baby By Partha Sinha Every civilisation maintains a blacklist of impolite words that must never feature in annual reports, family WhatsApp groups or polite audio on flights. We treat them like emotional contraband. Yet Consumption inertia has weighed heavily on consumer-facing companies for nearly two years, as the revenge spending euphoria that followed the pandemic fizzled out after the 2023 festive season. For ye



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Chess originated in India in sixth century CE. It evolved from an ancient Indian game Chaturanga. In Sanskrit, Chaturanga means four divisions of the military infantry, cavalry, elephants, and chariots. These were represented as pieces in the game. The game simulated a battle between two armies. The players must anticipate opponent strategies, think several moves ahead, and adapt their game play to outmaneuvers and capture their opponent pieces. Thus, the game, and chess which evolved from it, has numerous cognitive benefits, such as improved concentration and memory, and development of critical thinking skills and problem-solving skills. Spread of Chess From India, the game spread to Persia, where it became known as shatranj. Later it spread to the Arab world and Europe. The modern version of chess that we play today began to take shape in the 15th century in Southern Europe which served as a cultural crossroads where different chess variants from the Arab world, Persia, and other regions converged and merged to form the standardized rules and game play that characterize modern chess. Southern European countries such as Italy, Spain, and France played crucial roles in the development and spread of the game As chess evolved and gained popularity in Southern Europe, it began to spread to other parts of the continent and beyond, eventually becoming a beloved pastime and intellectual pursuit worldwide. Game of kings Chess quickly gained popularity among nobility and intellectuals. Because of its association with royalty and strategic thinking, chess became known as the royal game, or the game of kings. But as chess spread, it began to be played by people from all walks of life, transcending cultural and geographical boundaries. It has been a source of entertainment, intellectual challenge, and social interaction for players of all ages. Over the centuries, chess has inspired countless books, treatises, and studies exploring its intricacies and strategies. Chess continues to captivate players and enthusiasts worldwide, maintaining its status as a timeless and revered game of intellect and strategy. Chess is now recognized as a sport, with professional tournaments, grandmasters, and a worldwide community of players who are enthusiastic about the game. International Chess Day serves as a reminder of the intellectual and cultural significance of chess and encourages people to appreciate and engage with this timeless game. A write up on chess in Indian context would be incomplete if it did not refer to Munshi Premchand **timeless** short story, hatranj Ke Khiladi, and the film of the same name made by the legendry filmmaker Satyajit Ray in 1977. The story is set in the background of annexation of Oudh (Awadh) by the British East India Company in 1856. The ruler of Oudh Nawab Wajid Ali Shah is devoted to religious practice and the pursuit of pleasure and is remiss of his duties as a nawab. The decadent nobility is also immersed in their own pleasures and is negligent of their duties to the kingdom. In the story, two aristocrats Mirza Sajjad Ali and Mir Raushan Ali, represent the royalty. The two are so deeply immersed into playing chess, and take such immense pleasure from it, that they flee from Lucknow to a tiny village to play chess undisturbed by the greater events as the scheming British depose the nawab and annex Oudh. They are busy playing chess even as Oudh falls to the British attackers. Shatranj ke Khiladi is not just a story about a game

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Them ignore their duties to the state and the people. The film struck a chord with audiences and critics alike. Martin Scorsese the well-known American filmmaker summed it up well, I realize this is what it must really feel like to live through a moment of historic change. It feels this big and tragic at the same time. The film won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi. It is the only full-length Hindi feature film of Satyajit Ray. Best Chess Player Ever Taking The World Chess Championship, the most prestigious title in the world of chess which started in 1886, as the start point, who is the best chess player in history? That is a tough question to answer. Because it is a subjective matter. Different players excelled in different eras. They had distinct styles and approaches to the game. However, there are a few legendary chess players who are considered as the greatest chess minds of all time based on their achievements, playing style, and impact on the game. Here are a few legendary chess players often considered among the best: Chess today is a globally popular game. It is played and enjoyed by millions of people of all ages and backgrounds. With the advent of technology, chess has become more accessible than ever before. Numerous online platforms and mobile apps allow players to compete in chess games with opponents from around the world. Advanced chess software and artificial intelligence (AI) have revolutionized the game. Players can analyse their games using powerful engines, study openings, learn tactics, and challenge AI opponents with varying difficulty levels. Chess is increasingly recognized for its educational benefits, particularly in developing critical thinking, problem-solving, and cognitive skills. Many schools and educational institutions incorporate chess into their curriculum as a tool for intellectual development. Chess today continues to thrive as a game that not only entertains but also challenges and enriches the minds of those who play it. Its timeless appeal and ability to transcend borders and cultures make chess a truly universal and enduring pastime. The phenomenal world operates on the principle of cause and effect; every effect results from a preceding cause. For humans, all endeavours stem from underlying motivations or physic-psychological causes. No deliberate human action is possible without a motivation or an unfulfilled need driving it. In his seminal work Motivation and Personality, Abraham Maslow outlined a hierarchy of human needs in the form of a pyramid. Maslow studied exemplary individuals such as Albert Einstein, Jane Addams, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Frederick Douglass, as well as a select group of college students. At the base of Maslow pyramid are physiological needs, which sequentially rise to safety, love and belonging, esteem, and culminate in self-actualization. The lower four layers, which Maslow termed deficiency needs, include physical needs, security, friendship and love, and esteem. According to Maslow, once a level of need is satisfied, individuals naturally progress to the next level. Millennia ago, Indian yog masters presented a similar yet more profound reality in an esoteric manner through the teachings of the seven chakras. These chakras, or energy centres, are located along the subtle body of a person and are aligned with the spinal column. The seven chakras Muladhar, Swadhishtan, Manipur, Anahat, Vishuddhi, Ajna, and Sahasrar represent different stages of th

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Employee needs, leaders can now leverage technology to assess and overhaul laggard ways of working and systemically redesign working patterns to become proactive health partners of the modern workforce. Research has observed that organisations that look after their workforce health needs foster higher job satisfaction and engagement. And so, standing on the sidelines is no longer an option, especially in the face of the pandemic. As technology evolves and becomes more ingrained in all aspects of how people work, leaders will be faced with an increasing responsibility to collaborate and ensure that these technologies, as well as the workflows and processes that support them, are designed and implemented in a way that promotes employee wellbeing comprehensively. The biggest health emergencies of our times have not just laid bare the various challenges and gaps in the health care system, but also transformed the idea of comprehensive healthcare support. It has ushered in an era of awareness of both mental and physical health and it is time for employers to evaluate existing healthcare systems and design policies that are comprehensive and rooted in empathy.

The year was 1580, shadows of the Afghan uprising could be seen far off from the province of Punjab. The Mughal emperor Akbar transferred the administration of his North Western province from Muhammed Yusuf Khan to Kuar Man Singh, the then Prince of Amber Akbarnama by Baveridge III Pg 493. Under the threat of a large scale Afghan invasion, Kuar Man shifted his headquarter from Sialkot to the Indus region. Soon enough the opportunity to cross swords arrived. Shadman Beg, commander in chief, of the Kabul ruler Mirza Muhammed Hakim, attacked the Nilab fort near Attock Akbarnama by Baveridge III Pg 493. Shadman had the great reputation as the sword of the army of Kabul ruler. Kuar Man Singh with his Kachhawaha Rajputs at once reached and attacked Shadman forces. A battle ensued and Shadman was wounded by Suraj Singh, brother of Kuar Man Singh. Afghans were defeated and their commander died soon. Kuar Man Singh, in between, discovered three farmans issued by Kabul ruler for two of Akbars high ranking nobles Muhammed Qasim Khan and Khwaja Shah Mansur. These farmans were in acknowledgment of letters earlier written by these nobles promising help to Kabul ruler if he invades. The Afghan ruler had also received similar letters from Asikabuli and Masum Farahkundi, another of Akbars nobles Muntakhab **ut** Tawarikh by Lower II Pg 299. Mughal Muslim nobles were unhappy with Akbar for not being religiously fundamentalist enough as much as the Afghans were. Afghans, both in east and west, were seen as a force which could replace Akbar to create a more rigid and radical Islamic state. Mirza Hakim invaded Lahore in February 1581 but was unsuccessful. He was chased in his retreat beyond Indus by Kuar Man. Months later in July 1581, Kachhawahas under Kuar Man Singh along with the Mughal forces entered and conquered it, bringing Afghanistan under the Imperial kingdom. Under defeat the Kabul ruler.

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Stayed silent for the next of his life but the Afghans were aggrieved and angry. Soon the Kabul ruler Mirza Muhammed Hakim died of illness in July, 1585 and Afghan tribes rose into rebellion, picking the weapons again for the earlier aim of a more fundamentalist state. Chaos galloped the Afghan capital, nobles became much more powerful and Kabul ruling family fled to Jalalabad. When Kuar Man Singh marched into Kabul he ensured that peace and tranquility prevail. In words of historian RN Prasad Kabulis were overawed and they submitted to the Kachhawaha forces. Kabul lay at the feet of Kuar Man Singh Raja Man Singh of Amber Pg 65. Kuar Man took the Afghan ruling family and escorted them safely to Rawalpindi. In the meantime, the Raushaniya, a formidable tribe of Afghans, had blocked the Khyber pass, committing highway robberies and intense depredations, making the Khyber impassable. While Kuar encamped near the pass to oust the Raushaniyas, a new disaster fell upon the Imperial forces. Yusufzai tribe, which was indulging in robbery and turbulence around Peshawar, Swat and Bajaur region, attacked the Imperial forces on 16th February, 1586 A History of Jaipur by Sir Jadunath Sarkar Pg 64 consisting of Zain Khan, Raja Birbal and Abu Fath. The sudden attack created panic among Imperial forces and 8,000 of them were slaughtered including Raja Birbal. Raja Todarmal was sent next to suppress the Yusufzais but that ensured only a temporary success. The danger of their return was still looming. On the other hand on 17th February, Kuar Man with Brother Madho Singh made daring attacks on the Roushaniyas at Khyber and drove them far out of the region. It was, as Sir Jadunath Sarkar says, a glorious victory for the Kachhawahas. Kuar Man later joined Raja Todarmal, secured the Yusufzai country. Raja Todarmal left the Afghan country and Kuar Man was given governorship of Kabul. Some times later around December, the Afridi tribe of Afghans rose in rebellion, posing grave danger in winter snow covered mountains. Afridis along with the Mahmud and Ghorri tribes had blocked the Peshawar Tirah road. Kuar Man with great difficulty, care and strong will marched his way through the road to reach Chahar Chobah, near Tirah. Here on 15th of December, 1586, a strong battle ensued and Kuar Man Singh defeated the Afridis soundly. He marched further and made the Ghorri tribe submit. In **his** further march, the Kachhawahas were attacked once again by the Afridis in greater numbers and with the advantage of mountains. No fort or plain field was found for the Kachhawahas to create a base amid incessant attacks. After a short while, a plain field was found where the Kachhawahas thundered onto the superior numbered Afridis and decimated them. For the next four months, Afghan tribes made constant attacks on Kuar Man Singh forces but were soundly defeated for the final time when Madho Singh arrived with reinforcements. The Rajputs had successfully subdued the five different Afghan tribes and made them.



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Fully integrating security into the Davos process and leveraging IMacs processes to assess and prevent problems before deployment will secure cloud operations at speed and scale and create a new world order for security and risk management. Recorded Future Inc a threat intelligence firm, this week said that suspected state sponsored Chinese hackers have targeted India power infrastructure in recent months. The firm believes it to be a case of cyber espionage. Digitalization of economic and social activity has gathered pace during the pandemic. Along with the creation of new opportunities, it also spawns new threats. Crippling infrastructure or stealing information from remote locations is one of the threats and keeping track of threats that may have emerged in some other country. Separately, a designated institute such as the National Power Training Institute equips power infrastructure companies with training to safeguard their assets from cyber-attacks. This mode of attack is growing the world over as both state sponsored groups and criminal gangs engage in it. Justice is also harder to enforce as many attacks emerge from outside national boundaries. There is a pressing need for both governments and private organisations to invest more in terms of both resources and attention in establishing safeguards against cyber incidents. Cyber attacks can sometimes be more devastating than other forms as digitalisation is intertwined with expanding networks. Reserve Bank of India monetary policy committee had one clear message for the government. Hereon, the principal tool to revive economic growth will have to be fiscal policy. Monetary policy has begun to transition to prioritising inflation over boosting economic growth. RBI policy rate repo was left unchanged at 4%. However, other tools were deployed to nudge interest rates in the economy upwards. A new tool, standing deposit facility SDF, has been introduced to absorb liquidity from banks. The SDF rate is 3.75%, which is higher than the reverse repo rate of 3.35%. Henceforth, RBI liquidity operations will try to ensure the overnight money market rate is not lower than 3.75%. It an indirect way of pushing up interest rates without changing the repo rate. This measure has been supplemented by reframing its liquidity policy as one that will remain accommodative while focusing on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation remains within the target. The message is clear. Inflation will gain primacy in monetary policy. These changes have come in the backdrop of RBI marking **down** GDP forecasts for 2022-23, while increasing its estimated retail inflation. Even with the best global estimations, the COVID 19 pandemic continues to be an unpredictable force. The scale at which it disrupted businesses, lives, and livelihoods left communities across the world in the lurch. However, where there is chaos and uncertainty, ingenuity is soon to follow. As businesses across sectors navigated quick pivots to maintain their continuity, what irrevocably came to the forefront was empathy and a renewed focus on health. If the 20th century corporate catchphrase was it just business then I believe the 21st century will be.

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Stayed silent for the next of his life but the Afghans were aggrieved and angry. Soon the Kabul ruler Mirza Muhammed Hakim died of illness in July, 1585 and Afghan tribes rose into rebellion, picking the weapons again for the earlier aim of a more fundamentalist state. Chaos galloped the Afghan capital, nobles became much more powerful and Kabul ruling family fled to Jalalabad. When Kuar Man Singh marched into Kabul he ensured that peace and tranquility prevail. In words of historian RN Prasad Kabulis were overawed and they submitted to the Kachhawaha forces. Kabul lay at the feet of Kuar Man Singh Raja Man Singh of Amber Pg 65. Kuar Man took the Afghan ruling family and escorted them safely to Rawalpindi. In the meantime, the Raushaniya, a formidable tribe of Afghans, had blocked the Khyber pass, committing highway robberies and intense depredations, making the Khyber impassable. While Kuar encamped near the pass to oust the Raushaniyas, a new disaster fell upon the Imperial forces. Yusufzai tribe, which was indulging in robbery and turbulence around Peshawar, Swat and Bajaur region, attacked the Imperial forces on 16th February, 1586 A History of Jaipur by Sir Jadunath Sarkar Pg 64 consisting of Zain Khan, Raja Birbal and Abu Fath. The sudden attack created panic among Imperial forces and 8,000 of them were slaughtered including Raja Birbal. Raja Todarmal was sent next to suppress the Yusufzais but that ensured only a temporary success. The danger of their return was still looming. On the other hand on 17th February, Kuar Man with Brother Madho Singh made daring attacks on the Roushaniyas at Khyber and drove them far out of the region. It was, as Sir Jadunath Sarkar says, a glorious victory for the Kachhawahas. Kuar Man later joined Raja Todarmal, secured the Yusufzai country. Raja Todarmal left the Afghan country and Kuar Man was given governorship of Kabul. Some times later around December, the Afridi tribe of Afghans rose in rebellion, posing grave danger in winter snow covered mountains. Afridis along with the Mahmud and Ghoris tribes had blocked the Peshawar Tirah road. Kuar Man with great difficulty, care and strong will marched his way through the road to reach Chahar Chobah, near Tirah. Here on 15th of December, 1586, a strong battle ensued and Kuar Man Singh defeated the Afridis soundly. He marched further and made the Ghoris tribe submit. In **his** further march, the Kachhawahas were attacked once again by the Afridis in greater numbers and with the advantage of mountains. No fort or plain field was found for the Kachhawahas to create a base amid incessant attacks. After a short while, a plain field was found where the Kachhawahas thundered onto the superior numbered Afridis and decimated them. For the next four months, Afghan tribes made constant attacks on Kuar Man Singh forces but were soundly defeated for the final time when Madho Singh arrived with reinforcements. The Rajputs had successfully subdued the five different Afghan tribes and made them.

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High concentration of startups in the ecommerce and D2C space suggests that access to resources and digital spaces, to set up a business and transact flexibly is becoming increasingly accessible and democratised, paving the way for more aspiring entrepreneurs to start out on their own. Social media networks and access to freelance talent are enabling more and more women to take the leap and lift their brands off the ground. However, most of these companies are in the low- to mid-scale categories, indicating that most women-led start-ups reach a ceiling due to lack of structured support to grow their businesses. To tackle this, many VCs have launched programs to fund women led companies. Women now make up 34% of the IT workforce in India, with a majority of them being under the age of 30. The country is now almost at 50:50 gender parity rate in STEM graduates. According to a recent Tracxn report, women-led start-ups outperformed the overall start-up ecosystem in India. However, the representation of women founders in the tech startup ecosystem is still miniscule. This is also attributed to the persistent cultural biases. So while the key challenge for a large chunk of entrepreneurs in D2C retail space remains in getting access to growth capital and resources, in tech, we still need to work at the grassroots level and encourage women to build more tech products and tech-enabled companies. To support this, additional measures such as mentorship programs, grant opportunities, policy reforms, and other forms of assistance would be necessary. Another area of immense opportunity for women entrepreneurs in India today is sustainability. Among the businesses run by women in India, several propagate the sustainability agenda across sectors such as textiles, cosmetics, healthcare, and food and beverages. There is a clear trend of women building the sustainability space, in support of ESG goals. Considering the growth in the corpus dedicated to sustainability funds in the last few years, which globally exceeded to USD 2.7 trillion in 2021, many of these founders may also find themselves at the cusp of a growth wave if they are able to leverage it and get access to sufficient capital and growth funds. The true breakthrough to accelerate this growth will come with solutions that empower and encourage more and more women to further their purpose as entrepreneurs. But this needs a personalised approach based on the stage of the founder **journey**, by facilitating financial solutions, mentorship, digital and talent resources, and a substantial shift in the mindsets. This will take decades, unless a concerted effort is made to bring this to scale. In recent years, the baby care industry has altered drastically. Earlier, only two or three major players were dominating the market, but lately, many domestic brands have emerged, affording parents of new babies and infants a wide range of options. The rise of the baby care industry in India has been greatly facilitated by the country having the most children per capita in the world, surpassing even China. In light of this, it stands to reason that this market would regard India to be one of its key markets. Although the birth rate is anticipated to gradually decline over the next several years, the market will not be significantly impacted by this since the proportion of children in the population as a whole will remain high for a considerable amount of time. As a result, between 2014 and 2024, the size of the i

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Ending the uncertainty about the permissions related to the booster dose policy for adults, the Union government has issued clearance for administration of a third dose of vaccine to all adults between 18 and 60 years of age, from April 10, 2022. This dose may be obtained from authorised private sector facilities, on payment. The precaution dose, as the third dose is called in India, will continue to be administered free of cost to persons above 60 years of age and healthcare workers. Gol decision to allow adults over 18 who received their second doses over nine months ago to get precaution doses at private vaccination centres is welcome. Scientific studies have repeatedly asserted how immunity after infection and vaccination wanes over time. With citizens returning to workplaces a booster is both protection and peace of mind, especially with dilution of mask mandates. Uncontrolled European and East Asian surges also serve as warning. Plus India has a significant proportion of adults with comorbidities and comorbidities are catching adults younger. Boosters will protect this vulnerable section, reduce Covid ferocity and keep the economy running. Therefore boosters should be extended to government vaccination centres with their greater reach. Many working in contact intensive industries don have the wherewithal to pay Rs 600 and upwards for a jab. Gol expenditure on double dosing 75 of the adult population till mid February was just 1 of last year budgeted expenditure. Now a single shot booster in a more competitive vaccine market having cheaper jabs will allow Gol to make bulk purchases at even lower prices, perhaps requiring not even 0.5 of this year budgetary outlay. Economic and health setbacks of a virus rebound would, in contrast, hit GDP harder. Studies have indicated that a different booster increases protection for those double dosed with viral vector and inactivated vaccines. Other than the CMC Vellore study on Covaxin Covishield cleared last September, phase 3 trials on boosting with Biological E Corbevax and Bharat Biotech intranasal vaccine went ahead only by January, and with Covovax in March. The Vellore study should enable Covaxin recipients to get a Covishield booster. Meanwhile, UK studies on using Covovax to boost Covishield recipients are available. With the vaccine bouquet growing, including a potential mRNA vaccine, mix and match boosters are the way to go. Gol must shift course, sooner rather than later. Indians do have a sense of black humour. **A** couple in Tamil Nadu received a bottle each of petrol and diesel as wedding presents. Presumably, the 14 hikes in the retail price of petrol over the last 17 days influenced the choice. An article in this paper has shown that in terms of purchasing power parity, India retail petrol is the third highest in the world at 5.2 a litre. In the case of LPG, India price of 3.5 a litre is the costliest in the world. Prices need to be seen in context. India retail price of petrol comes to 23.5 of average daily earnings. This level significantly.



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Shrinks the disposable income of a large section of the population. No one is left untouched as fuel prices feed into other items and push up the general price level. Are prices in India high only because of rising international crude prices No, that just a part of the story. The increase in central taxes on petrol and diesel is a key factor. Central tax on petrol was Rs 22.98 a litre just before the pandemic struck. Today, it Rs 27.90 a litre, after Rs 5 reduction in November. RBI yesterday marked down India GDP forecast for 2022 23 to 7.2 from the 7.8 it expected in February. In this backdrop, Gol should ease the burden by slashing fuel taxes. That will brighten economic prospects. The Godfather played at a theatre near you some weeks ago, re released to commemorate its 50th anniversary. It continues to inspire and influence the gangster genre everywhere, including in India. Mario Puzo, who wrote the book on which the film was based, was in turn inspired by real events and real people. Even as the genre popularity has expanded, ageing and retired mafiosi from that real world are now taking their stories to audiences directly through podcasts, YouTube, Patreon. Nobody can ride today true crime wave like a true criminal. In this subgenre of first hand mob tales, Salvatore ammy the Bull Gravano is a top content creator across platforms. In his prime Sammy was the underboss of one of New York big five crime families, the Gambinos. He came into fame though by breaching omerta, turning FBI informant on his boss John Gotti. He also spent 22 years in prison after confessing to involvement in 19 murders. But those who follow his podcast, Our Thing with Sammy the Bull, know that his reservoir of crime tales is much bigger. It is the reason why even some FBI agents, retired like him, tune in regularly. In a feisty address to the nation last week, Imran Khan had vowed to play till the last ball. Facing a no confidence motion in the national assembly that he was near certain to lose, Imran refused to resign. He also refused to let the no confidence motion take place, possibly to take the match to the final over. In a carefully choreographed sequence of events, the deputy speaker of the national assembly refused to allow the no **confidence** motion to be moved. Immediately thereafter, the president, on Imran instructions, dissolved the assembly and set the stage for fresh elections. Bhakti focuses on forming a relationship of trust with God. It is about surrendering to God, so that his eternal proximity can be gained. On this devotional, yogic path, spiritual seekers have a choice. They can select one or more forms of devotion out of the classical nine forms called Navadha Bhakti, and according to their interest, create a unique devotional road map of their own. In the Ramayan, we find examples of all forms of bhakti. Out of.

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Indian women are higher than that of breast cancer and other cancers combined. According to studies published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, the prevalence of coronary artery disease in Indian women ranges from depending on the age group, and has increased by almost 300% over the past two decades and the prevalence of heart failure in women in India has more than doubled from. The mean age of heart attack in Indian women is 59 years, which is much lower than the average age of heart attack in women in developed countries. These data highlight the urgent need to raise awareness about heart disease in women and address the unique risk factors that affect them. There are several factors that contribute to the increased risk of heart disease in women in India. One key factor is the high prevalence of risk factors such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes among women. The prevalence of diabetes in particular, appears to be higher in Indian women compared to women in other countries (approximately 12% versus the global average of 9% according to the Demographic and Health Surveys Program and International Diabetes Federation). It is important to note that diabetes is a complex condition influenced by various genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors. Indian women often face unique challenges such as lack of physical activity, poor nutrition, and increased stress due to societal and cultural norms, which can contribute to the development of risk factors for heart disease. Additionally, hormonal changes during pregnancy and menopause can also impact a woman cardiovascular health. Conditions like diabetes during pregnancy (gestational diabetes), and hypertensive disorders during pregnancy (preeclampsia and gestational hypertension) can increase the risk of heart disease. Several studies have reported that compared to women from other countries, Indian women have a higher prevalence of gestational diabetes (in United States), preeclampsia and gestational hypertension. The risk of heart disease in women increases significantly after menopause, and menopause at a young age is an additional risk factor for heart disease. Another challenge in addressing heart disease in women in India is the lack of awareness and knowledge about the condition. Heart disease symptoms in women can differ from those in men, and women often experience subtle or atypical symptoms, such as tiredness, dizziness, nausea, acidity, stomach upset or shortness of breath, which may be easily overlooked or attributed to other **causes**. This can lead to delayed diagnosis and treatment, resulting in poorer outcomes. Moreover, societal norms and cultural beliefs may discourage women from seeking timely medical attention or discussing their health concerns openly, leading to under diagnosis and under treatment of heart disease in women. Women are often the caregiver for their families, and ignore their own health concerns in order to take care of others. Studies have shown that women are more likely to have delayed presentation of heart attacks, experience more delay in receiving the correct diagnosis, receive less guideline recommended treatment, and consequently have poorer outcomes following a heart attack. Furthermore, there are significant disparities in access to healthcare for women in India, particularly in rural areas. Many women face challenges in accessing quality healthcare, including cardiovascular screening, preventive care, and ti

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The term constitutional morality was first used by Dr B R Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly while responding to criticism that India's Constitution contained unnecessary administrative details that should have been left to Parliament or the government. Dr Ambedkar remarked that 'Democracy in India is only a top-dressing on an Indian soil, which is essentially undemocratic'. This statement revealed his concern that social and economic conditions in India were not naturally conducive to democracy. He warned that in such circumstances, an administration or government might easily subvert the Constitution without formally amending it. Therefore, he argued, it was essential to incorporate detailed provisions directly into the Constitution. Concluding his speech, Ambedkar said that he found the Constitution to be workable and flexible, and 'strong enough to hold the country together. Indeed, if I may say so, if things go wrong under the new Constitution, the reason will not be that we had a bad Constitution. What we will have to say is that Man was vile'. It is important to examine how a constitution can indeed be subverted without being formally changed. Democracy is, after all, defined as government by law, and no authority in such a system possesses absolute discretion. I recall an incident from my tenure as head of the Tribal Department in Maharashtra. I directed the Collector's office without notifying my department to inspect all Ashramshalas (residential schools for tribal students) simultaneously. These schools, mostly run by politicians and generously funded by the government, had become, as I noted in a quasi-judicial order, well-oiled machines for siphoning public money. After witnessing the inhumane conditions of the students, I instructed the Commissioner to issue notices to roughly 250 schools for cancellation of their permissions. When the story broke due to my press conference, a PIL was filed in the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court. The political class, alarmed by my action, pressured the Chief Minister to file an affidavit supporting these schools. I refused to comply and returned the file to the Chief Secretary, stating that the decision violated existing rules. I wrote in my note: The Chief Minister can change the rule, but cannot jump the rule. Eventually, the Chief Minister reversed his decision. My position was clear: no one in a democracy has absolute discretion and that principle prevailed. A constitution is not a sacred text to be worshipped or recited like scripture. **It** is a political document meant to be implemented. Its effectiveness depends on the political will of the government to follow it, and equally on the political strength of the people to prevent the government from undermining it. The Constitution exists only within a political system based on democracy. It has no role in an authoritarian regime. The Constitution's function in a democracy is to prevent that very democracy from collapsing into despotism. It does so by maintaining a delicate balance among the three pillars of democracy and by establishing autonomous institutions that operate free from governmental pressure. In this framework, the executive is accountable to Parliament, Parliament is checked by the judiciary, and the judiciary, in turn, is accountable to Parliament through the process of impeachment. The press, too, has a vital role to inform citizens truthfully and hold power to account. However, this balance collapses when Parlia

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Independent India offers two powerful examples of constitutional morality. The first involves Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the Hindu Code Bill. Nehru, ideologically committed to the Bill, requested Dr. Ambedkar, then Law Minister, to draft it and assured its passage. However, facing opposition both from sections of the public and his own party, Nehru withdrew support. Ambedkar, feeling betrayed, resigned. Though Nehru lost his most brilliant minister and abandoned his ideological vision, he upheld consensus over ideology because constitutional morality demanded it. The second example concerns Prime Minister Indira Gandhi before Operation Blue Star. Despite having an absolute majority in Parliament, she sought the counsel of the Opposition Leader, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He was located in Bangalore, and a special VSNL telephone line was laid so they could speak. When told of her decision, Vajpayee asked, Is there no other way? to which the Prime Minister replied, No. He then said, Alright but you will pay a heavy price. Where political leaders possess constitutional morality, written constitutions become almost unnecessary as in the United Kingdom, where democracy flourishes without one. But where such morality is absent, no written constitution can prevent the slide into despotism. It is also worth examining how constitutional balance can fail. The judiciary, though described as independent, is largely influenced by the government, which controls judicial appointments and can offer post-retirement rewards. Such influence undermines judicial independence and opens the door to elected despotism, particularly when the opposition is too weak to act as a check on power. The same applies to other institutions meant to safeguard constitutional values. When constitutional morality disappears from society, all pillars of democracy collapse. Constitution or no Constitution and democracy degenerates into despotism. History bears witness: from Hitler's Germany to Pol Pot's Cambodia, democracies have decayed into dictatorships hiding behind the façade of electoral legitimacy. Such regimes justify atrocities as the will of the people and claim sovereignty to escape accountability. Ultimately, it is the people themselves who must guard the Constitution and democracy but that, indeed, is a tall order. 'Centrism isn't nostalgia, it is survival' Rethinking stray dogs: From crisis to opportunity Wisdom is a light. When its ray shines upon you, it adorns the tongue with right remembrance, the heart with right thought, and the bodily members with right activity, said Persian Sufi master Hazrat Rashīd al-Dīn Maybudī of the early 12th century. Spiritual wisdom is **the** grace and blessing of the Divine Beloved. When God shines his glorious light upon His chosen one, that blessed being is illuminated from within. The greatest masters, the greatest mystics are adorned with such divine blessings. Then their life becomes a glorious transformative force for all around them. Everybody benefits from such benediction of the Divine Beloved. Hazrat Maybudī sees divine wisdom as light. Sufi masters have often used light as a metaphor for inner peace, spiritual growth, enlightenment and other such celestial attributes. Bowing to divine wisdom, the mystics have spoken in luminous terms evoking unveiling for dispelling of darkness. The Divine Beloved's Nur (Divine Glorious Light) provides transcendent knowledge and insight so that true seekers are able to perceive divine



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The different devotional characters in Tulsidas Ramcharitmanas, Kakhushandi was an epitome of shraavan bhakti, which focuses on listening to the Divine Lilas, God centric discourses and learning from them. In contrast, Rishi Valmiki was all for the chanting of Ram Naam, name of God. When a spiritual seeker chants a mantra, the name of God, or sings of his glories, it is called kirtan, the second form of bhakti. Chanting, praying and meditating all have elements of smaran, remembrance of His name and presence. Since God is all pervading, we can remember and connect with Him at all times, at home, or our workplace. In the Ramayan, Kaushalya Devi, Ram mother, followed this form of bhakti. At times, during their spiritual practice, if seekers focus on God feet, it qualifies as padasevana, service of His feet. When Bharat, for example, meditated on Ram lotus feet and placed his sandals on the throne in Ayodhya, he performed padasevana. We often worship God by lighting a lamp and an incense stick in front of the murti or image of a deity, and offering it food. All these are elements of archana. Food thus offered to the Divine becomes prasad. The devotional bhava, feel, with which archana is performed makes it meaningful and is better than mere performing of rituals. When Shabri, who excelled in all nine forms of bhakti, offered fruits to Ram in the forest, it was an act of archana. Through vandana, prayers and prostration to God, when we seek spiritual strength and guidance, this too is a form of bhakti. We need not have a wish list, we could just recite selfless prayers, or simply ask for more bhakti, that too is vandana. When Ravan estranged brother Vibhishan met Ram and asked for mercy, it was a form of vandana. Dasya bhakti is about cultivating the bhava of being a servant of God, following God orders. Realised saints gain insights into the Divine design and can, therefore, serve Him accordingly. Spiritual beginners can serve God by serving his people. Service includes charity, compassion and forgiveness. In the Ramayan, when Jambavan, the divine king of bears, became a part of Ram missions on Earth, he was performing dasya bhakti. In Valmiki Ramayan, Nishad Raj Guha, chief of the Nishad tribe, was one of Ram friends. The cultivation of the friend bhava with God involves adoration and trust in Him, **and** this is called Sakhya bhakti. The ninth form of bhakti is Atmanivedana, complete surrender of the self. Lakshman was a fine example of this kind of bhakti, as he took refuge in Ram, leading to Atmanivedana. It can make us more worthy of kripa, divine grace. Students can learn in spite of poor teaching but they cannot overcome poor assessment. Tests and results have been the endless nightmares of all school children and their parents. Considering the sensitivity of the issue our Honourable PM has been interacting with students and parents through Pariksha Pe Charcha every year. Imagine a report.

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The Pooja Khedkar controversy, where the authenticity of her UPSC results was questioned, raises serious concerns about the credibility of the civil services selection process. It highlights potential vulnerabilities in the system, such as possible lapses in verification and transparency. To maintain trust, the UPSC must address these issues promptly and thoroughly. Ensuring rigorous background checks and enhancing transparency will be crucial. The issue of candidates allegedly clearing Civil Services Examinations based on fake caste certificates is indeed alarming and raises significant concerns about the integrity of the selection process for prestigious positions like IAS and IPS officers. It is very difficult to know as to how many Pooja Khedkars are already working as Civil Servants in India? The problem Fake caste certificates: Instances of candidates using fake caste certificates to claim benefits under reservation quotas undermine the very essence of affirmative action, which aims to level the playing field for historically marginalized communities. The Civil Services Examinations are highly competitive, and reservation policies are intended to provide equitable opportunities for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. The use of fraudulent means to exploit these provisions not only devalues the hard work of genuine candidates but also perpetuates social inequalities. Impact on meritocracy: Such malpractices compromise the meritocratic nature of these examinations. IAS and IPS officers hold crucial roles in the administration and governance of the country. The selection process is designed to identify individuals with the highest levels of competence, integrity, and dedication. When candidates manipulate the system through fraudulent certificates, it casts a shadow on the credibility of the entire selection process and potentially places less qualified individuals in positions of immense responsibility. The broader implications Administrative challenges: The presence of officers who have entered the system through fraudulent means can lead to administrative inefficiencies and ethical compromises. These officers may lack the requisite capabilities or the moral standing necessary to perform their duties effectively. Moreover, they might perpetuate a culture of dishonesty and corruption within the bureaucracy, undermining public trust in the civil services. Undermining social justice: The use of fake certificates by some candidates diminishes the genuine struggles and achievements of those from SC ST OBC backgrounds who have succeeded through legitimate means. It can lead to a backlash against reservation policies themselves, as people may start questioning the validity and fairness of affirmative action, thereby hurting the cause of social justice. Addressing the issue Stringent verification **processes:** To combat this problem, the government and examination bodies need to implement more rigorous verification processes for caste certificates. This could involve multiple layers of scrutiny, including cross-verification with local authorities, automated checks with national databases, and stringent legal consequences for those found guilty of submitting fraudulent documents. Awareness and education: Raising awareness about the ethical and legal repercussions of using fake certificates is crucial. Candidates should be educated about the importance of honesty and the potential long-term consequences of their actions on their careers and I

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Ultimately, the focus should be on promoting a culture of merit and fairness in the selection process. This involves ensuring that the reservation policies are implemented correctly and that the benefits reach those who genuinely deserve them. Solution To restore the integrity of the civil services selection process, it is suggested that the SC ST OBC quota system should be abolished in civil services examinations. Abolition of SC ST OBC quota system in civil services examinations, will not only eliminate the chances of using the fake caste certificates in fraudulent manner, but also lead to several other benefits, as mentioned below: Merit-based selection: Abolishing quotas would ensure that positions are filled purely based on merit, potentially leading to a more competent and efficient civil service. Reduced fraud and misuse: Eliminating quotas might reduce instances of fraud, such as the use of fake caste certificates, as everyone would compete on an equal footing. Encouragement of equality: A common argument is that true equality can only be achieved when everyone competes on the same level, without special privileges for any group. Conclusion The problem of incompetent persons becoming civil servants based on the fake caste certificates is serious and needs urgent attention. Nobody really knows as to how many Pooja Khedkars are already working as civil servants? Assuming that merit and fairness remain at the core of these examinations and is crucial for maintaining public trust and upholding the principles of social justice, time has now come to eliminate the SC ST OBC quota system from the civil services selection process. The string of terrorist attacks in J&K merits a widening of the frame to look at what is happening in Pakistan. The announcement that a ban on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and trying Imran Khan for treason was being contemplated turned out to be more revelatory of Pakistan politics than having any actual impact. There was quick backtracking, with clarifications that allies and supporters of the govt will be consulted first. In any event, it is unclear whether the Supreme Court would have permitted such moves unchallenged. The announcement itself followed and was evidently provoked by a Supreme Court split judgment in which the majority held that PTI was entitled to its share of reserved members of the national assembly (for women and minorities). The judgment also recognised PTI as a legal political party, ending the ambiguity surrounding it since **the** February 2024 general election when it was disallowed use of its election symbol, and its candidates had to contest as independents. With its quota of reserved members and its recognition as a parliamentary party, PTI is now the single largest party. This change too will have no immediate impact on the Shehbaz Sharif govt although it will no longer command a two-thirds majority in the national assembly. The Supreme Court judgment is, however, revelatory of how the judiciary often acts as an independent player in Pakistan politics and in ways not consistent with its general reputation, and history of playing to the military tune. With the term of the current chief justice drawing to a close, it is clearly being pulled in different directions. There have been over the past few months steady reports of judges complaining of pressure being bought by intelligence agencies or the military. The present judgment is as much against the interests of the Pakistan milit



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First of all I would like to increase your typing speed and accuracy that while typing you can use the word given by me as abcd. Do typing from studies and if someone typing speed is more and you are thinking of repeating then you will get it in real railway exam, here you will get your best. By which your typing test will be better in the exam Learning practices to typing practice is better for your performance in the classroom by informing curriculum design and execution. Assessment will help in identifying students who are falling behind and enabling the provision of appropriate technical assistance and teaching via learning improvement programs, as well as providing students with essential entitlements such as midday meals or textbooks. Appropriately constructed learning evaluations have the potential to have a profound effect on the future direction of educational policy. PARAKH is the future of assessment. PARAKH will be a professional organization with a thorough understanding of policymaking, evaluation criteria and assessment skills. It would be a pioneer in learning assessment, featuring assessment professionals with a thorough knowledge of schooling and how children learn. With a mandate to promote learning evaluation in all ways, both domestically and globally, PARAKH would ultimately become the national single window outlet for all assessment related knowledge and skills. PARAKH is being setup in NCERT as a constituent body and will be monitored with inputs from an oversight committee comprising of experts from various fields and organizations. The rough work section of any examination is the most important and yet least evaluated portion of any test. When we start assessing the children not just for results but also critically for their approach and methodology, with the onset of PARAKH as the nodal agency for revamping assessment, evaluation in education can witness new horizons. With this and many more initiatives, the aim of NEP 2020 to move from the rote learning system to comprehensive learning will be realized in due course of time. Pariksha Pe Charcha is in fact the harbinger for PARAKH. Hopefully, in the years to come, major assessment related reforms would lead to discussions by students on how much they enjoy and learn from their assessments instead of fearing or being stressed by them. Exams are scary, tedious, and challenging. The nation is in the process of restoring the normal teaching learning process of offline education in **our** institutions. However, some states education boards universities have decided to continue with the virtual examination process even in the current academic session. Thanks to Covid, many students worldwide have had an opportunity to experience a fearless, exciting, and easy examination. The online process of conducting examinations has been the order of the day now. Students find it pretty comforting to appear in such an evaluation process. The reason behind this student comfort is obvious they do not have to worry about their knowledge or retention Google assistance is readily available. Moreover, when you are in the comfort of home the.

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An invigilator hovering like a drone does exist The question that haunts most educationists is the impact of the new format of examinations. Are we losing the essence of the concept called examination Do the mark sheets obtained from these online, sitting at home examinations really make any sense for the students Is the process of creation of wisdom and imparting knowledge getting hugely compromised Have examinations become redundant today If yes, will tomorrow engineers, doctors, administrators, lawyers, be able to do justice to their work Is there any organised body that might track, research and access the future impact of the changing pattern of examinations What is the key purpose of conducting a university or a school level examination Definitely, it is not to segregate and list out the toppers from others in a class. Student rankings, merit lists, fail and pass etc., are just the byproducts of the system. Marks are useless the understanding of the subject must take precedence. The real purpose of conducting any examination is to facilitate the learning process. When you are put to the test, you get to know the level of your understanding. An examination process must enlighten a student on their strengths and weaknesses. The general observation is that examinations in the past have not been adding much value to any student learning. The results mark sheets have helped them only as documentary evidence helpful to secure a job or further admission in some other organisation. The pressure of merit and the fear of getting left out in the race of numbers have already caused a lot of damage. I think educationists and policymakers need to rethink and rework this essential element of the education system. A fresh look into the virtual learning process is imminent. Hopefully, New Education Policy. First of all I would like to increase your typing speed and accuracy that while typing you can use the word given by me as abcd. Do typing from studies and if someone typing speed is more and you are thinking of repeating then you will get it in real railway exam, here you will get your best. By which your typing test will be better in the exam Learning practices to typing practice is better for your performances care the session. As such, it is at best a reflection of the student memory system and does not contribute to **enlightening** the student. It is time to move from a one time examination system to continuous formative assessments. The outcome of the education system must shift from generating a student capability to recall and write in examination understand, think and apply in real life. This shift is a must. Although this transformation may not happen quickly, significant change takes effort and patience to establish we have already experimented with innovative testing formats like open book assessment, submission based evaluation etc. It is high time that a much more robust, purposeful, yet creative system of conducting examinations is evolved by academia.

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To watch, any time they want to watch it. The media and entertainment industry has been built around the audience, and the fragmentation of consumer behavior needs new business and technology models. Broadcasters need to adopt an operating model that helps them effectively cater to consumer demands, rather than the traditional cable model, which is limited and inflexible in scope and scale. New consumer behaviors are unpredictable. The operating model needs technology that can provide the type of infrastructure that mirrors the new consumption patterns. The case for migrating to the cloud the broadcasting business is all about storytelling whoever can tell the best story has the best chance of succeeding. Moving to an operating model with streaming technology simplifies the entire environment, allowing the focus to be on content. Earlier, there were many dependencies broadcasters not only had to tell the best story, but they had to have the cable to invest in satellite and cable technology that gave them access to consumers. With optical fiber platforms, the cost of broadcasting has reduced, with fewer entry barriers. So, the only thing that matters is the ability to tell a great story. Traditional broadcasters have an edge here they have been under standing audiences and telling stories for a very long time. When moving from an on perm to a virtual operational model, many broadcasters are faced with the question how do i create a digital infrastructure that will help me keep pace with fast changing consumer trends? As with all digital transformation, the answer is cloud computing. Cloud offers the perfect model for optical fiber providers, allowing streaming media services to scale up or down on demand, only paying for what they use. Netflix started their journey to the cloud in 2008, after a major database corruption meant that they could not ship DVDs to their members. When they completed the migration, they had eight times as many streaming members, reported higher viewer engagement, and expanded to over 130 countries and at a fraction of the cost of running their data center. The way forward optical fiber streaming simplifies the operational infrastructure for broadcasters, bringing the focus back to storytelling and content. The two levers that will redefine the business model of optical fiber and content streaming are technology and content evolution. Content experience is what will shape the business model. Content is becoming more fluid and experimental **by** way of how it is consumed. For example, can viewers choose the camera angles from which they want to watch a sporting match? Producers are exploring more immersive and interactive experiences to include the viewer into the storytelling process. Augmented reality and virtual reality are also developing on the sidelines, these technologies are converging. While today revenue is earned from advertising, tomorrow other options could be a reality. An example is a possibility of e commerce integrations, where viewers can buy products that they see in a movie. When these experiences mature, the economic and business model will be redefined.



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Over the past decade, the media and entertainment industry has undergone a revolution. The demand for streaming media sky rocketed with the proliferation of smartphones and the accessibility to the internet. The optical fiber wave gave it further momentum by offering on demand content, based on individual preferences. Evolving technologies, consumer preferences, and even external factors like the onset of the covid 19 pandemic impacted the streaming wave, making it the most preferred medium of content consumption for viewers across the country. While there were only two optical fiber providers in 2012, today there are over 40. Boston consulting group predicts that the optical fiber content market is at an inflection point in India, likely to reach 5bn in size by 2023. Connected television network in India, often referred to as a smart television network in India, are becoming increasingly popular. As per the India cut report 2021 mapping connected television network in India cut viewership in India and the opportunities for brands report, 78 percent of respondents own a smart television network in India and 93 percent of these smart television network in India users access internet based content. This reflects a growing trend of viewers discarding their traditional cable and satellite subscriptions in favors of subscriptions to streaming or void formats. While everything has changed about broadcasting and television viewing, the core remains the same broadcasting is a storytelling business. There all always be an audience for a good story the market for optical fiber is nascent, and for traditional broadcasters in the transition phase, this is good news. The opportunity lies in understanding these changes and adapting to it. What changed first the technology or the consumer? Broadcasting is and has always been a complex and challenging process. Creating and distributing video content at scale needs many elements to work together transmission technologies, licensing fees, delivery mechanisms and more making traditional broadcasting hardware dependent and capital intensive. For a very long time, the process of broadcasting remained unchanged, with no significant innovations in operational workflows or systems. Viewership was predictable and advertising revenues flowed in, helping broadcasters generate revenue. The internet brought about a change in this behavior, impacting the business model of the industry. From consuming content on a common family television set, viewers started using personal viewing devices. The internet reached the far corners of rural areas. Young consumers across the country viewed videos **while** commuting or traveling. To serve these new consumer preferences, new models were pioneered by the likes of YouTube and Netflix. Today consumers are cancelling television network in India subscriptions and showing higher preference for streaming television network in India in favors of personalized content and on the go culture. The traditional model was one to many a fixed technology providing a fixed set of content those viewers consumed. But optical fiber changed the game, placing viewers in the driver seat and giving them the power to shift gears as and when they want. Viewers can now choose what they want.

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There is a wide consensus in the financial world that India Unified Payments Interface UPI is one of the biggest and most impactful financial technology innovations to have come out in the world. Most nations still do not have an equivalent or similar system for free and real time interbank payments and a growing number of them are actively evaluating implementing UPI in their own jurisdictions. Now, two new fintech innovations from RBI are likely to even surpass UPI in their grassroots impact; bringing all the benefits and advantages of digital payments to a whole new class of users who do not have stable Internet at all times; or are feature phone users without any mobile Internet connectivity. According to a 2020 WEF report, nearly 700 million people in India are still unconnected, which translates to about 50% of the country population still not having internet access. Early in January, the Reserve Bank of India released its framework to allow offline digital payments of up to 200 per transaction with an overall limit of 2,000. This framework allows digital payments to take place without Internet connectivity offline mode, which is a huge boon for building greater trust in digital payments in remote, rural or semi urban areas that often suffer from poor mobile Internet connectivity. To protect consumer safety, RBI has not only set a reasonable limit, but also mandated that these transactions must be conducted only in face to face mode in the presence of the account owner or beneficiary. However, they can still be made using any of the popular payment channels or modes including debit cards, wallets or mobile devices. As the transactions are offline, users will receive SMS or email alerts when they are connected to a network. Further, these transactions will not require an OTP or any other Additional Factor of Authentication AFA. In the case of smartphones, the offline digital payments could be enabled through an on device wallet inside the user favorite UPI app. Recall that in December last year, RBI had proposed to enable wallets in UPI apps specifically for low value transactions, in order to conserve banks system resources, without any change in the transaction experience for the user. A boost to Digital Payments The regulatory nod for offline digital payments has once again firmly established India as the nerve center for innovations in world class digital financial services. We **also** believe that this is one of the biggest developments in digital payments in recent years anywhere in the world. In terms of impact, we believe it could be as big as the introduction of Unified Payments Interface UPI in 2016, a free of cost digital interbank fund transfer system that has played a big role in propelling India to the number one position in digital payment transactions around the world. Today, UPI is the single largest retail payment system in the country in terms of volume of transactions and monthly transactions on UPI exceed than those on debit and credit.

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Written glorious verses in His praise. Across Sufi traditions globally, the mystics have narrated stories and instructed their followers that God is the primal Nur, the source of all illumination. Among the 99 Beautiful Names of Allah, one of His names is An-Nur, meaning The Light. The Holy Quran says, Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth. God is the Divine Radiance that illuminates everything that is good and beautiful. He removes the darkness in our heart and leads us to His glorious light. An-Nur reflects the layered brilliance of the Divine Beloved. He is infinite light, He is the holy scripture, and He is also the believer's polished heart. True seekers have seen the Divine Beloved as light upon light. Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad (1058-1111), the celebrated Persian Islamic philosopher, theologian, psychologist, and mystic, deconstructed the word Nur and all its meanings in his seminal work The Mishkat Al-Anwar (The Niche for Lights). Hazrat Al Ghazali wrote of divine light from different perspectives. He understood light as physical luminescence that permeates the man who is suffused with love for the Divine Almighty. He wrote of light as the spiritual intelligence of the seeker who searches for God. Hazrat Al Ghazali also wrote of light as the divine essence that fills the heart and being of the seeker who has surrendered to the Divine Beloved and is anchored in faith and devotion. Physical nur illuminates eyes; intellectual nur (wisdom) reveals truths; the nur of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) guides hearts. And the ultimate Nur Muhammadi reflects God's radiance. Through these various stages of revelation and divine illumination, the Divine Beloved is seen as Light Upon Light. Hazrat Al-Ghazali wrote of his dream where his teacher Hazrat Yusuf an-Nasaaj opened his baseerah (inner sight), like polishing the heart's eye with kohl for unseen realities. In this way, Hazrat Al-Ghazali likened spiritual growth to 'light conquering doubt beyond intellect'. This observation reflected Hazrat Al-Ghazali's teaching in Al-Munqidh min al-Dalal. He wrote that direct mystical tasting of the Divine Almighty (dhawq) illuminates truth where reason fails. This magnificent light is revealed to man only after the veils of illusion are lifted with God's grace. As the celebrated 13th century mystic Mevlana Rumi said, The light which shines in the eye is really the light of the heart. When the light of the heart is illuminated by God the Almighty, then **the** blessed seeker is able to discern the unity between divine mystery and the soul among his best-known works, he wrote, The heart has eyes that perceive the Real, if the rust of illusion is lifted. Hazrat Ibn Arabi explained that ordinary intellect is able to perceive only forms. But when God's purifying light illuminates the soul, the heart beholds divine signs. Only God's light can set a man free and lift his spirit to exalted heights. It is said that a wealthy man wished to give Saint Rabia a gift, so he brought her a purse of gold coins. God provides for everyone, even those who curse him, Saint Rabia said. I don't need your gold. The rich man still stood there, purse in hand, hoping that Saint Rabia would accept his gift. Take it away! Rabia repeated. I once used the light of the sultan's lamp to sew by, but it bound my heart. I undid every stitch, and then I used the light of God's sun to do my work. That is how I freed my heart. Do not ask me to bind my heart with this gold. Using the metaphor of

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only God's love and His Infinite Magnificent Light frees a man from the clutches of darkness and fills his soul with divine radiance. Hazrat Ibn-e-Ataullah Sikandari, the famous 13th-century Sufi mystic, said that true seekers who surrender to the Almighty are able to receive the benediction of His light. There is a light deposited in hearts which is nourished by the Light coming from the treasuries of the invisible realms. There is a light wherewith He unveils for you His created things, and there is a Light wherewith He unveils for you His Attributes, said the great master. God's light permeates all things eternally, but man may be able to perceive this divine light only if God wills it. When God wills, the light dawns as divine intellect; it dawns as divine illumination of the heart and the spirit. 'Centrism isn't nostalgia, it is survival' Rethinking stray dogs: From crisis to opportunity The fury of Gen Z: Legitimate grievances but why its descent into anarchy Rakesh Kumar Singh is a serving Deputy Inspector General in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) with 32 years of distinguished service. He has served in conflict zones including Kashmir, North-East, and Naxal-affected Bastar, earning several Commendations. A prolific author of 11 books, his notable fiction works include - Colours of Red (Rupa, 2021), Lockdown Love (OmBooks, 2022), Ek Ghoont Chandani (Rajkamal, 2017), and Affairs of Deception (Rupa, 2024). His non-fiction includes the award-winning Naxalwad aur Police ki Bhumika (2012) and Naxalwad Ankaha Sach (2021), both recipients of the prestigious Govind Ballabh Pant Puraskar by BPR&D, MHA. He also co-authored Behind the Uniform: Not Just a Cop (Garuda, 2023) and wrote Beyond the Baton on police training. Kuchh Tinke kuchh baatein (Setu,2025) is a hybrid literary style that transcends traditional genres. He has contributed over 100 articles to leading newspapers and serves as a resource person in police academies. In recent months, South Asia has witnessed a wave of youth-led protests that have toppled governments and shaken the foundations of established political orders. Bangladesh in 2024 saw student protests escalate into a revolution that forced Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to flee, ending her long rule amid accusations of authoritarianism and corruption. Barely a year later, in September 2025, Nepal followed suit. What began as online outrage against nepotism and a sweeping social media ban erupted into street protests, leading to the resignation of Prime **Minister** K. P. Sharma Oli and the appointment of an interim government under former Chief Justice Sushila Karki. These events, hailed by some as Gen Z revolutions, raise profound questions to what extent are these protests rooted in genuine causes? Are the young ignoring democratic processes in pursuit of their goals, or is their anger a chaotic outburst against deep-rooted national issues? More alarmingly, does the accompanying violence-arson, vandalism of public property and destruction of historical symbols is their contemptuous anger or it signals rejection of the nation's hard-won progress? The grievances are undeniable. In both Bangladesh and Nepal, young people face staggering unemployment, economic stagnation and rampant corruption. Nepal's youth unemployment rate is very high, forcing thousands to migrate abroad daily, while remittances prop up a fragile economy. Viral social media trends exposing the lavish lifestyles of politicians' children- nepo ba



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Cards combined. Further, 50% of all UPI transactions are anyway up to Rs200 in value. UPI has in fact proved so successful that several countries around the world, including Brazil, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, US and European Union, are looking to replicate the system in their jurisdictions. Note also that the RBI nod for offline digital payments has come close on the heels of the introduction of e RUPI, an electronic voucher based digital payment system, last year. e RUPI is built on the UPI platform and is delivered as a prepaid, redeemable voucher to a beneficiary mobile phone in the form of an SMS string, or a QR code. The voucher is so far redeemable at specific accepting centers, but does not need the presence of a debit or credit card, a mobile app or even Internet banking making it a first of its kind digital payments system for basic phone non smartphone users. Digital Payments on Feature Phones The second major innovation is perhaps even more groundbreaking. The National Payment Corporation of India NPCI under RBI has been piloting a voice based payment service for basic mobile phone users, which will allow users to make payments by simply listening to instructions via an Intelligent Voice Response IVR system and pressing buttons on their mobile phone keyboard. It is important to understand why enabling digital payments via feature phones is such a big deal. Nearly a third of mobile handset sales in India comprise of feature phones. Indians bought 80 million feature phones in 2020 and even though the market is shrinking, sales in 2021 were expected to be around 70 75 million, according to IDC. Industry estimates peg the total number of feature phone users in India at 350 million. That is simply too large a market to ignore. The voice based payments technology will work over the UPI payments ecosystem and will use Dual Tone Multi Frequency DTMF signaling, along with two factor authentication 2FA flow for peer to peer P2P transactions. Further, the IVR will be available in multiple regional languages, allowing users to easily understand the instructions in their own language. RBI and NPCI are also reportedly testing additional feature phone based payment solutions. What it means for the India Fitch ecosystem India banking and finance regulator has rightfully incentivized the development of robust and scalable digital payment solutions in recent years that do not **need** expensive devices including smartphones, or even Internet connectivity, to work. The intent is clear: expand the reach and utility of digital payments to those who do not have a smartphone or access to stable Internet connectivity. Bringing digital payments to feature or basic phone users, or those without a stable Internet connection, represents a huge and still emerging opportunity for India finch ecosystem, as the enabling systems and infrastructure would necessitate the deployment of several advanced and scalable technology interfaces. Further, this opportunity is not limited to rural or remote users, for we expect offline digital payments to be as.

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District, intersects parts of Udaipur, Pratapgarh, and Durgapur districts. This is further complicated by the constantly evolving geometry and number of districts; Rajasthan, for example, recently announced the creation of 19 new districts. The incongruous nature of PCs and districts could eventually prevent elected representatives such as MPs from gauging the well-being and progress of their constituency. Evaluating the health of a PC using data The UK, for instance, has created interactive dashboards across several indicators like broadband coverage, household profiles, universal credit rollout, health conditions, etc. for parliamentary constituencies. Although the Government of India has also made significant strides in collecting and disseminating data across sectors, especially with its data.gov.in platform, not all data that is available to the public is user-friendly; and the data that is available, is mapped to administrative boundaries. However, more recently, a UK-like data tracker has been developed at Harvard for Indian PCs, using publicly available data from the National Family Health Survey. The first conducted in 1992-93, is a periodic survey that provides information on several health, nutrition and population indicators such as fertility, family planning, maternal and child health, nutrition, clean fuel usage, etc., at the district, state and national level. The survey covers approximately 610,000 households across the 707 districts in the country. Since 1992-93, five surveys have been conducted, with the most recent one in 2019-21. Given the sample size, scale and periodicity of the NFHS surveys and the indicators covered under it, NFHS data is a treasure-trove for policymakers, researchers, media, and other stakeholders in the public policy and research ecosystem. Furthermore, the availability of health, nutrition and population indicators at the PC-level in an interactive and user-friendly format could be transformative for policymakers. It would provide them with the tools to assess the impact of schemes in their constituency and identify unmet needs. To elucidate this further, let us look at school attendance rates among girls. The NFHS measures this as a percentage of girls aged 6 and above who ever attended school. Over the years, many governments at the center and states have envisioned and implemented several schemes to improve female school attendance. In 2009, the Government of India also codified the right to free and compulsory elementary education. PC-level data shows that these schemes have resulted in a significant improvement in girls school attendance over the years, with several PCs recording over 90% attendance. However, **despite** the tremendous progress registered, some PCs in the country still reported attendance rates below 50%, while some others saw a decline from the NFHS-4 levels. The availability of PC-level data can help elected representatives identify unmet needs in their constituencies and subsequently work with the administration and civil society to bridge the gap. Linking Data to Governance to improve coordination between district administration and elected representatives, the Ministry of Rural Development created the District Coordination and Monitoring Committees DDMC in 2016, chaired by MPs from the districts, to oversee the implementation and monitoring of central schemes. Access to and ready availability of PC level data could be crucial for these committees for their deliberations

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While this is a move in the right direction, reorganising districts may not be a feasible solution in all contexts and therefore, ensuring the availability of PC-level data would better align MPs with the needs of their constituents. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in 2019, announced the government intention to move towards evidence based policy making in 2022. The launch of the National Data and Analytics Platform in 2022 is an acknowledgement of this intent and marks a milestone in democratising data. Having got the ball rolling, the government now has the opportunity to incentivise the collection mapping of data to the parliamentary and assembly constituency levels and disseminate it in more user-friendly and interactive formats. The availability of such data will not only aid elected representatives in allocating resources better, but also elevate the policy discourse in the country by making it more participative. Kofi Annan, the former UN Secretary General wrote on the role of good data in ending malnutrition in Africa, without good data, were flying blind. If you can see it, you can solve it. Little can be more brazen, or cynical, than to alter prison rules to facilitate the release of a murder convict for political reasons. But that is exactly what Nitish Kumar JDU government in Bihar did earlier in April when it amended the Bihar Prison Manual 2012 to remove the phrase the murder of a public servant. The existing rule disallowed remission of convicts of terrorism, rape-cum-murder and murder of state officers. Within a fortnight of the change, former, Anand Mohan was set to be freed from prison, purportedly to re-enter the electoral arena ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. His political influence is expected to pull in some of Bihar approximately 6-7% Rajput vote. It is also seemingly why the opposition in Bihar spoke with a forked tongue: criticising the change in rule yet not criticising Mohan release. The 1990 saw criminality in politics countrywide reach epidemic proportions. Mohan as a regional strongman had made his political name on an anti-Mandal, anti-Dalit plank in the Bihar of early 1990s, the peak time of anti Mandal protests. In 2007, a trial court sentenced Mohan to death for the 1994 lynching of Gopalganj DM, a Dalit officer. Patna HC commuted that sentence to life. Cut to another remission case. The Supreme Court last week pulled up the Gujarat government and Gol for **their** reluctance to share files on the early release, which was also just ahead of Gujarat assembly elections, of 11 lifers in the Bilkis Bano case. SC said it was critiquing the grant of remission that showed complete non-consideration for the gravity of the offences. Recently, the Haryana government, presumably with an eye on 2024, justified frequent paroles to Dera chief and rape-and-murder convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim, claiming he wasn't a hardcore prisoner. Politicians flouting due process is not new. But it's something worse entirely when the executive appears to arrogate to itself the right to lay waste criminal justice procedure. Bihar government is unmoved by the criticism over Mohan release. Gol and Gujarat government have told SC they may challenge the court order to share the Bilkis Bano files. Remission, fairly applied, is a chance at a second life. But, and this is as distressing as it is unsurprising, governments are rarely concerned over remissions for politically irrelevant convicts. An aeon ago, we wannabe journalists cut our teeth on the Mor



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Wotthehell are these words that our self-anointed saviours pull out to smack down every idea that offends their spurious sensitivity? society and morality are the Siamese-twins Joker; it can be used any which way to make up their winning hand. The anti-Gays pack consists entirely of this two-headed card. First, the solicitor general sounded like a one-man fire-and-brimstone evangelist convention while dissing the Supreme Court right to adjudicate on same-sex marriage. Then the Bar Council of India switched over to the sarkar bench. In moral high dudgeon, it deployed the usual Joker phrases such as against the culture and socio-religious structure of our country. It echoed the flawed elect few argument. Leaving no tone unstoned, it thundered in addition to being socially and morally compensative a word as obsolete as this argument. In all this upping the ante, my confusion remains. Will society please show its Aadhaar Card? Who are these ID-less log whose kya bolenge? Strikes such terror in every matter that solely the business of the individuals concerned. Btw, in our culture another word defined entirely by who using it same-sex marriage is almost as apocalyptic as different-caste community marriage. The Joker other twin is equally shaped by the non container of indignation. Here, morality is out of syllabus because sexual orientation is a multiple choice question. As the wise CJI pointed out, only love should determine the legitimacy of marriage, not genitals. And the moral brigade is itself gender neutral, coming down as sanctimoniously on heterosexual canoodlers. Guys, chill. The social fabric is a rich tapestry not a dull sackcloth which will turn to ashes at the first sign of pattern change. And the fact that same-sex couples seek the equal right to become parents proves that they are that differently woven after all. While this clearly indicates that we are nowhere close to hitting the sky, studies also suggest a positive trend of gradual improvement in the number of women venturing out. There has been a 4% increase in women-led start-ups in India over the last five years. In fact, as per a report, women founders raised \$4.3 billion in 2022 and at least 36 unicorns and potential unicorns in India have at least one woman founder or co-founder. 17 percent of all Investment deals between 2019 to 2022 were raised by women-led start-ups in India. With this view in mind, the question to ask **is** how to accelerate this growth and see more rapid development, and how to ensure it is achieved faster and evenly across sectors and stages. This slow but gradual rise in the number of women founders can be attributed to multiple systemic changes, such as digital ecosystems for businesses, access to high quality remote talent, higher digital savvy workforce, especially in the post-pandemic era. To plan for the next stage of growth, we need to double click into the growth numbers, and look at the splits across industries and across the different stages of the journey. Fetch: Between 2017 to 2022, funding into the sector has increased by a massive 91.4 per cent. Fashion tech: The sector has 1,000 start-ups run by women founders. Early-stage: Early-stage funding into women led start-ups nearly doubled globally from \$550.5 million in 2021 to \$1.1 billion in 2022. Unicorn Startups: Out of the 11 startups with women-led founders or co-founders that currently have a unicorn valuation, 5 became unicorns in 2022 itself. High concentration of startups in th



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Last week a global tech outage saw us come apart pixel by pixel. Here we were, expecting bots to be at our beck and call to fetch and carry, and for AI to finish our sentences, when the lights went off as if the electricity bill had not been paid. Servers were on the blink, making it tough for employees to pretend to be working. GPS aunty, who often took us into cul-de-sacs, but always in that warm, wise voice, was greatly missed. Some could not open their own fridge, turning leftovers into a tragic love story. We were back in the dark ages. What would we do without Siri calling out aji sunte ho Outage turned to outrage even as many learnt these were two different words. Passengers who were mid-flight during the IT chaos took the time to yell at the airline staff in person despite landing safely; they knew there would be no email asking for feedback or ratings. Flights were cancelled or delayed, and many who got handwritten tickets hated that their name was spelt wrong. With everything long computerised, pen or paper ran short. People were also seen struggling to read their own handwriting; previously only doctors penned illegible prescriptions, but now a scrawl is universal. Some companies plan to go net-less once a month so workers will know which end of the pen to pick up. What if cell phone towers blinked one day And no signal was the new condolence We d have to converse face to face instead of back to back. The words Free Wi-Fi will no longer physically arouse. The same mobile phone that stores all our pictures will be taken to a studio and made to pose for a professional shot so we can hang it up as a portrait. Bluetooth will henceforth be a dental malady. We will use inlands and postcards again. Telegrams. Stop. Will. Stop. Be. Stop. Back. Stop. They are playing our song: Bruce Springsteen Dancing in the Dark. A Brazilian psychic said to have predicted here days of darkness has been declared God. It puts humanity in its place that something that froze them in their tracks was neither cyber crime nor a big bug, but a minor glitch in the system. All those headed for digital detox or silent meditation who spoke nostalgically about farming in the hills, were last seen giving **their** PCs mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Before the Bangladeshi Supreme Court ruling yesterday struck down a contentious quota for liberation fighters and their progeny, massive anti-quota protests had claimed at least 114 lives, hundreds more had been injured. What Bangladesh is witnessing today is a lethal combination of quota politics, lack of opposition space, and a govt increasingly given to authoritarian ways. Quota fire The latest round of turmoil began after the Bangladeshi high court on June 5 ruled to restore 30% quota in govt jobs at all levels for Bangladesh liberation fighters and their children and grandchildren. While this quota is new, it has had a fraught history. It was implemented whenever Awami League was in govt and ignored when BNP and its Islamist allies were in office. Merit vs entitlement When Awami returned to govt in 2009, it extended quota benefits to grandchildren of liberation fighters. That the benefits accrue to those politically aligned with Awami is lost on no one. But in 2018, amid similar protests against the quota, Awami scrapped it ahead of polls that year. The perfect storm The high court decision was challenged, and the Supreme Court reversed the quota, saying up to 93% of the jobs should be open to merit. But a large sectio

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The Self, indivisible, limitless, nondual consciousness, is the ultimate goal of all our seeking. Paradoxically, the sought is hidden in the seeker as their very Self. A true master has not only discovered this ultimate Truth but is gifted to impart this liberating knowledge to others. Free from the shackles of binding desires and resulting miseries, the guru, out of compassion, leads others to divine freedom. The blessings of such a master are a sure path to transformation. Having discovered the supreme state, the master rejoices in his true Sabah, nature. Brihadaranyaka Upanishad beautifully describes such a sage: atmanam ched vijaniyaat aham asmi iti purushah Kim icchan kasya kaamaay sariram anusanjwaret, if a person knows the Self as I am the limitless Atman, then desiring for whose sake will one suffer in the wake of the body. A master, having fulfilled the very purpose of life, is at the acme of human development with no other motivation except compassion. Overflowing with love, he represents the ultimate flowering of existence. On this Guru Purnima, with a grateful heart, let us bow to enlightened masters who guide us on the path to Self-discovery and liberation. Inviting game theorists to submit their strategies. The tournament had each strategy face off against every other one for 200 rounds. Axelrod found that Tit for Tat, a simple strategy that starts by cooperating and then mimics the opponent previous move, was the most successful. The best strategies shared qualities of being nice not defecting first, forgiving retaliating but not holding grudges, retaliatory and clear. On the other hand, deceitful strategies such as Always Defect in every round, Grim Trigger switching to permanent defection if the opponent defects even once, etc did perform well. Despite the emergence of complex and nasty strategies in subsequent tournaments, nice strategies consistently performed better. Axelrod findings illustrate that cooperation, clarity and forgiveness often lead to better outcomes in repeated interactions, challenging the notion that complex or deceitful strategies are superior. Although deceitful strategies could exploit nice strategies like Tit for Two Tats in the short run, nice strategies ultimately won the most points in the long run. For example, at the peak of Cold War, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, the US and USSR were engaged in a strategic standoff, each trying to gauge the other willingness to defect or cooperate. The resolution of this crisis through mutual de-escalation, despite **the** high stakes, underscores how strategic niceness benefited not only the two countries but also the world. In the real world, we encounter people employing various strategies, ranging from overtly kind to unabashedly ruthless. This raises an important question: what is the point of adopting a nice strategy if others in the environment are deceitful To answer this, we must explore another question: are humans innately good or bad, and are they capable of change This age-old debate was addressed by philosophers Thomas Hobbes and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. In Leviathan, Hobbes argued that humans are inherently selfish and driven by a desire for power, necessitating strong authority to maintain social order. Conversely, Rousseau, in The Social Contract, believed in the innate goodness of humans. The true nature of humanity likely lies somewhere between Hobbes and Rousseau perspectives, reflecting a complex interplay of inherent tendencies and exter

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With the government of India focusing on initiatives like the “Make in India” Innovation Mission, there is now a focus on encouraging innovation and manufacturing beginning right from the schools. This is the ideal opportunity for India to rise to the occasion and foster an environment of application based learning and creativity among schools, students and teachers. Schools must continue to embrace the flipped classroom approach even with physical classrooms. These flipped classrooms use recorded video and audio lectures as an educational tool, inverting the standard education model. A flip classroom is one in which students study basic ideas from home and then come to school for discussions and problem solving. This strategy allows students to take part in their education asynchronously, giving teachers more time to connect with other students. There is a need to build and nurture new partnerships aimed at STEM education, as well as eliminate impediments to it so that students can benefit from greater industrial opportunities as a result of both institutions collaborative efforts. STEM education is the answer to the unpredictability of global readiness. The Indian subcontinent was divided on 14 Aug 1947 based on the two nations theory. Though India has moved on, keeping her past behind yet, our adversary has bogged down with the false sense of hope that shattered its very roots of existence. On 22 Oct, thousands of tribal mercenaries and Pakistan Army regulars invaded Jammu and Kashmir by dismantling the border outposts BOP manned by the tiny state forces in Muzaffarabad and other places as they headed towards Srinagar. On 26 Oct 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh, the ruler of the erstwhile state of J&K, officially acceded to India after signing the Instrument of Accession. On 27 Oct, the Indian Armed Forces started operations against these raiders. The invading forces committed heinous atrocities. Civilians were looted, women were raped and killed, and even vandalised hospitals were. Pakistan sold the false propaganda to the international community that India attacked J&K unilaterally state forcibly. This happened because its ruler was a Hindu, and India never adhered to the mandate of the United Nations India knew very little about the has started observing 22 Oct as a black. It is a good initiative. Since with J&K and is exporting terrorism in one form or another. The political leadership of Pakistan has backed hard line and aggressive policies against India over India Pakistan **War** of 1965. Pakistan launched the to insinuate forces into J&K to rise to an insurgency against India. India reacted by launching an all out military attack on West Pakistan. Within 17 days, Pakistan was on its knees. Perturbed by the loss of war against India, the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto once swore to, and in the summer of 1990, his daughter, late Benazir Bhutto, repeated the same call. Again in the Indo Pak war of 1971, The Indian Army brought the Pakistani Army to its knees, took 93,000 Pakistani as prisoners and gave 75 million people of Bangladesh their independence.

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Prevalent in urban areas as in remote, on account of the massive popularity of UPI for small ticket purchases. For finch companies who can find a role for themselves in realizing this goal; this is a rare opportunity to build in India but not just for India; but also for the rest of the world. Technology has evolved as an indispensable aspect of our lives, and as society develops, technological adaptability has become a necessity of our social fabric. It is a priority for us as a culture to grow more comfortable with dynamic technology and stay up with forthcoming technological advances. In India, there is a lot of room for STEM education. The scope for STEM education and its significance has expanded with the advent of advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Machine Learning and the Internet of Things, as India is currently a technologically borrowing country rather than a technologically lending country. This shows that there is a technical gap that must be bridged through a variety of educational activities and interventions in order to provide youth with technological fluency. The NEP also emphasized the weight of a system that promotes critical thinking, hands on work, and creativity. STEM has a number of advantages since it enlightens students on real world problem solving dexterities as well as computational reflection, lateral thinking, logical reasoning, better decision making, and superior observation skills through the use of technology. Making STEM a part of the curriculum helps to qualify today students to be future innovators and inventors. According to a recent survey, STEM expertise is required for 75% of all professions, and digital literacy is required for 90% of these new age careers. STEM abilities have a two fold increase in career opportunities, in addition to their academic influence. This is one of the primary grounds why STEM is quickly becoming one of the most prevalent courses in all industrialized countries. The STEM curriculum is designed to pique students interest through application based learning, nurture them to explore possibilities, push trying new things, tinker with hands on execution, and prepare them to solve complex situations using applied knowledge of Science, Math, and Technology. The schools should focus on assisting the students in understanding the real world applicability and significance of the theories they discover in their textbooks, but they also foster a natural affinity for STEM. This aids in the **development** of a child curiosity, scientific thinking, creativity, and other skills necessary for greater science learning. Furthermore, it is critical in maximizing a child engagement in a holistic learning process. It enables students to use deduction, logic, and pattern identification to their advantage. In addition, learning STEM innovation improves creativity, which has a significant impact on a student academic achievement by raising IQ and CQ. Schools must offer scientific models capable of igniting the scientific fire in young children, which ensures that children are given the right guidance to help them achieve a bright future through visual aids and teacher training.



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A popular You tuber of Pakistan, Aralia Shah, is frequently watched in India. During the current political turmoil in Pakistan, she was interviewing Barrister Hamid Bashan, a Pakistani who apparently lives overseas. Bashan speaks in chaste Urdu and is one of the most articulate speakers that I have come across. Shah was telling Bashan that Atal Behari Vajpayee had conceded defeat and given up his prime minister ship when he had lost a no confidence motion by one vote. She said this only in passing. Before Bashan tackled her main question, he said that you Pakistanis think that you are so superior to Indians, you hate them so much that your jugular veins swell up, you think that you are much purer than them, yet when it comes to praising them, you take the narrow alley. Shah could only smile in embarrassment. There is another fantastic Pakistani You tuber, Arzoo Kazmi. She takes a much more pro India stance. She is a super hit amongst Indians. Why is India so obsessed with Pakistan that has become a basket case an economic, political and military one? One seldom finds any news in India about Bangladesh, which has become a roaring economic Asian tiger, whose growth has touched near double digits, almost double that of India . India has much to learn from Bangladesh, particularly in terms of Sheikh Hasina governance and in fields like microfinance that have wrought a miracle there. Microfinance has not made much of a dent in India. But Indians are simply not interested in Bangladesh. For them it is Pakistan, Pakistan, Pakistan. Pakistan all the way. One reason is language. The language spoken in the north of India Hindi is pretty much like Urdu, unless the speaker speaks chaste Urdu like Bashan does. Still a Hindi speaker can get the gist of what a Bashan is saying. India has Bengali in common with Bangladesh, but that commonality is restricted to one state, West Bengal. Hindi on the other hand is spoken of in many states. So hundreds of millions of Indians can understand what is happening in Pakistan. Pakistan perilous state gives a feeling of schadenfreude to many Indians. It like they believe, see, we told you, don separate from India, you will make a mess of yourselves. India on the other hand is stable and getting more prosperous. Religion enters the picture here. For close **to** six centuries, Hindus were enslaved by Muslims. The Muslims told the Hindus that you cannot rule, that you can only be subservient. Six centuries of servitude convinced many Hindus likewise of their in capabilities. But as noted Pakistani commentator, Hassan Near, also very popular in India, points out, the Muslims who ruled India for six centuries were a small number of Muslims who came from outside. The Muslim converts from Hinduism never ruled over the Hindus. They never developed the temperament for ruling. It is well documented that the foreign Muslim rulers much preferred marrying with high caste Hindus and.

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Almost never with the Muslim converts from Hinduism. Then there is the food. Rest aside beef and pork, almost everything else is ditto. Then there are the looks. In foreign lands, Pakistanis are indistinguishable from Indians. Pakistanis like to believe that they are fairer than Indians, hence better looking and superior, but if you consider laterally across a belt, for example across the two states of Punjab, a Pakistani Punjabi has the same complexion as an Indian Punjabi. What else is there in Pakistan that fascinates Indians? Today there is Imran Khan. Khan, because of his cricketing exploits and his fair handsome strapping looks has an eternal following in India, no matter how much he abuses India and its leadership. Indians cannot get their eyes off Khan. He speaks good English, which is unusual for a Pakistani. He mesmerizes Indians. Almost every news channel telecast his recent bombastic, circuitous speech. It made no sense whatsoever. He appeared to claim to be descended from Allah, and in a long line of Muslim prophets and heroes like Sire ud Daulah and Tipu Sultan. His enemies were Mir Jafar and Mir Sadiq. It interesting that no matter how much Pakistan claims to be not India, its lineage its heroes and villains were all Indian. India should feel grateful that Pakistan parted ways with it, and is now to its side, making a complete mess of itself, without impacting India in any way. Just imagine if Pakistan had stayed part of India, all 23 crores of it. All of these 23 crore people would have been making mayhem in India, making it ungovernable. Many Indian military officers pay tribute to the professionalism of the Pakistani military. But what kind of professional military interferes, no runs, every aspect of the civilian administration in its country. That is involved in shelling peas to baking biscuits and making diapers. Is this the job of any army? Yes, when it comes to taking on India, the Pakistani army becomes all jihadi and starts invoking Allah and whatnot. In peacetime, it is busy making money and fueling the insurgency in Kashmir and sheltering Bin Laden. Even our missiles are fascinated by Pakistan. When they go awry, they don go eastwards into India. Instead they self direct themselves westwards into Pakistan. Finally, there is cricket. Indians crave to play Pakistan. India might be the better team in terms of **rankings**, but in a head to head match, I can bet you that the Pakistanis will bring out their inner jihad and perhaps even cream India. So there, the Indian fascination with Pakistan goes on. It like a comedy circus over there, and we love watching it. Don all of us even if only occasionally succumb to emotions like irritation, jealousy, sadness, and anxiety? There are nary many of us who would like the power to change the way things are in our life in the world around us We labor under the belief that it is the people in our.

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In Writ Appeal No. 2142/2025 (CS-EL/M) before the High Court of Karnataka at Bengaluru, the bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice Umesh M. Adiga, on 08. 01. 2026, while hearing the appeal of S. C. Basavaraj and others against the State of Karnataka and others challenging the order dated 25. 11. 2025 in W. P. No. 8434/2025 which sought the inclusion of their names in the voter list for the H. Malligere Primary Agricultural Co-operative Society Limited's elections but was dismissed by the learned Single Judge on grounds of an alternative remedy under Section 70(2) of the Karnataka Co-operative Societies Act, 1959 and considering the appellants' grievance that their votes, cast under an interim order but directed to be excluded from the results, were being treated differently from similarly placed petitioners in W. P. No. 8173/2025 and W. P. No. 8417/2025 whose votes were ordered to be included, prima facie observed the appellants' entitlement to parity, and while granting time to respondent No. 6's counsel to ascertain if including the appellants' votes would alter the already declared election results, deferred all further meetings of the society, directed the appellants' counsel to serve respondent No. 2 and clear office objections, and listed the matter for further hearing on 12. 01. 2026.

Emblems of a borderless, digital generation. Their rapid success in ousting a government reflects the power of organized, tech-savvy mobilization via platforms like Discord and Instagram. Yet, the means employed cast a long shadow over the ends achieved. In Bangladesh, post-resignation chaos saw the burning of cultural heritage sites, including the home of a revered Baul singer and memorials linked to the liberation war. Statues of founding leaders were toppled and targeted violence erupted against perceived supporters of the old regime. In Nepal, protests devolved into arson Parliament, the Prime Minister's office and key administrative buildings were set ablaze. Vandalism targeted politicians' homes and reports emerged of infiltrators hijacking peaceful demonstrations, turning them into mobs. This destruction is not mere collateral damage, it borders on obliterating historical progress. The leaders whose legacies were torched or defaced were flawed as they may have played roles in building these nations from colonial or monarchical pasts. Erasing symbols of national struggle risks fracturing collective memory and inviting further division. Is this the vision Gen Z holds a scorched-earth approach to reform? Worse still are accounts of anarchy in the aftermath. **While** mob lynching did not widespread in Nepal's case, the region has seen echoes of post-uprising lawlessness, with prison breaks, looting and unchecked violence in Bangladesh contributing to economic crises and a climate of fear. Nepal's interim phase has brought curfews, army patrols and lingering instability, exacerbating unemployment and migration. One cannot help but wonder. Do these young protesters believe they alone are the best thinkers and doers for the nation? Their leaderless, decentralized movements coordinated online and rejecting traditional party structures demonstrate innovation and courage. But they also reveal immaturity; a reluctance to engage in the slow grind of institutional reform, preferring swift, dramatic change. Mahatma Gandhi's timeless wisdom rings truer than ever, The means must be as pure as the end. Non-violence was the bedrock of India's fr

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and holding interim governments accountable. Nepal's upcoming polls in 2026 offer such an opportunity. If the youth dream of a terror-free, prosperous nation, they must reject anarchy and embrace disciplined, Gandhian pursuit of justice. The fury of youth can illuminate paths forward, but only if tempered with wisdom. Otherwise, it risks consuming the very nation it seeks to save. TOI News - January 18, 2026 Mission New Moor Island As Midshipmen on board INS Beas in 1981 we would sail a lot as part of our training and visit various ports. It was during one such visit that we reached the port of Chennai. We had reached a day before and in the evening visited the duty free shops around the port. The next day we were at anchorage generally lazing around and disliking the soot and smell of the port when we received a signal to sail with dispatch toward Indo-Bangladesh coast in northern Bay of Bengal. Shortly we were speeding northward, we would receive news from the bridge when our course mates returned from duty to the mess decks and soon we learnt that we were on our way to the 'New Moor Island' between Indo-Bangladesh coast to take control of the same as it was learnt that the island was oil rich and Bangladesh was making plans to take control of it being a disputed territory. We reached the next evening and sighted the small uninhabited island and anchored near it and the 'Action Stations' were piped. It was to stay alert essentially against surface and underwater threats, primarily to look for bubbles on the water lines as an indication of any diver underwater. We were divided into two watches and awaited action. Our whaler boat was on the task from the very first day and the permanent coxswain was Rajesh Sareen, our course mate. Soon INS Shardul, our Landing Craft from Vizag arrived with BSF jawans. Rajesh was ordered to take the jawans to the island and he promptly moved when our whaler reached the island and hoisted the Indian flag! In a day or two, we were joined by the other ships of the eastern command and Fleet Commander RAdm Jain also arrived on board Dunagiri. The Bangladesh side was also watching us and they would patrol in their boats loaded with men and pass our ships at a distance. They were aware of **our** power and resolve. During the day alerts were sounded and we would be up and about in action rig. The ship is known for its boats and our boat was doing well. One day the dawn was about to break and most of us were in our bunks in action uniform when we heard the announcement on the main broadcast - 'Hands to action stations Away sea Boat'. We Mids immediately jumped out of our bunks, and within minutes our boat cast off. Rajesh was the coxswain, I was there along with four other course mates. We had our communication set and each had an SLR ( self loading rifle) with which we were well acquainted, also had hand grenades, these are used in boats while patrolling and frequently thrown in water to ward off underwater threats.. We learnt that a look out had sighted a speeding boat near our ship. We moved fast in the general direction and soon realized that our boat had come quite far and our ship was barely in sight. The morning mist had made visibility difficult. For some time there was an eerie silence, our rifles were ready. We stayed there for some time



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Life, the objects we own, and our interactions with them that cause negative emotions that make us unhappy. We all seek happiness. We do not earn money merely to buy the barest necessities of life. Money, to us, is something that can buy us comforts and luxuries that can bring us happiness either now or in the future. In short, most of us conceive of happiness as a dividend of external factors possessions, relationships, and wealth extant in our lives. This is paradoxical because most people will agree that all the negative emotions that make us unhappy emanate from the mind. While a great deal of attention and energy is devoted to physical beauty, material wealth, and building and maintaining relationships, the mind receives the least grooming and attention. Meditation exists in myriad flavors each with its technique but all with a common underlying concept. All seek to bring the mind to a single pointed focus to stabilise the unstable mind. Such a stable, controlled mind can then be caused to generate controlled thought processes. The individual who was a victim of her his moods now emerges as their controller. Easier said than done Indeed anyone who begins to meditate quickly realises that it is difficult to keep the mind focussed on anything a form, a name, an object, a sound, the breath the mind seems to slip away unnoticed, repeatedly, and frustratingly Sitting down with the eyes closed for even 30 minutes turns out to be far more difficult than it would appear to be to someone who has never tried it. Keeping the mind focussed for even a brief period turns out to be well nigh impossible Daniel Goldman in his book The Varieties Of The Meditative Experience 1977 examines twelve different types of meditative practices including Sufism and Jewish Kabbalah. There are many more. The spectrum ranges from pop meditations involving visualization or meditation music to intense and serious practices like Vipassana and Kundalini Yoga which need years of sustained effort. Visualization meditation, meditation music, and other techniques that are available on online platforms like YouTube and Spottily have undeniable benefits. They can reduce stress levels. They bestow a certain sense of peace and calm. They do not demand a great investment of time nor a high level of commitment and can be practiced almost anywhere and at any time. And yet, these rarely make any **deep** impact on one mind. The calmness and positivity felt barely outlast the period of the meditation practice. The mind stays uncured of its deeper malaises. It is intuitive for human beings to expect great rewards at the end of great efforts. The few who do attempt to get into intense meditation practices especially those of South East Asian origins like Vishuddimagga, Kundalini Yoga, or Vipassana sometimes do so in expectation of states of transcendental bliss, rapture, ethereal experiences, or special powers. A persistent meditator may indeed experience any or all of these as the practice progresses. Yet, it would be.

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A serious mistake to consider these extraordinary experiences as the goal of meditation. It is these experiences that make up the meditation hoax. They amplify the craving for pleasurable experiences leading to discontentment. The state of the meditator who loses himself in the enjoyment of the extraordinary experiences has been symbolically expressed in the mythological story of Sage Vishwamitra who gives up his penance distracted by the charms of the celestial nymph Menaka. The perception of these experiences as good is something that the meditator needs to overcome if he has to arrive at the goal of developing lasting equanimity that gives peace. Meditation is a hoax if one expects it to bring anything extraordinary. If anything, it should make one content with being ordinary and should rid one of the craving to be extraordinary

Diabetes is a chronic disease in which the pancreas fails to generate enough insulin to meet the body demands, resulting in dangerously elevated blood sugar levels. Diabetes can result in severe blood vessel damage, which can lead to heart attacks, strokes, chronic kidney disease, and vision loss if left untreated. Insulin pills or injections, as well as other drugs, are commonly used to treat diabetes. On the other hand, using medicine might be avoided if blood glucose levels can be managed naturally. Dietary and lifestyle adjustments, which can support a healthy lifestyle, are the best ways to regulate blood sugar. Here, we all look at how diabetes may be managed by following a few simple guidelines

Consume fresh, green veggies. Vegetables are full of fiber and help to maintain blood sugar levels. Broccoli, spinach, beetroot, cauliflower, French beans, as well as other non starchy vegetables should be consumed. Raw vegetable salads can enable you to stay fuller for longer by reducing sugar crashes, which contribute to sugar cravings. Keep a Low Sugar Diet The best way to keep blood sugar levels under control is to follow a low sugar diet. Many diabetics cut out sugar in their espresso, tea, and milk, and they avoid sugary desserts. However, there is always the possibility of consuming disguised sweets. For example, honey is a natural food, but it is also 97% sucrose. Sugar may be included in practically all processed meals, including sauces, as well as protein bars and beverages. Diabetics should avoid starchy foods such as potatoes and yams. When a packaged item is labeled "a **Sugar** Free, Quota it signifies that the natural sugar has been replaced with an added artificial sweetener. This is yet another reason why it is critical to constantly study ingredients and labels before ingesting something labeled as nutritious. Good sugar substitutes for diabetics are not artificial sweeteners, but rather natural sweeteners such as Splendid, Stevia, Xylitol, and Erythritol. Exercising regularly Exercising is a great way to treat chronic conditions. Weight management promotes sensitivity to insulin and sugar absorption from the blood. Brisk strolling and jogging can be quite beneficial to diabetics. Cycling, jogging, gymnastics, and even weight lifting can all be.

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Loan portfolio in India based on CRIF How India lends 2021 report. Meanwhile, asset backed lending products such as gold loans, home loans, and vehicle loans, which make up for a majority of the retail loan book, still depend on physical interactions at the branch. Due to this, the lenders are forced to maintain expensive branch operations. This not only leads to an increase in their Open AUM ratio a core operational metric for bankers, but also severely limits their ability to expand such offerings to new geographies due to setting up of new physical branches, unlike other doorstep products or services such as e commerce brands. Open AUM ratio of two of the biggest gold loan NBFC players in India is between 3.6% and 6% as of Q3 FY2022. So, on one hand, we have consumers who want services at home and on the other, lenders who want to offer almost risk free secured lending products like gold loans but find it difficult to strike the optimum balance between managing retail operations and branches. There exists a very clear supply and demand gap in the market, which by the way, not accounting for TAM expansion and considering only the organized sector, is estimated to be about \$50bn in India gold loans market and the unorganized gold backed lending market is estimated to be 3X the same. This is where full stack gold loan products and services Fitness come into the picture. Their moat is the use of technology to manage or automate the operational trinity of lending front offices Loan Managers visiting customers instead of customer visiting branches, middle offices app based auto servicing sales centers support, and back offices banking operations, payments, underwriting, etc. using technology. For the consumers, it means a safer, faster and more convenient service. A professional Loan Manager comes to the customer home, assays the gold, books the loan and within 30 40 minutes the amount is disbursed to the customer bank account. Thereafter, the customer can manage the loan entirely through apps. Through all this, banks only need to lend the money everything else is handled by Fitch platforms. As a consequence, Indian consumers, increasingly, prefer to get their gold pledged at the privacy of their homes rather than risking physically carrying the asset to deposit as a collateral at bank branches. There is a common misnomer that borrowers with low credit **scores** usually opt for gold loans, which is the complete opposite in real life. For a business owner who has gold lying as a dead asset in the admiral, a gold loan is more prudent than a business loan for two reasons. First, gold loan interest rates are much lower. Second, in gold loans, one only needs to pay the interest component per month and can repay the principal at the very end. This means that for a trader or a manufacturer, the working capital acquired via the loan can be entirely used for investments and once returns.

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Let me begin this piece with an imaginary situation. If Babasaheb Ambedkar were alive today, he would have probably been quite amazed to see how political parties with completely different ideologies are vying with each other to associate themselves with his persona. As with many socio political heroes, Ambedkar life and work have acquired symbolic meaning after his death, going through various inventions, reinventions to occupy a larger space in the public imagination, especially among the marginalised, Dalits and subalterns. Since this section of Dalits and marginalised has become politically aware and more relevant in electoral arithmetic, various political groups have been eager to associate their politics with the symbolic images of Babasaheb. The historical moments of his birth, death and religious conversion provide space to the public and political parties to observe various forms of remembrance and create and recreate their own version of Ambedkar. In the process, these political groups also hope to deepen their political reach among his followers. After all, what better outreach than celebrating their biggest icon To get a sense of this, just look at the grand scale in which events have been lined up for the forthcoming Ambedkar Jayanti on April 14. The BJP plans to celebrate Samajik Nyaya Saptah social justice week to show its commitment towards his vision. It will also share with the public this whole week his work on social welfare, empowerment and representation hissedari of the downtrodden in the sphere of political power and development. In Uttar Pradesh, party workers will visit Dalit households to spread the message about central government schemes that will benefit them. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to open a museum and exhibition complex on the life and work of all the Prime Ministers of India at Teen Murti Bhavan on April 14. As we know, the forms of remembrance of an icon often change with changing time and context. The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad ABVP has also highlighted its work on socio cultural inclusion of marginal communities and areas such as the North East through its recently published book Dhyeya Yatra . The way Congress and Left are proposing the remembrance of Babasaheb Ambedkar is largely based on invoking dissenting aspects of Ambedkar messages to mobilise the marginalised. Congress is also trying to revive memories of Ambedkar by projecting its works **done** for the empowerment of Dalits during its own regime. However, this method of mobilisation of memories may become largely ineffective because the generations which experienced those times are either no more or have become old. The Bahujan Samaj Party is working hard to activate the memories of Ambedkar this time to check the ongoing fragmentation of its Dalit base by reminding them of their moral commitment to be cohesive with the political party which lays claim to the legacy of Ambedkar. Mayawati has given various such statements and appealed to Dalits to stay united to fulfil the dreams of Babasaheb and Kanshi Ram in Uttar Pradesh following the assembly election results.



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Beneficial yoga is great for muscle strength and flexibility. Along with boosting physical fitness, it can help improve mental clarity and focus. It is critical to stay hydrated. Staying hydrated is essential for all body processes, but it especially critical while attempting to regulate your blood sugar. Drinking enough water will help your kidneys clear away amounts of glucose without bringing them under undue pressure. Water is usually the best hydration choice. For alternatives to water, avoid anything sugary, especially fruit juices. Summing up Diabetes may be managed by making a few lifestyle modifications, and people with diabetes should pay close attention, both, to the glycemic index and the glycemic load to avoid blood sugar fluctuations. Both types of indices provide useful information on how any given carbohydrate food influences blood glucose level and can help with the choice of foods to be eaten. A low glycemic index diet with a regular glycemic load of less than 100 is advised. Also, both directly and indirectly, cut out sugar from your diet. One of the most significant ways to keep your blood sugar levels stable is to stop smoking and drinking alcohol, as well as to incorporate frequent brisk exercise. All of these ideas can help you control your diabetes and keep it under control. In today technologically advanced world, lending has reduced the intricacies of a time consuming process from days to minutes. While financial institutions were among the first to adopt digital technologies when the sector was in its infancy, credit must also be given to new age finch businesses that are transforming the lending experience for borrowers. We are living in a time of a much higher degree of convenience compared to our previous generations. The service deliveries that used to be considered normal erstwhile would now prompt a customer to shift loyalties to a competing brand since it regarded as a hygiene factor in the present times. Be it food delivery apps, taxi aggregators, or OTTs, audiences today expect the highest quality of services from the comfort and convenience of their homes. This has led to a paradigm shift in the collective expectations of consumers across all products and services, including financial services. Having said that, owing to their complex nature, financial services require considerable modifications and rapid technological shifts to fit the mound of new age consumer expectations. With infrastructure between banks and Fitness being **increasingly** driven by APIs, micro services, and configurable Saabs products, several banking products and services ranging from new account opening and Fixed Deposits to availing personal loans and getting credit cards sanctioned, can be built 100% online. Along the same lines, secured lending products where a physical asset like gold is involved as collateral can also be accessed through an app. Look at it from a bank perspective, of the entire suite of retail credit offerings that exist, unsecured lending products such as personal loans and education loans, while fast growing and easily digitizable, accounts for 12.8% of the overall retail.

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Which decimated her party. There are various Dalit political groups such as the Republican Party of India and its various factions, the Azad Samaj Party led by Chandrashekhar and many small Dalit political groups who are all demonstrating their claim on Ambedkar by projecting themselves as his pure followers. They claim that they work more honestly to implement Ambedkar ideas in the society. In this process, there is also a game of one upmanship as they each try to prove themselves more committed with the ideals of Babasaheb and attempt to expose their own rival Dalit groups as ingenuine followers. Many programmes may be organised on his coming birthday, many Twitter, Instagram, Facebook messages may be posted by political groups and leaders making claims and counterclaims around the symbol of Ambedkar. But we need to see whether these tributes remain restricted to posting images of Ambedkar or translate into substantial programmes and socio political actions which may speed up the processes of social transformation in our country. As for what the architect of the Constitution watching from the heavens would have thought about these attempts to appropriate his legacy, perhaps the ever pragmatic Babasaheb would have understood A study by Surjit Bhalla, Arvind Virmani and Karan Bhasin estimates that extreme poverty defined by the World Bank as consumption below 1.90 per day per person has virtually disappeared in India. India poverty line is virtually identical to the Bank . The new study adapts a Bank methodology. It concludes that the poverty ratio fell sharply from 31.9 in 2004 to 5.1 in 2014 and. Is the summer is the time when your hair needs a lot of attention. Protection from heat, sun, humidity and dust is very important to keep hair fit. At the same time keeping hair clean and manageable is a challenge in summer because of the extreme heat and constant sweating. Everyone should try to follow a healthy hair care regime to keep hair away from damage. Follow these simple home hair care to steps to keep your hair happy & healthy during the hot months. Sunscreen for hair: Protecting your hair from the strong sun & heat is important. Always apply a Hair Serum leave in conditioner on the lengths before going out. This will surely prevent dryness and damage from the sun. Wash hair daily: Daily **washing** is extremely important to keep dandruff and itchiness away. Use a hydrating shampoo if possible and try to keep your hair & scalp clean all the time. Preconditioning: It is the most effective hair care treatment that works for all hair types, yes apply any basic oil to your hair lengths for 5 minutes before washing daily. It will make your hair super soft, healthy & beautiful. Sugar scrub: Take aloe vera gel fresh if possible and granulated sugar in equal parts. Mix together and massage on the scalp for 5 minutes before washing once a week. It will make your scalp healthy and keep dandruff away for sure.

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The graduation ceremony at an Ivy League university was about to begin. The hall was packed with students and their relatives. A girl in her late 20s stepped onto the dais. She was dressed in a black graduation gown and cap. Pointing toward me, she called out loudly, Lavazza. I was taken by surprise, not only because she singled me out in the vast gathering but also because I had no recollection of how I ended up in that hall. The ceremony soon commenced. Instead of focusing on the students coming to collect their certificates on stage, my attention was inexplicably drawn to a man standing in the right corner of the stage. He seemed too old to be a student, possibly in his late 30s. He was tall, well-built with broad shoulders, and had a bony facial structure with wide jaws. Behind his right shoulder stood a child who appeared to be around 10 years old. The child gradually began climbing the man back, scratching as he ascended. Eventually, the child reached the man shoulders. A dark green cloth covered the child body. He continued climbing higher until I realized it was all a dream. I went back to sleep and forgot about the dream. The next morning, I went about my usual routine brushing my teeth and going for a jog. While scrolling through my phone, I read about Open-Air video-generating application called Sora. This application can create videos from textual descriptions. For example, it can generate a video of ...a 3-year-old kid playing with a dog and three puppies in the backyard garden on a sunny day. Suddenly, my strange dream from the previous night came to mind. As I recalled the entire dream, I noticed an uncanny resemblance between how dreams are generated and how generative AI like Sora works. Generative AI is powered by large language models. These models are trained on extensive datasets, enabling them to predict the next word, sound byte or video frame. With sophisticated algorithms, can predict the next token due to their vast repository of information. A token is a small unit of text data that AI models can process. Dreaming seems quite similar. Based on our memories, the dream generates the next visual frame on the go, utilizing the large repository of memories in our minds. My dream, for instance, might have drawn from several videos of graduation **ceremonies** I had seen on social media. While there was no explicit input text for my dream setting, the visuals felt generated in real time as I watched. It was like watching an event that had already happened or was being telecast live; it felt like my mind was creating it while I was watching. Yet, I was unaware of this fact while dreaming. The dream felt vivid, although not as real as reality, but my reactions felt genuine. The surprise when the girl on stage called out Lavazza or my confusion at seeing the child climb the tall man back felt authentic. Dreaming and Generative AI seem to generate frames in a way that maintains broad consistency and logical coherence, but they also tend to produce hallucinations or factually incorrect and logically inconsistent information. For example, finding myself at a graduation ceremony watching a child climb the back of an unknown man on stage does make sense and is unlikely to happen in real life. Similarly, Generative AI throws up factually incorrect information. In recent times some lawyers have been reprimanded by the courts for submitting bogus case laws in their legal briefs which were generated by Catgut. In the 1970s, Harvard ps

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Are essentially random and meaningless. Similarly, generative AI seems to predict the next token in a series to maintain a coherent narrative and sometimes it generates pure gibberish like some of our non-sensual dreams. Since dreams are generated from our subconscious mind, generative AI can be compared to it in certain ways. This raises important questions: Can AI be conscious in the future? Is the subconscious mind a stepping stone to the evolution of a conscious mind? After all, the animals from which humans evolved are not conscious in the same way we are; they operate more subconsciously. Alternatively, consciousness might not develop in a bottom-up manner, suggesting AI might never achieve consciousness through this approach. AI offers a fascinating opportunity to understand our minds better. Technology has always provided analogies to help us comprehend how our minds work. We used to compare the mind to machines that output responses to inputs. Then, we used computers to describe information processing in our minds. Now, AI serves as a more sophisticated analogy for understanding our minds. Whether we will achieve Artificial General Intelligence AGI remains to be seen, but as AI technology advances, our understanding of the mind will undoubtedly get better. Personalization algorithm often recommends valuable content. Recently, it surfaced a post by Left Right And Centre. in LRC on a controversial topic India outreach to Russia amidst the Ukraine war with a decent analysis. Upon clicking, I discovered it was from a Large Language Model powered news product built by two researchers: Germany-based Computer Scientist Ashwin Prasad and Bangalore-based Journalist Vibhu Prakash. Similar to Ground. News, LRC is a news website that presents a broad spectrum of political views on news topics to reduce polarization and promote cross-partisan dialogue. In its current form, LRC faces the challenge of navigating India intricate political landscape and establishing a strong foothold in an already crowded news market. Hence, they might want to consider other pivots. LRC is fully automated. Given a news topic, it combs through hundreds of articles from various Indian news websites, analyzing their political leanings, summarizing their core arguments, and synthesizing them into a balanced narrative using Open AI GPT-4 and a fine-tuned Meta Llama model. The entire process, from data gathering to content creation, is AI-driven, with minimal human intervention limited to fact-checking and minor edits. Real world is definitely more complex. There are many more variables **involved**. Yet the above approach gives a good intuition about the right kind of strategies. The old and simple adage As you sow, so shall you reap may indeed be accurate. In Hindu philosophy, the law of karma points to a similar strategy. While this may have been our collective understanding for ages, game theory provides a more objective justification for those with a scientific bent of mind. Classifying everything into left and right is too simplistic and ignores the subtleties of real life. This is especially true in the Indian context. Unlike the relatively clear-cut ideological divisions in the West, Indian politics is a complex tapestry woven from civilizational aspirations, economic realities, and religious divisions. Parties and individuals often hold a mix of progressive and conservative views on different issues. For example, experts argue that in India, the far-left and Isl



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Those piercing skyscrapers, lavish office spaces, and sparkling showrooms have caught the eye of every passerby. Millennials who spend half their day working in these plush spaces have all dreamt of owning them at least once in their lives. But owning crores worth of Commercial Real Estate is beyond the bounds of possibility for salaried employees. Or at least so was the case until the advent of fractional ownership. Fractional ownership is stirring an investment storm in the real estate space by offering individual investors a chance to own a slice of Grade A commercial real estate. For long, real estate investments have been constricted to the purview of residential properties, but things are changing as we speak. As a matter of fact, experts are forecasting fractional ownership in India to surpass \$5 billion in the coming years. With investments as low as 5 lakh, individual investors can own a fraction of premium CRE in metro cities that are home to IT parks, MNCs and warehouses owned by e commerce companies. As the storm of fractional ownership continues to rage, a cloud of unawareness and apprehension continues to mystify the Indians. Demystifying the Concept of Fractional Ownership When a set of investors, be it institutional or individual; purchase a Grade A commercial real estate in fractions it is referred to as fractional ownership. By investing in such a property, they agree to share passive ownership of a high worth CRE. The returns and incomes so generated are distributed to the fractional owners of the property. Fractional ownership reduces the financial burden on a single investor while allowing them to generate a steady stream of cash flows and long term returns. Additionally, investors can diversify their portfolios by investing in multiple CREs at different locations. For instance, there is a premium office space at a prime location in Gurugram worth 100 crores. The CRE is already pre leased by a large MNC, ensuring a steady cash flow and capital appreciation in the long term. However, an individual investor with only 20 lakhs to invest cannot afford to buy the property alone. But with the help of an online proptech platform such as Definite, the individual can share partial ownership of the office with a pool of similar investors. As a result, individual investors can invest in 100 crore worth of CRE at just a fraction of the cost. Working professionals **in** India often suffer from a dearth of viable investment options, especially in the real estate space. Fixed deposits in the bank do not offer high returns, whereas investment in the stock market can generate high returns but run a high risk as well. At a time like this investing in CRE is emerging as a promising concept given that land is an appreciating and secure asset, generating monthly returns and long term profits. After earning a good capital gain, investors enjoy the autonomy to sell their fraction when they want. Catalysts for Growth of Fractional Ownership Fractional ownership has been.

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Australia and India share many things in common. We are democratic nations, that support the rule of law and us both love cricket. Australia has given the world Shane Warne, and India has given it Sachin Tendulkar. The respect shown by Indian cricket fans towards Warne and by Australian cricket fans towards Tendulkar underscores the deep affection we share for each other. Even in his exit, Imran Khan has created a record for Pakistani politics. He becomes the first PM of that country to lose a no trust vote. After a day of high drama where Pakistan National Assembly was adjourned multiple times as it sat to take up the no confidence motion mandated by the ruling of the Pakistani Supreme Court, Khan was left with no choice but to demit office. He never had the numbers. Intra party dissensions within his Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf coupled with the exit of allies PML Q, MQM and Balochistan Awami Party parties that are traditionally pro military had long sealed his fate. But Khan obdurately held on by citing a so called foreign conspiracy to topple his government and moving to prevent the no trust vote from being taken up. However, with the Pakistan army rejecting the foreign hand theory and the judiciary sticking to procedure, it was only a matter of time before Khan resistance crumbled. The final no trust vote in which 174 out of 342 Pakistani parliamentarians voted in favour of the motion was a mere formality. While due process appears to have been followed, Khan may well be the first creation and victim of what is widely referred to as Pakistan hybrid regime a new experiment in Pakistan political evolution where the Pakistan army remains at the centre of power but wraps itself with the veneer of institutional propriety. The model involves a weak PM being brought to power by the military and then being made to dance to the latter tunes. Khan electoral victory in 2018 in one of the most managed elections in Pakistan history followed this pattern. His time in office saw the Pakistani media being heavily censored, civil rights being curbed with mainstreaming of extremist outfits like the Tehreek i Labbaik Pakistan, and activists being hounded even as systemic corruption in the military ISI complex endured. Khan big mistake was that he had forgotten he wasn't his own master. He leaves Pakistan with **the** highest level of debt burden in its history, the lowest level of currency ever, the third highest level of inflation in the world, and relations with India in tatters. Pakistan Parliament meets today to elect a new PM with leader of opposition Shehbaz Sharif tipped to take the top office. Another Sharif return to the helm would signify the continuation of dynastic rule in Pakistani politics. But the experiment with hybrid rule has largely been successful for the generals at Rawalpindi GHQ. The incoming Pakistani premier will have to contend with this, painting a bleak future for Pakistan democracy political.

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Authorised officer additional deputy commissioner has passed the impugned order dated without considering the documents produced by the petitioners by affording them an opportunity to lead evidence, without following the procedure as contemplated under rule 26(c) of the karnataka land reform (amendment) rules, 1998 (for brevity, the klr rules) and without conducting an enquiry as contemplated under section 48-a of the karnataka land reforms act (for brevity, the klr act). 14. He further contended that undisputedly the petitioners are in possession of the lands claimed by them before and as a tenant under the respondent-landlords and continued to be in possession. The said aspect is fortified in view of the suit filed by saritha bhandary for declaration and possession against the petitioners in and 1 other 15. He further contended that the authorised officer has failed to delve into the ingredients of section 77a of the klr act, which contemplates three basic ingredients the possession and cultivation of the applicant as on the applicant has failed to apply for registration under section 48-a within the period specified and whether the applicant continued to be in actual possession and cultivation. According to the learned senior counsel, all these ingredients have been fulfilled by the petitioners by placing sufficient documents. To prove the possession and tenancy, the petitioners produced the genii chits, record of right, receipt of payment of assessment etc. Further, the petitioners have filed form no. 7a in time and they also proved that they are in continuous possession of the land claimed by them in view of the declaration suit filed by saritha bhandary. Despite placing all this prima facie evidence, the authorised officer has failed to grant the land claimed by them. 16. He also contended that the contention of the contesting respondents that the genie chit and other documents have been forged and there is a truth lab report cannot be accepted for and 1 other the reason that these documents were never the part of the original proceedings and petitioners never had an opportunity to disprove the allegation of forgery by cross-examining the witness or author of such report. 17. He further contended that the reasoning of the authorised officer that there existed no landlord and tenant relationship in view of the relationship between the petitioners and contesting respondents and the petitioners possessing excess land as contemplated under clause of klr act is totally misread. **On** the other hand, the petitioners proved their possession over lands claimed by them by placing etc and the said aspect has been admitted by the contesting respondents. 18. The spot inspection conducted by the land tribunal and passing of the impugned order based on such report is totally without jurisdiction in view of the limited enquiry as contemplated under rule 26(c) of klr rules. With these submissions, he prays to allow the writ petition. To buttress his argument, he relied on the following judgments i) bheemappa basappa athani vs. The land tribunal, jamkhandi and 1 other yeribasavana gouda & others vs. State of karnataka - 2006 scc online kar 83. Somanatha rao vs. Karmil d'souza & others lokayya poojary & another vs. State of karnataka & others and reported to our ship and were directed to return. This was the closest I came to 'real action' in military life. We returned and the executive officer took a briefing from the coxswain in our presence and we

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to arrange rations and soon water too was short. We survived on rice and dal for some days, but scarcity of water was affecting us. We did not take bath for days and one night it rained and we all were on the 'poop deck' naked. During such a challenging situation the Fleet Commander was on board flying his flag on our ship and he invited a few of us for cocktails on the upper deck. We had the best of Scotch that evening and the irony was that when we returned to our dining room in a happy state there was hardly anything to eat. After about three weeks when perhaps our presence had achieved what was to be achieved we weighed anchor when we heard the exciting news that the ship was to proceed to Kolkata. Maybe our good work was being rewarded with a suitable R&R (rest and recreation) along with training. Rajesh had excelled in his duties and he was awarded Commander in Chief's commendation. In order to go to Kolkata from Haldia we had to take a Pilot to negotiate safely the 130 nautical miles channel. A smart Sikh Pilot in neat white uniform boarded us and seemed no nonsense person full of professional pride. Our suave Captain had to adjust to his ego and demands notwithstanding that the ultimate responsibility of ship's safety was of the Captain. The Pilot wore white gloves and had a leather suitcase full of books. The important thing was that taking our ship's draught into consideration we could only move in high tide and had to do high speed to reach in time. We enjoyed this, the experience was unforgettable as our ship moved in the narrow channel and we could see the beautiful Bengal countryside from so near green fields, huts of farmers, numerous trees and coconut trees in line. The colour of the sky and vegetation, the peculiar boat shapes, people waving at us. I stood on the deck for hours admiring the fleeting bountiful beauty! Near Kolkata we had to board another pilot to take us inside the docks and as we entered the maze of masts and funnels from a large number of ships berthed all around greeted us. We got an alongside berth in Kidderpore Dock and stayed in Kolkata for about a week. All the important places were explored on foot, **bus** and Tram and felt the place close to our hearts. We enjoyed good Bengali fish after a long time and carried rasgullas of K C Das with us. I shopped for old books and walked around New Market, Park Street, Main Street, Dalhousie etc. But what we all Midshipmen enjoyed most were the two films we saw at that time which were newly released -Silsila and Chasme Baddoor. The scenes and songs of Silsila were our topic of discussion and narration for a long time. We were impressed by the tulip gardens of Holland and the title song was our anthem 'Dekhe ek khwab tau ye silsile hue, door tak nigah mein hein gul khile hue'. We had got the cassette of the film songs and that played in our mess continually. We left Kolkata with a heavy heart and fond memories with resolve to return again. But then our first Foreign Cruise was beckoning us and soon we set course to the coast of Africa. **TOI News - January 18, 2026 Karnataka's regulatory sandbox moment: An opportunity for social impact innovation** Nivedita is lawyer and company secretary by training and holds a masters in public policy from Princeton University's



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This article discusses five ways in which improves employee experience. Enhancing On boarding Experience with Automation the Pre on boarding phase is super critical for an employee to decide whether to join a company or not. Since candidates have multiple offers in hand, having an automated engagement plan will help employees connect better with the organization and reduce the chances of ghosting. A study by Harvard Business Review shows that 33% of new joiners start hunting for new jobs within 6 months of joining in the wake of poor on boarding. Most employees are usually nervous when joining a new organization. Most employees are nervous and usually have a lack of clarity on their goals and targets. Hence ensuring that regular 1-1 meetings with manager and taking feedback is taken regularly is must to ensure retention. On boarding automation will ensure that the 1-1 sessions and feed calls happen regularly. Engagement in a Hybrid Workplace: Since the advent of the hybrid work model, employee engagement has gone for a toss. For many people, fewer in-person interactions mean lesser interest in the organization, directly impacting their productivity. An HRMS like Keka allows employees to stay connected even on the move; whether they are working from home, office or a remote island. Private social walls for organizations in Keka let employees share updates, celebrate victories of other teams and stay connected in an informal manner. Gamified Social Recognition: They say that Justice delayed is justice denied, and this works similarly for Recognition as well. In the corporate life, delayed recognition is equal to no recognition. Social Recognition works wonders if done in the right way and gasifying this aspect is a sure shot way to enhance employee experience. For Instance, Keka has imbibed the gasification aspect in the form of recognizing colleagues for their good work. This is through assigning badges for peer-to-peer praises which will be pinned to their Keka profiles, visible to everyone who visits it. Beyond Performance Management: Performance should help employees improve, that the primary goal. For this to yield the result of choice, certain base level factors need to be prioritized. This could include the HR being able to create a 9-grid matrix and bell curve for performance and based on the results, the ideal learning strategy can be developed. This will enhance EX by helping them to be successful at their job. Feedback in real-time: **Organizations** must ensure that employees are provided with timely feedback to improve their skill gaps. Feedback in the form of surveys like Keka Pulse are also important for companies to identify where the management is going wrong with employee engagement strategies and work towards solving it. Similarly, employees should also be recognized for the hard work and diligence they put into the business to scale its growth. An HRMS streamlines the performance tracking of every employee, making it easier to find the learning gaps and make decisions for appraisals and rewards. Doing so keeps employees motivated to work harder and give their best. To conclude Enhancing employee experience is imperative for the success of any business. Fortunately, in today digital-first world, where technology reigns supreme, many apps, tools, and resources are available in the market to help organizations automate various functions to ensure the best employee experience. The five ways enlisted in the article can effectiv

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Those piercing skyscrapers, lavish office spaces, and sparkling showrooms have caught the eye of every passerby. Millennials who spend half their day working in these plush spaces have all dreamt of owning them at least once in their lives. But owning crores worth of Commercial Real Estate is beyond the bounds of possibility for salaried employees. Or at least so was the case until the advent of fractional ownership. Fractional ownership is stirring an investment storm in the real estate space by offering individual investors a chance to own a slice of Grade a commercial real estate. For long, real estate investments have been constricted to the purview of residential properties, but things are changing as we speak. As a matter of fact, experts are forecasting fractional ownership in India to surpass \$5 billion in the coming years. With investments as low as 5 lakh, individual investors can own a fraction of premium CRE in metro cities that are home to IT parks, MNCs and warehouses owned by e commerce companies. As the storm of fractional ownership continues to rage, a cloud of unawareness and apprehension continues to mystify the Indians. Demystifying the Concept of Fractional Ownership When a set of investors, be it institutional or individual; purchase a Grade A commercial real estate in fractions it is referred to as fractional ownership. By investing in such a property, they agree to share passive ownership of a high worth CRE. The returns and incomes so generated are distributed to the fractional owners of the property. Fractional ownership reduces the financial burden on a single investor while allowing them to generate a steady stream of cash flows and long term returns. Additionally, investors can diversify their portfolios by investing in multiple CREs at different locations. For instance, there is a premium office space at a prime location in Gurugram worth 100 crores. The CRE is already pre leased by a large MNC, ensuring a steady cash flow and capital appreciation in the long term. However, an individual investor with only 20 lakhs to invest cannot afford to buy the property alone. But with the help of an online proptech platform such as Definite, the individual can share partial ownership of the office with a pool of similar investors. As a result, individual investors can invest in 100 crore worth of CRE at just a fraction of the cost. Working professionals **in** India often suffer from a dearth of viable investment options, especially in the real estate space. Fixed deposits in the bank do not offer high returns, whereas investment in the stock market can generate high returns but run a high risk as well. At a time like this investing in CRE is emerging as a promising concept given that land is an appreciating and secure asset, generating monthly returns and long term profits. After earning a good capital gain, investors enjoy the autonomy to sell their fraction when they want. Catalysts for Growth of Fractional Ownership Fractional ownership has been.

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Australia and India share many things in common. We are democratic nations, that support the rule of law and us both love cricket. Australia has given the world Shane Warne, and India has given it Sachin Tendulkar. The respect shown by Indian cricket fans towards Warne and by Australian cricket fans towards Tendulkar underscores the deep affection we share for each other. Even in his exit, Imran Khan has created a record for Pakistani politics. He becomes the first PM of that country to lose a no trust vote. After a day of high drama where Pakistan National Assembly was adjourned multiple times as it sat to take up the no confidence motion mandated by the ruling of the Pakistani Supreme Court, Khan was left with no choice but to demit office. He never had the numbers. Intra party dissensions within his Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf coupled with the exit of allies PML Q, MQM and Balochistan Awami Party parties that are traditionally pro military had long sealed his fate. But Khan obdurately held on by citing a so called foreign conspiracy to topple his government and moving to prevent the no trust vote from being taken up. However, with the Pakistan army rejecting the foreign hand theory and the judiciary sticking to procedure, it was only a matter of time before Khan resistance crumbled. The final no trust vote in which 174 out of 342 Pakistani parliamentarians voted in favour of the motion was a mere formality. While due process appears to have been followed, Khan may well be the first creation and victim of what is widely referred to as Pakistan hybrid regime a new experiment in Pakistan political evolution where the Pakistan army remains at the centre of power but wraps itself with the veneer of institutional propriety. The model involves a weak PM being brought to power by the military and then being made to dance to the latter tunes. Khan electoral victory in 2018 in one of the most managed elections in Pakistan history followed this pattern. His time in office saw the Pakistani media being heavily censored, civil rights being curbed with mainstreaming of extremist outfits like the Tehreek i Labbaik Pakistan, and activists being hounded even as systemic corruption in the military ISI complex endured. Khan big mistake was that he had forgotten he wasn't his own master. He leaves Pakistan with **the** highest level of debt burden in its history, the lowest level of currency ever, the third highest level of inflation in the world, and relations with India in tatters. Pakistan Parliament meets today to elect a new PM with leader of opposition Shehbaz Sharif tipped to take the top office. Another Sharif return to the helm would signify the continuation of dynastic rule in Pakistani politics. But the experiment with hybrid rule has largely been successful for the generals at Rawalpindi GHQ. The incoming Pakistani premier will have to contend with this, painting a bleak future for Pakistan democracy political.

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Debates about language can convey the impression of fierce contestation and an issue that remains unsettled. Approach the subject from the other end, that of voters communicating their preferences, and the picture is quite different. Consider developments across states, administered by different political parties. The Chennai Corporation has now extended spoken English classes in schools run by it from just a handful to the entire list. Karnataka plans to introduce spoken English sessions in primary classes in its proposed model government schools. The demand from parents has led to a sharp rise in the proportion of English medium schools in India. More than a quarter of schoolchildren are now enrolled in English medium, making it the largest after Hindi medium. This trend has influenced the political system and state governments are now experimenting with bilingual textbooks in government run schools. Telangana, Maharashtra and Karnataka are among states where textbooks have content printed in both regional language and English to get children acquainted with key terms in both languages. It a pragmatic approach as the rapid expansion of knowledge is more easily accessed with a knowledge of English, the world most important lingua franca. Historical circumstances have given India a national advantage by equipping a sizeable number of people with a knowledge of English, among other languages. It translated into big economic gains and it something China is trying to replicate in its education system. The issue should not be framed as one language or another. For millions of parents, the pragmatic choice has been more than one language. It a sensible choice as being multilingual confers many advantages, and the country has moved in that direction. Politicians have followed suit on the heels of democratic pressure. The task ahead is to find more effective ways of helping children learn more languages. The Chinese can be pretty tone deaf. Nothing else explains Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi remarks both in Islamabad and in Delhi during his recent visit, which swung wildly from his Kashmir statement at the OIC meeting to reportedly telling his Indian interlocutors, let put the boundary question in its appropriate place. Yeah, right. The US shares this one thing with China. Washington sanctions czar, Daleep Singh, who parachuted into Delhi to explain the web of sanctions against Russia and how they might impact India, was doing very well with his Indian counterparts until he spoke that dreaded **word**, consequences. That pretty much undid a lot of the repair work being done quietly by the two sides over the past weeks. Twitterverse exploded, as paid and unpaid trolls wrapped the flag to ward off American imperialism. If more Grammy grandees hear an alaap of an Indian classical musician, they might create a category titled he Most Sustained Aaaaaaa In Non Dental Chair Setting. The smirk is angled at Grammy categories. The disclaimer is necessary because certain people go some distance to smack a joke these days. When there a Will, there a way to smite. Back to the Grammys.



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The success of Stewart Copeland and Ricky Kej deserves applause but their Grammy category, Best New Age Album, gives us pause. Dictionaries say the genre tunes listeners to serenity. Even the aficio nadas of Indian classical music, the folks who know zilch, will avow that ragas have been offering serenity much before the New Age dawned. India can fight this Temporal Appropriation by adjusting to the New Aural. We can pitch for a Grammy category for sitar called the Best Use Of Non Nato Instrument Since Norwegian Wood Of The Beatles. Our stalwarts will win every year. It is easy to imagine Paul McCartney handing over the inaugural award, graciously saying Our sitar gently weeps for joy. For the flute, we can moot Performer Who Makes Jethro Tull Locomotive Run Out Of Breath. The maiden Grammy could belong to an Indian presenting Raga Jog with its whooshes of Usain Bolt sprint. Nothing delights the US more than the apparent contradiction between name and capacity. Remember, Missions Impossible are led by Tom, a moniker that evokes a Golden Retriever. In 1993, Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, the Mohan Veena legend, won the Best World Music Album Grammy with Ry Cooder. Pandit Bhatt fans will argue that the honour should be the World Best Music. In the end, these awards are immaterial. Our classical musicians trophy seems to lie in their art. At a concert, my favourite diva made notes fly like the angels of foreign direct investment and then tapered them into flickers as though economic sanctions were beginning to bite. The wash that erupted were lava that could melt any tiny gilded gramophone. Our classical musicians respond to such ovations with, well, New Age serenity. They face the charge of being elitist even as sponsors reserve budgets for brand fees charged by the stars of popular culture. So classical musicians ascetic category is here are masterpieces other than the Likes Magnet Mona Lisa, you know There is no claim to musical supremacy here. Great music from any land will be new for all ages. Bravo, Stewart and Ricky! The one text that has influenced our lives and culture more than any other is the Ramayan. This epic is unparalleled in its ability to touch and purify the human heart. The Ramayan is an itihaas, a historical epic. While it talks about life and deeds of an exemplary historical figure, itihaas **also** relates connected stories of spiritual and moral values. When Valmiki asked Narad, Is there any person currently living on Earth who fulfills all qualities of an ideal man Narad replied, Yes, there is. He is Ram of the Ikshvaku dynasty. From this question, the Ramayan was born. So, if Valmiki was a real, living person, so could be Ram. We can learn something from each character in the Ramayan. Ram is gentle and mild mannered. He is moderate in speech and always truthful. He is liked by all. His dharma is dearer to him than his own life he is.

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Wise courageous and invincible. At the same time, he is an epitome of humility, always holding his teachers and elders in high regard and treating them with respect. Furthermore, Ram possesses tremendous mental equanimity. Another mark of his greatness is his ability to hold his stepmother Kaikeyi in high regard, remaining devoted to her even after she causes his exile. What about Sita When Ram decides to go to the forest, she does not incite him to seize authority and establish him, and instead she stands by his side. When Ravan, emperor of the three worlds, tries to entice her with luxuries of which even gods can only dream, Sita refuses to be tempted. Her devotion to her husband does not diminish even for an instant. Even when she must face what would humiliate and depress most people, she accepts her circumstances with the attitude of a true disciple. Example of Lakshman. What devotion he has for his brother, what deference and surrender what about Bharat Most people change their tune when they get a taste of power, but Bharat is able to transform his ruler ship into worship. Even while exercising his authority, he leads a life of sacrifice, spiritual austerity and service and sets an example for the world to follow. The character of Hanuman is an epitome of devotion. What enthusiasm, courage, and sense of surrender! On the other end, we have Ravan. He has unparalleled courage, strength and scholarliness, but since he is not established in dharma, he is egoistic and arrogant. He even uses devotion to God to satisfy his selfish ends. And as a result becomes the cause for his own destruction and that of his entire lineage. In this way, the Ramayan shows us what we should and should not do and inspires us to follow the positive examples set by its characters. Some people feel that Ram, Krishna, the Pandavas and Kauravas are not historical characters but symbolic of certain principles. We might lack historical proof of events, but whatever anyone might say, Ram and Krishn live on in our hearts. Our entire culture bears the deep imprint of their footsteps. India maritime sector is critical for national economic development, accounting for approximately 95% of the country trade by volume and around 65% of trade by value. Coastal shipping is one of the least expensive modes of transport for cargo movement. **With** the growth of the Indian economy, the level of integration with global markets and supply chains has also risen commensurately. Hence tools to manage Indian coastal trade performance is crucial. Indian coastal trade According to the Ministry of Shipping, coastal cargo in India excluding overseas cargo amounted to over 147 million tonnes in FY2021. Economies of scale can be best realized through transportation in large, capital intensive ships. Sending a ship back empty to a loading port after delivery of cargo is economically unviable, hence it is imperative for coastal service users or charterers to charter a ship for a.

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Single leg from international shipping markets the coastal charterers are therefore forced to procure the service from foreign ship owners trading in global shipping markets. This includes many large corporate such as Tatas, AccelorMittal, JSW, APGenCo, Karamchand Thapar KCT, and Vedanta. Used to a regime of controlled market conditions, domestic companies find it difficult to predict and procure freight from global international markets, making them vulnerable to high freight costs resulting in disrupted schedules and supply chains. Freight forecasting of coastal India trade lane Challenges and opportunities Freight forecasting is a process of tracking and analysing freight flow on freight routes to develop predictive models of future freight market based on expected current load of shipment on those routes. These models are based on various data points for instance, weather, earthquakes, geo political, capacity disruptions, etc related to the movement of goods and associated costs and can be used to predict volatility in the global supply chain. The main goal of these models is to determine the capacity required for the movement of freight between two points, and to ensure that there are no disruptions that prevent goods from reaching the market. Capacity allocated to freight is the most important factor affecting pricing. By focusing on the liquidity of the global supply chain, freight forecasting also helps to estimate risks that can interrupt the smooth flow of cargo or cause sharp fluctuations in the overall cost of transportation. The shipping market is highly volatile and reliable freight rate forecasting helps to simulate ocean transportation and provides comfort to various stakeholders ship financing banks, end user industries, ship operators, traders, port companies, and regulators. Global freight markets are perhaps the most unregulated commercial market in the world. Freight rates of a particular region may be affected by demand in a much larger geographical area. For example, the coastal coal freight market of east India may be impacted by the grain export volumes in US Gulf Argentina, Black Sea grain exports, South African coal exports, the Indonesian demand, the West Coast India Arabian Gulf markets etc.! All these demand centers have a close correlation with ships available in the east coast of India for coastal trade, as these ships can simply sail empty to these other loading areas with higher demand and consequently higher earnings to the owners. Freight forecasting models which rely on techniques such as time series analysis and artificial **neural** networks, facilitate hedging techniques and help to schedule optimal freight. Unfortunately, freight management and freight forecasting are undertaken in a very rudimentary manner in India. Most organizations treat freight procurement as a part of supply chain or logistics issue, leading to high freight costs. Developing core talent which can understand and forecast freight has several significant benefits, apart from optimizing procurement costs. Bankers can better evaluate the present value of shipping assets, allowing them to participate more meaningfully in global shipping asset financing. They will also be more aware of factors which could adversely impact valuation of shipping assets, allowing.

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Them to take timely action to mitigate losses. More importantly, understanding global freight markets will allow entrepreneurs to profit from such knowledge, either by owning vessels or by freight trading and monetizing arbitrage opportunities. The present state of affairs poses both a threat and an opportunity, and up skilling the Indian talent to understand, manage and profit from global shipping markets is the need of the hour in shipping. For the last few days, the news is abuzz about alleged copying in the draft framework proposed by University Grants Commission UGC for the four year undergraduate programmer. There is public brouhaha on account of similarity in the UGC draft policy document with certain documents of other Universities abroad and the lack of originality in the document rolled out by the apex regulator of higher education in the country. Ostensibly, the acclaimed persons drafting the referred framework have pilfered the ideas from foreign Universities for leading new faddism which has fortuitously come on the radar of all stakeholders due to the ubiquitous access to information. Given no jurisdictional limitation to the knowledge in higher education, any attempt to stealthily change the ownership of any piece of knowledge is immoral and unethical. Also, the alleged copying is concerning because of the mishap occurring at the end of the epitome of higher education professing anti plagiarism through stringent UGC Regulations of 2018 that foster Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions. It also questions the rationality and worthiness of adapting the roadmap of educational institutions from a developed country to a developing nation endowed with the demographic dividend. Why should an old time Vishwaguru not proclaim its educational framework suiting to Indian socio economic conditions, students, and other stakeholders Quite often there have been news reports about a few teachers in higher education alleged to be copycats. Also, there are instances of the teachers holding coveted posts of Professors, Vice Chancellors, Directors, etc. found guilty of copying someone else work and publishing it in their name s for strengthening their credentials. Sometimes, these copycats have faced coercive action to the extent of their dismissal from the posts, nonetheless, some are able to evade any action for academic misconducts of the highest order by delaying managing the enquiry or through judicial interventions. Undoubtedly, the breach of integrity by the member s of the academic community reflects a precarious **situation**. The mischievous acts of copying by teachers raise the worries exponentially, as it exhibits the shattering integrity of the education system as a whole by the custodians of education themselves. What tempts teachers for copying It is pertinent to realize that the higher education system has the onerous responsibility of disseminating knowledge and adding to the knowledge base. In the process, the research and knowledge creation by teachers and students becomes an integral part of higher education. Generally, the assessment of individuals relied upon the publications of papers & books, patents, copyrights, etc. as academic performance indicators APIs. Teachers in.



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Sector funds are a type of investment fund that focuses on a specific sector or industry within the economy. These funds follow a targeted strategy, concentrating their investments in particular areas such as technology, banking, pharmaceuticals, natural resources, and more. As the Indian economy expands across these sectors, some may perform exceptionally well over the medium to long term. Sector funds are designed to help investors take advantage of these potential opportunities. According to Pathak Shah of Pathway Investments and Insurance Services, this decade belongs to India. The economy is robust, and the markets are reflecting the positive sentiment. Investment diversification in times like these can yield good returns for investors. Buoyant times like these offer an opportunity to invest in theme-based sectoral funds. Investments in power, infrastructure, banking, financial services, innovation, and consumption themes can significantly increase returns on investment. Consider the Nippon India Power and Infrastructure Fund, which has delivered 78% returns in the last year. The fund house pharmacy and consumption funds also gave returns of 33% and 35%, respectively. Similarly, sectoral funds from ICICI, Axis, and Aditya Birla in these categories have also delivered double-digit returns on investments. The 80L jobs required every year as highlighted in this year Economic Survey must be seen in this context. The 8.9cr jobs created over a 10-year period translate into 89L jobs created every year on average. Therefore, with an unparalleled emphasis on job creation in the next five years, India should be able to create the required jobs. Also, total labour force in India is about 60cr. Thus, this need translates into 1.3% of the labour force. This is not a number about which fear-mongering carries any substance. Employment importance to the macro-economy is illustrated by the success story of township and village enterprises in China. While in 1980, there were about 14L TVEs with 3cr employees, by 1996, there were 2.3cr with 13.5cr workers contributing nearly 30% of China GDP and 50% of the industrial output. By 1999, TVE exports accounted for 48% of China total exports and much of these were labor-intensive products involving simple production techniques. The budget measures also draw from the success of Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana implemented in Oct 2020. This scheme incentivises new hiring, including for those who had lost their jobs due to Covid. Under this scheme, got covered both employee and employer contributions to EPF, which **accounted** for 24% of wages, for all new hires in firms with up to 1,000 employees. In the case of firms with more than 1,000 employees, employees EPF contributions for all new hires, which amounted to 12% of wages, were covered. Research shows that over 60L employees were hired under this scheme by over 1.5L firms. Around 2L establishments specialising in export services, textiles and trading-commercial sectors emerged as the top three contributors to job recovery and growth. Therefore, new budget announcements to incentives both employers and employees for job creation are based judiciously on past successes. Incentives also need to be shifted away from dwarfs to infants. Otherwise, these can create perverse incentives for firms to stay small. Misuse of the age based criterion can be easily prevented. If, for instance, a promoter starts a new firm, takes advantage of the age-based incentive for a p

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That experience growth not only generate increased profits for their promoters, but also contribute towards job creation and productivity in the economy. So, our policies must enable the growth of MSMEs by unshackling them. In sum, India@100 cannot become an inclusive and progressive nation without creating quality employment opportunities. If, before LS elections, a confident BJP was happy to present an interim budget with nothing additional for the electorate, the first full budget of the new got rushes to compensate for this lack by offering concessions and financial incentives. Election results showed that a mere promise, Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee, was not good enough to impact the ballot box: this budget concretises what was vaguely guaranteed earlier. The big political change after LS results is that BJP now needs to accommodate political demands of important allies. The budget was thus very vocal on infra projects and support for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. This takes forward NDA got past emphasis on investing in infra, with a slight skew towards two states that sent the highest number of MPs as BJP allies. Bihar gets an industrial node at Gaya as part of Amritsar-Kolkata industrial corridor, apart from several road connectivity projects, airports, medical colleges and better tourism infra. Andhra has been promised Rs 15,000cr of financial support from multilateral development agencies for its new capital at Amravati, additional funds for Palavered irrigation project, a Kopparthi node on Vizag-Chennai industrial corridor, and grants for backward regions. With just 8 months left for this fiscal, the budget tracks the interim version with a twist. It underscores got focus on four aspects to raise growth potential fiscal rectitude spending responsibly, not borrowing beyond means; facilitating infra build out, which improves India potential growth rate; lifting consumption via shorthand long-term measures; and fettering food inflation, which lowers price anxiety, gives people the confidence to spend, and facilitates lowering of interest rates. which might be counterintuitive to the product goal of reducing polarization. Given this blurred left-right spectrum, should the product central objective be to classify everything as left or right? Instead, they could shift towards building and articulating balanced context for polarizing issues. This is an approach X Community Notes has successfully adopted. One cannot really debits people by fact-checking or debunking, but you can provide relevant context and let them decide for themselves. From Website to Plugging and Bots LRC, in its current form **as** a standalone website, could struggle to build distribution. The news category is already crowded and commoditized, and it takes a lot of momentum to build a loyal, direct audience. They could explore the possibility of creating a browser extension. This extension could automatically analyze news articles or social media posts as users browse the web, providing them with a balanced summary of different viewpoints on the topic. This would enable users to access diverse perspectives effortlessly, promoting a more informed and nuanced understanding of complex issues. From olo to Co-building With Others To foster depolarization on the open internet, established organizations like MIT Media Labs, Nicomedia, or Automatic the creators of Word Press could spearhead the development of LRC as an open-source, crowd-sourced civic technology infrastructure. Thi

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School of Public and International Affairs. Karnataka's legal position on regulatory sand-boxing. Karnataka is one of the few Indian states (besides Telangana and Maharashtra) that can legitimately claim to have thought ahead on innovation regulation. In 2020, it enacted the Karnataka Innovation Authority Act, a law that enables the creation of regulatory sandboxes, controlled environments where new technologies and business models can be tested without being immediately strangled by regulation. Regulatory sandboxes are meant to solve a familiar policy problem: how do governments respond to fast-moving innovation without either over-regulating it or looking the other way? By allowing limited experimentation under regulatory supervision, sandboxes offer a middle path learning by doing. Yet, almost five years on, Karnataka's sandbox regime has remained largely theoretical. Despite the law and subsequent rules, no sandbox appears to have been actually operationalised. Now, as the state considers amendments to the Act, there is a rare opportunity to move beyond fine-tuning legal language and instead ask a more fundamental question: what kind of innovation do we actually want to enable? This question matters because India's innovation policy has, for the most part, been framed around startups, markets, and scale but not necessarily around social impact. The case for social impact innovations served by regulatory sand-boxing. Globally, regulatory sandboxes have been used to pilot fintech products, health technologies, mobility solutions, and data governance frameworks. In India too, the sandbox conversation has largely revolved around easing compliance for new businesses and emerging technologies. What is often missing is a deliberate focus on social purpose innovation i. e enterprises that use technology to solve population-scale problems in health, disability inclusion, education, livelihoods, or access to justice. Many of these innovations do not sit comfortably within India's existing legal and fiscal frameworks. They are often for-profit or hybrid entities, even though their primary objective is social impact rather than profit maximisation. And this is where the system begins to break down. Regulatory challenges facing funding social impact innovation. Under the Income Tax Act, charitable organisations face strict limits on funding or supporting for-profit entities, regardless of the social value those entities create. CSR law operates in a similar fashion. As a result, philanthropic funders and CSR contributors are often legally barred from supporting precisely the kinds of innovations that could improve health outcomes, enable inclusion of persons with disabilities, or enhance incomes for low-income groups simply because those innovations **take** a for-profit form. This creates a perverse outcome. A low-impact charitable programme may be fully fundable, while a scalable, technology-enabled solution that demonstrably improves lives may not be. Venture philanthropists and impact-oriented funders find themselves navigating regulatory ambiguity, unsure whether supporting such innovations could expose them to compliance risks. There has been some movement in acknowledging this gap. The Social Stock Exchange, for instance, recognises social purpose enterprises and accepts that social impact and revenue generation are not mutually exclusive. But this recognition remains largely symbolic unless it is backed by regulatory and fiscal flexibility.



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model could be tested with built-in safeguards rather than being blocked by regulatory uncertainty. Most importantly, sandboxes could allow policymakers to experiment with how such innovations are treated from a taxation and charitable perspective. If an enterprise demonstrably advances public welfare by improving access, inclusion, or livelihoods should funding it automatically be treated as non-charitable? Or could a sandbox allow temporary recognition of such activities as eligible for philanthropic or CSR support, subject to transparency and accountability? This would not mean lowering regulatory standards. On the contrary, it would allow regulators to learn what works, what fails, and what safeguards are necessary before making permanent policy choices. It would also send a clear signal to funders and innovators that the state is serious about enabling technology that serves the public good. The proposed amendments to the Karnataka Innovation Act and Rules offer a chance to move from symbolic innovation policy to meaningful impact. Recognising social purpose innovation within regulatory sandboxes, and aligning regulatory and fiscal treatment accordingly, would be a powerful step in that direction. If Karnataka gets this right, it could set a precedent for how India thinks about regulation, innovation, and social good. TOI News - January 19, 2026 A Resounding Victory for Reliable Leadership Keshav Upadhye, a young, dynamic and prominent face, has been working with the Bharatiya Janata Party for over two decades. In 2014, the then state president Devendra Fadnavis had appointed Upadhye as the spokesperson in his team. Owing to his journalistic background and better understanding of the socio-economic issues of the state, Upadhye made a mark as a spokesperson in a short span. He articulates the views of the party and aggressively defends the party on various platforms including the Marathi and Hindi national news channels. Keshav Upadhye worked for the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and after completing his degree in Journalism from Ranade Institute, Pune, he began his career as a journalist with daily Pudhari, Loksatta and Mumbai Tarun Bharat. Knowing the pulse of the news, he writes on varied topics and on various platforms like the newspapers, blogs and other social media platforms. He was involved in two study groups formed by the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini in 2006 to study the naxalite movement and its adverse impact on the development of Chhatisgarh. Prabodhini later published this report. He was also a part of Prabodhini's fact-finding committee formed to study **the** Solapur riots. Elections for 29 municipal corporations were recently held in the state. Of these 29, the entire country's attention was focused on the results of only one, the Mumbai Municipal Corporation. This was because the equation of Mumbai Municipal Corporation with the Thackeray family had become firmly established. The voters, in this election, shattered the 'arrogance' of the Uddhav Thackeray faction, UBT, which believed that only their voice would resonate in the Mumbai Municipal Corporation; this is what this election truly stood for. After the defeat in the assembly elections, all of Uddhav Thackeray's hopes were centered on the Mumbai Municipal Corporation elections. He hoped that a victory in Mumbai would allow him to regain a prominent position in state politics. Not being sure whether he would win on his own strength, UBT ended the 19-year p



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Service are purported to get them elevated in their profession based on APIs accrued. Consequently, teachers look around for enriching their academic performance, and few of these with poor integrity resort to unfair means of stealing the work done by others across the globe and putting forward their claims for it. At times these acts of plagiarism do not get noticed and embolden other academics too for resorting to it. Further, the delays in deciding the reported instances of plagiarism and manipulations to favour the culprits germinate a perception that it not difficult to circumvent the crisis arising out of being caught copying. In Indian circumstances, this culminates into a better bargain, and enriching academic & research profile by hook or crook becomes a norm for many with weak integrity. Also, the non seriousness towards the profession, lack of sense of responsibility, lackadaisical execution of regulations to curb plagiarism, and shortcuts for faster gains tempt teachers to unscrupulous acts of plagiarism and becomes normal for those who succeed in glorifying them with such acts. HEIs have to set up necessary enablers for worthwhile studies and research activities so that teachers can contribute to the best of their capabilities and strengthen themselves academically in a condign manner.

**Implications of copying by teachers** The copying done by students has been viewed seriously for long and numerous deterrents to the extent of considering it a crime have been practiced just to put an end to it. However, the copying by teachers seems not very old and its serious implications compelled UGC for creating regulations encompassing plagiarism by teachers as well. It is akin to the conformists becoming delinquents. The responsibility of enforcement of regulations to curb plagiarism is bestowed upon the institutions through their governance and teachers. The adverse implications of copying are viewed seriously across the world in the academic and scientific community. As a result number of software tools have come up in the market for deciphering the similarity of documents digitally through the huge databases of published contents worldwide. The similarity check tools are also used by the higher education institutions HEIs for ensuring that the threshold similarity prescribed by the respective institution is not surpassed in the submissions made for the award of degree diploma. With time, the expertise has emerged for limiting the similarity within permissible limits by tweaking the words so that there is no matching. **Nevertheless**, the copying of core findings cannot be figured out from these similarity check software. It is always possible that a submission has copying of the findings of someone else published work passing the similarity check if it is presented using a new set of words. The use of similarity check tool for constraining the extent of copying should not be misconstrued as a part of checklist but must stimulate the teachers and students for generating new knowledge. In nutshell, it is the fairness and integrity of teachers in HEIs that decides the quantity & quality of new knowledge, so the.

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Hard look at their supply chain and logistics processes. Enterprises need to change their delivery models and embrace technology to make better deliveries and delight end consumers. Investors are always looking for an investment theme or a stock that can generate exponential returns over the long term. However, identifying such a theme stock is no easy task. In some instances, by the time, we realise the potential of a theme, the best parts of the return would have already come by. Off late, one of the trends creating some noise in the markets is the rise in residential sales data. The numbers have not only bucked the general trend but are signaling a change in trend for the housing space in general with housing sales volume across even major cities surging by 113% on a year on year basis. Housing, despite being one of the basic needs after food and clothing, lags in our country. But with rising urbanisation and support from both the State and Central Government in the form of various initiatives, it is projected that the real estate sector in India will reach \$1 trillion by 2030. Moreover, by 2025, the real estate sector could contribute as much as 13% to the country GDP. For a sector that has been a laggard for the longest time, the question is what has changed, and will this sustain the answer to this can be gauged from the factors which are propelling the story this time around. Government measures the government is one of the biggest proponents of housing development and has been trying to improve the sector through various supportive measures such as the ambitious PM Awas Yojana. The Budgetary allocation to this scheme has steadily increased from Rs. 2,750 crores in FY22 to Rs. 4,800 crores in FY23. Apart from these, several State Governments in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have initiated stamp duty cuts to stimulate activity in the sector.

2 Higher working populations The term demography dividend is often used to describe the favourable demographic structure, which is expected to drive growth in the economy over the coming decades. With India median age at 30 by 2030, India enjoys a rare privilege that not many other countries have. This is because in the same time frame, the median age of China is pegged at 37 years, and for the rest of the world is at 32 **years**. Additionally, the ratio of India dependent population to the size of the working age population is expected to decline, which translates into higher household income. Putting together these variables, a significant boost in housing can be expected.

3 Increase in urban population Consequent to the rise in the working population, the urban population is likely to shoot up. It is to be noted that only 35% of India population resides in cities as of 2020. When compared to the global average, India emerges as a laggard. However, estimates suggest that the urban population will grow five times the growth of.

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**Tendency to trespass the sanctity of academic processes should not be allowed and completely uprooted. Way forward Unfortunate indulgence of teachers in any deceitful pursuits of knowledge creation is likely to make HEIs devoid of innovative and novel thinking which will ruin higher education in long run. Therefore, the HEIs have to inculcate the philosophy of pursuing original work in their research ecosystem and sensitize its teachers to nurture novel ideas through student engagements. The institutional governance and regulatory framework have to facilitate the research on their campuses. This will encourage teachers for genuine work and desist them from adapting nefarious routes for their profile up gradation. The academics have to take an honest call to limit the degenerating values in the education system and the regulators ought to introspect the time tested existing education processes for their refinement to capitalize on the potential of the youth of the nation for making the best contribution to the society. According to India Brand Equity Foundation, a Trust established by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the e commerce market in India is expected to grow to US\$ 111.40 billion by 2025. The report further states that by 2030, the e commerce market in the country will touch US\$ 350 billion and by 2034, India will become the second largest e commerce market in the world surpassing the U.S. The rapidly growing e commerce market has put enormous strain on B2B companies supply chains pushing them to adopt faster and more agile processes to ensure better deliveries and happy customers. Resilient and flexible supply chains are the need of the hour if brands want to effectively manage the fluctuations in consumer demand. To improve e commerce supply chains and deliver a delightful consumer experience, managers must first tackle these five key challenges. Consumer Delivery Demands The shrinking order fulfillment window and the rise of same day and flexible delivery options have put supply chains under severe pressure. Online shoppers not only want their favourite products fast, they also want a superb delivery experience. Flexible and efficient supply chains help in reducing time, and costs and maintain visibility, enabling customers to track the delivery of their orders. As per a survey conducted by DigitalCommerce 360, 93% of consumers like to stay notified throughout the delivery process, and 47% of the participants said that they don order from the **same** brand if it provides poor delivery visibility. A transparent supply chain not only keeps customers satisfied but also allows retailers to maintain their inventory levels. Delivery orchestration technology enables retailers to optimize routing, provide ETAs to consumers, and make on time deliveries while reducing the cost of last mile delivery. Last Mile Delivery Hurdles In the age of the internet most retailers, big and small, are creating an effective online experience for their consumers. Retailers usually have a separate e commerce platform that is an online extension of their brand. With several such platforms sprucing up, the e commerce segment.**

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Uncertainties and a great deal of emotional and physical transformations. Pregnancy spans over three trimesters, each of which presents unique changes. The first trimester is marked by morning sickness and changes in appetite, while the last trimester is characterized by physical discomfort and fatigue. Every stage of pregnancy brings physical changes that are necessary for the development of the fetus and the mother well-being. **First trimester what to expect?** The first trimester of pregnancy brings with it an array of physical and emotional changes for the mother. These changes are a result of increased blood flow, hormonal fluctuations, and the body preparation for nurturing the growing fetus. The initial three months of pregnancy are a crucial period in the baby development as it transitions from an embryo to a fetus. Nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, excessive appetite, bloating, fatigue, dizziness, and cramping are some of the common symptoms experienced by pregnant women during the first trimester. These symptoms can be uncomfortable and at times, even debilitating. Some women may also experience breast tenderness and a higher frequency of urination during this period. **Critical vitamin intake** Taking folic acid supplements is crucial during the first trimester as it helps in the growth of the baby brain and spine, reducing the risk of neural tube defects. It is important to consult a doctor before taking any medication during pregnancy as certain drugs can have adverse effects on the growing fetes. **Avoiding harmful substances** Smoking, alcohol consumption, and the use of recreational drugs should be avoided during pregnancy as they can harm the growing baby. It is essential to prioritize the baby well-being and avoid anything that can pose a threat to their health. **The Second Trimester: Changes to expect** the second trimester is a time of relief for many women as the uncomfortable symptoms of the first trimester start to ease. During this time, the mother undergoes tests to ensure the pregnancy is progressing as expected and to monitor the health of the growing baby. The placenta begins to provide support hormones during the second trimester, making the pregnancy more stable. Regular blood tests are done to check the mother thyroid function, blood count, and sugar levels to avoid any complications. Dietary and exercise plans are discussed to help keep the mother and baby healthy. Tests for the baby include screening for Down Syndrome and other chromosomal syndromes through blood tests **and** scans. The NT scan and Down Syndrome scan are done in the third month to assess the baby health and the risk of any abnormality. The fifth-month anomaly scan is done to identify any significant abnormalities in the baby. **Navigating the third trimester: Growth and Well-Being** of the baby as the third trimester approaches, the mother starts gaining weight and doctors typically recommend gaining one to two kilos per month. Blood pressure is routinely checked at every visit to detect the onset of preeclampsia, which is characterized by raised blood pressure and typically occurs after 20 weeks of pregnancy. Gestational diabetes is also a common condition among Indian women. The last trimester is crucial for the growth and well-being of the baby. Regular check-ups are scheduled to track the baby development, including scans to check for growth. A final set of blood tests is also performed to monitor blood count and other vital parameters. In the final tr



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The delivery process, what to expect, and what to bring to the hospital are also covered during this period. A few things to know **Understanding Bleeding during Pregnancy: When to Seek Medical Help** Bleeding during pregnancy can be a cause for concern and requires immediate medical attention. While some bleeding during early pregnancy can be normal, any type of spotting or bleeding should be reported to a gynecologist. The reason for this is because, until a scan is performed, it is difficult to determine whether the pregnancy is inside or outside the uterus. If the pregnancy is outside the uterus, it could be an ectopic pregnancy which can be life-threatening to the mother. Therefore, it is crucial to get a scan as soon as possible to ensure that the pregnancy is developing safely inside the uterus. It is also important to seek medical help if there is severe pain or fainting, as these can be symptoms of an ectopic pregnancy or a pregnancy outside the uterus. In conclusion, bleeding during pregnancy is not normal, and any spotting or bleeding should not be ignored. Early detection and medical intervention can make all the difference in ensuring a safe and healthy pregnancy for both the mother and the baby. Diet, nutrition and exercise following a healthy and nutritious diet is essential. Unnecessary medication intake should be avoided. For mothers, a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, pulses, dal, and equal proportions of rice, ragi, chapattis, and millets is recommended. It is important to limit the intake of oil, ghee, and sweets, and focus on healthy eating habits. Regarding physical activity, pregnant women are encouraged to engage in exercise, attend antenatal classes, practice yoga, swimming, brisk walk for at least 30 minutes per day, and perform bending, stretching, and squats, which are especially important. However, it is important to consult with your gynecologist before beginning any exercise routine. Access to healthcare is a fundamental right, but in a country as populous as India, it is a right that is often difficult to fulfill. With a population of over 1.4 billion people, India now has the unenviable distinction of being the world's most populous country. This means that the challenge of providing quality healthcare and medical services is magnified, and innovative solutions are required to ensure that all citizens have access to quality medical care and treatment.

**Common medical sense** One such solution is to promote **basic** medical knowledge and common medical sense among the general public. By raising awareness about first aid basics, basic medical knowledge, and common medical sense, it is possible to reduce the need for medical attention and ensure that doctors can focus on more severe cases that require specialized attention. However, it is important to note that there is a fine line between promoting general medical knowledge and self-doctoring. While individuals must be empowered to take charge of their own health, they must also be aware of the limitations of their knowledge and seek professional medical attention when necessary.

**The benefits** There are several reasons why promoting basic medical knowledge and common medical sense is crucial in a country like India. First and foremost, it helps reduce the burden on healthcare providers. By empowering individuals to take care of their own health, the number of patients who need to visit hospitals and clinics can be reduced. This will free up valuable resources that can be used

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Hard look at their supply chain and logistics processes. Enterprises need to change their delivery models and embrace technology to make better deliveries and delight end consumers. Investors are always looking for an investment theme or a stock that can generate exponential returns over the long term. However, identifying such a theme stock is no easy task. In some instances, by the time, we realise the potential of a theme, the best parts of the return would have already come by. Off late, one of the trends creating some noise in the markets is the rise in residential sales data. The numbers have not only bucked the general trend but are signaling a change in trend for the housing space in general with housing sales volume across even major cities surging by 113% on a year on year basis. Housing, despite being one of the basic needs after food and clothing, lags in our country. But with rising urbanisation and support from both the State and Central Government in the form of various initiatives, it is projected that the real estate sector in India will reach \$1 trillion by 2030. Moreover, by 2025, the real estate sector could contribute as much as 13% to the country GDP. For a sector that has been a laggard for the longest time, the question is what has changed, and will this sustain the answer to this can be gauged from the factors which are propelling the story this time around. Government measures the government is one of the biggest proponents of housing development and has been trying to improve the sector through various supportive measures such as the ambitious PM Awas Yojana. The Budgetary allocation to this scheme has steadily increased from Rs. 2,750 crores in FY22 to Rs. 4,800 crores in FY23. Apart from these, several State Governments in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have initiated stamp duty cuts to stimulate activity in the sector.

2 Higher working populations The term demography dividend is often used to describe the favourable demographic structure, which is expected to drive growth in the economy over the coming decades. With India median age at 30 by 2030, India enjoys a rare privilege that not many other countries have. This is because in the same time frame, the median age of China is pegged at 37 years, and for the rest of the world is at 32 **years**. Additionally, the ratio of India dependent population to the size of the working age population is expected to decline, which translates into higher household income. Putting together these variables, a significant boost in housing can be expected.

3 Increase in urban population Consequent to the rise in the working population, the urban population is likely to shoot up. It is to be noted that only 35% of India population resides in cities as of 2020. When compared to the global average, India emerges as a laggard. However, estimates suggest that the urban population will grow five times the growth of.

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A rural population in the years ahead. A this time used for live test for your own exam feeling high if u get this time live test as per exact time so better perform in exam hall higher urban population means that there will be further requirements for office space, cities either stagnated or corrected significantly. This made home prices affordable for many individuals when looked at in tandem with the decadal low interest rate. With India job market progressively stabilising, we can expect hotels, and other establishments. Improved Affordability Previously seen as a luxury item, people perceptions about real estate as an asset class for investment have improved with time as earning power and affordability went on an upswing. In terms of home affordability, Indian markets are at a decadal high. According to Knight Frank Affordability Index 2021, all markets, except Mumbai, are considerably below the 50 per cent affordability threshold. In 2021, Ahmedabad emerged as the most affordable housing market in the country, with a 20 per cent affordability ratio, followed by Pune and Chennai, with 24 per cent and 25 per cent affordability rates. At 53%, Mumbai was the only city with a greater than threshold affordability ratio, although it has improved the most since 2011. Another factor that aided affordability is the correction in residential prices. For the most part of the last five to six years, home prices in most cities either stagnated or corrected significantly. This made home prices affordable for many individuals when looked at in tandem with the decadal low interest rate. With India job market progressively stabilising, we can expect a portion of household savings to be channeled into buying homes in the years ahead. All these factors put together show that housing as a theme is set to explode over the next few years. Lower interest rates, the growing trend towards urbanisation, and increased affordability all point to housing being one of the biggest growth areas for at least the next five years. How can an Investor Benefit from this trend one of the easiest ways to capitalise on this opportunity is to invest in a broad housing based thematic mutual fund which has the flexibility to invest across all the sectors which directly and indirectly stand to benefit from the revival in housing. After all, housing is not real estate alone. It encompasses a wide spectrum of sectors **such** as banks, financing companies, cement, steel, paints, sanitary ware, and consumer durables to name a few. Such funds emerge as a one stop solution. One such fund is the ICICI Prudential Housing Opportunities Fund. To conclude, housing seems poised for a multi year uptick and the easiest manner one can participate in it is through cities either stagnated or corrected significantly. This made home prices affordable for many individuals when looked at in tandem with the decadal low interest rate. With India job market progressively stabilising, we can expect that is enough to take today test the mutual fund route.

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As shehbaz sharif assumes the office of Pakistan prime minister, questions arise as to whether he can avoid the fate of his predecessor. The trigger for the current political turmoil in Pakistan is the fact that the all powerful army realised, belatedly, that it had elected a dud to run the country and he was unable to deliver either on the economy or on governance. They could have still continued with him till the next elections in 2023 but Imran khan started believing in his own popularity and bit the hand that brought him to power. In October 2021, he tried unsuccessfully to resist army chief general qamar bajwa transfer of dg isi Lt gen fair hammed as corps commander peshawar. Imran wanted hammed to continue as dg isi and help him to manage the political situation. Hameed, for his part, has ambitions of succeeding bajwa, and looked to Imran to do the needful. This ran counter to bajwa own ambition of a third term as army chief. Ultimately, Imran had to stand down though it is believed that hammed continues to push buttons and strategise for Imran from peshawar. Be that as it may, the incident was the proverbial last straw for the army that, as an institution, looks askance at any politician trying to meddle in their internal matters. Last week, the Biden administration issued a memorandum authorising a multipronged federal response to long covid a spectrum of long term health damaging conditions that afflict many who recover from covid and even those who were asymptomatic after belatedly recognising it needed greater policy attention. In four months, the US will prepare an exhaustive public report on long covid, outlining federal plans to support financial and healthcare needs of patients and coordinate national research. India must also begin such an effort there tremendous anecdotal evidence of many with long covid suffering silently in our midst. The paucity of data should be an excuse for ignoring the existence and struggles of these covid survivors. From life threatening blood clots to fatigue, breathlessness, anxiety attacks, muscular pain, brain fog etc., only a comprehensive national study can document the full spectrum of ailments, estimate the number of afflicted and their healthcare and financial needs, initiate sharing of medical knowhow between doctors, and kick off research projects. Of 1.7 million people in UK nearly 3 of entire population who reported long covid **symptoms** last month, 45 had contracted the infection over a year ago. In UK and US these large numbers have posed worries about many incapacitated citizens leaving the workforce. In India a Max hospital tale survey of 990 covid positive persons found around 10 of them having long covid symptoms a year later. Serosurveys indicated covid swept through the population, mostly asymptotically. Even if 1 of India adult population suffers long covid symptoms, the numbers afflicted could be as staggeringly high as 10 million people. Efforts like the national clinical registry to track clinical characteristics of covid patients on a large.



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Whole city with little certainty when it would end. While shanghai reported almost 25,000 cases per day majority are asymptomatic, the largest in china since 2019, officials said that lockdown would be lifted if there were no positive cases for 14 days. China Hong Kong are the last remaining bastions of the zero covid policy and shanghai has morphed into the de facto barometer informing us of the pulse and direction of the policy on full display globally and on china social media. Not so long ago there was all this excitement over the new normal and working from home and how covid had changed everything and who was going back to the office corporate gurus came out of the woodwork with fancy theories about how space would be saved, there would be less car parking problems, people would slide into the zoom era, and life would be booted up. Some of these boardroom pundits even said the finance departments would love these savings and we could do as well on screen, no travel, sit in your pyjamas and wait to be let into the virtual meeting. For a while we all did it, sash, dad and mum are working, silence the dog, the tea kettle, the vacuum cleaner, no music, no tv, boss is on the line, house held at ransom, everyone walking on tiptoes as homes turned into fortresses. Then the little postage stamp squares of homo sapiens started lighting up but where is ravi, can you hear me, try unmute, i notice sunil is not here, is he coming, search for sunil, someone call him, meanwhile the mandatory brown nosed sycophant ingratiating himself with the boss, the mandatory party pooper saying may i make a small suggestion, sir, then cutting down a colleague efforts to score points, the mandatory fall guy out of favour castigated on screen while the rest breathed relief they were spared, omigoodness, the connection has gone, wi fi is weak, call the systems guy, is your photo wobbly, mine is shaking. And then occasionally we would have audio only and pix of favourite dogs, cats, a bear, the flintstones, batman or just an alphabet like b. Go figure if it is berinder, brijesh, bonnie or brian. But no sooner had the vaccine allegedly diluted the covid variants into another flu and life limped back to normal and we limped back to work, **there** went the new normal. It was a terrible idea anyway and home is not an office, period. Nor did most of us live in five bedroom homes but in two tiny rooms and the kids were miserable and there is no which way we were outputting more and being super efficient. Surveys showed many of us were happier and that is for sure because we could sneak watch the imply while pretending to be working. And not shave or dress. Aha, said the pundits, it brought the family closer together and more quality time with the kids. Nice way of.

Word Count: 497, Character Length: 2780 characters

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Scale began in September 2020 but have unfortunately not released enough data in the public domain to precisely establish India long covid challenge. The absence of such data hobbles patients from seeking medical help or creating a public discourse around their trauma and financial difficulties. Doctors are also struggling to prescribe treatments that could offer relief to patients without coordinated institutional responses. With the burden of treating live covid infections subsiding, getting disparate medical research hospitals across India to collaborate on the long covid effort is go next challenge. The industrial revolution which began in the 18th century was one of humanity most consequential events. Not only did it wholly transform every society economic arrangement, it also simultaneously forced changes in the way they are governed. It has, since then, largely been about finding ways to harmonies the gulf between community centric traditions and economic arrangements which place strangers in proximity. Independent India pursuit of economic modernisation had to be achieved in a country of staggering diversity. Therefore the goal of governance has always been about finding ways of accommodation to pursue its economic and social vision. The Indian constitution is an instrument to seek modus vivendi. Its operationalisation needs even handed governance to deal with India diversity. This diversity spans every conceivable aspect of human culture, beliefs, language, food, clothing etc. Neither is society monolithic, nor are even subgroups uniform. The differences between groups have always led to bouts of violence. The underlying theory which guides the entire apparatus of modern governance is about allowing different traditions to coexist while checking the tendency of any group to encroach on the rights of others. It this approach to governance which allows strangers to share common space in the pursuit of a living. A related benefit is the elimination of conflict. An even handed approach to governance has been scarce recently. Even without a legal basis, we have seen groups try to enforce their values on others. It has led to violence, spanning public spaces in cities to a university campus. The conflicts have emerged because the apparatus of governance across states has been remiss. There are no winners in this conflict. Everyone loses because economic progress cannot be realised in community islands. Moreover, given the level of diversity, once the governance apparatus lets one group encroach on the rights of another, there no end to it. It a slippery **slope**. India states need to be alive to the fallout of ignoring governance. Without sticking to the spirit underlying the governance architecture, modus vivendi is not possible. That, in turn, will choke economic possibilities. An environment of coexistence is the only pathway to economic and social progress. Early signs of relaxation are now being seen but shanghai, a city of 25 million, has been under a long lockdown where those outside don want to get in and those inside want to get out. A four day lockdown began in pudding eastern shanghai in late march but in April extended to the.

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Municipal Corporation's budget of about Rs 80,000 crore. This is the defeat of Uddhav Thackeray's arrogant and selfish politics. Considering the Bharatiya Janata Party as enemy number one, UBT used extremely venomous language against the BJP leadership over the last six years. Voters have rejected precisely this kind of politics of Uddhav Thackeray. Having been in control of the Mumbai Municipal Corporation for the past 25 years, Uddhav Thackeray had no concrete achievements to show for himself in solving Mumbai's civic problems. Therefore, he resorted to playing the same old record of 'Mumbai will be separated from Maharashtra,' a narrative that has been repeated for years. Whenever the Mumbai Municipal Corporation elections come around, Uddhav Thackeray remembers this issue. No matter who is in power at the Centre, no one can separate Mumbai from Maharashtra. Even the common man has become well aware of the talk of separating Mumbai from Maharashtra. Uddhav Thackeray's cry of Mumbai being separated has become like the story of The wolf coming from Aesop's fables. No matter how much fear Uddhav Thackeray tries to instill about Mumbai being separated, the average Mumbaikar is not ready to believe it; this is another important conclusion of this election. Two generations of Marathi people in Mumbai voted for the Thackeray faction out of fear of this threat. In the last 6 years, the Thackeray faction betrayed the Bharatiya Janata Party for their own monstrous ambitions, and they have now received the payback for this politics in the Mumbai Municipal Corporation elections. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) struck it lucky in Maharashtra due to the false propaganda of 'vote-jihad' and 'changing the constitution'. Deluded into believing they would also win the assembly elections, the UBT leaders used language directed at Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis such as, Either you will remain, or I will. They lacked the basic political sense to understand that such language should not be used against a political opponent, no matter how strong the opposition. After forging an alliance with Raj Thackeray, the UBT leaders became arrogant, believing that no one could defeat them. Just as the saying goes, Pride comes before a fall, voters shattered UBT's arrogance. The voters also proved wrong the Uddhav Thackeray faction's expectation that the emotional Marathi people would stand by them no matter how they behaved. UBT tried to repeat in Mumbai **the** dangerous experiment of vote-jihad that had taken place in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The late Balasaheb Thackeray had always strongly opposed the politics of appeasing Muslims for votes. However, the Uddhav Thackeray faction, desperate for power, started playing the game of appeasing Muslims. The Bharatiya Janata Party leadership exposed this treacherous game of UBT and announced that they would provide a Hindu Marathi mayor. The political wisdom of Uddhav Thackeray, who spent 25 years in politics merely on the merit of his father, burst like a bubble in this election. The Bharatiya Janata Party leadership resolved to contest the Mumbai election solely on the basis of development work, and the BJP leadership remained committed to this resolve until the very end. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis travelled across the state during the municipal election campaign and held 37 rallies. In addition to this, Devendraji gave 33 interviews to various television channels and

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negligible, the municipal corporation is now in the hands of the Bharatiya Janata Party and the grand alliance. All this is the result of Devendraji's credible performance and efficient leadership. Along with Mumbai, the Bharatiya Janata Party has also demonstrated its growing strength by achieving major success in cities like Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar. Even the party of Sharad Pawar, who had turned Uddhav Thackeray to his side to prevent the BJP from coming to power, has failed to win even a single seat in many municipal corporations. The party of Mr. Pawar, who was hailed as the Chanakya of Maharashtra for many years, is now in a truly dire state. Through these results, the voters of Maharashtra have taught many lessons. Selfish, arrogant, and malicious politics like that of Uddhav Thackeray will not be accepted. Similarly, voters have also sidelined a leader like Raj Thackeray, who changes his stance daily. Voters have also shown through this election that if you take them for granted, you will get nothing but defeat. Another conclusion of these elections is that voters have immense trust in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and in the capabilities of Devendra Fadnavis. TOI News - January 20, 2026 FROM TO PRINT EDITION Trump had promised to end all wars in his second term as US president. He had also aggressively sought the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. But he has changed course. This month, he has There is a particular kind of film that does not merely entertain but instructs. It teaches its audience how to feel, whom to fear, and what forms of power should be admired. Dhurandhar belongs squarely By Thich Nhat Hanh Sometimes when we think of silence, we think of an enforced restriction, such as a dictatorship shutting down freedom of expression, or an elder lecturing that children should be seen and Several months after a chilling scenario about possible Russian aggression in Europe became a bestseller, it may be time to update both cast and script. The book, by German international relations professor Carlo Masala, is Online encyclopedia Wikipedia completed 25 years last week. It has grown to include more than 65mn articles written by nearly 250,000 global volunteers including over 10,500 in India. It was recently critiqued by some Acharya Lokesh When I think of Ram, I do not see a distant deity sitting on a throne in heaven. I see a human being who chose the harder path when the easier one was I always wanted to be a writer. A writer of science, like Carl Sagan. Rohith Vemula wrote these words days before his death on Jan 17, 2016. Ten years later, they remain a reminder of Illustration by Chad Crowe (USA) 8am Election mornings in Mumbai have a familiar rhythm: mild domestic combat and misplaced civic pride. After a brief argument with my daughter on why her school is open while other Politically assertive Mumbai's voters benefited the Thackerays for decades. Not only did it help them install their mayors from the 1970s onwards, it gave them complete control of India's richest civic body for 25 years straight. I just posted a bunch of photos to Instagram. They are pictures of my friends and I at a big fat Indian engagement party. We are in full make-up, hair and wardrobe all of. When monsoon comes round this year, Mumbai should be better geared for it. Monorails shouldn't stall on tracks, metro stations shouldn't get flooded, bridges shouldn't get cut off Now that the city has elected its municipal Indicatively,



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With daily newspapers and TV news reporting on developing facts. The signal-to-noise ratio typically improves as weekly magazines and analysis columns delve deeper, but coverage often wanes once a topic leaves the news cycle. This is particularly true for slow-moving civic issues, where change occurs over decades. LRC could evolve into a Slow Bog, an AI-powered, Wikipedia-like platform that builds a long-term memory for these topics. This concept, previously attempted by academia-leaning news products in the 2010s under the name structured journalism, may now be feasible with advancements in supporting technology. Competition that else is likely to do what LRC does? Groh AI on X is evolving rapidly and could potentially offer this solution out of the box. An existing beta feature on X already converts conversations into short news articles, notably filtering out noise conspiracy theories, gossip, and trivia to focus on newsworthy topics. It plausible they are training on sources like the Google News feed to discern between news and non-news. Backed by the data being collected by Community Notes, it is just a matter of time. Effective expenditure including grants for creation of capital assets is budgeted to grow 19.9%, marginally above 19.6% of previous fiscal. Infrafocused cape growth will outpace nominal GDP, which is positive for raising the economy growth potential, and for private sector investments in linked sectors such as steel and cement. A concern has been slow recovery of private sector investments despite competitive corporate tax rates, improving logistics, and incentives from PLI scheme. The budgetary push to consumption demand could help private investment sentiment in select consumption-oriented sectors. Rationalization of import costs of critical minerals and telecom instruments will also support domestic value addition. Controlling food inflation The challenge for monetary policy is food inflation in this era of climate change. Fiscal measures aimed at enhancing agricultural resilience, and improvements in transport and storage infra have potential to sustainable reduce food inflation, if executed effectively. India GDP growth is expected to slow to 6.8% this fiscal from 8.2% last year because of higher interest rates and tighter lending norms. Urban areas, with higher exposure to credit, will likely feel the pinch more. The hinterland should do better with normal monsoon and higher got funding for rural schemes. Got cost of borrowing should decline. The 10-year got security yield is expected to soften to 6.8% by March 2025 from 7% in March 2024, **due** to lower borrowings, RBI policy rate cuts likely after Oct, and higher foreign inflows stemming from India inclusion in some global bond indices. Having three budgets within 2024 and 2025, and political continuity, gives GOI latitude to tweak fiscal policies. Continuing fiscal prudence and policies are laying the foundation for sustainable and equitable growth. If multiple embryos are transferred to increase the chance of success, then the risk of twins, triplets, or higher-order multiples is significantly increased. Multiple pregnancies increase health risks for both the mother and the babies. Fertility medications can cause swollen and painful ovaries, a condition called Ovarian Hyper stimulation Syndrome OHSS. In severe cases, OHSS can cause serious health complications. IVF has high financial cost, high physical demands, and high potential for failure. These can cause

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Improved embryo culture media that give better embryo development and higher implantation rates, and thus increased the IVF success rates. success rates depend on age, younger women haven higher success rate; cause of Infertility; lifestyle factors: smoking, alcohol consumption, and high or low body weight, tend to lower the success rate; and the expertise, experience, and success rate of the treating doctor. The fertility score is a comprehensive evaluation of an individual ability to reproduce. It combines medical tests, lifestyle factors, and reproductive history to provide a holistic view of one fertility. Fertility scores aim to quantify the likelihood of successful conception. But they do not have a universal scoring system. Fertility scores are measured by blood tests, AMH test, ultrasound Scans. semen analysis, lifestyle and medical history assessment, and questionnaires and Interviews to gather information about lifestyle habits, medical history, menstrual cycle regularity, and previous pregnancies or miscarriages. Fertility scores help in early detection of Issues, personalized treatment plans, informed decision making, and reducing stress and anxiety by having a clear understanding of one fertility status, Conclusion In vitro fertilization offers hope to countless couples facing infertility. It has significant benefits, but also risks. As technology continues to advance, the future of IVF holds even greater promise for making parenthood possible for those who dream of having a family. IVF success rates in India are comparable to those in other parts of the world, making India a viable option for couples seeking fertility treatments. The combination of advanced technology, skilled specialists, and cost-effective treatments positions India as a leading destination for IVF. Globally, the success rates vary, but the overall trend shows promising outcomes for couples undergoing IVF. As the field continues to evolve, ongoing research and innovation will play a pivotal role in enhancing the success rates and accessibility of IVF treatments worldwide. India job market is at a critical juncture, mirroring the global phenomenon of shrinking jobs. The rise of AI, Iota, and Industry 4.0 is recalibrating jobs to meet future needs, with changes happening at an unprecedented pace. Just a year ago, Data Science was one of the hottest skills in India, but now it already showing signs of decline. In India, the talent landscape is rapidly evolving from a degree-centric approach to a skill-centric one. Companies are now prioritizing candidates with industry-ready experience from non-elite schools over elite school graduates with hefty pay packages. **This** shift allows companies to save resources, time, and money on training, embracing a leaner approach. The lean phenomenon is sweeping across India, with high headcount becoming a thing of the past. Service automation and product-centric approaches are driving companies to recalibrate their organizations, assigning more responsibilities to existing employees. While this shift brings efficiency, it also leads to overburdened employees. India experienced workers are in high demand in advanced economies, particularly when coupled with an American degree. To capitalize on this trend, Indian workers must focus on developing skills that are future-proof, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. Moreover, India education system must adapt to the changing job market, emphasizing skill dev

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Saying we were in each other hair and suffering from acute claustrophobia. Now back to the office in those tiny little workstations with only one major hassle. The shortage of car parking space. The need to fence off one physical territory whether residential or commercial private property, an apartment complex, office premises or between nations arises from mutual mistrust and suspicion and for safety and security. But ownership and possession, demarcation and divisions are so antithetical to the spiritual domain that promotes boundlessness and these barriers are incongruous on the path leading to higher truths. Yet one is told, you have to be practical. If dreamers and visionaries were practical would we have witnessed bursts of innovation and creativity if a sage were practical, would we be privy to deep philosophical insights that emerge from deep within her consciousness a recent study at Yale school of environment reveals how the boom in fences is harming wildlife. Besides forcing genetic isolation, these unnatural barriers are hindering the movement of migratory species that need to move, unfettered. Which is why in south America, home of the jaguar, authorities have created borderless forest thoroughfares through various countries so that the jaguar can continue with its migration path. So too in Scandinavia northern parts where reindeer and indigenous tribes like the Inuit move between countries without artificial fencing walls impeding their natural journeys for survival. Former us president Donald trump border wall between the us and Mexico not only prevented human movement but also that of wildlife, and led to breaks in landscape continuity. Jim robins reports in Yale e360, bighorn sheep or jaguars, for example, are cut off from others of their kind on the opposite side of the border. That means that the genetic interaction needed to keep small populations of jaguars or ocelots healthy may be affected. It also means bighorn sheep in Mexico may not be able to migrate north to escape a hotter and drier climate. He adds that a new fencing project between Mongolia and china is impeding the movement of gazelles on their natural route. And says that fence ecology is intertwined with social and cultural issues. Often, the effect of human development and civilization is not a happy one it tends to disrupt the natural order rather than add value to it. When acclaimed photojournalist Pablo Bartholomew, made preparations for an exhibition of his photo **captures** of north eastern tribal cultures the outcome of a times fellowship project in 1990 he chose to hold it in the northeast, rather than in the national capital he wished to take it back to them. He said he wanted to remind the people of their own rich culture and sustainable traditions that they were in danger of losing to development and civilization. Experts say that fencing off areas could also lead to concentration and or flaring up of diseases that might have otherwise disappeared naturally it could end symbiotic relationships between small, medium and large species that move about.

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Freely it prevents people to people contact even among those with shared cultures and memories like those living in neighboring countries like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Fences are always a problem in the right place they can be essential tools for conservation, to protect livestock from predators, and to protect human populations as well. But when taken too far, fences can end up disturbing the natural cycle that engenders life and chokes off free interplay of all creative and natural forces. I often come across wedding videos, photos and reel where the bride and groom meet before the wedding ceremony, having fun or of posts where they say that the couple has decided to let go of certain rituals, like kanyadaan. Or changing some things like putting vermilion on men. Though the posts and reels are sweet, the comments underneath are often disheartening. These cultural shifts are just only in traditional weddings of any religion, but even outside the religion and weddings. Like acceptance of lgbtqia community, even if its slow and more so in tier 1 cities as of now. The thing is change is inevitable. And this inevitable changes also affects culture, be it religious rituals or culture outside any religion like of a state or country. With time, culture will change. People will tweak it as per their convenience, beliefs, liking and the time they are living in. The culture in India which was in 1980s will not stay the same in 2022. Just say, back then, the marriage would happen within caste and religion most of the time, or very less courtship period. But now, inter faith marriages are getting more common and there is months long or even year long courtship periods for 2 people to know each other before they tie the knot. As of court marriage, very few people can come inside the courtroom and not 50s and 100s. So why would the families even invite 100s of people if they can witness the wedding even though most people attend weddings for free food and umm, no rational person will commit for a life long relationship for some social media posts. When one has strong beliefs in their culture or rituals, a change by someone else should collapse one belief system. Outside the religion domain, culture changes as well. Like acceptance of live in relationships, pda or lgbtqia community, atleast in tier **1** Indian cities like mumbai, delhi and bangalore, which was frowned upon even a decade back. Also the slow acceptance of even males wearing tops and skirts, makeup, showing their emotions, or participating in activities traditionally seen as feminine. When it comes to some cultural changes, outside the religious domain, there are many things that even i don agreed with or in favor of? But the change is gonna happen, and as long as i m not forced or anyone else is forced, I don bother much. In my opinion, as long as one is forced to change their beliefs and.

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Culture, it okay and should be affecting anyone if someone else choose to do otherwise. Cause the change, even in cultures, rituals and society, Goanna be inevitable, no matter how much one resist the change. The Indian food industry is poised for huge growth, increasing its contribution to the world food trade every year. In India, the food sector has emerged as a high growth and high profit sector due to its immense potential for value addition, particularly within the food processing industry. There has been a great revolution in the food ordering business in India with online food delivery players like zomato, swiggy, etc. Investors are more attracted to the food processing industry, foreseeing its high potential and wider customer base. Food is a basic necessity therefore the demands are always going to be high. There are many big companies already actively involved in the food processing industry and the government is playing a vital role in promoting it. Many factors are shaping and affecting the growth of such industries. Market size on a worldwide scale, India is the largest country in terms of food production, processing, supply, and consumption. India 39 food market is ranked 6th in the world, with 70 of sales and 5th in production, consumption, and export. India exports 13 of its overall manufacturing output and 6 of its industrial investment. Manufacturing and agriculture contribute 8.80 percent and 8.39 percent, respectively, to India& 39 s gross value addition. The Indian food industry is growing at a cagr of 11 and the output is projected to reach the US 535 billion by 2025. The food processing sector will be led by the demand in retail and the rise of health conscious consumers. Current status through the ministry of food processing industries the government of India is taking all necessary steps to boost investments in the food processing industry in India. After the pandemic, people have become more conscious about their health, and hence, their preferences towards the kind of food and the intake have changed. This has increased the demand for gluten free, low calorie, natural preservatives, colours, and flavours. There is a surge in demand for ready to eat and cook products. Organic products have become common among people and with the effect of social media on our lives; people are opting for innovative food products. The government has become more active in making **the** labelling and information on the packaging to be more intuitive to the consumer. The govt has also forced the fmcg companies to think differently for packaging solutions as it has banned plastic, leading to eco friendly packaging for food products. Government initiatives. With India moving from a position of scarcity to surplus in terms of food production, the opportunities for increasing food processing are numerous. India food processing sector, in recent years, has been known for its high growth and high pro test, thus, increasing its contribution to the world food trade every year. The government of India aims to.

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Boost growth in the food processing sector by leveraging reforms such as 100 foreign direct investment fid in the marketing of food products and various incentives at the central and state government level along with a strong focus on supply chain infrastructure. Recently the government of India has established 18 mega food parks and 134 cold chain projects to develop the food processing supply chain. Recently finance minister, Mrs. Nirmala sitharaman implemented a scheme of rs.10,000 cr. To help two lakh micro food enterprises me with a view of vocal for local with global outreach. The government has launched the one district one product program, to upgrade sees on selected products through credit linked subsidy of 35 of the eligible project cost limited to a maximum value of rs.10 lakhs. For providing support to existing individual micro units for capital investment, preference would be given to those producing odor products. The mofpi has also given impetus to the agro processing cluster by giving grants to the tune of rs.10cr rs.35cr. 4 why should you invest in food processing business food processing is a sunrise sector and even with the advent of large mink players, there is always demand for locally processed food. Abundance of raw materials and better got policies are also contributing factors for food processing units. Regional taste preferences can be catered to only by a local brand and this in turn has given rise to a large number of local players who have huge market share in smaller areas esp tier 2 and 3 cities. Presence of good d2c marketing channels has helped to promote the regional brands to become national players as well. The changing food habits, consumption patterns, low production costs, and food preferences have significantly contributed to the boom in the food processing industry. Need consultants and expert guidance to start and scale up your food industry. Starting a business, planning and executing various aspects to setup the industry and grow the business, requires guidance and expertise. Hence, such industries are subjected to take advice and work in coordination with experts. This letter is only intended to bring positivity and lots of hope about how aware i have become about nourishing my own self. To take care, cherish and reinvent my own inner self which i have been neglecting all these years. Thinking of all those times when i spoke about myself negatively **to** others, i can be the one who gets compliment from others. I don deserve the good things in my life it is selfish of me to think about yourself. Wrong all these years, i was wrong in my perception about myself. I deserve all the happiness in the world. I will speak politely about myself to others. I won talk to harshly with myself when i am all alone and all I can do is blame myself for all the wrong things happening in my life. Self care is a form of self love and no, we should not have.

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Quickly By educating people on how to prevent the spread of diseases, such as through proper hand washing and hygiene practices, the incidence of diseases can be reduced. Finally, promoting basic medical knowledge can help improve the overall health of the population. By encouraging people to eat healthy, exercise regularly, and take care of their mental health, the incidence of chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease can be reduced. This will not only improve the health of individuals but also reduce the burden on the healthcare system. The challenge of course, there are challenges to promoting basic medical knowledge in India. One major challenge is the lack of awareness among the general public. Many people in India lack basic education, and as a result, they may not have access to the information they need to take care of their health. Another challenge is the cultural perception of medicine. In some parts of India, traditional medicine is more highly valued than Western medicine. While there is a place for traditional medicine in healthcare, it is important to ensure that people have access to accurate medical information and are aware of the benefits of modern medicine. Despite these challenges, there are many organizations and initiatives working to promote basic medical knowledge in India. One such initiative is the National Health Mission, which aims to provide accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare to all citizens of India. The mission includes a focus on promoting health education and awareness, with the goal of improving the overall health of the population. Parting Shot While promoting basic medical knowledge is an important step toward improving healthcare in India, it is not a silver bullet. A generally medically aware population cannot avoid the need for a robust medical infrastructure. The government must continue to invest in medical infrastructure, provide access to affordable medication and treatment, and address systemic issues such as corruption and bureaucracy in the healthcare system. Additionally, it is crucial to recognize that healthcare is not just a matter of individual responsibility but also a collective responsibility. The Covid 19 pandemic has made it clear that health crises affect us all, and addressing them requires collective action and solidarity. So, considering the overwhelming population of India, and the subsequent challenges in ensuring access to healthcare for all, it is imperative to supplement the existing and continuously improving national healthcare system by educating the **population** about the basics of medicine and common medical sense so that avoidable medical consultations can actually be avoided. Self-esteem is the foundation of our mental and emotional wellbeing. It shapes how we view ourselves and that influences our thoughts, feelings, and behaviours. It influences our self-worth, self-respect, and self-confidence. It determines how we perceive ourselves, how we interact with others, and how we navigate the world. Low self-esteem can hinder our growth and prevent us from achieving our goals. However, many of us struggle with low self-esteem at some point or the other in our lives, whether due to negative experiences, past traumas, or societal pressure. Fortunately, there are several effective strategies to boost self-esteem and cultivate a positive self-image. The best way to boost our self-esteem is by practicing self-care. Self-care involves taking

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Consider this would safeguard the pets from negative health consequences avoid feeding your pets with excessive treats as it may fill them but will not be providing the nutrition needed by their body never give chocolate to your pet because it might be harmful to their health keep your pet away from heat absorbing surfaces like metal or asphalt. Animals can burn their paws and the heat from their feet can also increase their core body temperature. Pets should not be overfed. They should be fed according to their body weight, age, and level of activity. The amount of food should not be reduced or increased because both can be damaging to the pet to prevent any kind of infection do not forget to wash your pet containers regularly. Lack of cleaning can lead to cause disease in pets the life of pets is as valuable as human lives. As a result, pet nutrition should not be taken lightly and all necessary precautions should be taken to ensure the health of one pet. A well balanced meal that meets those requirements will benefit the pet health and wellbeing at all stages of life. It essential to provide your pet with a well balanced meal that includes all of the required nutrients as well as the appropriate number of calories. The term d2c did not exist in the lexicon of the Indian ecosystem till recently. Indian customers constituted a classical consumer market where brick and mortar stores reigned supreme. It led to the emergence and rise of retail chains such as shoppers stop, lifestyle and hyper chains like big bazaar. Brands continued to open retail stores, and general trade percolated and thrived in every part of the country. Physical retail store infrastructure and consumer mindset dominated the multiple drivers of this growth. Transformation in the sector the first signs of ecosystem transition became visible with the advent of 4g, smartphones and nationwide internet penetration. The internet subscriber base has touched 834 million, with rural users comprising 40 source trays, nice, Bain & company. With smartphone penetration reaching 54, a tectonic shift took place power shifted from selling & distribution networks to consumers. E commerce marketplaces like flip kart, mantra, amazon, kaka, and anion and doom offered easy to use platforms, and the proliferation of mobile apps kick started a metamorphosis in consumer buying behavior. Creating a physical network of retail **stores** nationwide was an enormous cost and time barrier for most brands. Ecommerce marketplaces and internet penetration quickly enabled brands to offer a large bouquet of choices to customers across the board, and brands with differentiated offerings mushroomed across the virtual consumer spectrum. This market mutation was aided by nimble logistics service providers who teamed up with e commerce aggregators to reduce the time to market timelines of newly launched brands dramatically. Today you can build a nationwide supply chain system for your brand in months which would otherwise have taken years to build through the traditional route. Results of this.



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Transition are evident in marketplace platforms, where 60 of fashion and lifestyle sales are being clocked in tier 2 and tier 3 cities. Similar trends are also prevalent in beauty & personal care. Consumer mindsets walls come tumbling down humans are creatures of habit, and it reflects in consumer behavior. If you are used to strolling down the road to a familiar grocery shop to buy toiletries, it is unlikely that you will quickly change to some newfangled method that some snake oil salesperson is trying to impose on you. Covid changed all that. Consumers adapted to online shopping like a duck to water, albeit for survival. Teachers learned to teach in virtual classrooms, employees learned to work online and home makers learned to order groceries online. The online e commerce market exploded. Post covid, delivery platforms like grocers claimed that 64 of their customers switched to online grocery shopping, and another 20 of new online shoppers were on boarded. Flipchart witnessed new user growth close to 50 in the post covid world. Amidst all this, underlying bedrock of trust in e commerce was created quickly. The last outpost had crumbled. A new d2c world consumer trust in underlying enablers gave rise to a transformational mushrooming of d2c brands and companies. Finally saw the light of the day what you see is what you got aided by unforgiving online advertising and prevents obfuscation behind walls. End users have quickly realised that convenience, wide angle market views and choices hitherto that are not available in traditional retail shopping far outweigh any other disadvantages that may exist. Comfort levels with online shopping are only going one way north and so is consumer trust. The d2c force has arrived the tableau has swung on a dime, and traditional brand distributor retail store consumer fortifications have been breached. With reasonable certainty, i can now say that 2021 2030 will be the decade of d2c brands. D2c is likely to emerge with an outsized 75 market share of e commerce spending and touch 300 ban in sales by 2030 source inc42 plus. Vicious and mamearth are the new unicorn d2c kids on the block, and boat is following suit. There is a clutch of other d2c brands nearing that hallowed status, which comprises chai point, clovia, atomberg, wake fit, furlenco and the like. All of them, like many other d2c brands, are attracting significant **VC** attention and investments and are likely to continue doing so. The last word the customer is truly king now with a bouquet of choices never seen before and the ever expanding basket. D2c brands that gain deep insights into customer needs and tailor their offerings accordingly will thrive. Water can be a constant source of annoyance when present in excess. It has the potential to damage the valuable assets present within the affected area and the repercussions can be even more severe for the commercial and industrial spaces. Water damage can be caused due to a number of natural factors.

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The time and effort it takes to nurture you. Self-esteem can also be boosted by focusing on our strengths and accomplishments. When we recognize and celebrate our achievements, we build a sense of competence and self efficacy. For instance, I have a friend who struggled with low self-esteem after being laid off from her job. However, instead of dwelling on her failure, she decided to pursue a new career and enrolled in a course of graphic designing. As she learned new skills and created beautiful designs, her confidence grew, and she felt proud of her accomplishments. By focusing on her strengths and talents, she was able to rebuild her self-esteem and move forward. Another way to boost self-esteem is by challenging negative thoughts. Negative self talk involves the thoughts and beliefs we have about ourselves that are unhelpful or untrue. Examples being: I am not good enough, I always mess up, or I will never succeed. Challenging negative self talk involves questioning the validity of these thoughts and replacing them with positive and realistic ones. For instance, Deva struggled with negative self talk throughout his career. He always believed that he was not good enough and that others were more talented and capable than him. One day he realized that this negative self talk was holding him back from reaching his full potential. So, he started challenging it by asking himself, Is this thought true? and What evidence do I have to support this thought? He also started affirming himself with positive statements like, I am capable and competent, and I can achieve my goals. Over time, Deva self-esteem improved, and he became more confident and successful in his career. Other way to boost self-esteem is by practicing self compassion. Self compassion involves treating ourselves with kindness, understanding, and acceptance. It means acknowledging our flaws and mistakes without judgment and offering ourselves the same care and compassion we would offer a friend. Maria struggled with low self-esteem due to her past experiences of being bullied and criticized. She found it hard to accept herself and often felt ashamed of her imperfections. However, she learned about the concept of self compassion and started practicing it regularly. She started speaking to herself with kindness and offering herself words of encouragement and support. She also started treating herself with care and compassion by doing things she enjoyed and taking breaks when she **needed** them. As a result, Maria self-esteem improved, and she felt more confident and content with herself. To boost self-esteem, it good to surround ourselves with supportive people who uplift and encourage us. When we have positive relationships with others, we feel valued and accepted. This can involve seeking out friends, family, or mentors who share our values and beliefs, or joining a supportive community or group. I have a cousin who struggled with low self-esteem due to being bullied in school. However, when she joined a local theatre group, she found a supportive and accepting community that celebrated her creativity and talent. By surrounding herself with positive influences, she was able to overcome her past experiences and build a positive self-image. Let take the example of Dwayne The Rock Johnson, the former professional wrestler and actor who has struggled with self-esteem issues. He has taken steps to boost his self-esteem, including therapy, exercise, and surrounding himself with positive

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Delhi was 1000% higher than in both Denmark and Singapore. This extreme winter pollution, unmitigated year after year, is not a matter of opinion. Every official and institution If an ant is drowning in a puddle, should you try to save it, bioethicist Jeff Sebo asks in an article. If yes, is your decision based on Indian tradition, which teaches that all life manifests God, Mumbai will know today who'll run the city. What they already knew and this will be true irrespective of results is that this election was more than a contest between the BJP-led Mahayuti India now has one of the world's largest startup ecosystems. The Startup India initiative has evolved into an inclusive and innovative ecosystem across the country, channelising youthful entrepreneurial energy to create jobs and accelerate the economy. By Osho This is one of the most penetrating maxims of Heraclitus: The sun is new each day. Hunger is new each day. Love is new each day. Life is new each day. To say In India, time is a nebulous concept that is elastic and can bend like monsoon rubber, stretched endlessly without a whisper of a protest. Yet, here we are, strangely stuck in a national debate over Amid all the flak aviation regulator DGCA has drawn for its handling of last month's IndiGo crisis, the role of another regulator Competition Commission of India has gone relatively unnoticed. CCI was set By Ullhas Pagey Eric Berne, a Canadian psychiatrist, unveiled a sacred triad of ego states: Parent, Adult, and Child as portals to our scripted destinies. In the esoteric extensions of Transactional Analysis which Berne India is still reporting world-beating economic growth but no longer getting any love for it. Flows of foreign money into India have dried up, suggesting outsiders believe that the reported GDP growth rate of over TOI News - January 21, 2026 When technology forgets our name V. Raghunathan is a former Director of the Schulich School of Business (India Program), York University, Toronto, a former professor at IIM Ahmedabad and a former President of ING Vysya Bank. A prolific author, he has written over 15 books, including the national bestseller Games Indians Play (Penguin). With more than 600 published papers and articles, his latest books include The Lion, The Admiral, and A Cat Called B. Uma Vijaylakshmi (Westland, 2025) and To Every Parent; To Every Child (Penguin, 2025) **and** Irrationally Rational: 10 Nobel Laureates Script the Story of Behavioural Economics (Penguin 2022), among others. India's push towards frictionless, digital-first air travel has an unexpected casualty: the South Indian name. Digi Yatra, the biometric-based airport entry system, promises speed, convenience, and a glimpse of a high-tech future. Walk up, let the camera recognise your face, and pass through without fumbling for documents. In theory, it is elegant. In practice, it falters over something profoundly human and deeply Indian how we name ourselves. For millions of South Indians, initials are not abbreviations or casual shorthand. They are a culturally embedded naming convention. The initial may represent a father's name, a village, or a lineage. It is not always meant to be expanded casually, because expansion itself can be ambiguous or situational. Yet modern digital systems insist on doing precisely that: expanding, standardising, and flattening what they cannot easily parse. The problem becomes acute at the intersection of three rigid systems: Aadhaar, airline ticketing portal



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is used. Aadhaar records the name, quite correctly, with initials intact: V Raghunathan. Airline aggregators such as MakeMyTrip or Cleartrip, however, refuse initials and insist on full expansion: Viswanathan Raghunathan. Passports, following international norms, also carry the fully expanded name. DigiYatra nevertheless treats Aadhaar as the anchor identity and rejects the boarding pass because the names do not match character for character. The passenger self-evidently the same individual suddenly becomes a systems error. There is, moreover, no provision on the DigiYatra portal to upload a second identity document, such as a passport, to reconcile the discrepancy. This is not a marginal inconvenience. It affects a vast number of South Indians Tamil, Telugu, Malayali, and Kannada speakers for whom initials are the norm rather than the exception. What is being exposed is not user error, but a design flaw: a digital ecosystem built around a narrow, largely North Indian or Western naming template, imposed uniformly on a diverse population. Technology is often described as neutral. In reality, systems encode assumptions. Digi Yatra assumes that a name is a fixed, fully expanded string first name, middle name, surname, in that order. This assumption collapses in the face of Indian reality. Many Indians do not have surnames in the Western sense. Many use patronymics. Many legitimately use different name formats across Aadhaar, passport, bank accounts, and tickets not out of carelessness, but because institutions have historically demanded different conventions. What makes the situation particularly frustrating is that the burden of correction is placed entirely on the individual. Travellers are advised to fix their Aadhaar so that it matches airline tickets. But Aadhaar is not a casual profile one edits at will. It is a foundational identity document tied to banking, taxation, pensions, and welfare. Asking citizens to permanently alter how their names appear simply to accommodate a convenience feature at airports is disproportionate and unreasonable. The solution, however, is neither radical nor technically exotic. Digi Yatra already relies on facial recognition as the primary authenticator. Names are secondary metadata. There is no compelling reason why Digi Yatra should be locked to Aadhaar alone. Passports are already accepted, globally trusted identity documents, and they usually carry the expanded name that airline systems require. Allowing Digi Yatra to accept either Aadhaar or passport as the identity anchor and to reconcile initials with expanded forms would immediately resolve a large class of failures. Banks do **this** routinely. Tax systems map PAN and Aadhaar despite discrepancies. Even immigration systems recognise name variations across documents. To argue that initials pose an insurmountable technical challenge is not a limitation of technology, but of design will. For now, the advice circulating among frequent flyers is pragmatic and resigned: if your Aadhaar name does not exactly match your ticket, do not use Digi Yatra. Stand in the manual queue. Carry your ID. Accept that opting out is sometimes the most rational choice. This is particularly hard on frequent travellers and senior citizens or those with little children standing in long queues. But this is hardly the outcome a flagship digital initiative should settle for. A system designed to reduce friction should not introduce culturally biased points of exclusion. Nor shoul



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Transition are evident in marketplace platforms, where 60 of fashion and lifestyle sales are being clocked in tier 2 and tier 3 cities. Similar trends are also prevalent in beauty & personal care. Consumer mindsets walls come tumbling down humans are creatures of habit, and it reflects in consumer behavior. If you are used to strolling down the road to a familiar grocery shop to buy toiletries, it is unlikely that you will quickly change to some newfangled method that some snake oil salesperson is trying to impose on you. Covid changed all that. Consumers adapted to online shopping like a duck to water, albeit for survival. Teachers learned to teach in virtual classrooms, employees learned to work online and home makers learned to order groceries online. The online e commerce market exploded. Post covid, delivery platforms like grocers claimed that 64 of their customers switched to online grocery shopping, and another 20 of new online shoppers were on boarded. Flipchart witnessed new user growth close to 50 in the post covid world. Amidst all this, underlying bedrock of trust in e commerce was created quickly. The last outpost had crumbled. A new d2c world consumer trust in underlying enablers gave rise to a transformational mushrooming of d2c brands and companies. Finally saw the light of the day what you see is what you got aided by unforgiving online advertising and prevents obfuscation behind walls. End users have quickly realised that convenience, wide angle market views and choices hitherto that are not available in traditional retail shopping far outweigh any other disadvantages that may exist. Comfort levels with online shopping are only going one way north and so is consumer trust. The d2c force has arrived the tableau has swung on a dime, and traditional brand distributor retail store consumer fortifications have been breached. With reasonable certainty, i can now say that 2021 2030 will be the decade of d2c brands. D2c is likely to emerge with an outsized 75 market share of e commerce spending and touch 300 ban in sales by 2030 source inc42 plus. Vicious and mamearth are the new unicorn d2c kids on the block, and boat is following suit. There is a clutch of other d2c brands nearing that hallowed status, which comprises chai point, clovia, atomberg, wake fit, furlenco and the like. All of them, like many other d2c brands, are attracting significant **VC** attention and investments and are likely to continue doing so. The last word the customer is truly king now with a bouquet of choices never seen before and the ever expanding basket. D2c brands that gain deep insights into customer needs and tailor their offerings accordingly will thrive. Water can be a constant source of annoyance when present in excess. It has the potential to damage the valuable assets present within the affected area and the repercussions can be even more severe for the commercial and industrial spaces. Water damage can be caused due to a number of natural factors.

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As well as man made activities like floods, heavy rainfall, cyclones, hurricanes, fire fighting, broken water pipes, leakages, accidents, vandalism, etc. Irrespective of the source it can cause acute damage to the property, interrupt the business activities and the unbudgeted compensation expenses due to high insurance claims can highly stake the profitability of the business. Along with this, the tremendous loss of assets and infrastructure and huge reconstruction and replacement expenses can further add to the financial burden of the business. Therefore, it is important to take the issue of water damage seriously and resort to water damage restoration as early as possible. The water damage restoration comes with end to end emergency services to arrest any further damage to the materials and restore it to their original functionality by drying and restoring the water damaged assets. It ensures the protection, preservation, and security of the assets by employing drying and dehumidification technology. Timely restoration not just saves time but can help in salvaging the valuable material and also account for the prevention of costly secondary damage, reduction in reconstruction requirements, and substantially lowers the insurance claim costs. Drying makes use of four basic principles, notably, removal of standing water, evaporation through air movement, dehumidification, and temperature control to remove the water from the affected area. Excess water removal is the first step in the process of drying which is aimed at removing the standing water. For less serious conditions, water can be removed with the help of physical means like mopping and soaking excess moisture from the hard surfaces or furnishing. But for the heavily affected area, sophisticated techniques and equipment such as pumps, wet vacuuming equipment, etc. Are required. After the removal of excess water, water present behind in its saturated form within the drywall, wood framing, and subfloors must be converted into vapor with the help of evaporation. Evaporation must be followed by dehumidification to externally exhaust and remove the moisture from the air. Failing to dehumidify the space may harbor secondary damage and be a source of potent health hazards. Desiccant based dehumidification is highly effective in eliminating moisture from the affected material. It employs high velocity air blowers to speed up the process of evaporation for quick drying. This keeps secondary and tertiary damaging effects of water at bay which can majorly be caused by standing water which is also a source of fungus, **mold**, mildew, corrosion, etc. Hence, humidity control is thereby key to safe and effective drying and it is important to remove the moisture. 100 humidity can worsen the existing condition. It is responsible for condensation formation on the surface leading to mold, corrosion, decay, and other moisture related deterioration. Considering that wet and moist conditions can lead to a disastrous outcome, it is crucial to maintain humidity within a very narrow range. A combination of high temperature and low relative humidity rah is ideal for the rapid evaporation of water. The temperature must be maintained at f with rah between for.

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Inequality is an emotive issue. It spawned at least one history-changing revolution the Russian Revolution. Most holy scriptures across religions frown upon it, prescribing various ameliorative actions for followers of the faith. The modern welfare state is the political-economy reaction to dampening extreme inequalities. The measure of a transparency law is not only in its exposure of corruption Adarsh to Vyapam or social audits of govt schemes. It as much in the ways goats, bureaucracy, and even courts systemically stifled it. Even before the law passage, the appointment panel for info commissioners was altered to replace CJI with a govt minister, alongside PM and Loop. Near-defunct state commissions, vacancies, case pile-ups, high rejection rates, the murder of activists, a slew of exemptions for public agencies and even judges, narrowed the law scope. Like in Nov last, In was exempted from freeing in part the keeper of all online info, breaches and surveillance from accountability. Last year, was permanently hobbled when the new data protection law blanket-barred personal info from being shared. The idea of privacy was inexplicably expanded to deny info how is privacy an issue when it concerns data about a public official on public duty using public money? Norms were changed at will like Railways tightening its rules days after it provided info on a project that was quite under its area of responsibility. In effect, 20 years on, is a shadow of what it could be. Even Kuno cheetahs would agree. Learning. Programs like the Orton-Gillingham method use visual, auditory, and kinaesthetic-tactile techniques to strengthen memory and learning of written language. For example, students might trace letters in sand while vocalizing the corresponding sound, reinforcing the connections between letters and sounds. 2. Structured Literacy Structured literacy involves systematic, explicit instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. It is especially beneficial for students with dyslexia as it establishes a solid foundation in the rules and patterns of language. 3. Differentiated Instruction Teachers adapt their teaching methods to meet individual learning needs. For dyslexic students, this may involve breaking down lessons into smaller, more manageable parts, allowing additional time for assignments, or using more visuals and hands-on activities to enhance understanding. Assistive Technology Integration The incorporation of technology in the classroom enables teachers to provide more personalized support. For instance, text-to-speech software can help students better understand and engage with reading materials. Assistive Technology for Dyslexia **Assistive** technology has revolutionized support for children with dyslexia, providing tools that help bridge the gap between their potential and the challenges they face. This section will delve deeper into the various types of assistive technology, exploring how they work and the latest devices making a significant impact in the field. Text-to-Speech TTS Software How It Works TTS software converts written text into spoken words, enabling students to listen to their textbooks, articles, and other reading materials, facilitating easier comprehension. Key Benefits Enhances understanding by allowing students to process information auditory. Reduces the cognitive load of decoding words, enabling focus on content comprehension. Supports independent learning. Popular Tools Kur

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**Speech to Text Software How It Works** software, or dictation software, transcribes spoken words into written text, which is particularly useful for students who struggle with writing and spelling. **Key Benefits** Allows students to express their ideas without the barrier of writing difficulties. Enhances productivity and reduces frustration during writing tasks. Can improve the quality of written work by allowing students to focus on content rather than mechanics. **Popular Tools** Dragon NaturallySpeaking This highly accurate dictation software offers extensive customization options and integration with various applications. **Google Docs Voice Typing** A free, easy-to-use tool that provides good accuracy for basic dictation needs. **Audiobooks and Digital Books How They Work** Audiobooks provide spoken versions of written texts. Digital books, or e-books, can often be paired with TTS software for a multimodal reading experience. **Key Benefits** Improves reading comprehension and retention. Provides access to a wider range of literature. Supports learning in students with severe reading difficulties. **Popular Tools** Audible Offers a vast library of audiobooks, including many educational titles. **Learning All Specializes in audiobooks for students with reading disabilities, providing human-narrated books with synchronized text highlighting.** **Book share** A free resource for students with documented disabilities, offering access to a large collection of accessible e-books. **Phonetic Spelling Software How It Works** Phonetic spelling software helps students with spelling difficulties by providing suggestions based on phonetic input. **Key Benefits** Assists in producing correctly spelled words, even if the student does not know the traditional spelling. Reduces anxiety associated with spelling difficulties and improves writing confidence. **Effective Strategies to Improve Dyslexia Early Identification and Intervention** Early screening and diagnosis are crucial. The earlier dyslexia is identified, the sooner targeted interventions can begin. Programs focusing on phonological awareness, phonics, and word recognition are most effective when started early. **Explicit Phonics Instruction** Teaching the relationship between letters and sounds clearly and directly is essential. Systematic phonics instruction helps dyslexic students understand word construction, improving reading and spelling skills. **3. Reading Practice and Fluency Training** Repeated reading and guided oral reading strategies can improve reading fluency. Tools like Reader Theatre, where students practice reading scripts, can make this practice more engaging and enjoyable. **Vocabulary Building** Expanding vocabulary through direct instruction and exposure to new words in various contexts helps improve comprehension. Using visual aids and incorporating new words into everyday activities can enhance retention. **Comprehension Strategies** Teaching students strategies such as summarizing, predicting, and questioning **can** enhance their understanding of texts. Graphic organizers can also help students break down and analyse text structures. **Self-Advocacy and Confidence Building** Encouraging students to understand their learning differences and advocate for their needs is important. Building self-confidence through success in small steps can motivate students to tackle more challenging tasks. **Latest Trends and Resources.** **Artificial Intelligence AI and Machine Learning** AI-driven tools are becoming increasingly sophisticated in providin



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These deterrents will be possible by collaborating with the right cloud engineering solutions provider. As the covid 19 pandemic ceases its pace, public cloud services will gain adoption for storage, computing and networking purposes. AWS, Google cloud, and Microsoft Azure are likely to remain the top players for years to come. Their offerings will soon foray into virtual business events, cloud gaming, metaverse shopping, telemedicine, and remote education. Many political commentators now feel that for Congress to have any hope of revival, it needs a new face at the top. Why the Gandhi family, despite its unmatched legacy, does seem to get significant votes, particularly at the national level. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brand remains as strong as ever, even after eight years. Indeed, a Congress defeat in the Lok Sabha elections of 2024 is near certain. Congress does win a few states here and there, though even here it is questionable how many of the votes come because of the Gandhi family. This is why eternal peace, purity, progress and spirituality. She became his disciple. The Tirthankar contributed to the growth of scientific temper, literature, education and encouraged people to reject superstition and blind faith. He regarded all species of flora fauna as integral to a composite community and emphasised the concept of Ahimsa. Now pundits agree that Congress needs a new face at the top. It is worth underlining that today's assessment is different from even five years ago, when most Congress watchers felt it would simply crumble into nothing without the Gandhi family. The virtual meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden hours before the fourth India-US dialogue reiterated the importance of the overall strategic partnership. This is significant because the two sides remain apart on the Ukraine war and Russia. While Washington continues to insist that it is in New Delhi's interest to increase energy imports from Moscow, New Delhi has steadfastly stuck to its position of strategic autonomy with the aim of divorcing the politics around the conflict from the horrors of the war itself. This saw Modi unilaterally raise the Buchan killings and condemn them without assigning blame to anyone. However, there is also no denying that India's position on the war has been evolving. Its last abstention on the UNGA vote to expel Russia from the UNHRC actually favored the US resolution. Plus, India has **dispatched** humanitarian aid to Ukraine and is preparing to do more in this regard at Kyiv's request. Besides, India's ties with Russia cannot be amended overnight. This is akin to Europe's energy dependence on Russia that continues despite several EU nations promising a drawdown. That said, India and the US have no choice but to work together. Russia's actions in Ukraine have not only put India in a tight spot but also ensured that Moscow will be Beijing's junior partner for the foreseeable future. And given that a revisionist China is the biggest threat to the rules-based international order and.