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# ARTS



*Credit - Times of India*

**Read more** - <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/met-museum-head-talks-art-of-repatriation-and-relevance/articleshowprint/107814559.cms>

## **Met museum head talks art of repatriation and relevance**

**Monday, Feb 19, 2024**

It's not easy running one of the world's largest museums with more than 1.5 million works spanning 5,000 years. And certainly not easy amidst heightened scrutiny over looted objects and mounting pressure for repatriation. Max Hollein—who took charge of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Met), New York as director in 2018 and CEO last July—knows this all too well. Fresh from signing an MoU with India's Ministry of Culture, being “blown away” by the Sanchi Stupa, Jantar Mantar and the Kanheri Caves and ahead of delivering a lecture at the CSMVS on Friday, Hollein remained composed .....

## **India's Supreme Court grants protection to filmmaker attacked for movie poster featuring Hindu goddess**

**Thursday, Feb 22, 2024**

A Toronto-based filmmaker from India has been granted protection from India's highest court after facing multiple police investigations and death threats over a depiction of a Hindu goddess on her movie poster.

"I feel really heard," said Leena Manimekalai, who is currently the inaugural artist-in-residence at the Centre for Free Expression at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU). Manimekalai says she has received thousands of death and rape threats as a result of a movie poster she tweeted promoting her film, Kaali — which uses an alternate spelling of the goddess's name.



*Credit - Thomman TomJoseph*

**Read more** - <https://www.cbc.ca/news/entertainment/kaali-goddess-leena-manimekalai-court-order-1.6755493>



# The deliriously beautiful art of India's master court painters

Friday, Feb 23, 2024



In the 16th century, when Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael were futzing about with single-point perspective and trying vainly to resuscitate old gods, artists in India began producing some of the most concentrated, trance-inducing and deliriously beautiful art ever made.

Take, for example, a small painting on cloth by two Mughal artists, Basawan and Jagan. It presents a bird's-eye view of an enclosed, Persian-style garden with a slender tower, a fountain and a pink pavilion. It teems with trees and flowers.

*Credits - Metropolitan museum of Art*

**Read more** - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/art/2024/02/23/indian-skies-hodgkin-collection-met/>

## Increasing popularity of Art Festivals in India

Sunday, Feb 25, 2024

The year 2023 witnessed an explosion of colour and expression across India. From the grand halls of Delhi's India Art Fair to the vibrant streets of Goa's Serendipity Arts Festival, numerous art festivals captivated audiences, establishing themselves as a cultural phenomenon.

The sheer variety was staggering: the Kochi-Muziris Biennale showcased contemporary explorations, while the Surajkund Crafts Mela celebrated traditional artistry.



*Credit - Times of India*

**Read more** - <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/the-arts/art-festivals-in-india-a-cultural-phenomenon/articleshowprint/107959612.cms>





# SPORTS



*Credit: Times of India*

**Read more** - <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/news/watch-fun-banter-and-a-sprint-race-between-shoaib-akhtar-harbhajan-singh/articleshowprint/107840135.cms>

## **Back injury or IPL prioritization? Shreyas Iyer's decision to skip Ranji Trophy sparks scrutiny**

**Thursday, Feb 22, 2024**

The absence of Shreyas Iyer from Mumbai's crucial Ranji Trophy quarter-final match against Baroda has raised eyebrows and concerns within the cricketing fraternity, echoing the recent case of Ishan Kishan's non-participation in domestic cricket.

Despite repeated reminders from key figures like head coach Rahul Dravid and BCCI secretary Jay Shah regarding the importance of playing domestic matches, Iyer's decision to opt out due to a purported back injury has drawn scrutiny. In a report by The Indian Express .....



*Credit: Times of India*

**Read more** -

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/news/shreyas-iyers-absence-from-mumbais-ranji-trophy-match-raises-concerns/articleshowprint/107906126.cms>



## 'Rock and Roll' the real reason behind Joe Root's mysterious 'pinky celebration'

Friday, Feb 23, 2024



*Credit: Hindustan Times*

It was a rather subdued celebration from Joe Root, which disappointed former India captain Sunil Gavaskar, who was in the commentary box, yet a small gesture towards the England team dugout, with captain Ben Stokes responding to it with a similar act, immediately went viral all over social media. Root scored his maiden fifty-plus knock in the ongoing series against India, bouncing back from a poor run of form en route to notching up a record century on Day 1 of the fourth Test against England in Ranchi. After raising his helmet and bat aloft, he looked at his team members outside the ground and gestured with a pinky finger. But what did that celebration mean?

**Read more** - [https://www.hindustantimes.com/cricket/india-vs-england-4th-test-rock-and-roll-real-reason-joe-root-mysterious-pinky-celebration-ben-stokes-century\\_101708700939678.html](https://www.hindustantimes.com/cricket/india-vs-england-4th-test-rock-and-roll-real-reason-joe-root-mysterious-pinky-celebration-ben-stokes-century_101708700939678.html)

## With a salute, soldier's son Dhruv Jurel responds to father's wish

Sunday, Feb 25, 2024

As a defiant Dhruv Jurel bailed India out of troubled waters and took his side to a position of strength on the third day of the Ranchi Test against England on Sunday, the youngster garnered praise from all quarters.

Scoring a spectacular 90 in only his second Test, the 23-year-old showcased great determination and temperament as legendary Sunil Gavaskar found the 'next MS Dhoni' in making in him.

Jurel, who is not a graduate of some superbly fecund youth system, gave an indifferent shrug to the lack.....



*Credit: Times of India*

**Read more** - <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/england-in-india/with-a-salute-soldiers-son-dhruv-jurel-responds-to-fathers-wish/articleshowprint/107989550.cms>



# SCIENCE



*credit: Others*

**Read more**

<https://www.wionews.com/science/earths-orbit-undergoes-change-due-to-stars-in-solar-system-says-study-691996>

## **Stars can change the orbit of Earth over the years, wreaking havoc on climate, say scientists**

**Tuesday, Feb 20, 2024**

Stars other than the Sun present in our solar system can have a major impact on the planets including Earth, even possibly changing their orbits, scientists have said. The gravitational pull of the stars has the ability to change the orbit of the Earth, an event that can wreak havoc on the green planet's climate.

The orbital changes happened in the past, millions of years ago. When it happened, the temperature of Earth increased by 8 degrees Celsius, according to the study titled 'Passing Stars as an Important Driver of Paleoclimate and the solar system's Orbital Evolution'.

## **India seeks to boost rooftop solar, especially for its remote areas**

**Wednesday, Feb 21, 2024**

Just a few years ago, someone who wanted to install a rooftop solar connection in India faced getting multiple approvals, finding a reliable company to install the panels and spending heavily before seeing the first surge of clean energy.

But that's changing. The government has streamlined the approvals process, made it easier for people to claim subsidies and pushed mountains of cash — including \$9 billion announced this month — to encourage faster adoption of technology that's seen as critical for India to reach its clean-energy goals.



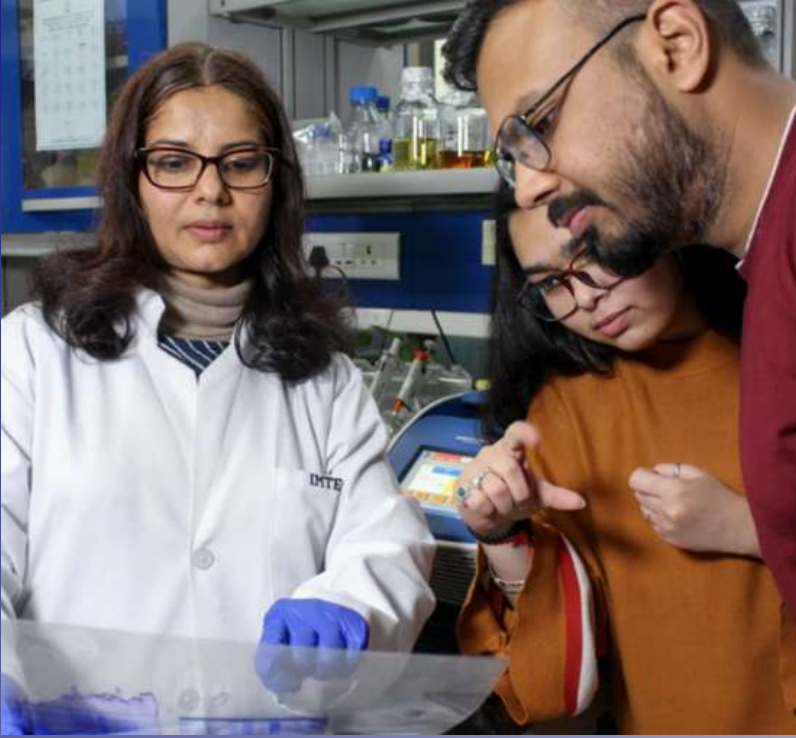
*Credits - Manish Swarup*

**Read more** - <https://wgrradio.com/news/international/ap-india-seeks-to-boost-rooftop-solar-especially-for-its-remote-areas/>



# What's the sign for 'centrifuge'? How we added scientific terms to Indian Sign Language

Friday, Feb 23, 2024



Credit: CSIR IMTECH

In 2016 I had a chance encounter with a social worker who headed the Gurugram branch of the Haryana Welfare Society for Persons with Speech and Hearing Impairments (HWSPSHI), a state-funded organization based in Panchkula, India. I learnt about the gaps in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education for deaf children. In India, 63 million people (6.3% of the population) have significant auditory loss, and few of them opt to study STEM subjects. The inherent complexities of these subjects, coupled with the reliance on written and spoken language, create difficulties for both deaf students and their teachers.

**Read more** - <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-00572-0>

## US spacecraft Odysseus tipped sideways on lunar surface but 'alive & well'

Saturday, Feb 24, 2024

The Houston-based company Intuitive Machines confirmed that the moon lander, Odysseus, is "alive and well" but resting on its side following its historic touchdown on the lunar surface. The spacecraft made headlines as the first private spacecraft to reach the moon and the first from the US since 1972.

The unexpected twist in Odysseus's journey was revealed by the CEO, Stephen Altemus, who explained that a human error led to the failure of the spacecraft's laser-based range finders. Engineers detected the glitch by chance just hours before the scheduled landing time. In a remarkable display of ingenuity, an emergency fix was improvised, saving the mission from a potential crash.

Although the analysis of data indicated that Odysseus tripped over its own feet during the final descent, causing it to land on its side, the spacecraft is reported to be stable near or at the intended landing site, close to the lunar crater Malapert A in the south pole region. Intuitive Machines assured that communication with the lander is ongoing, and commands are being sent from mission control operators. The company aims to obtain the first photo images from the lunar surface at the landing site.

**Read more** - <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/science/moon-lander-odysseus-tipped-sideways-on-lunar-surface-but-alive-and-well/articleshowprint/107958667.cms>



# TECHNOLOGY

## **Google Lays Off Thousands More Employees Despite Record Profits One Year After Laying off 12,000 Employees As Workers Begin Worrying AI is Slowly Replacing Them**

**Monday, Feb 19, 2024**

Google has initiated significant layoffs across its various teams, including the Voice Assistant, hardware, engineering and ad sales teams, marking a continuation of the tech industry's trend towards reducing workforce expenses. The layoffs have affected hundreds of employees within the Voice Assistant unit; hardware teams responsible for Pixel, Nest and Fitbit products; and a considerable portion of the augmented reality (AR) team. This move is part of Google's broader effort to streamline operations and align resources with its most significant product priorities.

According to The Verge, the total number is in the thousands. This comes at a time when Google parent, Alphabet Inc., reported record profits in late January.

**Read more -** <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/google-lays-off-thousands-more-210822278.html>

## **Deepfake democracy: Behind the AI trickery shaping India's 2024 election**

**Tuesday, Feb 20, 2024**

As voters queued up early morning on November 30 last year to vote in legislative elections to choose the next government of the southern Indian state of Telangana, a seven-second clip started going viral on social media.

Posted on X by the Congress party, which is in opposition nationally, and was in the state at the time, it showed KT Rama Rao, a leader of the Bharat Rashtra Samiti that was ruling the state, calling on people to vote in favour of the Congress.



*Credit - Rajesh Kumar Singh*

**Read more -** <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/2/20/deepfake-democracy-behind-the-ai-trickery-shaping-indias-2024-elections>

# China's Rush to Dominate A.I. Comes With a Twist: It Depends on U.S. Technology

Wednesday, Feb 21, 2024



Credit - Emmanuel Polanco

In November, a year after ChatGPT's release, a relatively unknown Chinese start-up leaped to the top of a leaderboard that judged the abilities of open-source artificial intelligence systems.

The Chinese firm, 01.AI, was only eight months old but had deep-pocketed backers and a \$1 billion valuation and was founded by a well-known investor and technologist, Kai-Fu Lee. In interviews, Mr. Lee presented his A.I. system as an alternative to options like Meta's generative A.I. model, called LLaMA.

**Read more -** <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/21/technology/china-united-states-artificial-intelligence.html>

## Gone in 20 seconds: how 'smart keys' have fuelled a new wave of car crime

Saturday, Feb 24, 2024

When Steve Jessop's electric Hyundai car was stolen outside his west London house on a rainy day earlier this month, he appealed to neighbours for potential footage of the crime.

He quickly secured a CCTV video and was stunned at the ease with which his car had been taken. A hooded figure approached it, opened the doors without forced entry, started the engine and drove off.

Jessop's car had gone in 20 seconds. The keys to his Hyundai Ioniq 5 were still inside his house and there was no sign of an accomplice.



Credit -Anadolu Agency

**Read more -**

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2024/feb/24/smart-keys-car-crime-thieves-hi-tech-arms-race>