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Editor's Note

Staff Members

MOST EXCITING ARTICLE

Greetings!

We're thrilled to bring you the February issue, even though it's arriving a bit later than usual due to midterms and mock exams. We appreciate your patience and are excited to share some fantastic articles with an improved design that we think you'll love.

Your feedback means the world to us! If you have any thoughts on this issue or suggestions for improvement, please share them through our feedback form linked here.

Interested in joining the 10Xpress team? Feel free to reach out to me at bharat.ambati@10xinternationalscho ol.com.

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WRITER OF THE MONTH

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Massive Black Hole Could Lie at the Cosmic Horseshoe

Neil Daga, 11: Scientists have discovered a black hole of such massive proportions that it is the size of 36 billion suns. For context, a black hole with the sun's staggering mass of approximately two nonillion kg would have a Schwarzschild radius of 3 KM—a distance that a high-paced walk could cover in 20 minutes. Black holes are tiny compared to their mass, and since this black hole is a titan amongst others, one can imagine its sheer mass.

It was found in the cosmic horseshoe, a system of two galaxies in the Leo constellation. Images of this system show a ring of light surrounding the front galaxy, hence the name. This phenomenon is termed an Einstein ring, which is when the light of a distant object is bent by the massive gravitational force of an object lying between the distant object and the viewer. Recently, scientists understood how the system had the mass to allow the phenomenon.

This black hole, termed an SMBH (supermassive black hole), defies conventional expectations. The MBH-Sigmae correlation is a relationship between the mass of an SMBH and the velocity dispersion of the stars (an average measure of the speed of the stars in the galaxy and how much the speed varies). The SMBH has a steeper slope, by 1.5 sigma above the regular slope. This trend suggests that for massive black holes, the slope increases beyond what's typically expected.

How did such a massive black hole come about? There are many different theories.



One is that of a galaxy merger - When two galaxies collide, their central black holes merge, contributing to their size, whereas the stars of both galaxies get thrown outwards in a process termed scouring. This would explain the relatively high MBH-Sigmae correlation. Another such idea is that the galaxy hosting the SMBH is part of a cluster where massive galaxies dominate. These clusters tend to have very sparse star concentration, explaining the correlation once again.

As we continue to learn more about these natural supergiants, discoveries like this push the boundaries of understanding further and further. Nevertheless, we are only beginning to unravel the vast mystery that is space.



Enzyme Changes Behind Parrot Plumage Colors



Siddharth Mitra, 11: Male birds of paradise are known for their elaborate mating rituals, and scientists have now discovered another interesting feature: biofluorescence. A recent study found that 37 of 45 species possess the ability to absorb ultraviolet light and re-emit it as a bright green or yellow glow.

These birds, native to Australia, Indonesia, and New Guinea, use photoluminescent feathers to attract mates. These feathers function by absorbing UV radiation from their surroundings and emitting them at wavelengths that produce light rays that lie in the visible spectrum for birds. Their fluorescent markings are often seen near ultra-black feathers, which absorb nearly all light, creating a stark contrast that makes their glow even brighter. This bio-fluorescent feather display likely enables them to signal genetic fitness and mating readiness to potential mates, alongside increasing the likelihood that they find a potential mate.

Not all birds of paradise exhibit this trait. Three genera—Lycocorax, Manucodia, and Phonygammus—showed no signs of biofluorescence, possibly because they are observed as being more monogamous and don't rely on extravagant displays as a part of their mating rituals. Scientists also found biofluorescence in the blue-capped ifrit, a close relative of birds-of-paradise, suggesting that they all descended from a common ancestor with this ability.

While male birds primarily use their bioluminescence for courtship, it may also have additional functions. In other species, it helps with camouflage. Some birds also utilize this phenomenon to exert dominance. Female birds of paradise also have biofluorescent plumage, though at lower levels, reinforcing the idea that males use their glow primarily for attracting mates.

Scientists are eager to study these birds in their natural environments, where their fluorescence maybe even more intense. Up until now, optical displays in bird species have remained severely understudied. However, the more studies around this topic come to fruition, the more ornithologists can learn about the genetic similarity and differentiation of bird species across the globe.

Introduction Of Crossing Matrices To Decode Doubly Periodic Weaves

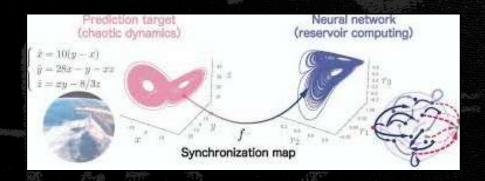
Aryan Reddy Hande, 11: Imagine a world where the intricate patterns of woven fabrics aren't just art but a puzzle waiting to be solved with math. Recently, mathematicians have introduced a fascinating tool called "crossing matrices" to unravel the secrets of doubly periodic weaves-those mesmerizing textile designs that repeat perfectly in two directions, like a never-ending tapestry. This breakthrough is more than just a cool trick; it's opening doors to understanding complex structures in math, science, and even material design.

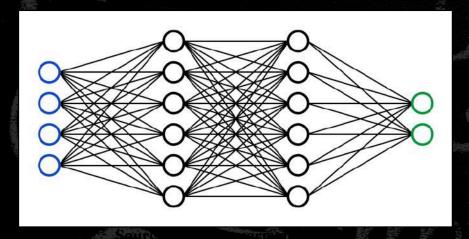
So, what's a doubly periodic weave? Picture a checkerboard or a basket weave that stretches infinitely across a plane, repeating its pattern both horizontally and vertically. These weaves aren't random-they follow strict rules, and that's where the math comes in. According to a study from arXiv titled "Classification of doubly periodic untwisted (p,q)-weaves by their crossing number," these patterns can be broken down into a unit cell, a small repeating block that holds all the info about the weave (2022). The challenge? Figuring out how the threads cross each other in that cell. That's where crossing matrices step

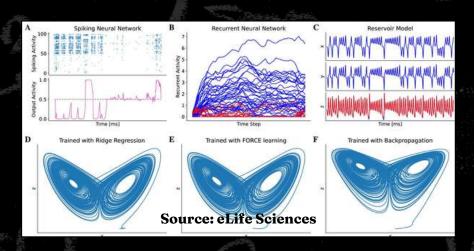
A crossing matrix is like a cheat sheet. It's a grid of numbers that tracks every overand-under moment where threads meet. Think of it as a map: each entry tells you how one thread interacts with another, giving mathematicians a way to classify weaves based on their "crossing number"—the fewest crossings possible in a unit cell. The arXiv paper explains that this number defines different types of weaves, like untwisted (p,q)-weaves, and helps spot when two patterns are secretly the same, just twisted differently.

Why does this matter? Beyond textiles, doubly periodic weaves pop up in nature and tech—think crystal structures or advanced materials. By decoding them with crossing matrices, mathematicians can predict how these structures behave, from strength to flexibility. It's like giving engineers a playbook for designing tougher fabrics or smarter tech.

This isn't just math for math's sake—it's a bridge between abstract ideas and real-world stuff. Next time you see a woven mat or a fancy scarf, remember: there's a matrix behind that magic, thanks to some clever mathematicians.







How Quantum Computers Will Affect Our Infrastructure

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Ruhi Beri, 11: The most popular method of encrypting data—such as your passwords, bank details, and private messages—is RSA encryption. It is estimated that for a classical computer to decrypt this code, it would take thousands or even millions of years. For a quantum computer, on the other hand, it only takes minutes.

society acknowledges the Although benefits of quantum computing, including problem-solving, optimising logistics, and breakthroughs in medicine and AI, it is safe to say we are not ready for that future yet, precisely because of the issue just described: our encryption methods quickly become insecure, posing a privacy and security breach so dire it would make virtually all digital data capable of decrypting, spanning from a friendly text to sensitive government agency information to the operations of power grids.

So, what must we do to prepare for this inevitable advance in technology?

The first step is transitioning to postquantum cryptography, a style of encryption resistant to quantum attacks. Like classical cryptography before it, post-quantum cryptography relies on difficult mathematical problems- but this time, ones that are difficult even for quantum algorithms. One such method is lattice-based cryptography: it takes a secret number, multiplies it by a random number and then adds a small random error. This is done multiple times to form various equations, the results of which are then shared publicly in a similar format to coordinates. To find the secret number, the computer must plot and solve them in



Technolo!

a high-dimensional lattice—a step up from factorisation, which quantum algorithms can't yet solve.

Nonetheless, post-quantum cryptography relies on the difficulty of solving a math problem, which may soon become easy to solve, deeming the encryption obsolete. Quantum Key Distribution, on the other hand, relies on the laws of physics, making the encryption unsolvable by any computer. It works by sending quantum particles that, if intercepted, are disturbed, and hence the encryption key is only sent if it's confirmed to be secure. This method is theoretically unbreakable, but it is still perceptible to challenges such as hardware weaknesses and limited distance of use.

Overall, the rise of quantum computing will not only come with new advancements in nearly every sector due to their enormous utility but also oversee large changes in the bare-bone infrastructure of technology itself.

Longest Undersea Cable: Meta's New Al Cable Project

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Yi Zou, 10: Meta has revealed plans to build the world's largest AI cable project that aims to connect the USA, India, South America, South Africa, and other regions through what is known as Project Waterworth. The cable would be breaking records for the longest-ever underwater cable projects, covering a length of

50,000 kilometres (31,000 miles), which surpasses the Earth's circumference.

The cable is intended to increase digital connectivity across America, Asia, and Europe. Meta said in one of its blog posts that this project will enable greater economic cooperation, facilitate digital



inclusion, and open opportunities for technological development in these regions.

Subsea cable projects such as Project Waterworth have been essential in maintaining the world's digital framework and allowing for seamless online communication. They make up 95% of intercontinental digital traffic. Meta's new AI cable is an addition to this wide array of undersea fibres, with advancements in cable resilience, burial techniques, and overall capacity.

The impact of such an innovation is multifaceted. One direct benefit is the addressing of the rising demand for AI and digital services. As Artificial Intelligence takes over the internet, the need for increased technological advancements to sustain such development is also evident. Through this cable, AI enhancements across several continents in the globe would be made easier, as the new construction provides an improved framework and capacity for

data transmission through these underwater "digital highways". Meta's construction of this cable can also be viewed as its assertion of itself as a dominant player in the field of technological innovation; it illustrates Meta's objectives in advancing its influence in the current AI market.

Meta has not conveyed an exact cost value for this transformative product, but it is estimated that it could stretch to multibillion dollars. It is expected to be fully operational by 2030. This is yet another example of Al's rapid development, and we are likely to see technology achieve increasingly greater heights by the end of the decade.

Qualcomm Unveils Groundbreaking 6G Technology For Better Global Connectivity

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Riya Kaulwar, 10: Qualcomm has unveiled its ambitious plans for 6G technology, signalling a new era of wireless connectivity that promises to revolutionize global communication. At the upcoming Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2025 in Barcelona, the company will showcase its vision for the future, focusing on enhancing spectral efficiency, coverage, and AI integration across networks and devices. With the standardization of 6G now in progress, Qualcomm is aiming to redefine wireless infrastructure by embedding AI directly into network operations, enabling real-time adaptation based on interference levels, traffic patterns, and user mobility.

The need for 6G arises from the exponential growth in data consumption worldwide. With the proliferation of smartphones, IoT devices, and AI-driven applications, the demand for faster and more efficient networks is at an all-time high. By 2030, global mobile data traffic is expected to quadruple, creating an urgent need for innovative solutions. Qualcomm's 6G initiative seeks to address this challenge through the development of AI-native wireless networks, offering superior coverage and capacity. By leveraging machine learning algorithms, these networks can self-optimize, resulting in enhanced connectivity and reduced latency, which is crucial for applications like immersive extended reality (XR), cloud gaming, and AI-powered automation.

One of the most significant technological advancements in Qualcomm's 6G roadmap is the expansion of spectrum utilization. The company is working on new Multiple Input Multiple Output (MIMO) systems to accommodate high-frequency spectrum bands, particularly the upper mid-band FR3 range spanning 7-15 GHz. This development is expected to boost data throughput while maintaining coverage comparable to lower-frequency networks. Additionally, Qualcomm is collaborating with industry leaders such as Nokia Bell Labs and Rohde & Schwarz to refine AI-driven air interface designs,



ensuring that 6G technology is not only powerful but also scalable and adaptable to various applications.

While 6G presents groundbreaking opportunities, it also comes with challenges. The extensive use of AI raises concerns about data privacy and security, as intelligent networks will process vast amounts of user information. Moreover, globally deploying 6G infrastructure will require substantial investment and regulatory cooperation to allocate the necessary spectrum. Despite these challenges, the potential benefits far outweigh the drawbacks. By improving spectrum efficiency, expanding coverage, and integrating AI-driven intelligence, Qualcomm's 6G vision has the potential to redefine how the world stays connected. As we move towards 2030, the race to develop and implement 6G technology is well underway, and Qualcomm is positioning itself at the forefront of this transformation.



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Economic impact of the Los Angeles wildfires

Economics Business

Economics Business

Suchita Agarwalla, 11: The Union Budget for 2025, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1st, lays out the financial roadmap for the upcoming year with a clear focus on Viksit Bharat, or developed India. India is currently the fastest-growing major economy. With global and domestic challenges in mind, this budget outlines strategic measures to sustain and strengthen the economic momentum of the country.

Economics Business

One of the major highlights is the sharp increase in capital expenditure, now at ₹12 lakh crore, with significant allocations for infrastructure such as highways, railways, and urban development. New incentives are introduced to push the notion of 'Make in India', especially for domestic export-driven manufacturing and industries. This includes customs duty adjustments to boost local production, incentives technology for clean manufacturing, a ₹2.9 billion Maritime Development Fund, expanded Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, and export promotion measures such as reduced duties on key raw materials. Social welfare programs also see expanded funding, with more beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat and fresh initiatives in skill development to equip the workforce for future jobs. They also granted incentives for renewable energy and EVs.

In the Union Budget 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced significant changes to the income tax structure, providing substantial relief to the middle class. The new tax regime exempts individuals earning up to ₹12

lakh per annum from paying income tax, effectively increasing the tax-free income Additionally, a standard threshold. deduction of ₹75,000 has been introduced, further benefiting salaried taxpayers.

Economics Business

Experts see this year's budget as a wellbalanced one, one that drives long-term growth. "The infrastructure push will generate employment and have a strong multiplier effect on the economy," says Dr. Rajiv Kumar, former NITI Aayog vicechairman.

The focus on green energy and digital infrastructure has been widely appreciated. "The incentives for clean mobility and renewables signal a serious commitment to climate goals while also unlocking new economic opportunities," says Sumant Sinha, chairman of a leading renewable energy firm. However, some critics argue that labour reforms and privatization have been overlooked.

The Indian government is laying the foundation for sustained economic progress, as improved infrastructure facilitates industrial expansion, connectivity, and job creation. But ultimately, the success of this budget will depend on execution. It will depend on how well these policies translate into tangible growth, employment, and the long-term journey toward becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Trump's Tariff War With Mexico and Canada

Economics Business

Economics Business

Avani Radheshyam, 11: On the Fourth of March, 2025, U.S President Donald Trump imposed 25% tariffs (A tax imposed by a government on imported or exported goods as a form of trade regulation but also a potential source of revenue) on imports from Mexico and Canada, intensifying trade tensions with two of the country's largest trading partners. These tariffs, which also include doubling duties on Chinese goods to 20%, could potentially disrupt an estimated \$2.2 trillion in annual trade.

In order to justify the tariffs, Trump claimed that Mexico and Canada had failed to curb the flow of fentanyl and other chemicals into the U.S. In response to this claim, both countries retaliated. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that Canada will be imposing 25% tariffs on \$20.7 billion worth of U.S. imports, increasing to \$86.2 billion if Trump's tariffs stay in place for three more weeks. U.S. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum was expected to announce Mexico's countermeasures in a press event, which is yet to happen.

However, when the trade war escalated, the stock markets reacted negatively. The imposition of the tariffs led to a market slump, urging Trump to delay certain duties. Along these lines, on March 7th, he announced a temporary pause on certain tariffs set on Mexico and Canada, offering immense relief to industries such as automakers as they rely on cross-border supply chains. While this might seem promising, Trump confirmed that more tariffs will be implemented by April 2nd and reaffirmed his commitment to imposing tariffs on steel and aluminium imports.

Trudeau has warned that Canada's trade war with the U.S. could continue indefinitely, while Trump defended his policies as necessary to protect American industries. As the trade dispute continues, businesses and consumers across North America brace for potential economic consequences, including increased costs and disrupted supply chains.

Economics Business

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European Union Wants India to Enforce Russia Sanctions

Sanvi Kurade, 10: As geopolitical tensions continue to escalate, the European Union (EU) is urging India to enforce sanctions against Russia. On February 27-28, 2025, European Commission President Ursula von der Leven embarked on a landmark visit to India, marking a crucial moment in EU-India relations. The visit underscored efforts to strengthen economic ties and global security concerns. address However, India's economic interests and long-standing strategic partnership with Russia complicate the equation, placing it in a delicate balancing act.

For the EU, sanctions against Russia are a cornerstone of its broader strategy to curb Moscow's economic resilience and limit its capacity to sustain military operations. However, for India, aligning with these sanctions could have profound repercussions, threatening its energy security, economic stability, and independent foreign policy.

The EU is keen to deepen its strategic partnership with India, recognizing its growing influence in global affairs. President von der Leyen emphasized shared democratic values, stating, "Europe and India are like-minded partners, bound by the shared conviction that democracy best serves the people." The visit set the stage for an upcoming India-EU summit later this year, with negotiations focused on greater market access, reducing India's high tariffs on tion, and future geopolitical alliances. automobiles and alcoholic beverages, and strengthening bilateral trade agreements.

Despite these diplomatic overtures, India has historically maintained a firm stance on international sanctions, adhering strictly to United Nations-imposed measures while resisting unilateral restrictions. This neutrality has allowed it to cultivate strong relationships with global powers multiple without entangling itself in geopolitical conflicts. However, its ties with Russia run deep, with Russia remaining one of India's largest suppliers of crude oil and defence equipment. Any deviation from this partnership could disrupt India's energy security and defence procurement, potentially weakening its long-standing strategic autonomy.

For the EU, the stakes are high. The objective is not merely to penalize Russia but to ensure sanctions apply maximum economic pressure. However, European officials have voiced concerns over potential loopholes that allow Russian entities to circumvent these restrictions. A key issue is the refining of Russian crude oil in third-party nations, including India, before being re-exported to European markets as petroleum products. While technically legal, this process indirectly sustains Russia's energy revenues, blunting the intended impact of sanctions.

The EU's appeal to India signifies a crucial moment in international diplomacy, where major global powers must navigate the fine line between strategic interests and collective global security. While the EU acknowledges India's strategic autonomy, it also underscores the broader responsibility to ensure that economic policies align with international security efforts. As negotiations unfold, the decisions made will shape the trajectory of EU-India relations, influencing distribution, technological resource collaboration, and future geopolitical alliances.

Feminism in politics: Rekha Gupta as Delhi Chief Minister

Syshasri Raghavan, 10: Rekha Gupta's recent appointment as the Chief Minister of Delhi marks a significant milestone in Indian politics, reflecting both the evolving role of women in leadership and the journey of feminism within the country's political fields. As the fourth woman to hold this position, Gupta's success not only shows the increasing acceptance of female leadership but also highlights the challenges and opportunities that come with such roles.

Born on July 19, 1974, in Haryana, Rekha Gupta embarked on her political journey during her academic years. She served as the President of the Delhi University Students' Union from 1996 to 1997, laying the foundation for her future in politics. Her career progressed as she became a three-time councillor and former mayor of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation. In the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections, Gupta contested from the Shalimar Bagh constituency, defeating Aam Aadmi Party's Bandana Kumari by a significant margin of 29,595 votes. This victory paved the way for her appointment as the Chief Minister of Delhi on February 20, 2025, marking the Bharatiya Janata Party's return to power in the capital after 27 years.

Gupta's leadership symbolizes the breaking of traditional gender roles and serves as an inspiration for aspiring female politicians. Her tenure is expected to address critical issues such as women's safety, education, and employment—areas that have been focal points of feminist advocacy. By prioritizing these concerns, Gupta has the potential to implement policies that promote gender equality and empower women across various sectors.

While Gupta's appointment is a progressive step, it comes with its set of challenges. Indian politics is still predominantly male-dominated, and female leaders often face the scrutiny that their male counterparts might not encounter. Balancing traditional expectations with modern governance demands requires resilience and strategic acumen. Moreover, addressing deep-seated issues like gender-based violence, economic disparities, and societal prejudices necessitates comprehensive policies and collaborative efforts.

Gupta's rise to the Chief Minister's office contributes to the broader narrative of feminist politics in India. It challenges the conventional perceptions of leadership and encourages political parties to be more inclusive in their candidate selection processes. Furthermore, her leadership can inspire movements, motivating more women to participate in politics and civic engagements. This ripple effect can lead to a more representative and equitable political system, aligning with the core principles of feminism.

Life-Changing Gene Therapy For Children Born Blind

Medicine Hearn

Medicine Heaun

Shresta Morisetty, 9: "It is really hard to undersell the impact of having a little bit of vision," said Brendan, the father of a toddler with an ultra-rare mutation that left him unable to distinguish light and colour.

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Medicine Heaun

Jace, son of Brendon, was one of the four toddlers born with one of the most severe forms of childhood blindness that gained life-changing improvements to their sight after an experimental gene therapy trial led by the doctors at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London.

The rare genetic condition meant that the toddlers' vision deteriorated rapidly from birth, and before the therapy, the four were registered as legally blind, only able to distinguish between light and dark. They were diagnosed with an aggressive form of Leber Congenital Amaurosis, where a genetic fault led to the malfunctioning and rapid death of cells at the back of the eyes, which normally help to discern light and colour.

The gene therapy was built off a previous method used to treat a different form of genetic blindness that has been available on the NHS since 2020. The new treatment involves injecting healthy copies of a defective gene into the back of a child's eye very early in life. Each child had one eye treated in case the treatment had any adverse effects. Their vision was checked regularly over the next four years following the treatment. The treatment effects started taking place shortly after, with Brendan noticing Jace squint for the first time on seeing bright sunshine streaming through the windows of their house just a month later.



Medicine Health

According to the Moorfields' doctors, the test results and reports from parents give "compelling evidence" that the treated eyes of the four children were seeing more than would be expected during the normal course of the disease, while their untreated eyes continued to worsen. Over the next few years, the team plans on monitoring of the children to see how long-lasting the results are.

The results so far give hope that addressing severe genetic conditions with gene therapy can transform children's lives.

Tailoring Diets Through Genetic Insights

Medicine Hearn



Avantika Singh, 9: In the last few years, the notion of personalized nutrition has picked up a lot of steam, away from the long-standing "one-size-fits-all" eating recommendations to more tailored methods. This is fueled primarily by developments in nutrigenomics—the science of how our genes react to the food we eat.

Medicine Heaun

Medicine Health

Nutrigenomics investigates the interaction between one's genetic profile and one's reaction to certain nutrients. Studies show that genetic differences can affect the way we break down food, our vulnerability to specific nutritional deficiencies, and even our sense of taste. For instance, some individuals may have genes that have an impact on how they process lactose, making it hard for them to eat dairy products. Others might break down caffeine in a unique way, which affects their reaction to drinks with caffeine. By looking at a person's genetic makeup, doctors can give specific food advice that matches their genetic tendencies. They do this to boost health benefits, manage long-term health issues better, and improve overall well-being.

As an example, someone with genes that make them prone to high cholesterol would get advice to eat less saturated fat. On the other hand, a person likely to lack vitamin D might need to eat more foods with vitamin D or take supplements. Several companies and research groups are leading the way in using genetic info to guide nutrition. Take Novogenia GmbH, a biotech firm based in Vienna. They offer genetic tests that check how people react to different nutrients. This allows them to create custom diet plans. Also, advances in AI are helping to make sense of complex genetic data, which then helps to design personalized nutrition programs. Moreover, DNA-based fitness products are hitting the market.

Alter, for example, has rolled out genetic fitness systems that combine DNA data with physical measurements to create tailored exercise and eating plans. These systems check genetic markers for workout performance, food processing, and stress handling, giving users a complete health program.

While personalized nutrition sounds promising, we need to sort out several ethical questions. We must think hard about protecting genetic data privacy, stopping genebased discrimination, and making sure everyone can get these custom services. It's crucial that people from all walks of life, including those in poorer countries, can use personalized nutrition to avoid making healthcare gaps worse.

As we learn more about nutrigenomics, using genetic info to guide daily food choices might become more common. This trend could lead to better nutrition advice, help prevent illnesses, and boost overall health based on each person's genetic makeup.

Pop Culture

Venkat Raghav M., 11: The Indian influencer community is reeling from the fallout of a major controversy involving YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia, who sparked outrage with an indecent question on comedian Samay Raina's show, "India's Got Lalent".

Pop Culture

Culture

During a special episode, Ranveer posed a highly controversial question to a contestant. His remark, widely criticized as both offensive and inappropriate, triggered a storm of backlash on social media. Many accused the YouTuber of crossing the line under the guise of humour.

Following the uproar, Ranveer issued a public apology in a video. However, the situation escalated when the National Commission for Women (NCW) summoned both him and content creator Apoorva Mukhija for questioning. Both later submitted written apologies.

The repercussions have extended beyond individual reputations, shaking the entire influencer ecosystem. Brands are reconsidering partnerships with influencers, leading to a sharp decline in sponsorship deals.

According to a report by Money Control, some influencers have seen their brand deal rates drop by more than 50%. Sumon K Chakrabarti, CEO of the advertising agency Buffalo Soldiers, remarked, "Influencers have lost deals, and even those not directly involved in the controversy are struggling. If an influencer isn't in the running at all, there's nothing left to negotiate."

Lalent, lost a major endorsement deal with an energy drink brand in the aftermath of the scandal.

Pop Culture

Influencer Ankita Rai reflected on the industry's shift, saying, "We now have to be more careful about what we say and how we present ourselves. This controversy has changed the game."

As brands distance themselves from risky associations and audiences demand greater accountability, India's Got Talent controversy serves as a stark reminder that, in the digital age, words carry weight and consequences.



Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl Halftime Show

Pop Culture

Pop Culture



Tisha Sehrawat, 10: On February 9, 2025, the Superdome in New Orleans hosted Super Bowl LIX, featuring a halftime show headlined by Kendrick Lamar. This marked Lamar's second appearance on the Super Bowl stage, following his 2022 performance alongside Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, and Mary J. Blige. However, this event was his first as the main headliner, and he delivered a performance that left an indelible mark on both the audience and the broader cultural landscape. The halftime show commenced with a striking visual: Lamar standing alone under a spotlight, the stadium plunged into darkness. He opened with "HUMBLE.," a track that immediately electrified the crowd. The stage design was minimalist yet impactful, featuring a massive LED screen displaying powerful imagery that complemented his lyrics. This approach kept the focus squarely on Lamar's dynamic performance and lyrical prowess.

Transitioning seamlessly, Lamar moved into "Alright," a song that has become an anthem for resilience and hope. The audience's enthusiastic participation underscored the track's enduring significance.

Midway through the set, special guest SZA joined Lamar for a rendition of their hit collaboration "All the Stars," adding a melodic contrast to the rapper's incisive verses. One of the most talked-about aspects of the performance was Lamar's fashion choice. He donned a pair of \$1,200 dark wash Celine Marco flared jeans, sparking a resurgence of interest in the style. This fashion statement was later embraced by Rihanna, who was spotted wearing the same jeans, further fueling the trend.

The show's choreography was both intricate and symbolic, featuring a troupe of dancers whose movements reflected the themes of Lamar's music, from social justice to personal introspection. The use of pyrotechnics was sparing but effective, accentuating key moments without overshadowing the performance. Critically acclaimed, Lamar's halftime show was hailed as one of the most impactful in recent memory. Jay-Z, whose Roc Nation company co-produced the show, described Lamar as a "once-in-ageneration artist and performer," noting his deep love for hip-hop and culture. The performance not only showcased Lamar's versatility as an artist but also reinforced the Super Bowl halftime show's reputation as a platform for groundbreaking musical experiences.

Even Samay Raina, the host of India's Got





Try This To-Do List

Dia Rautela, 9: Dear readers, please brace yourself for what I'm about to say.

Find your to-do lists. Throw them away.

Yes, you read it right. They could be a meticulously organised page on Notion, categorised into fifteen different sectors or a crumpled piece of paper rotting at the bottom of your bag. It doesn't matter. In the bin, they go.

Didn't you hear? Traditional to-do lists are so last year. It's reverse to-do list's turn in the spotlight.

As you've deduced by now, reverse to-do lists are the exact opposite of our incredibly tediously traditional checklists. Instead of writing the tasks you still need to complete, you write down the tasks you have already achieved.

Using a reverse to-do list is simple. You go about your day without a pre-planned todo list and write down each task as you finish it. Then, review how much you accomplished and reflect on your productivity (what tasks did you do well? What took too much time?)

For example, instead of allocating 'Finish writing article for 10x Press' as a chore to complete, you write 'Completed writing article for 10x press.' as a task you have achieved.

This is a seemingly small change, but it is like a healing elixir for your mental health. Because at the end of the day, we'd all rather look at a list of things we have achieved rather than a tally of chores we couldn't complete.

The Zeigarnik Effect (Mental Closure) suggests that our brains fixate on

unfinished tasks, creating stress and mental tension. This explains traditional to-do lists overwhelming.

However, reverse to-do lists have the opposite effect. Focusing on what you have completed provides your brain with 'mental closure'. This reduces stress and anxiety.

Instead, you feel happy when you look at your list of completed tasks. This is called positive reinforcement. Every time a task is completed, your brain releases dopamine—the 'reward' chemicalreinforcing productivity and motivation. Studies in behavioural psychology suggest that it helps in habit formation, and cultivates a growth mindset.

With a reverse to-do list, you'll feel more motivated, open-minded, and free from the crushing weight of unfinished tasks. Instead, you celebrate progress, not pressure!

And for those who often get discouraged by incomplete tasks - or if you want to track your productivity progress - a reverse to-do list is perfect for you. Here's to becoming more productive!

City's Defeat To Real Madrid

Krishiv Thummalapalli, 11: In an exciting encounter on February 20, 2025, at the Santiago Bernabéu in Madrid, Spain, Real Madrid showed a comfortable 3-1 victory over Manchester City. This is a great improvement compared to their 3-2 win against Manchester City on February 11, 2025. The match, witnessed by 77,023 fans, showcased Real Madrid's strength, led by Kylian Mbappé's spectacular hat trick, and has been marked as the key moment in the tournament.

The 2024-25 UEFA Champions League introduced a new revamped structure, thus expanding to 26 teams in the league phase, with the knockouts deciding the top 16 teams. Real Madrid and Manchester City, both preseason favourites and titans of their domestic leagues, clashed in what has been dubbed the 'new Clásico.'. Real Madrid and Manchester City faced off, with Real Madrid hoping to win their 16th European title and Manchester City aiming to stay on top. Manchester City suffered a surprising early exit, the first time a Pep Guardiola side has failed to reach the top 16.

Real Madrid scored early in the 4th minute, thus pressurising Manchester City. By the 33rd minute, the second goal has been scored by Mbappé, leaving Manchester City in tension. The first half ended with Manchester City not being able to score a single goal. Mbappé completed his hat trick in the 61st minute, cementing a 3-goal lead on Manchester City. Sadly, Manchester City has been flooded with injuries, like John Stones exiting early and Erling Haaland, who was benched after a knee issue. Nico Gonzalez, in the 90+2nd minute, managed to score a goal despite it being of no use due to Real Madrid's massive lead of 3 goals.

Mbappé was the headliner for the match,

and Federico Valverde and Antonio Rudiger backed up his performance. This win has not only allowed Real Madrid to advance but also damaged Guardiola's legacy. This match highlights the intensity of European football, with Real Madrid emerging as an inevitable force.





The Greatest Rivalry Ever?

Rishabh Natrajan, 11: No rivalry in world sports ignites more passion, history, and sheer madness than India vs. Pakistan—a battle that transcends the game of Cricket. Rooted in decades of political tensions, and border disputes, every cricket match between these two Asian giants is guaranteed to cause unrest among fans. However, while this immense passion and craze still exists today, has the magnitude of cricket's greatest rivalry begun to decrease?

The rivalry that brought the cricketing world nail-biters and competitive encounters has now seemed to taper off. Consider this. Out of the last 10 ODI matches played between the two, eight have been won by India, and of the two that weren't won by the men in blue, one was washed out, leaving Pakistan with just a single ODI victory against India in the last 10 years. In T20is, Pakistan's situation isn't any better, with seven defeats among nine encounters with India. Pakistan's 10-wicket victory in 2021 at the Men's T20 World Cup is a distant memory, with humiliating defeats of 228 runs at the ODI World Cup and regular T20 losses taking its place, plaguing the minds of Pakistani Fans. In recent years, it has become apparent that India has dominated this rivalry, with matches becoming increasingly one-sided.

If not India and Pakistan, what is the greater rivalry? The last five years have seen a tremendous rise in the viewership and craze surrounding matches between Australia and India. The two countries have shared extremely close matches and have been evenly matched across all formats, especially in tests and ICC events.

However, despite India's recent dominance and the growing intensity of

their rivalry with Australia, India vs. Pakistan remains the most anticipated match in world cricket. The sheer scale of viewership, the emotional stakes, and the historic weight of the contest make it an unparalleled spectacle. With bilateral series between the two nations now nonexistent, their clashes are limited to ICC tournaments, occurring only once every one or two years, further amplifying their importance. Regardless of the results, when India and Pakistan take the field, the cricketing world stops to watch, proving that some rivalries transcend mere statistics.



Wicked: Movie Review

Myra Fatima, 9: The highly anticipated adaptation of Wicked finally arrives on the big screen, bringing the beloved Broadway musical to life with breathtaking visuals, emotional depth, and unforgettable music. Directed by Jon M. Chu, the film takes audiences back to Oz, not to retell The Wizard of Oz but to challenge everything we thought we knew about its characters. With a stellar cast, dazzling production, and a story rich in themes of identity, power, and prejudice, Wicked proves to be a cinematic experience worth the wait.

One of the film's biggest strengths is its cast. Cynthia Erivo delivers a powerhouse performance as Elphaba, capturing both fierce determination heartbreaking vulnerability. Her rendition of Defying Gravity is nothing short of mesmerizing, easily one of the movie's standout moments. Ariana Grande brings a fresh and layered take on Glinda, balancing humour and depth as her character evolves from a self-absorbed socialite to someone forced to make difficult moral choices. The chemistry between Erivo and Grande is undeniable, making their complex friendship feel authentic and deeply moving.

Visually, Wicked is a masterpiece. The film embraces its magical world with elaborate sets, stunning CGI, and vibrant costumes that make Oz feel more immersive than ever before. The Emerald City dazzles, while the contrast between the glamorous upper world and the darker, more oppressive corners of Oz adds depth to the story's themes. Every musical number is grand in scale, with intricate choreography and emotional weight that elevate the film beyond a standard musical adaptation.

Despite its many strengths, Wicked isn't

without its flaws. The decision to split the story into two films means this instalment ends on a somewhat unresolved note, leaving audiences eager for the second

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Additionally, at times, the pacing lingers, especially in the early sections, which may test the patience of those unfamiliar with the stage production. However, these minor drawbacks don't take away from the film's emotional impact and artistic achievement.

Beyond its spectacle, it challenges the idea of "good" and "evil," showing how history often paints people as heroes or villains based on convenience rather than truth. Elphaba is a misunderstood outcast fighting for justice, yet she's labelled "wicked," while Glinda benefits from a system that rewards compliance. This moral complexity gives the film lasting resonance, making it more than just a visually impressive fantasy—it's a story about acceptance, standing up for what's right, and how power distorts the truth.

Yes, the film has some slow moments, and yes, we have to wait for the sequel, but trust me-watch it. Wicked is more than just another fantasy film; it's an unforgettable journey that will leave you humming the songs long after the credits

The Wild Robot: Movie Review

Maanika Gupta, 10: The Wild Robot rushed or not so fully fleshed out, gloriously dramatizes Peter Brown's children's most beloved of all-in the most emotional climax is bit rushed but indeed magnificent mix of animation with heartand-heart storytelling. The film revolves around Roz, a robot that gets marooned on a blank remote island due to a maritime disaster and is thus forced to try and find ways to live in nature, befriending an odd collection of animals with whom she shares the deserted island. What starts out as a straight survival tale turns into an extraordinarily moving investigation of parameters of identity, kinship, and actually belonging.

The film is gorgeous. The animation speaks volumes about the sharpness of Roz's metallic, streamlined body against the bulky, immovable landscape of the island wilderness. The texture adds to the reality of the world brought into life by the landscape and beast animal texture. Sound design is equally excellent, transporting the audience within creaking trees, crashing waves, and far-off mechanical whine of flight of Roz.

Wild about However. Robot cohabitation rather than conflict between technology and nature. That transition of Roz from cold, calculating machine to warm, loving mother is done with great consideration and tact. The future relationship with her, as well as the one with Brightbill, the baby goose she takes care of, are among the most epochmaking moments in the movie. The voice cast adds to the emotional high in character-driven and warm performances.

The adaptation makes creative cuts in plotting, specifically omitting details based on pacing. While it is indeed more entertaining, it stings some of the fans disappointed as they find some parts

compared to the book. In fact, even the very effective.

The Wild Robot isn't merely another survival story; it is compelling and heartrending in its own right. It lingers with you afterward. It doesn't just make you see; it compels you to think, feel, and ponder over the bond that we share with our surroundings.



PP Exhibition, Sports Day, Pi Day, Indus Day Stalls

Advaith Datta Reddy Palam, 10: The past two months at 10X have been filled with exciting events that have showcased students' skills and interests across a range of subjects. Every activity represented the lively and dynamic culture of our school, from academics to athletics, literature to humanitarian work. The much anticipated 10X School Sports Day brought kids together in a spirit of friendliness and competition, and it was a great success. Athletes displayed their skill and perseverance in track and field, relay races, and team sports, with each house striving for victory. On the field, there was an exhilarating atmosphere as children supported one another, fostering camaraderie and school spirit. We participated in a range of sports, from football to badminton to basketball. The tournament concluded with an awards ceremony to recognize the outstanding efforts of contestants who demonstrated remarkable tenacity and sportsmanship.

Students have a chance to showcase their inventiveness and intellectual curiosity at the Personal Project Exhibition. The exhibition showcased students' autonomous learning and problem-solving abilities, showcasing anything from scientific items and inventive models to creative masterpieces and courses that covered a wide range of subjects. At the same time, literary fans demonstrated their skills in the Book Cover Designing Contest and Speech Contest. While the Book Cover Designing Contest gave students the chance to combine their love of literature with visual artistry to create beautiful designs based on their favourite novels, the Speech Contest included stirring and thought-provoking speeches.

The school came together for a joyful celebration of mathematics on Pi Day. The event started with a special assembly that included a math prayer. Students' math skills were put to the mark in an exciting inter-house quiz competition, and the event was given a delectable twist with a spread of pies. In the meantime, 10X students' kindness and spirit of entrepreneurship were showcased on Indus Day. Students demonstrated the school's dedication to social responsibility and made a significant effect outside of the classroom by erecting stalls selling a variety of goods and raising money to contribute to charities.

Over the past two months, 10X School's dynamic and all-encompassing learning environment has been represented in everything from artistic expression to community involvement and athletic victories to academic excellence. We expect even more chances for students to develop, succeed, and make significant contributions to their communities in the future.



















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